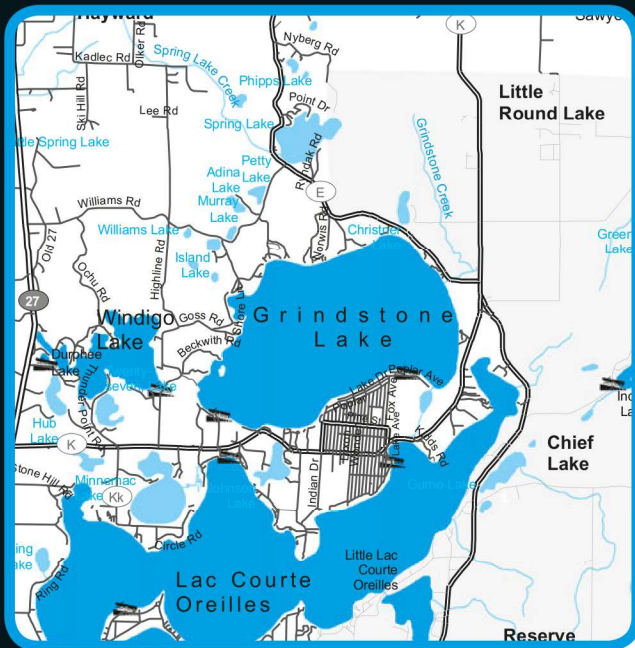


GRINDSTONE LAKE

Sawyer County

Sawyer County GRINDSTONE LAKE



Area map page / coordinates: 20/A-1, 20/B-1

Accommodations: resorts, picnic

Surface water area: 3,111 acres

Shorelength: 10.5 miles

Maximum depth: 60 feet

Mean depth: 29 feet

Secchi disk (water clarity): 11 feet

Water color: clear

Lake type: drainage

Littoral bottom types: 35% sand, 45% gravel, 15% rubble

Basic management: SM bass, walleye, esocids, panfish

Accessibility: 1) Concrete ramp on [southwest shore](#); accessible parking; no power loading

Accessibility: 2) Undeveloped, shallow gravel ramp on [southeast shore](#) suitable for small boats only

FISHING INFORMATION

Sawyer County is known as great fishing country, and Grindstone Lake is one of the lakes primarily responsible for the county's reputation. Located some six miles south of Hayward, east of Highway 27, and just north of County K, it's a fair-size drink of water at 3,111 acres. It's clear and deep, loaded with ciscoes and nice-size perch, and home to some very nice gamefish. Frank Pratt, retired DNR fisheries manager says Grindstone has a trophy muskie and northern pike fishery, and it's in the midst of population explosions of both walleye and smallmouth bass. Further, there's a good largemouth bass fishery, and the bluegills and crappies aren't to be sneezed at either.

The folks at Hayward Bait & Bottle Shoppe, 15737 Davis Ave., Hayward, WI 54834, (715) 634-2921, www.hayward-bait.com, recommend fishing the weed beds between the small islands and the southwest shore (**Spot 1**) or on Center Bar (**Spot 2**)—which also yields walleyes and smallmouths—for muskies from early spring to summer. Use a black bucktail or crankbait running deep enough to brush the weed tops. At night, work the rocky bars on the west end of the lake with big bucktails or deep-diving crankbaits. The same bars can also be productive for walleyes. Pratt says locals usually throw a jig-and-minnow or jig-and-leech combination or a slip-bobber-and-leech rig into 15- to 20-feet of water. You can also troll the flat off the southeast shore (**Spot 3**), where you might also hook bass and northern pike. Another spot for northern pike is in the weedy areas on the southwest (see Spot 1, above). Work the edges with a spoon-and-pork rind combo or crankbaits or spinners. Smallmouth bass are taken spring and summer near Spot 1, in the relatively shallow bay near the boat ramp on the southwest end. Use a jig-and-grub or live leech-and-jig combo from May on. For largemouth and crappies, toss spinners, spoons, and tiny jigs or surface bait in Williams Bay (**Spot 4**). The north area, from Kentucky Bar to Bottle Bar and Sheffield Bar (**Spot 5**), is a good place to try to hook muskies and walleyes. Live bait or Rapalas should lure the eyes.

FISH STOCKING DATA

year	species	size	# released
07	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	1,755
09	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,499
11	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	2,991
14	Muskellunge	Large Fingerling	3,108

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR

Survey Date: 06/09/09 / Gear: Electrofishing

Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):

species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>30	Total
Bluegill	37	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Largemouth Bass	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	7
Muskellunge	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Northern Pike	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pumpkin. Sunfish	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Rock Bass	5	13	9	-	-	-	-	-	27
Smallmouth Bass	1	10	66	19	9	-	-	-	105
Walleye	7	21	56	44	13	2	-	-	143
Yellow Perch	32	19	10	-	-	-	-	-	61

LENGTH OF SELECTED SPECIES SAMPLED FROM ALL GEAR

Survey Date: 04/15 -04/23/15 / Gear: Electrofishing / Target: Walleye

Number of fish caught for the following length categories (inches):

species	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	>30	Total
Muskellunge	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	15
Walleye	20	68	23	1,152	2,209	266	2	-	3,740

Access to Grindstone Lake is easy for all craft via a nice, state-owned ramp with boarding dock on the southwest end. Parking is good. Interestingly enough, ease of access doesn't seem to boost usage much. Pratt notes there's only light fishing and recreational pressure on Grindstone Lake, even during the summer. At least in part this is because Lac Court Oreilles is literally across the street, and LCO garners more attention.

Anglers on Grindstone should be aware that there's a 50-inch minimum size limit for muskie. To maintain the trophy potential of this fishery, the Department of Natural Resources has stocked large fingerling muskies here since 1997. Most recently, more than 3,000 large fingerlings were introduced in 2014.

Moreover, there's a 14- to 18-inch protected slot limit for walleyes. As always, catch-and-release is highly recommended for gamefish.

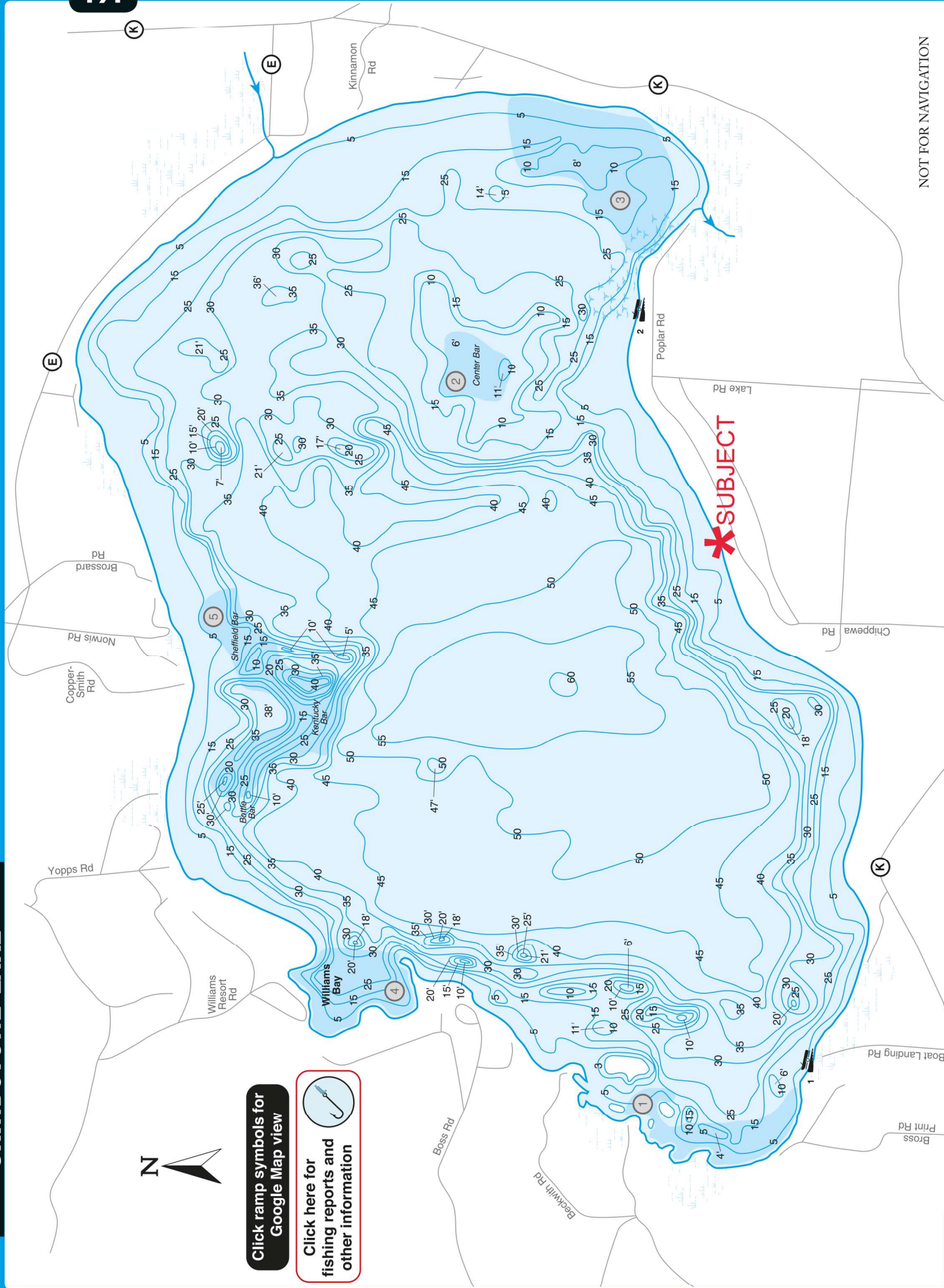
GRINDSTONE LAKE



Click ramp symbols for
Google Map view



Click here for
fishing reports and
other information



NOT FOR NAVIGATION