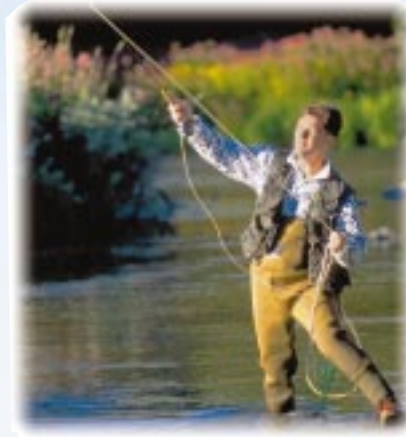


Fish Ontario



ONTARIO
CANADA
More to discover

WHERE AN ANGLER'S



Everyone who fishes dreams of the perfect fishing experience. The perfect challenge. The perfect cast. The perfect catch. Even the perfect spot in which to wet a line. Fortunately, there is one place where those dreams are met – and exceeded. In Ontario.

Here you'll find more than 400,000 lakes, rivers and streams that comprise 15 per cent of the world's fresh water. These bodies of water are brimming with the world's most exciting and desirable freshwater sport fish. Only Ontario can offer you more types of freshwater fishing opportunities than anywhere else on earth.

This guide includes everything you need to know to start planning your trip to the world's leading freshwater fishing destination.



DREAMS COME TRUE

TELL FISH STORIES

WITHOUT HAVING TO EXAGGERATE

This is the place where muskie can reach 65 lb. (29.5 kg) – or more. Where over 8 million walleye are caught by anglers every year. And they come in sizes to suit everybody, up to an Ontario record 22.25 lb. (10.1 kg).

Drop your line in lakes where fish have never seen a lure. Experience the majesty of unspoiled wilderness all around you as you troll among towering pines that seem to touch the sky. Come fish where the only sound to break the silence is the haunting call of the loon. And the only ripples on a lake's mirror-clear surface are made by you.



Discover places where serenity and exhilaration combine to bring you the best fishing trip you've ever taken – the one you've always dreamed of.

MORE PLACES TO FIND

WHAT YOU'RE FISHING FOR

Not only does Ontario have a tremendous variety of freshwater sport fish, we also have the most places to catch them. From clear, cold lakes of only a few acres to the largest inland seas on the continent ... from rushing streams to big, brawling rivers ... whether you seek your quarry from a boat or canoe, in chest waders or from shore – Ontario has a spot for you.

Ontario boasts the world's largest number of lakeside resorts with facilities and services to suit every taste and every budget. Accommodations options can run from rustic and remote fly-in wilderness fishing camps far away from civilization to luxurious shoreline resorts within easy driving distance.

LUNCH IS SERVED

Pursuing that lunker is just part of the appeal of fishing in Ontario. Eating your catch is another major plus. Ontario fishing guides are masters at frying up a scrumptious shore lunch. And you get to savour those golden fillets while enjoying a spectacular view of Ontario's rugged scenery.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED ...

IN ADDITION TO THE FISH

When you come to fish Ontario, one of our many seasoned tourist outfitters can supply you with everything from a few new lures to a complete sport fishing vacation package. And every package can be custom tailored to be exactly the kind of angling experience you desire.

The fish themselves, of course, are only one of the reasons to come to Ontario. You'll also find yourself surrounded by a land of unparalleled beauty and variety – rich with a bountiful array of wildlife.

Remember that fishing in Ontario is not restricted to warm weather and open water. When winter clamps down, thousands of frozen lakes provide great ice fishing action. Ontario's outfitters can set you up royally with everything you need – from bait, provisions and transportation to a cosy heated hut.

The favourable exchange rate on the Canadian dollar puts an Ontario sport fishing excursion at a very attractive price.

Whether you want the ultimate sport fishing getaway on the edge of the Arctic or just to drop a line from the end of a dock – or anything in between – use this guide to plan your trip to Ontario. Where an angler's freshwater fishing dreams come true.



To get more information, call **1-800-ONTARIO** (668-2746) or any of the numbers throughout this guide.



Lake Trout



Muskie

Produced for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism (MEDTT) by:

Ontario OUT OF DOORS magazine,
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for the Deaf (TDD))

Websites:
www.ontario-canada.com
www.travelinx.com



We provide information to assist travellers with disabilities. Accessibility information is collected to address a variety of special needs. Please call 1-800-ONTARIO and counsellors will assist you with the details you need to plan and enjoy travel throughout Ontario.

Front cover: *clockwise from top, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Muskie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Chinook Salmon, Lake Trout, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Walleye, Rainbow Trout*

Back cover: *Brook Trout, Northern Pike*

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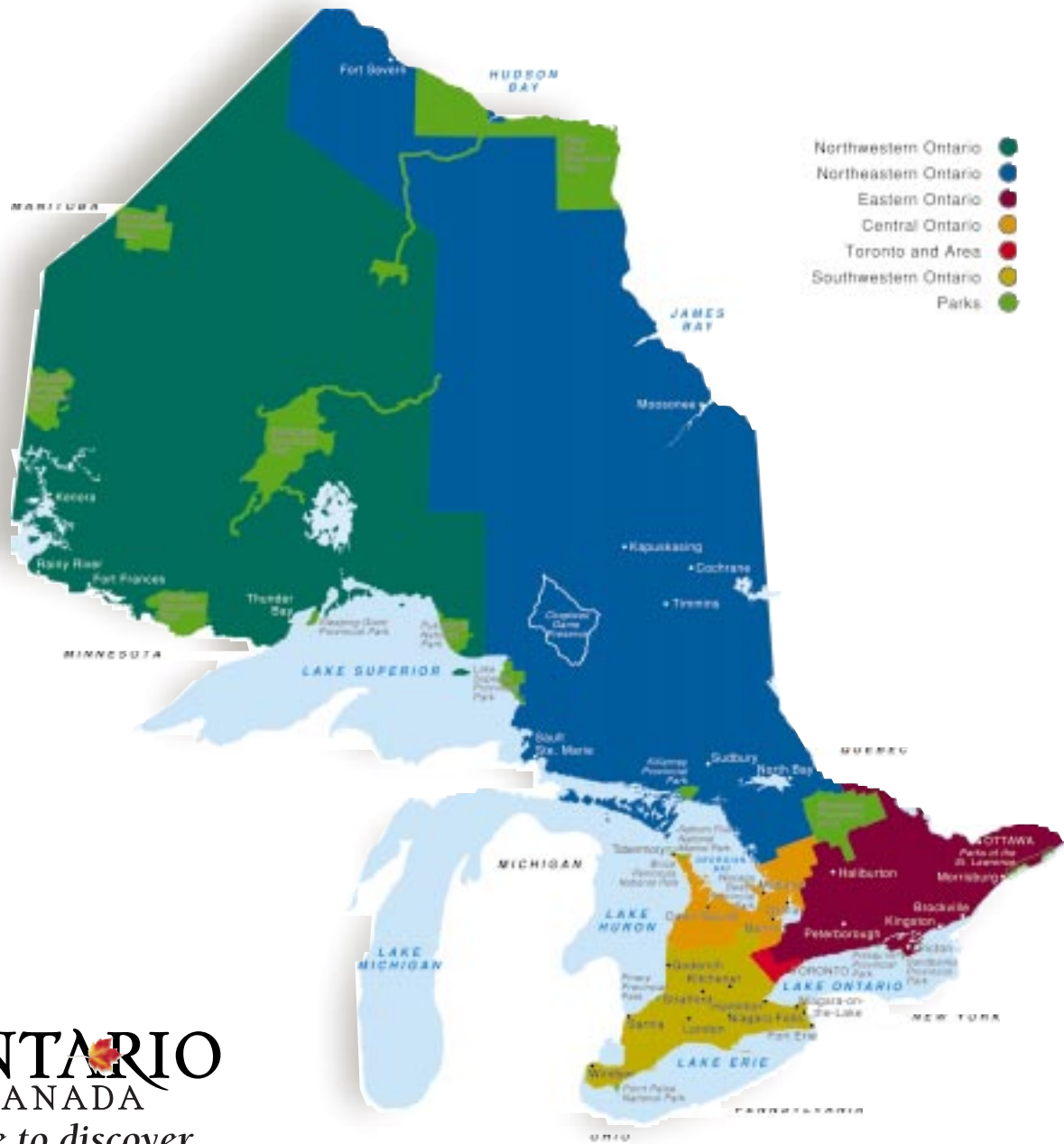
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Brook Trout





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<i>Drive Time in Hours From:</i>	Toronto	Ottawa	Kenora	Thunder Bay	Niagara Falls	Sault Ste. Marie	Windsor	Sarnia	Kingston
Buffalo	2	7	26	20	.5	11	5	5	5
Chicago	10	15	14	13	10	10	6	7	14
Cleveland	5.5	10.5	24	19	4	10	3.5	4.5	8.5
Detroit	5	10	21	16	5	7	.5	1	7
Milwaukee	13	18	14	13	14	9	8	9	16
Minneapolis	18	23	8	7	19	12	15	16	21
New York	10	9	31	28	8	19	10	11	8
Philadelphia	10	9	31	28	8	17	12	13	9
Pittsburgh	6	11	24	21	4	12	6	7	10
Rochester	3	6	27	21	1.5	12	7	6	5



Fly Times to Toronto in Hours

Atlanta	2
Boston	1.5
Chicago	1.5
Dallas	4.5
Denver	3
Detroit	1
Los Angeles	4.5
Miami	3
New York	1.5
San Francisco	4.5
Seattle	4.5

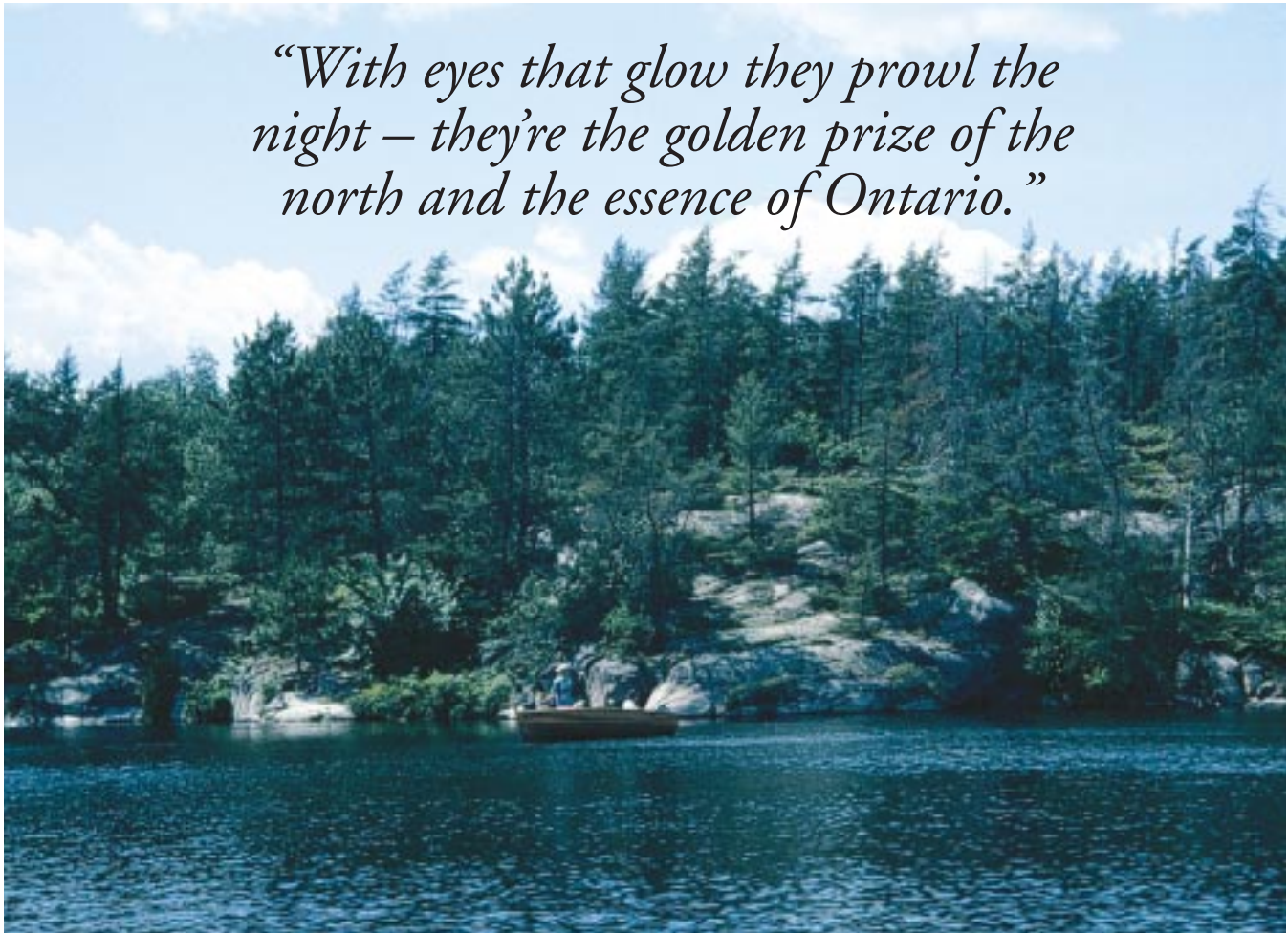


Smallmouth Bass



Walleye

“With eyes that glow they prowl the night – they’re the golden prize of the north and the essence of Ontario.”



Ontario is walleye country. You can find great action for these tasty, golden fish in a variety of settings, from the Great Lakes to shallow and fertile cottage-country reservoirs, to deep, clear rivers and lakes on the Canadian Shield.

Fishing begins in late spring as post-spawners concentrate at river holes, rivermouths, inlets, rocky shorelines, sandbars, shallow reefs, sunken islands, and emerging weedbeds.

Using jigs weighing 1/8- to 3/8-ounce, dressed with soft-plastic twister-tail or shad bodies, marabou feathers or bucktail, is one of the easiest and most effective ways to fish. Hungry walleye dispersing from spawning areas seldom refuse a jig, especially when





tipped with a minnow or a worm. Vertical jig or cast to rocky shorelines, shoals, and weedlines. In stained lakes, chartreuse, lime green, yellow, pink, and white are effective jig colours. When adding bait, use a stinger hook to catch walleye that strike short.

During the late-spring/early-summer peak walleye bite, these fish also hit a wide variety of minnow plugs and crankbaits that imitate shiners or yellow perch, one of their main forage bases in many lakes. These lures can be cast or trolled around shoals and weedlines.

Walleye love live bait, and a variety of slip-sinker and bottom-bouncer rigs can be used to put a minnow, worm, or leech in front of them. Drift with these rigs when wind or current allow it, back-troll, or inch along with an electric motor or small gas kicker.

For finesse live-bait presentations, use a slip-sinker rig with a small green or chartreuse bead above a bait hook on a

5-foot leader. Bait up with a leech or a nightcrawler. In snaggy areas, add a small floating attractor or inject air into a nightcrawler. When you feel a soft tap from a walleye, release a bit of line, wait 15 to 30 seconds, reel in slack, and set the hook on the next bite. Spinners and other revolving attractors can be added when walleye seem to want a bit more enticement.

By mid-summer, walleye travel to deeper structure, such as sunken islands, main-lake points, dropoffs, shoals, and mid-lake weedflats. Spring tactics and baits still take them, but are usually fished deeper, so heavier jigs, rigs, and deep-diving lures are called for.

Summer walleye often move shallow on cloudy and windy days, and morning and evening are always prime times. One method of fishing shallow reefs and wave-swept shorelines is to suspend leeches, worms, or minnows on a single hook beneath a slip-float. Anchoring upwind of

the structure or shoreline assists in making a stealthy presentation.

Walleye usually hold near bottom, but there are exceptions. In Lake Erie, the lower Bay of Quinte, and many clear inland lakes, big walleye often suspend and feed on schooling baitfish such as cisco, alewives, shiners, or smelt. These fish are usually the biggest in the lake, because of their rich diet. Deep-diving crankbaits, downriggers, drop-weights, diving planers, and lead-core or wire lines can be used to troll for these oversized fish.

Walleye have eyes adapted to low-light feeding. Many fish are caught at night by trolling crankbaits along weedlines, rocky points, and over sunken reefs. Some of the largest walleye are taken this way during evenings of a full moon.

In autumn, many walleye move deeper and gorge on forage fish, including ciscoes, smelt, and perch, which have grown in size over summer. In general, a move to larger baits in fall pays off. Three- to



6-inch minnows excel when attached to slip-sinker rigs and back-trolled or drifted over key structures, or used on jigs for vertical presentations. Search for reefs topping off at 15- to 30-foot (4.6 to 9.1 m) depths.

Trolling crankbaits is also a great way to catch trophy-sized fall walleye. In clear water, use natural finishes on crankbaits,

such as black, metallics, and white. In stained or silted water, brighter fire-tiger, chartreuse, oranges, reds, and greens work well.

Walleye are some of the finest-tasting fish in the world. Nothing beats a shore lunch of fresh walleye pan-fried over an open fire. It's an Ontario tradition you just have to sample. •



Ontario record: 22.25 lbs. (10.1 kg).

Average size: Between 1 1/2 and 3 pounds (.68 to 1.36 kg). Walleye over 10 pounds (4.54 kg) are possible in Ontario.

Temperature and habitat: Prefers stained waters in the 60 to 70°F (15.5 to 21°C) range, usually on hard, rocky bottoms, but also frequent weedbeds in shallow, fertile lakes. Likes current areas in rivers or where caused by wind, such as neck-downs between islands.

Biology: Spawn after ice-out in rocky rivers and over wind-swept rubble shoals and shorelines. Prolific fish that scatter eggs randomly.

Range: Throughout Ontario.

Northwestern Ontario

“Thousands of miles of clean, clear waters.”

Imagine a land renowned for its high-quality fishing, where many lakes are seldom fished, with exciting possibilities around every scenic vista, where angling can be as simple as dropping a line off the Trans-Canada Highway or as exotic as flying into a remote outpost camp. You can do it all in the Northwest.

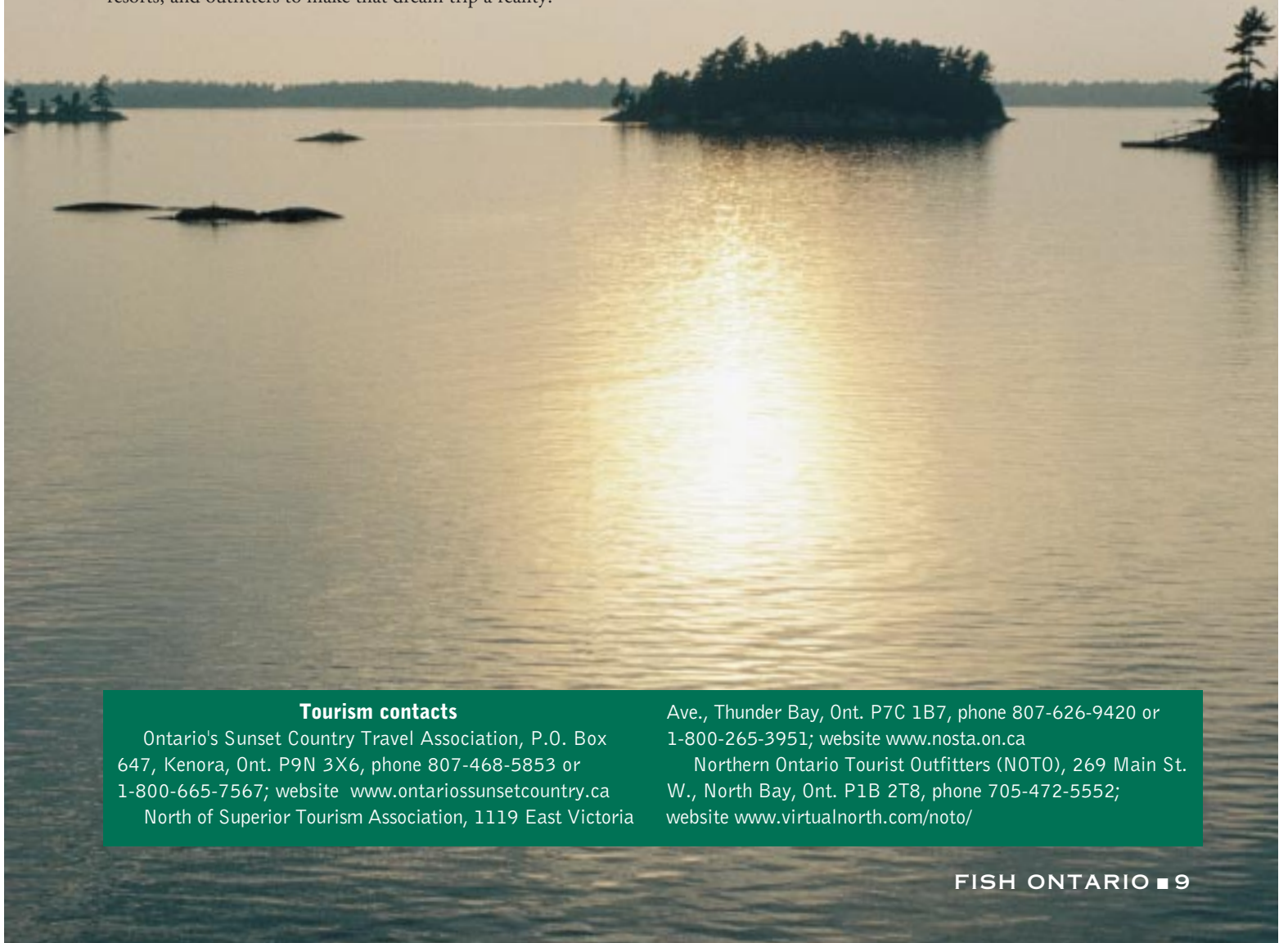
If lake fishing is your preference, look no further. A glance at a map will reveal a multitude of world-class fishing holes extending across the landscape. Some are easily accessed by road, and others require fly-ins or portages.

Walleye, lake trout, pike, and bass thrive in the pristine waters of the Northwest. And this part of Ontario is famous for its trophy muskie fishing.

Big brook trout abound in streams, spring-fed lakes, and the Nipigon River and lake system, which produced the current world record. Quetico Provincial Park and the Albany River system are also legendary for a variety of fish, from brook trout to walleye.

Lake Superior's clean, blue waters host lake trout, steelhead, and salmon. If river fishing is more to your liking, picturesque tributaries between Marathon and Thunder Bay hold brook trout in headwaters and migratory salmon and trout in lower reaches and off rivermouths.

Choose your fish. The Northwest has the resources, services, resorts, and outfitters to make that dream trip a reality.



Tourism contacts

Ontario's Sunset Country Travel Association, P.O. Box 647, Kenora, Ont. P9N 3X6, phone 807-468-5853 or 1-800-665-7567; website www.ontariosunsetcountry.ca
North of Superior Tourism Association, 1119 East Victoria

Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 1B7, phone 807-626-9420 or 1-800-265-3951; website www.nosta.on.ca

Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters (NOTO), 269 Main St. W., North Bay, Ont. P1B 2T8, phone 705-472-5552; website www.virtualnorth.com/noto/



Northern Pike

“Beware the waterwolf. It lurks in dark places, ready to pounce on its next meal.”



Ontario offers the most diverse northern pike fishing on the continent, and 30-pounders (13.6 kg) prowl here.

For trophy pike fishing, timing is important. In northern areas, water usually stays cool enough for pike to remain relatively shallow all year. Spring, early summer, and fall are peak periods in southern and central lakes.

In spring, hit reedy spawning bays and rivermouths. A big baitfish, such as a sucker or even a frozen herring, under a slip-float is irresistible to the most sluggish 'gator. Active pike hammer minnow crankbaits, jerkbaits, spoons, and spinners. Post-spawners (mid-May to June) cruise bays and hunt for prey.





Floating minnow baits twitched just below the surface are effective at this time.

For pike in less than two feet (.6 m) of water, rig a white or black soft-plastic jerk-bait on a thin wire bass worm hook. Retrieve it with short gliding pulls. Small treble stingers increase hookups, and thin wire leaders deter bite-offs from toothy pike.

Fly-rodders can cast oversized white and red bucktails to shallow pike. An 8-weight rod, floating line, 30-pound-test main leader, and a thin 6-inch wire tippet are recommended. Pike flies should have weed-guards to allow working the lure through the salad where these fish lie in ambush along edges.

In summer, monster northern pike often hold 15 to 25 feet (4.6 to 7.6 m) below the surface. Thick cabbage weeds adjacent to deep water are key hangouts at feeding time. During the day, big pike often suspend nearby over deeper water. A prime lair is a large point with a weedy tip. Work spoons, jerkbaits, and 1 1/2-ounce in-line bucktail spinners along deep weed edges. In clear water, use black bucktail and silver or fire-tiger blades. In stained water, go with chartreuse, flame red, or orange blades on a black or red bucktail.

In autumn, fat pike return to shallow reefs and cabbage beds. Cast glide-baits, minnow crankbaits, and spinners to fool wall-hangers. For scattered pike, trolling can't be beat. A consistently successful big-pike tactic is to speed-troll oversized

crankbaits or heavy safety-pin bucktail spinners on top of and around underwater saddles and shoals and along weedlines.

A medium-action bait-casting rod and reel with 14-pound-test line will cover most situations. Step up to medium-

heavy-action rods and 17-pound line for trolling. Spinning outfits with 10- to 12-pound line will handle northern pike to 15 pounds (6.8 kg). In all cases, wire leaders ahead of lures are recommended to prevent bite-offs.



Ontario Record: 42.12 lbs. (19.12 kg).

Average size: Between 4 and 10 pounds (1.8 to 4.5 kg). Northern pike over 20 pounds (9 kg) are considered trophies.

Temperature and habitat: Prefers

water around 60°F (15.5°C) on rocky reefs and the edges of weedbeds.

Biology: Spawns in flooded areas and back-bays in spring. Fertilized eggs are scattered randomly.

Range: Throughout Ontario in lakes and rivers of all sizes.

Northeastern Ontario

“Wild waters and wilderness.”



Encompassing a geographic diversity that begins with the rocky magnificence of the Canadian Shield, this area possesses a wealth of fishable waters. Its boundaries extend north to the haunting coastal beauty, wild rivers, and wetlands of the James and Hudson Bay lowlands, south to the rugged Lake Superior shoreline of Algoma Country and the popular waters of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, and Manitoulin Island. From cottage country to unsullied wilderness, this region has it all.

Huge lake trout, monster pike, and record-class brook trout abound in the James Bay Frontier, where qualified outfitters will help you enjoy a trip of a lifetime.

In Algoma Country's multitude of inland waters, walleye, pike, bass, panfish, and several trout species supply angling memories. And trolling Great Lakes coastal waters produces an exciting array of steelhead, salmon, and lake trout.

Rainbow Country offers fine interior waters, extending inland from Parry Sound, in addition to the vastness of Georgian Bay and Manitoulin Island's North Channel. There's a variety of cold- and warm-water gamefish, including huge muskie and yard-long pike.

A tour of this region would not be complete without visiting the Near North. This includes Lake Nipissing, the French River, Lake Temagami, and hundreds of other lakes with walleye and bass. Pike, muskie, channel cats, and more abound. In Algonquin Provincial Park superb fishing for brook trout, lake trout, and smallmouth bass is matched by the serene charm of canoe routes connecting wilderness waters. Whether you savour a mouth-watering shore lunch of walleye or the heart-stopping excitement of a sky-rocketing smallmouth bass, the Northeast can make it happen.



Tourism contacts

Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association, 485 Queen St. E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 1Z9, phone 705-254-4293 or 1-800-263-2546; website www.algomacountry.com

Cochrane Timiskiming Travel Association, P.O. Bag 920, 76 MacIntyre Rd., Schumacher, Ont. P0N 1G0, phone 1-800-461-3766 or 705-360-1989; website www.jamesbayfrontier.com

Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters (NOTO), 269 Main St. W., North Bay, Ont. P1B 2T8, phone 705-472-5552; website www.virtualnorth.com/noto/

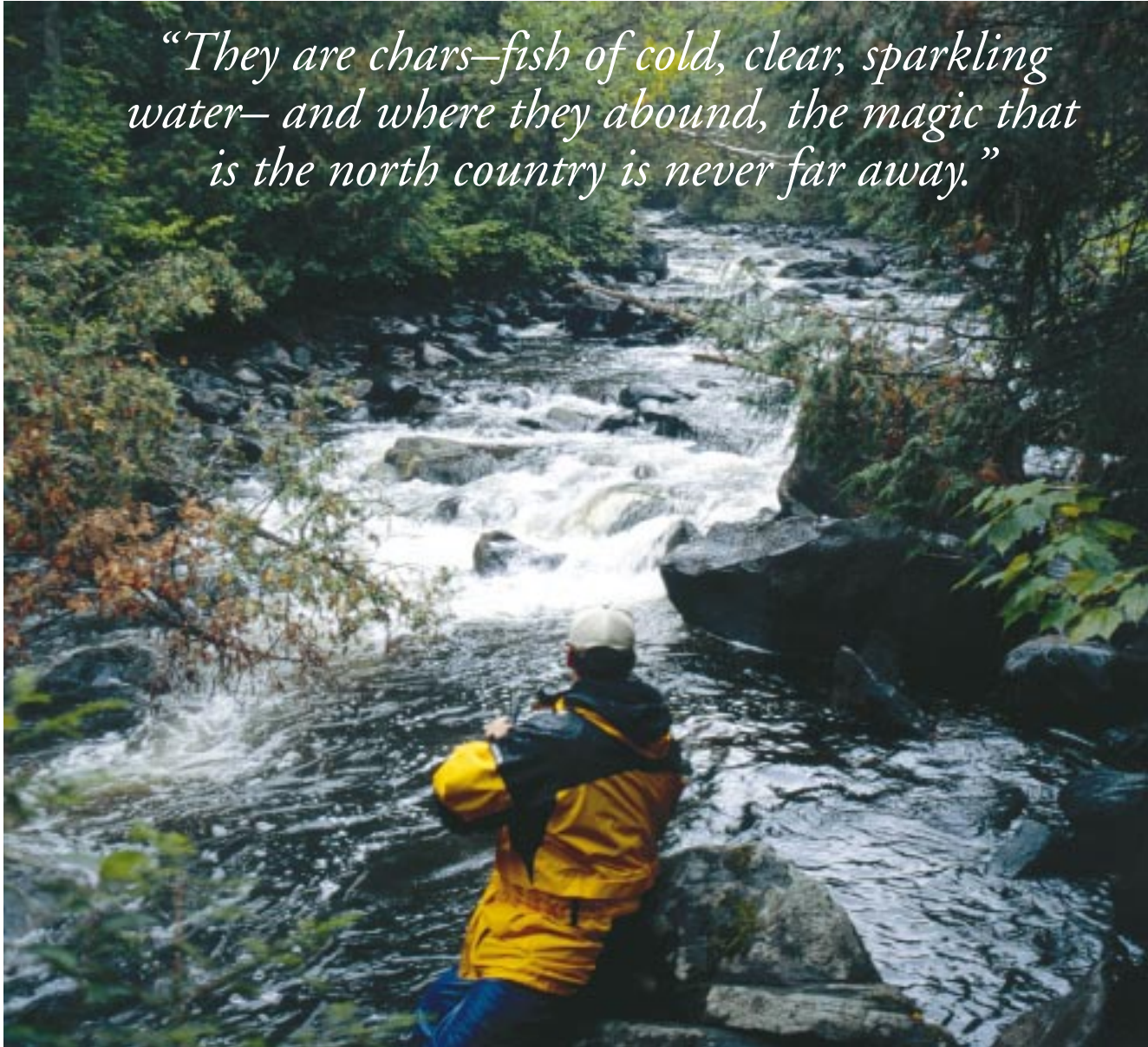
Ontario's Near North, P.O. Box 351, North Bay, Ont. P1B 8H5. Phone 705-474-6634 or 1-800-387-0516; website ontariosnearnorth.on.ca

Rainbow Country Travel Association, 2726 Whippoorwill Ave., Sudbury, Ont. P3G 1E9, phone 1-800-465-6655 or 705-522-0104; website www.rainbowcountry.com



Brook and Lake Trout

“They are chars—fish of cold, clear, sparkling water—and where they abound, the magic that is the north country is never far away.”



Ontario brook trout live in small streams, big rivers, ponds, inland lakes, Lake Superior, and Hudson and James Bays, from which they make late-summer/fall spawning runs up tributaries.

Inland-lake brookies are most active spring and fall when cooler water allows them to cruise shorelines. Fish near overhanging trees, submerged wood, and rocky points and shoals. Shore fishing is possible, but boats or canoes provide better access and allow you to troll. As waters warm, brookies move deeper, becoming less aggressive.



River brookies hold in spring holes and cold, aerated pools at the base of falls and rapids throughout summer, but spread out in the spring and fall. In spring-fed creeks, they can be found in pools and near cover.



Brook trout love live bait. A hook, worm, and split-shot combination is a simple and effective way to catch them. They also eat minnows, leeches, hellgrammites, and insects, such as mayfly nymphs. Small to mid-sized spoons, worm-tipped spinners, minnow-imitating crankbaits, small jigs, and artificial flies are also good baits. Silver and gold, accented with blue, green, and red are reliable lure finishes. White, black, or hot pink can also be the ticket some days.

Brookies gorge on insects, making them ideal for fly fishers. Dries, wets, and nymph patterns work well, as do minnow-imitating streamers. Big specks especially take sculpin patterns, such as Mudler Minnows.

A light-action 7-foot rod and a spinning reel holding 4- to 8-pound-test monofilament will handle brookies, including lunkers, in open water. Light- to medium-action fly tackle is also effective.

For finicky lake specks, customize a large wobbling spoon. Replace the treble hook with a No. 8 single attached to a 4-inch mono leader. Pierce an earthworm through the head and troll slowly, imparting a gentle movement to the bait. Use split-shot to fine-tune depth. Laker trout inhabit cold, deep waterbodies. After ice-out they often feed near shore, but move deeper as waters warm. By sum-

mer, wire line or downriggers are required to catch them, as they congregate as deep as 100 feet (30 m) down. Depth can vary, but in most inland waters temperatures are ideal near the 50-foot (15 m) mark.

Experimentation pays off, but using electronic temperature probes narrows the range to fish in. Depth sounder/fish finders eliminate more guesswork by marking fish and bottom. Structure, such as humps, shoals, and dropoffs, within the laker's comfort zone, are good places to start.

Trolling three- to seven-inch wobbling spoons and crankbaits is standard and effective for lakers. Silver and gold are traditional finishes, but green, blue, and white also trigger strikes. A medium-action spinning outfit with 8-pound test line is fine for fish under 10 pounds (4.5 kg). Trophies over 20 pounds (9 kg) are caught regularly in northern waters, though, so stout downrigger rods and level-wind reels with 12- to 20-pound lines are recommended.



BROOK TROUT

World and Ontario record: 14.5 lbs. (6.58 kg).

Average size: Eight to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) in small streams, 1 to 3 pounds (.45 to 1.36 kg) in inland lakes.

Temperature and habitat: Prefers temperatures below 68°F (20°C) in clean, well-oxygenated lakes and rivers.

Biology: Spawns in fall over upwelling areas of gravel in lakes and streams. Grows quickly and lives about five years.

Range: From southern Ontario to Hudson Bay tributaries.

In soft-bottomed lakes, bouncing a downrigger ball or dragging a spoon on a wire-line outfit along a dropoff or over a hump stirs up silt and provokes hits from lakers.

Trolling is a great search technique, but vertical jigging heavy spoons or big tube jigs is especially effective once you find concentrations of deep-water lakers. •

LAKE TROUT

Ontario record: 63.12 lbs. (28.65 kg).

Average size: Two to 10 pounds (.9 to 4.5 kg).

Temperature and habitat: Around 50°F (10°C) in clear, deep lakes.

Biology: Spawns in fall over boulders or rubble shoals in lakes. Can live 20 years or longer, hence can reach a great size.

Range: Much of Ontario, except James Bay and Hudson Bay Lowlands.

Eastern Ontario

“Fish historic waterways.”

If you find yourself in a place that has big waters, historic canals, lakes, ponds, and rivers – and easy access to them all – you are probably in Ontario’s Eastern region.

At the southern edge, the Bay of Quinte is renowned for lunker walleye, pike, and smallmouth and largemouth bass. Farther along, the St. Lawrence River’s shoals and backwaters also offer excellent fishing for bronzebacks and bucketmouths, pike, and panfish, and some stretches harbour muskie big enough to make a mother duck nervous.

Rainbow, brown, and lake trout and salmon of all kinds prowl Lake Ontario and keep boating anglers in action spring through fall. Tributaries such as Wilmot Creek and the Ganaraska River host spring and fall migrations of trout and salmon and are accessible to shore anglers from Canada’s largest highway, the 401.

To the north, the shallow, rich Kawartha teem with bass, walleye, muskie, and panfish, and there are resorts and services to cater to your every need. Farther north still, the Haliburton area offers lake trout, brook trout, smallmouth bass, and whitefish in deep, clear lakes on the Canadian Shield, while the haunting calls of loons echo off rock cliffs. Bring a canoe – there’s plenty to explore.

In the east, between Kingston and Ottawa, the Rideau system’s lakes and canals host of a variety of warm-water fish, including great largemouth bass and crappie. Several of the deeper lakes offer lake trout as a bonus. The mighty Ottawa River, forming the eastern border, offers more pike, walleye, bass, panfish, channel catfish, and muskie. Visit eastern Ontario, an area rich in history and charm, catch some fish, and make your own history.



Tourism contacts

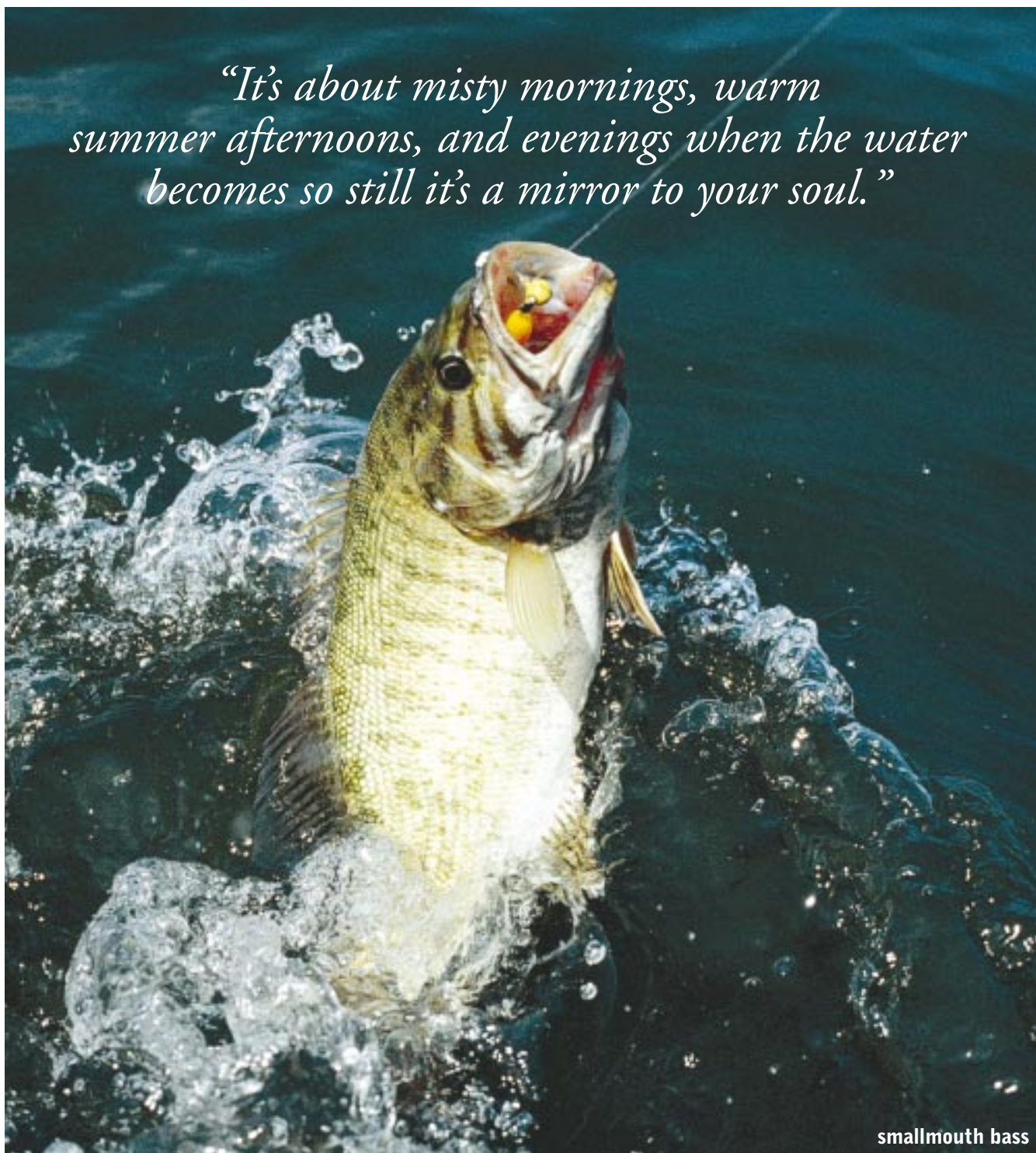
Ontario East Tourism Association, RR 1, Reynolds Rd. and 1000 Islands Parkway, Lansdowne, Ont., K0E 1L0, phone 613-659-4300 or 1-800-567-3278; website www.Ontarioeast.com

Bancroft and District Chamber of Commerce, Box 539, Bancroft, Ont. K0L 1C0, phone 613-332-1513 or 1-800-461-1912; website www.commerce.bancroft.on.ca/getaway.html



Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass

*“It’s about misty mornings, warm
summer afternoons, and evenings when the water
becomes so still it’s a mirror to your soul.”*



smallmouth bass



Smallmouth bass are found from Ontario's Great Lakes shoals to scenic, glacial lakes of the Canadian Shield and in thousands of rivers, creeks, and lakes in between. Largemouth are mainly in warmer waterbodies with shallow cover, whether it be weeds and wood or rocky outcrops. In lakes with varied habitat, largemouth territory overlaps with that of smallmouth, making for diverse angling action.

Smallmouth are usually in more open water, where you can use light to medium-action 6- to 7-foot spinning rods and 6- to 10-pound-test lines. Fly-rodders also find these smallmouth eager to take top-water poppers or minnow-shaped streamers when the fish are in relatively shallow water. In summer, deep underwater points, rocky shoals, submerged islands, and weed edges are the places to catch these hard-fighting, tail-walking fish.

Soft-plastic twister-tail, tube, and shad jig bodies on 1/8- to 3/8-ounce heads are the most common smallmouth lures.



largemouth bass



Ontario records: Largemouth 10.43 lbs. (4.7 kg); smallmouth 9.84 lbs. (4.5 kg).

Average sizes: Largemouth 1.5 to 4 lbs. (.68 to 1.8 kg), smallmouth 1 to 3.5 lbs. (.45 to 1.58 kg).

Habitat and temperature: Largemouth inhabit shallow, warm waterbodies with aquatic vegetation, submerged wood, man-made cover, and rocks. They prefer 79 to 81°F (26 to 27°C) water. Smallmouth live in deeper water, often around rocks, sand, or gravel areas. They prefer water temperatures under 70°F (21°C).

Biology: Both bass spawn in late May and June in fanned-out bottom depressions. Largemouth prefer vegetated, quiet bays. Smallmouth deposit their eggs in shallow, gravelly areas. Males guard eggs and fry.

Ranges: Both species are found from the Manitoba border extending eastward along the north shore of Lake Superior, continuing as far north as Temiskaming, then south. Smallmouth are more common than largemouth in northern areas of the province.



Good jig colours are black, smoke, purple, amber, yellow, and white. Bounce jigs along bottom, while retrieving or drifting with the wind over potential hotspots. One trick is to allow a tube jig to settle on bottom, then release 20 to 40 yards (18 to 36 m) of line. As the boat drifts, nudge the bait along, as you feel for a strike. This technique is particularly useful in clear, deep water for spooky smallmouth.

Largemouth tactics that work elsewhere are also effective in Ontario. Fishing varies from flip-and-pitch techniques around shallow, matted weeds, docks, and stumps, to exciting top-water action on jerkbaits, poppers, and floating plastic worms. Crawling spinnerbaits or retrieving shallow-running crankbaits along submerged weed patches also pay off. Bass of both species in deeper water can be taken with diving crankbaits, Carolina-rigged soft-plastic baits, and jigs.

Although some southern lakes or rivers are turbid, clear water is normal in Ontario. Baitcasting tackle spooled with 12- to 20-pound line is ideal around

heavy cover for largemouth in stained waters. Light spinning tackle, though, is often necessary to fool largemouths in clear water on sunny days. In these conditions, thin, yet strong, braided or fused line and small plastic worms, grubs, or jigs can jump-start the action, while allowing you to handle fish around cover.

Live bait is effective for both species. Leeches, minnows, and juicy nightcrawlers rigged beneath a float or with split-shot on the bottom will draw strikes. Smallmouth are particularly fond of crayfish, especially soft-shells that have just moulted.



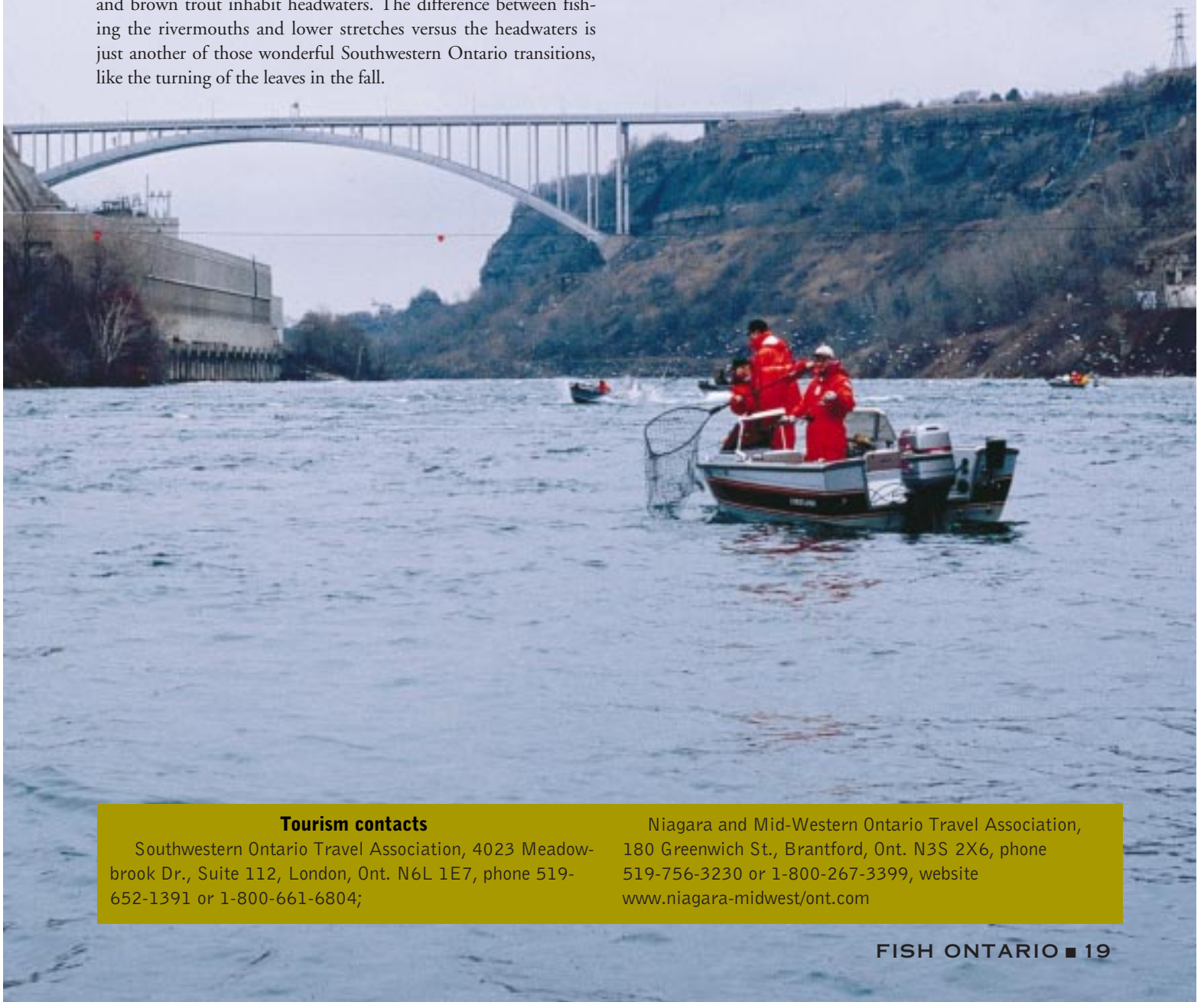
Southwestern Ontario

*“Big waters,
big fish.”*

Southwestern Ontario offers pleasant contrasts. From the bustling tourist attraction of Niagara Falls to the pastoral beauty of wine country, the setting can change with the passing of mere miles. And with the scenery being what it is, the transition is never disappointing.

The angler experiences the same transition. Three of the Great Lakes (Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and Lake St. Clair cradle the region. Hot charter-boat action awaits you on all of them. Big salmon and trout, scads of smallmouth bass, and lunker walleye are yours for the catching. Bent rods are the order of the day. From shore, there are opportunities to catch perch, pike, freshwater drum, bass, crappie, salmon, and trout.

Away from the big waters, many fine rivers draw anglers to more great fishing. The pleasant Grand, the powerful Niagara, and the uncrowded Ausable and Maitland are just a few that offer surprisingly diverse fisheries. Bass, walleye, rainbows, salmon, panfish, catfish, and carp are all available in the lower reaches, while brook and brown trout inhabit headwaters. The difference between fishing the rivermouths and lower stretches versus the headwaters is just another of those wonderful Southwestern Ontario transitions, like the turning of the leaves in the fall.



Tourism contacts

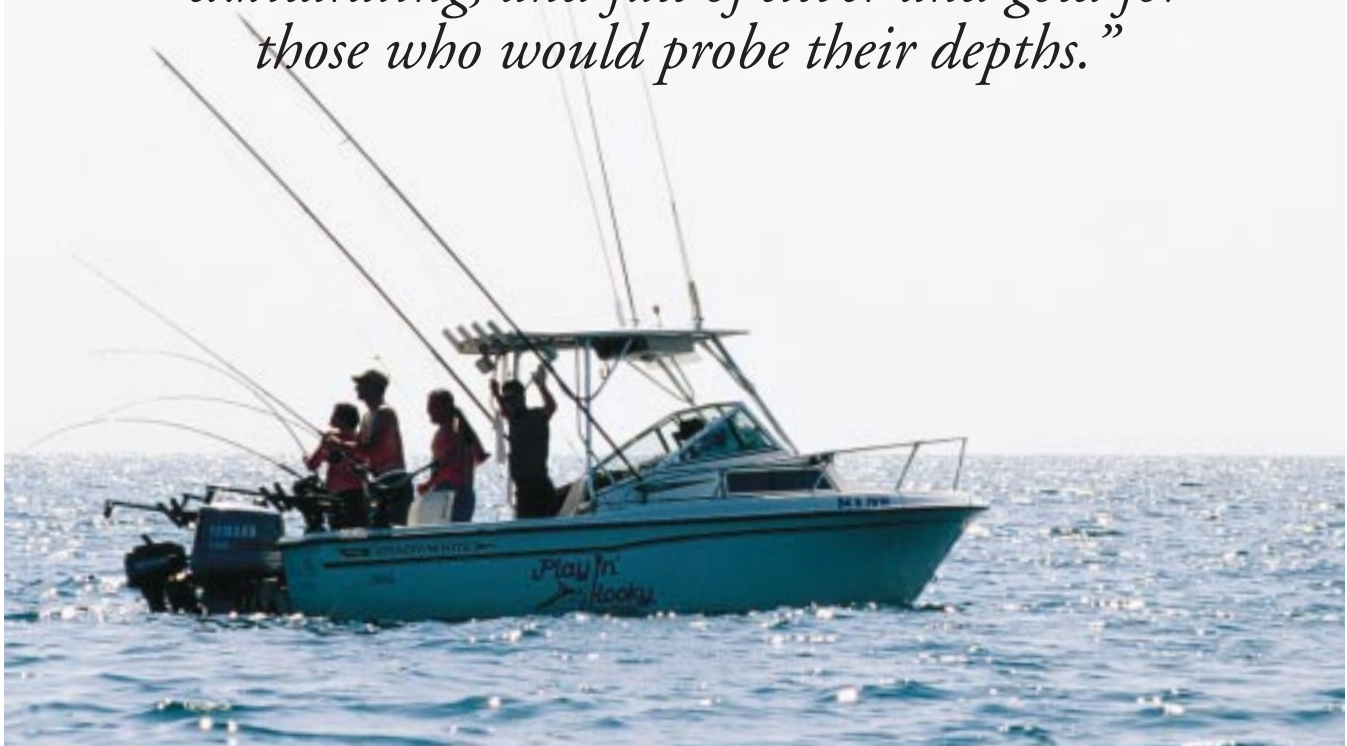
Southwestern Ontario Travel Association, 4023 Meadowbrook Dr., Suite 112, London, Ont. N6L 1E7, phone 519-652-1391 or 1-800-661-6804;

Niagara and Mid-Western Ontario Travel Association, 180 Greenwich St., Brantford, Ont. N3S 2X6, phone 519-756-3230 or 1-800-267-3399, website www.niagara-midwest/ont.com



Great Lakes Trout and Salmon

“These are inland seas, intimidating, yet exhilarating, and full of silver and gold for those who would probe their depths.”

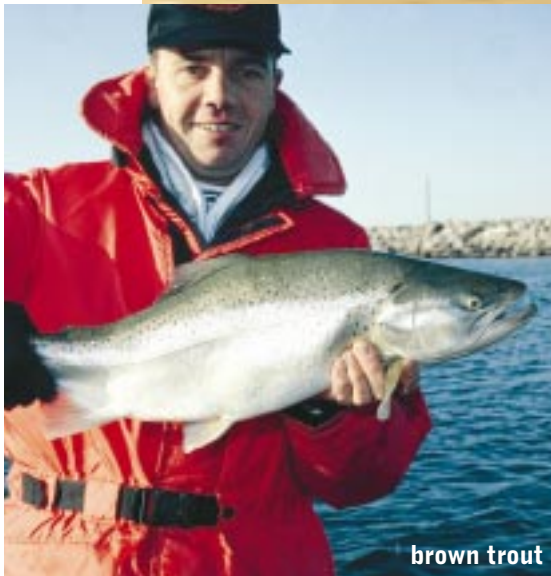
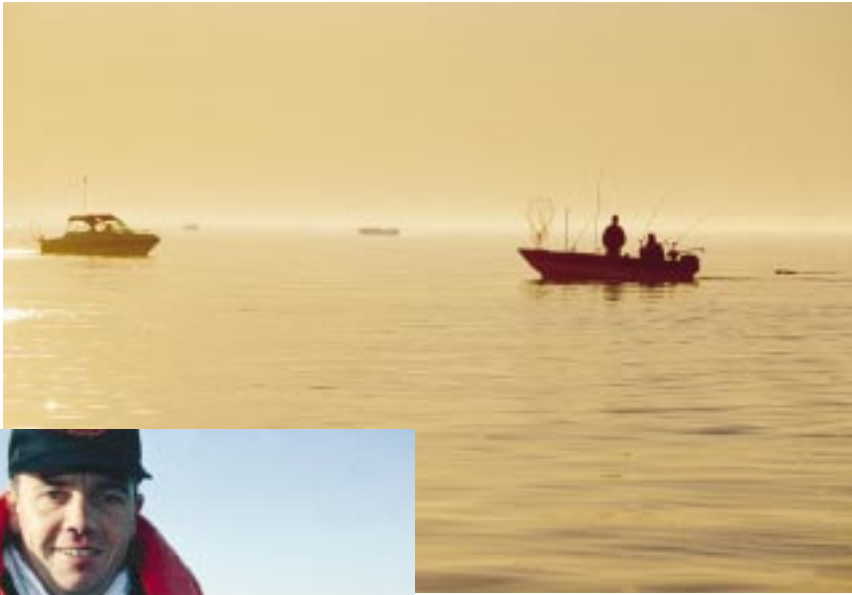


Fishing Ontario's Great Lakes has never been more exciting. Stocking levels and natural reproduction are up. It's a diverse sport fishery for a variety of warm- and cold-water fish. Depending on where you wet a line, there are bass, walleye, pike, and muskie. Inflowing streams pulse with silver spring and fall, when migratory salmon and trout return on spawning runs. Extended and all-year seasons make many of Ontario's Great Lakes tributaries the places to be for non-boating anglers seeking big-water trout and salmon.

There are more spectacular boat-fishing opportunities for trophy chinook and coho salmon, and rainbow, brown, and lake trout in Lakes Ontario and Huron. In Lake Superior, lakera of legendary proportions are the



order of the day, with coaster brookies, rainbows, and chinooks as bonuses. Although Lake Erie is more noted for its world-famous giant walleye and smallmouth bass, rainbows and salmon have added a new dimension to this already dynamic fishery.



brown trout

Hiring the services of an experienced charter skipper is the fastest way for visiting anglers to get in on the offshore action, but if you're towing your own rig, you'll find plenty of boat ramps throughout the lakes near popular hotspots.

At first glance, locating fish in any of these inland seas seems intimidating, but seasonal locations are predictable if you factor in water temperatures, baitfish movements, and spawning seasons.

In spring, you don't need a big boat and expensive gear to catch trout and salmon. The fish are in warmer near-shore areas, where they gorge on waves of spawning smelt or alewife. In particular, seek them near river and harbour mouths and off sandy and gravelly windward shorelines. Shallow-water trollers use 6- to 10-pound-test clear, low-stretch lines, especially for browns and rainbows. To minimize spooking fish, flat-line with long leads or use a planer board, either a full-sized or miniature in-line or on-line model. Slowly troll small to medium body baits that imitate alewife or smelt. Natural

finishes, such as black, silver, blue, gold, blue/silver and perch are top picks in clear water, while chartreuse or fluorescent red are better in off-coloured water.

During summer, fish disperse into deeper, cooler depths. Then, a faster troll is used to search for scattered fish. In addition, a temperature probe helps to locate preferred temperature zones of the different species, and a depth sounder/fish locator is standard for marking bottom, gamefish, and baitfish.

Most summer trollers rely on downriggers to carry lures as deep as 100 feet (30 m). In conjunction with this, a beefy level-wind reel holding several hundred yards of 12- to 20-pound-test line and a long, limber downrigger rod are used. Lures are mostly silver-blue, green, red, and pink spoons that resemble alewife and smelt. Some days, black, purple, strawberry, orange and gold/orange are effective.

As summer progresses into early fall, trout and salmon migrate back to streams and harbours. They stage near shore, opening up opportunities again for small-boat anglers. All salmon and trout, except rainbows, are fall spawners, so fish near stocking and natural spawning sites. Both downrigging and flat-lining are options. For salmon, troll magnum spoons and plugs. Browns, rainbows, and lakers are generally more attracted to medium spoons and body-baits.

To increase your success, troll in a zig-zag. The lure's dropping action on wide sweeps, combined with the lifting and darting motion when the line straightens, is a great fish seducer.



rainbow trout

Ontario records: Chinook salmon 45.38 lbs. (20.6 kg); rainbow trout 29.12 lbs. (13.2 kg); brown trout 34.38 lbs. (15.6 kg); lake trout 63.12 lbs. (28.65 kg).

Average sizes: Chinooks 10 to 30 lbs. (4.5 to 13.6 kg); rainbows, browns, and lakers 5 to 15 lbs. (2.27 to 6.8 kg).

Temperature: Lake trout 50°F (10°C), chinooks 50 to 55°F (10 to 12.7°C), browns and rainbows 55 to 60°F (12.7 to 15.5°C).

Habitat and biology: Lakers are mainly shoal spawners. Others spawn in streams, where the young remain for various times and then leave to feed and mature in the lakes. They roam widely, often suspended off bottom, although browns stay closer to shore and stocking areas, and lakers live near shoals and dropoffs. All are fall spawners, except the rainbow (spring).

Range: All of Ontario's Great Lakes.



lake trout

Toronto and area

"The best of both worlds."



Toronto is a world-class city, but many people don't know that a world-class fishery exists within sight of the CN tower and the city's sculptured skyline. Picture a quality fishing spot minutes from the heart of one of North America's most exciting cities.

The action at Lake Ontario rivermouths begins to sizzle in spring with phenomenal steelhead runs into tributaries such as the Credit, Humber, and Rouge Rivers. Respectable pike, huge carp, and pan-fish are caught year-round from piers and landfill parks that span the waterfront and from lagoons on the Toronto Islands. Summer is prime to experience big-water trolling for salmon, browns, lake trout, and rainbows from one of many charter-boat operations based in the area. Entering the Great Salmon Hunt might be prudent. Prizes are even bigger than the fish.

A walk through High Park leads you to Grenadier Pond, a pleasant place for a picnic and to wet a line for crappie, catfish, bluegill, carp, and largemouth bass, right in the heart of the city.

By late summer, big browns, rainbows, and chinook move back inshore off rivermouths and into harbours, such as at Bluffers Park and Ashbridge's Bay. Shore anglers can tussle with them all day, and then take in a dinner and a show downtown.



Tourism contacts

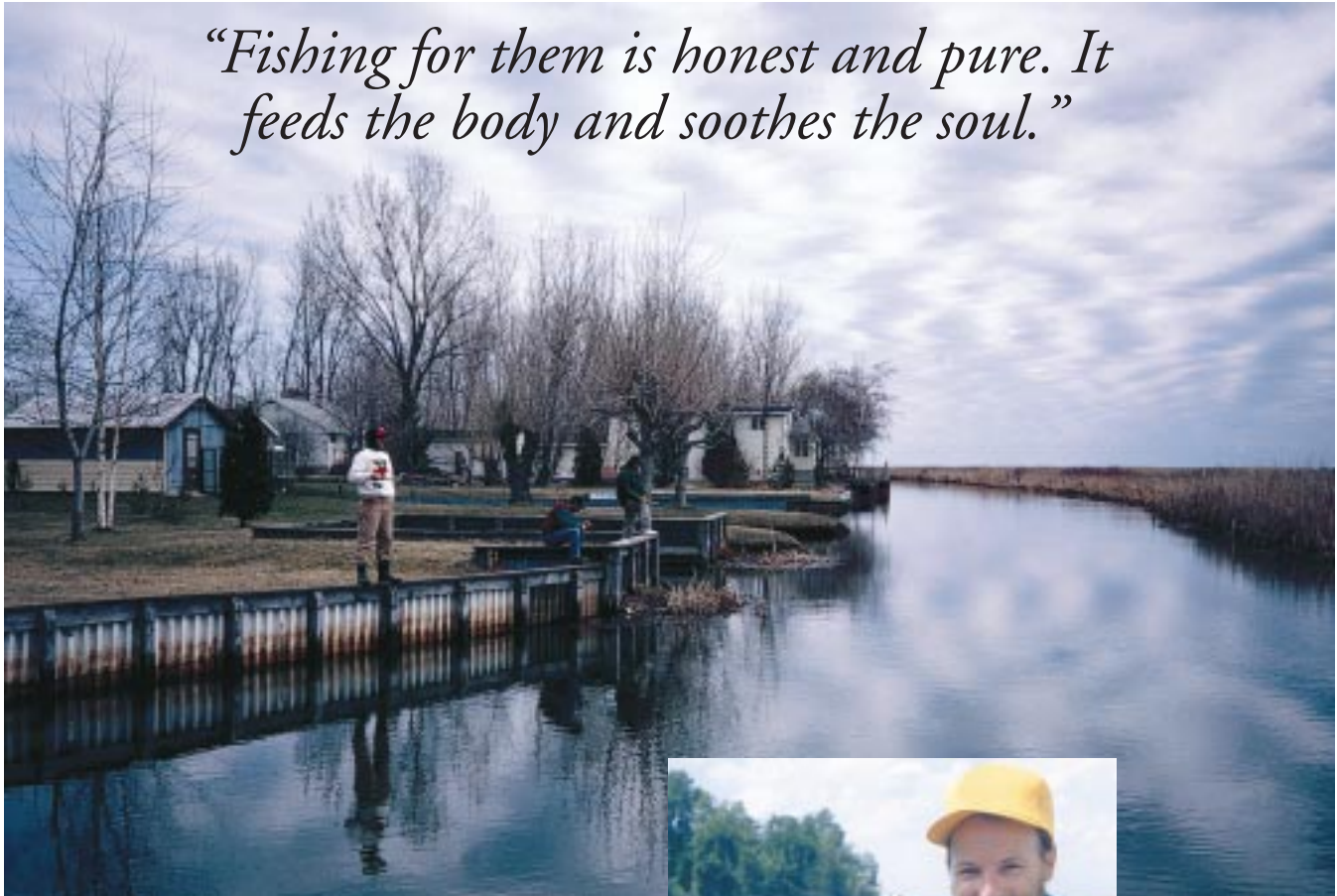
Tourism Toronto, P.O. Box 126, 207 Queens Quay W.,

Toronto, Ont. M5J 1A7, phone 416-203-2600 or
1-800-363-1990, website www.tourism-toronto.com



Panfish

“Fishing for them is honest and pure. It feeds the body and soothes the soul.”



What angler hasn't started out by sitting on a dock and fishing with a simple hook and a worm under a red and white bobber for sunfish, bluegill, bullheads, rock bass, or other panfish? Ontario has a long list of small fry that offer dependable action for the whole family. The species mentioned are just a few of those available. Crappie and yellow perch draw the biggest followings and are also the largest. Indeed, some crappie are as big as a fry pan!

The crappie's Ontario range is expanding, making them available to more anglers. The black crappie is most common, but there are white crappie in the southwest.

Black crappie move in schools, suspending summer and winter over 20 to 40 feet (6 to 12 m) of water. Open-water anglers get their



first crack at them as ice clears from backwaters in April or early May and the fish move inshore to feed. Top spots include man-made boat cuts and canals, and shallow bays with cover (wood, weeds, docks). More fish move in by late May and June to spawn. In summer, the fish are along deep weedlines or



pumpkinseed

bluegill

yellow perch

suspended farther out. They'll hit during the day, especially during overcast weather, but morning and evening are prime.

Light spinning or fly-fishing tackle and 6-pound or less line is suitable for crappie and other panfish. In fact, let the kids fish with whatever equipment you can assemble. A 6-foot ultralight spinning outfit is ideal for drifting, casting, or trolling tiny lures. A good second choice is a 9- to 12-foot light panfish or steel-head float rod.

Effective baits include small live minnows, spinners, panfish jigs, mini-crankbaits, nymphs, and streamer flies. A crappie's eyes are positioned to see upward, so bait should be worked slightly above

them. This makes the precise presentation of float fishing the way to go once you locate crappie by casting, trolling, or drifting. Hang a live minnow or a 1/32- to 1/16-ounce jig and 1 1/2-inch tube or twister body under a panfish slip-float. Scented orange, yellow, white, pink, blue, amber, and chartreuse jigs are good.

Crappie are tasty, but yellow perch are considered by many to be even finer panfish in the pan. Lakes with abundant forage produce perch topping one pound (.45 kg) and occasionally twice that size. There are family-oriented derbies for these "jumbos" in some areas.

After ice-out in late April or May, scads of perch are caught near shore, where they spawn. Fishing weedlines and flats bordering deeper water pays off through summer.

Perch are more bottom-oriented than crappie. Light slip-sinker rigs or split-shot and a hook with a worm or small minnow are all you need to catch them. Panfish jigs, cast or hung under a slip-float, are also effective. •



BLACK CRAPPIE

Ontario record: 3.78 lbs. (1.6 kg).

Average size: One-half to 1 lb. (.23 to .45 kg).

Temperature, habitat, biology:

Spawn in shallow, weedy areas when water temperatures reach 68°F (20°C), usually May through June. Males guard eggs and fry. For much of the year, they suspend offshore, but move to the edge of weedlines, points, or shoals or rise to the surface to feed in low-light conditions.

Range: Lower northwestern Ontario, the Great Lakes and connecting waterbodies to Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Spreading inland north to Parry Sound through connecting systems such as the the Rideau-Trent-Severn waterways.



YELLOW PERCH

Ontario record: 2.25 lbs. (1 kg).

Average size: To 3/4 pound (.34 kg).

Temperature, habitat, biology:

Spawn in early spring, scattering eggs in shallow water around vegetation and submerged wood. Summer habitat ranges from weedy areas to rock/sand/rubble shoals to mossy mudflats, but perch occasionally suspend to follow forage. Preferred water temperature is 68°F (20°C).

Range: All of Ontario roughly south of James Bay and the Upper Albany River.

Central Ontario

This is cottage country, where the call of the loon harmonises with the sizzle of the barbecue and the laughter of kids catching panfish, and where people add new meaning to the term hospitality.

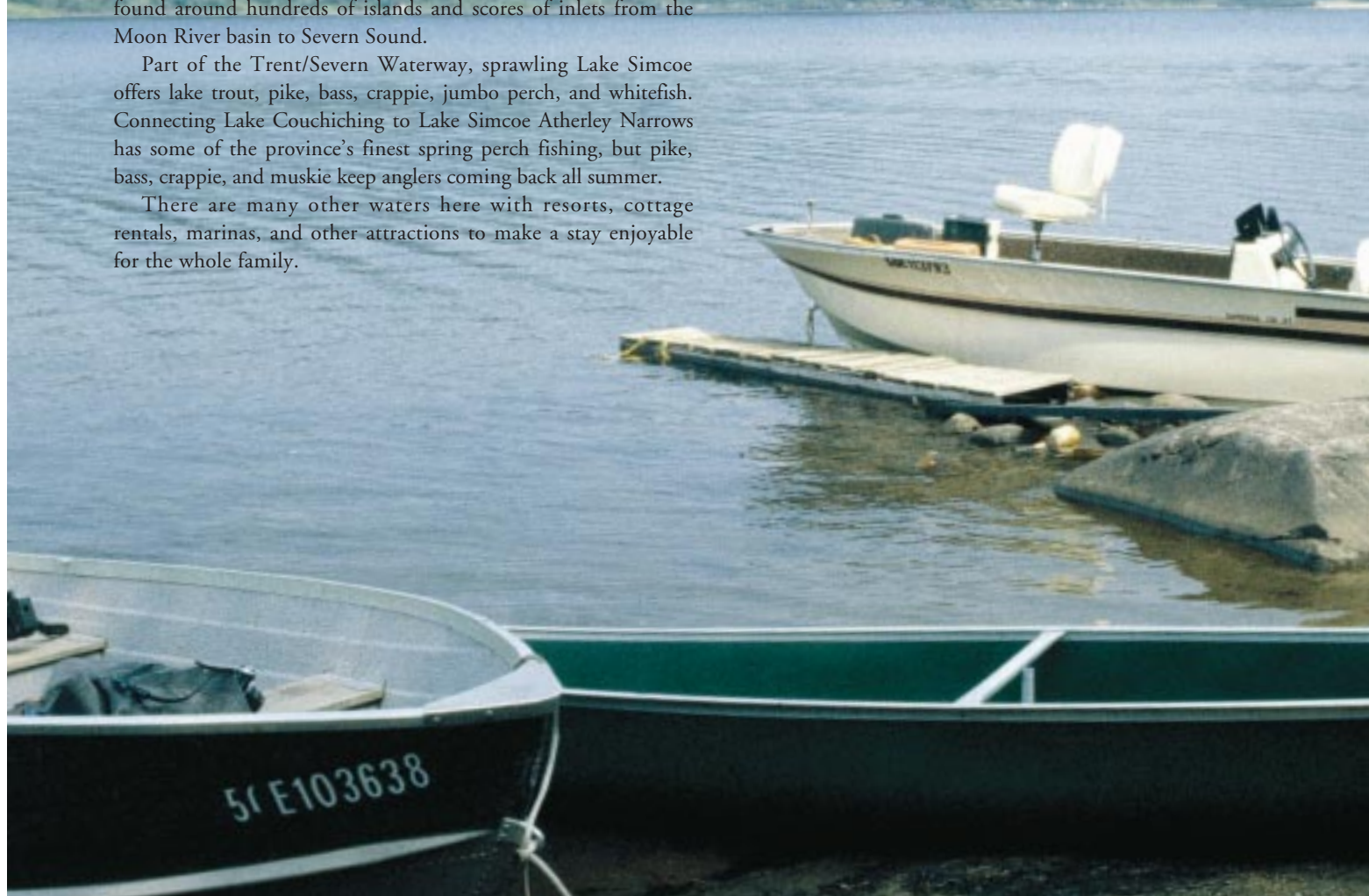
In the northeast, the Muskokas are jewels set into the Canadian Shield. Their deep, clean waters shelter bass, walleye, pike, lake trout, whitefish, and panfish.

To the west, Georgian Bay and Bruce Peninsula waters of Lake Huron are tops for trout and salmon trolling or for casting to bass and panfish closer in. Rivers feeding Lake Huron offer headwater trout fishing, and there are bass and channel catfish in lower sections. The Saugeen, Sauble, Beaver, Bighead, Sydenham, and Nottawasaga, to name a few, also host spring and fall steelhead (migratory rainbow trout) and autumn salmon and brown trout. Pike, muskie, walleye, scrappy bass, and more panfish are found around hundreds of islands and scores of inlets from the Moon River basin to Severn Sound.

Part of the Trent/Severn Waterway, sprawling Lake Simcoe offers lake trout, pike, bass, crappie, jumbo perch, and whitefish. Connecting Lake Couchiching to Lake Simcoe Atherley Narrows has some of the province's finest spring perch fishing, but pike, bass, crappie, and muskie keep anglers coming back all summer.

There are many other waters here with resorts, cottage rentals, marinas, and other attractions to make a stay enjoyable for the whole family.

“Great lakes and Great Lakes rivers.”



Tourism contacts

Georgian Triangle Tourist Association, 601 First St., Collingwood, Ont. L9Y 4L2, phone 705-445-7722; website www.georgiantriangle.org

Muskoka Tourism, RR 2, Kilworthy, Ont. P0E 1G0, phone 705-689-0660 or 1-800-267-9700; website www.muskoka-tourism.on.ca

Grey-Bruce Tourism Association, RR 5, Owen Sound,

Ont. N4K 5N7, phone 519-371-2071 or 1-800-265-3127; website visitontario.com

Bruce County Tourism Office, P.O. Box 180, 33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, N0H 2L0, phone 519-797-1602 or 1-800-268-3838; website www.brucecounty.ont.ca/tourism

Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters (NOTO), 269 Main St. W., North Bay, Ont. P1B 2T8, phone 705-472-5552; website www.virtualnorth.com/noto/



Muskie

“They are fish of legends and myth – a rare catch even where they are common.”



Ontario muskie anglers generally face two choices: chase rarer trophies that sometimes exceed 40 pounds (18 kg) or concentrate on quantities of smaller fish, a relative term when you consider that the average size is about 10 pounds (4.5 kg). It's a tough decision. A world-record exceeding 70 pounds (31.8 kg) is almost certainly lurking somewhere in the province for those who would take up the challenge of the hunt.

Peak pay-off periods occur after the season opens in June and again in September when water temperatures begin to cool. July and August, however, produce substantial



numbers of small to medium-sized muskie. October and November, when two important prey species, whitefish and cisco, move to shallow water to spawn in deeper muskie lakes, are well known for giving up the biggest fish of the year.

Key fishing times during the day include morning and evening when bait-fish activity peaks, and between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. In many lakes, muskie are also active for a few hours after midnight.

Good muskie habitat varies from lake to lake and from river to river, but the basics usually remain the same. Sunken islands, points, saddles between visible islands, neckdowns in current flows, or weedbeds all hold promise if they're within casting distance of deeper water. Look for muskie to hold in transition zones at dropoffs. Work each location top to bottom.

Big, noisy surface baits often produce spectacular results if muskie are in shallow water. Try black and yellow top-water plugs when light conditions are low. One-ounce or heavier in-line spinners or spinnerbaits, dressed with red and black bucktail, and jerkbaits are good choices for covering water down to 10 feet (3 m). Past that depth, switch to beefy trolling



plugs that work well at a fast clip. In summer, running one lure as close as 6 feet (1.8 m) to the prop-wash often picks up fearless muskie attracted to the turbulence.

Whether you're trolling or casting, use tackle that can subdue a muskie in a reasonable time, since they fight to the point of exhaustion and are extremely susceptible to stress and delayed mortality if you plan to release them. A stout 6 1/2-foot casting rod and a reel designed for 20-pound-test line will work for most casting situations. A stiffer 5 1/2-foot rod and a

casting or trolling reel and 30-pound-test line will handle trolling needs. Quality line is a must, as are 12- to 18-inch wire leaders with rugged snaps and swivels.

Don't forget landing and release equipment. Muskie are powerful fish with razor-sharp teeth. Care must be used when handling them to avoid injuries to the angler and the fish. Large minimum size limits are the rule and most muskie anglers usually release all but an occasional wallhanger anyway, so successful survival of released muskie is important to the future of the fisheries. Large, soft-meshed standard landing nets are okay, but a special mesh landing cradle is even better, so the fish can be kept in the water for unhooking and until recuperated enough to release. Have strong pliers to remove hooks or side-cutters for deeply imbedded barbs. Just snip them off, rather than taking too long trying to remove them. Hooks can be easily replaced on lures. Muskie cannot. •

The Ontario record, caught in Blackstone Harbour, Georgian Bay.



Ontario record: 65 lbs. (29.5 kg).

Average sizes: 10 to 20 pounds (4.5 to 9 kg).

Temperature, habitat, and biology: Often found in water up to 78°F (25.6°C), but big muskie, like big pike, prefer cooler water. Optimum spawning temperature is 55°F (12.8°C). Lives in a range of habitats, from small lakes to the Great Lakes, usually near cover or structure, but will suspend over deeper water. Spawns in spring later than pike in many of the same vegetated, flooded areas. Can hybridize with pike to produce sterile, fast-growing "tiger" muskie.

Range: Extreme northwestern Ontario and roughly south from Sault Ste. Marie, including parts of the Great Lakes (except Superior) and Lake St. Clair.





Alternate Species

“They’re often the overlooked species of our lakes, ponds, and rivers. Yet, they always stand by waiting to entertain and surprise doubting anglers.”



drum



channel catfish

Besides well-known gamefish and popular panfish, Ontario has a variety of other species that offer great sport. Some have limited ranges, while others are widely available. Anglers visiting Ontario should always ask about local opportunities for alternate species. Here are a few to look for, depending on the area you visit.

Channel catfish offer action for big fish in lower Great Lakes drainage systems, including the Ottawa River. Although often taken incidentally on bass and walleye lures, the best baits for channel cats are minnows, worms, cut-fish, and strong-smelling meats such as liver, fished on bottom. In rivers, look for channel cats in deep water during the day, and on shoals at night. Tail-waters of dams and below rapids are key locations. In lakes, fish shoals at night, holes during the day, and wind-swept, stirred up shorelines.

Freshwater drum are also bullish when caught on light tackle. They’re often taken incidentally while fishing bait or lures for smallmouth bass and walleye in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa River drainages and the southern Great Lakes. The Ontario record is 20.6 pounds (9.35 kg).

Carp should also be your quarry if big, powerful, and wary fish are what you seek. They’re found in many shallow, weedy, muddy areas of the Great Lakes and southern inland waters. They can be caught on worms, corn, or doughballs set on or just above bottom on sinker or float

rigs. Ontario’s carp fishery is underutilized. Fish double the provincial record are out there!

Whitefish are taken mostly by ice anglers, but only because few people try for them in summer. They’re widespread in cold lakes. Usually bottom-feeders, they can be caught by still-fishing with minnows or jigging small spoons. The Ontario record is 14.77 pounds (6.7 kg).

Ling or burbot are tasty fresh-water cod that live in cold, deep lakes. They’re caught mostly during winter, at night, on minnow rigs or small spoons. The Ontario record is 9 pounds (4 kg).

White bass inhabit Lake Nipissing and the lower Great Lakes. They’re easily caught on small jigs and spinners or worms during early summer spawning runs at rivermouths. The Ontario record is 2.87 pounds (1.3 kg).

CARP

Ontario record: 25 lbs. (11.35 kg).

Average size: 4 to 10 lbs. (1.8 to 4.5 kg).

Habitat and temperature: Shallow, weedy, warm water over a mud bottom.

Biology: Spawn near shore in frantic groups in early summer as water temperatures hit 63°F (17.2°C).

Range: Most of southern Ontario.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Ontario record: 25 lbs. (11.35 kg).

Average size: 2 to 4 lbs. (.9 to 1.8 kg).

Habitat and temperature: Relatively clear water with cover in mid- to large river systems and lakes.

Biology: Spawns in late spring-early summer. They enter some lower Great Lakes tributaries to spawn from May through July.

Range: Mainly lower Great Lakes through Lake Huron and east into Ottawa River drainage. Some in lower northwest.



carp



Ice Fishing

“Angling adventures never stop in Ontario. In winter, ice and snow just add a new dimension to the sport.”



Lake Simcoe perch

Perhaps it's the brisk air that hones your appetite and the cold waters that improve their flavour, but fish you haul through the ice seem to taste better than at any other time of the year.

Ontario offers winter action as varied as during the open-water seasons. Many of our fish are even more accessible than in summer. Deep-water species like lake trout and whitefish often move from deep holes and become available over a wider area. Whether it's lunker lake trout, northern pike, walleye, or tasty perch or crappie, Ontario remains the place to

catch them when our lakes don their winter coats of ice.

For well-equipped anglers willing to fish in the open air and explore, the options are unlimited. Many resorts stay open all winter and can be used as home bases for ice anglers. On some lakes you can enjoy all the comforts of home in heated shanties, rented for reasonable rates, perched over the best fishing holes. On-ice transportation to the fishing grounds is included.

In the northwestern part of the province, big lake trout keep anglers smiling all winter. Lake of the Woods, for one, just might give up that trout of a lifetime to an ice angler. But the area also offers fast action for walleye, whitefish, brook trout, pike, and slab-sided black crappie.

There's more exciting trout, walleye, and pike fishing as you move northeast. And in the "Near North," Lake Temagami has rental huts where you can settle in to jig a limit of whitefish, walleye, or lake trout. For a smorgasbord, from perch to walleye to fat lake herring, try huge Lake Nipissing. Its hut operators offer package deals that include on-shore accommodations and meals for extended stays.

Moving south again, the Haliburton Highlands and Muskoka harbour more lake trout and whitefish. Then it's on to Lake Simcoe in the south. Lake trout,



Northwestern-Ontario lake trout

whitefish, and northern pike are again winter mainstays, but Simcoe and adjoining Lake Couchiching are also hotspots for jumbo yellow perch and black crappie. Each winter, Simcoe is dotted with fishing villages.

There's a lot more. Across eastern Ontario many lakes feature a variety of trout, walleye, and panfish all winter. The Bay of Quinte just might offer one of the best chances in the province to catch a walleye weighing more than 10 pounds (4.54 kg). For perch and crappie, the Rideau system and smaller lakes from Napanee to Ottawa are tough to top.

Give the winter action a try in Ontario. It's hot!



Lake Nipissing walleye

GET HOOKED

You say you might want to do even more than land the lunkers? You've come to the right place. In addition to exceptional sportfishing, every region of Ontario has a host of great attractions that have neither gills nor fins.

Northwestern Ontario

Located north of Lake Superior and east of the Manitoba border, this region encompasses lush boreal forest, laced by ancient waterways and waterfalls lined with sheer granite cliffs. Sunsets of astonishing beauty come late and the days leading up to them are rich and full. Visit the awe-inspiring Ouimet Canyon, a two-mile gorge that's home to plant life found nowhere else outside the Arctic. Visit historic sites from the heydays of fur trading such as Old Fort William. And search for thousand-year-old Aboriginal rock paintings that dot the landscape.



Northeastern Ontario

By rail, air, car or water, make your way north to the rugged shores of James Bay and visit the centuries-old fur trading communities of Moosonee and Moose Factory, on the edge of the Arctic wilderness. Farther south, discover the towering pine forest of Temagami, viewed spectacularly from atop the Temagami Fire Tower. Discover the Almaguin Highlands, filled with majestic forests and peaceful lakes. Visit spectacular Agawa Canyon by rail.

In Lake Huron lies Manitoulin, the world's largest freshwater island. Sail the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay or paddle the endless waterways that wind through legendary Algonquin Provincial Park.

Eastern Ontario



Perhaps our most geologically diverse region, Eastern Ontario is where you'll find rolling farmland and scenic rural communities before reaching the Canadian Shield and its rugged granite outcrops. Cruise along the mighty St. Lawrence River past the picturesque 1000 Islands. Visit great stone forts with red coated soldiers from another century and historic villages with water-powered mills and the distinctive ring of the blacksmith shop. Tour breathtaking cottage country and the galleries and towering spires of Ottawa, Canada's capital. In spring, Ottawa plays host to the world's largest tulip festival, while winter sees the Rideau Canal converted to the world's longest outdoor skating rink.

Central Ontario

This is Ontario's year-round playground. The Muskoka Lakes region in summer is a premier vacation destination with sparkling lakes and rivers. In winter, excellent skiing abounds. Running more than 470 mi. (750 km), the Niagara Escarpment is a United Nations World Biosphere reserve. The Escarpment and its hiking trails end at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, where scuba divers explore wrecks at the bottom of Georgian Bay's crystal clear waters. The bay also offers miles of unspoiled beaches, including Wasaga, the longest freshwater beach in the world as well as the islands of Georgian Bay National Park.

Southwestern Ontario

Warm, lush and bordered by three Great Lakes – Ontario, Erie and Huron – this region contains some of the most fertile farmland on earth. Plus Niagara Falls, one of the world's great natural wonders. Elsewhere, unique Carolinian forests along the shore of Lake Erie house many plant and animal species usually found much farther south.



FISHING LICENCES AND REGULATIONS

Fishing licences are required in Ontario. Licence fees are comparable to those in other Canadian provinces or US states. Licences may be purchased from most sporting goods stores, bait and tackle outlets, many tourist outfitters, and from District offices of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

*Information on seasons, limits and other regulations is contained in the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary, available at most licence issuers or by contacting the MNR Information Centre at: 300 Water Street, Box 7000, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 8M5
Tel: (705) 755-2000*

*The fishing Regulations Summary is also available on the Internet at:
www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/pubs/pubmenu.html*



ON ONTARIO



The rugged, rocky ridge of the Niagara Escarpment is one of Ontario's most scenic landforms. It's a ribbon of near wilderness running through Canada's most populated area. You can also savour one of the world's finest wine-making regions. There are internationally-renowned theatre festivals, wonderful beaches, beautifully restored villages, raucous Highland Games, the largest Oktoberfest celebration outside of Germany and hundreds of fall fairs – all in a delightfully pastoral setting.



nightclubs are all within easy reach. Just as diverse and accessible are all the parts of town that make Toronto a paradise for shoppers. From trendy Yorkville to the massive Eaton Centre to Queen Street West. And when all the exploring whets your appetite, Chinatown, Little Italy,

Greektown on The Danforth and dozens of other neighbourhoods offer an incredible array of dining experiences.



Toronto and Area

One of the world's most exciting cosmopolitan centres, Toronto is a bustling city of neighbourhoods. Perfectly designed for exploring on foot, Toronto also boasts one of the world's most efficient public transit systems. So the numerous museums, galleries, concerts, live theatres, sporting events and vibrant

BOATING SAFETY

All boaters should be aware of the regulations in place for such things as speed, "rules of the road" and required safety equipment. As a boater, you are responsible for operating your boat safely and for ensuring the safety of those on board. It is particularly important that you have in your boat a sufficient number of approved lifejackets (PFDs) for every occupant.

To find out more about boating rules in the area you will be visiting, contact:

*Canadian Coast Guard
Office of Boating Safety
200 Kent Street, 5th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6
Website: www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca*

Here are some contacts who can help you plan a memorable fishing vacation in Ontario:

Ministry of Natural Resources Information Centre
P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 8M5
Tel: 416-314-2000
Fax: 705-755-1677
Website: www.mnr.gov.on.ca

Northern Ontario Native Tourism Association
Site 7, Comp. 154
RR 4, Mission Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 4Z2
Tel: (807) 623-0497
Fax: (807) 623-0498
E-mail: nonta@norlink.net
Website: www.nonta.net

Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association
269 Main Street West, Suite 408
North Bay, Ontario
P1B 2T8
Tel: (705) 472-5552
Fax: (705) 472-0621
E-mail: noto@onlink.net
Website: www.noto.net

Ontario Marina Operators Association
4 Cataraqui Street, Suite 211
Kingston, Ontario
K7K 1Z7
Tel: 1-888-579-BOAT or
(613) 547-6662
Fax: (613) 547-6813
E-mail: omoa@marinasontario.com
Website: www.marinasontario.com

Ontario Sportfishing Guides Association
40 Sherwood Road East
Ajax, Ontario
L1T 2Y9
Tel: 416-FISH-123 or
(905) 683-3214
Fax: (905) 683-2872

Resorts Ontario
P.O. Box 2148
29 Albert Street North
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 5J9
Tel: 1-800-36-ESCAPE (37227) or
(705) 325-9115
Fax: (705) 325-7999
E-mail: escapes@resorts-ontario.com
Website: www.resorts-ontario.com

To get more information, call **1-800-ONTARIO** (668-2746) or any of the numbers throughout this guide.



Walleye



Chinook Salmon



Northern Pike

Discover more about the joys of vacationing in Ontario.

From help in planning your trip to suggested tours to an in-depth guide to favourite adventures, many other helpful publications are just a phone call away.

Discovery Guide 1999-2000

Provides you with everything you need to plan and enjoy an unforgettable vacation in Ontario - getting around, things to see and do, sample touring routes, lots of maps and listings of attractions and accommodations.

Official Ontario Road Map

An up-to-date, comprehensive guide to driving around the province, it includes city maps for major centres.

Ontario Value Vacations Guide

A cross-section of great accommodation packages by region. Options vary from rustic fishing lodges to luxurious resorts to quaint bed and breakfasts to downtown hotels.

Ontario Events Guide

Whether you use it to round out your vacation plans or to choose a destination, perhaps for a weekend getaway, the Events Guide will fill you in on what's happening daily across Ontario, by region.

Adventure Ontario

A guide to the numerous adventures that await you in our great outdoors. From canoeing and whitewater rafting to fishing and bird watching, to hiking and biking and wonderful ways to warm up winter - it's all in Ontario ready for you to discover and enjoy.

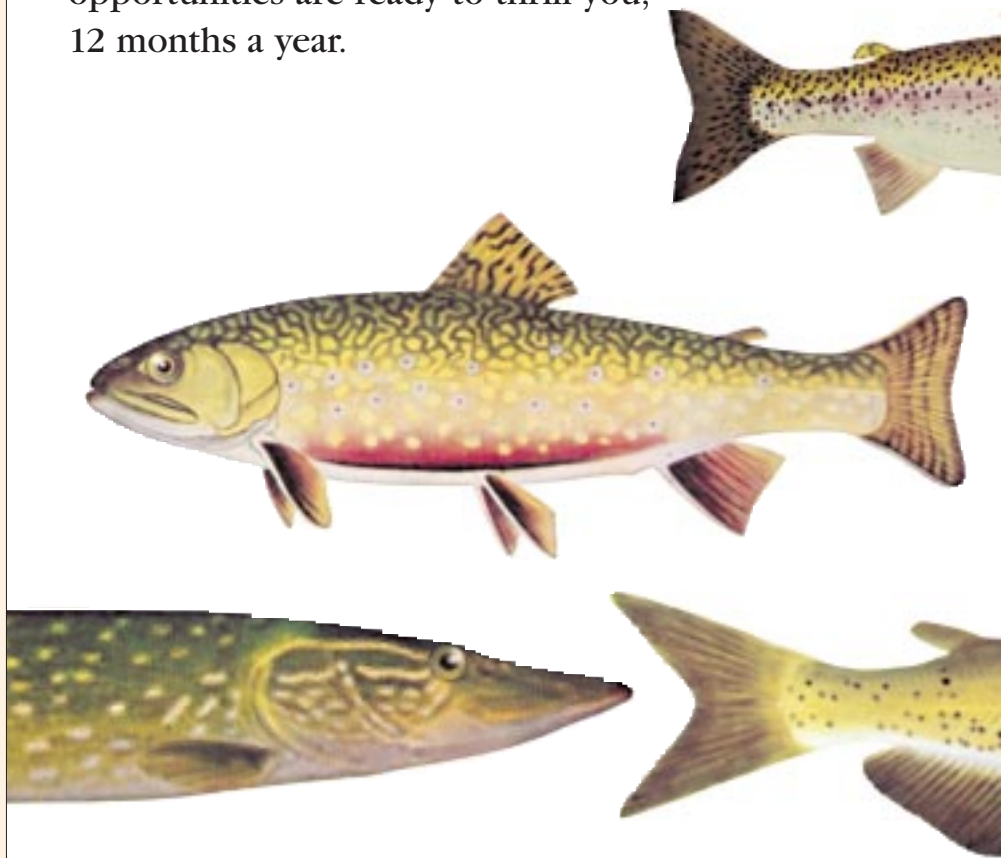
Ontario's Snow Country

A complete guide to Ontario's 31,000 mi. (49,000 km) of interconnected, groomed snowmobile trails - more than anywhere in the world. Includes accommodations and outfitters.

Catch This!




Today, one US dollar will buy you at least \$1.45* CDN! With such a favourable exchange rate, there's never been a better time to venture where thousands of freshwater fishing opportunities are ready to thrill you, 12 months a year.



For travel inquiries or reservations, call 1-800-ONTARIO (1-800-668-2746), the official Ontario travel planning and reservation service. Or, connect with these websites for the latest Ontario travel information:

www.ontario-canada.com Ontario Tourism's official website and www.travelinx.com your on-line connection to Ontario.

* Exchange rate subject to change.

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