

FISHING HOLE DIVIDE LAKE

WHY GO: Managed by the Minnesota DNR as a stream trout lake, Divide offers anglers angling action both during the open-water period, and again during the ice fishing season, particularly the early-ice portion.

ACCESS: There are many carry-in access points off of F.R. 172 (Dumbell Lake Road) on the north shore of the lake, including one at the Forest Service's campground. Designated Stream Trout signs are posted near each of the accesses.

VITALS: This 61-acre Lake County lake sits inside the Superior National Forest. It has nearly 2 miles of mostly undeveloped shoreline, though F.R. 172 does border parts of the northern shoreline of the lake. It has a maximum depth of 22 feet, with a mean depth of 9.2 feet, according to Minnesota DNR's Lakefinder survey.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Rainbow trout and splake.

RAINBOWS: Dean Paron, DNR's Finland area fisheries supervisor, said Divide Lake is one of the more popular stream trout lakes in the area, particularly around first ice.

It is stocked in the spring with catchable rainbow trout. It typically receives about 2,000 yearling rainbow trout every spring. And shore fishing is popular on the lake for rainbows particularly in the spring months of May and early June, before the lake stratifies, and again in October, Paron said.

Divide was surveyed this past summer, and the rainbow catch was a little bit lower than expected.

"That could indicate anglers are catching them

and keeping them," Paron said.

SPLAKE: The lake is also stocked with about 3,000 splake in the fall, and Paron is pleased with survey results.

"We did find a really good population of splake in different size ranges," he said.

The splake sampled this summer ranged from 7 to 21 inches, with quite a few in the 13- to 17-inch range.

"There's a lot of nice, eatable splake in there," Paron said. "I know they are popular with the early-ice anglers."

LAURENTIAN DIVIDE: F.R. 172 rides the continental divide, and Divide Lake flows towards Lake Superior, while waters on Tanner Lake, on the other side of 172, flow north to Hudson Bay by way of the Rainy River watershed.

CAMPING: The fee season has currently ended on this small, three-site secluded campground on the north side of Divide Lake. During the pay season, it's \$15 per night, with a maximum of nine people per site. Maintenance on the site will be resumed in May. It does have a canoe launch. —Javier Serna

