

FISHING HOLE

WAWANG LAKE

WHY GO: Wawang Lake is known for trophy walleye and northern pike fishing. It's a large, remote lake that provides a wilderness experience, well off the beaten path.

ACCESS: Wawang Lake is a good 4.5-hour drive from Grand Marais, and 3.5 hours from Thunder Bay. Visitors will turn north from Ontario 17, about six miles west of Upsala, and follow the road for about 60 kilometers, or about 37 miles, to the resort. Wawang Lake Resort is the only resort and the only way to access the lake.

VITALS: This 5,000-acre lake in northwest Ontario is surrounded by wilderness. According to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the lake has a maximum depth of about 87 feet, but the average depth is 21 feet.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Cisco, lake whitefish, northern pike, walleye, white sucker, and yellow perch.

WALLEYES: Wawang definitely has some solid walleye fishing going for it, including trophy potential. The resort, which has been around since 1969, lists a 37-inch, 15-pound walleye as the largest that's ever come out of the lake.

The resort boasts that a quarter of all of the walleye that are 25 inches or longer reported to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, which issue the Ontario Angler Awards (see below), came from Wawang.

NORTHERN PIKE: The lake has been known to pump out some trophy northern pike, and this summer, several fish in the mid 30-inch, up over into the lower 40s, have been reported by the resort.

The month of August was a particularly good month for lots of big northern pike catches on Wawang.

The resort reports that the biggest pike ever caught on the lake was in excess of 50 inches and weighed 38.5 pounds. It was released.

RESORTS/RENTALS:

Wawang Lake Resort offers cabins, various packages, camping, boat rentals and a fishing guide service to its guests. Among the boat rental options are portage boats, for accessing nearby lakes.

The resort also caters to both grouse and bear hunters.

Call the resort at (888) 534-9217 or visit its website (wawangresort.com).

ONTARIO ANGLER AWARDS: Wawang Resort has the second most entries on the Ontario Angler Awards website, where,



even this summer, loads of fish have been entered. There are quite a few walleyes this summer on the site, which issues certificates for walleyes 25 inches and older.

Interestingly, Wawang Resort is credited with most of the top entries from 2017 in

the whitefish category, the largest of those Wawang whitefish being 26 inches long from last June.

Wawang Resort has the second most entries of any resort on the website with 585, as of press time.—*Javier Serna*

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