

FISHING HOLE

KASHABOWIE LAKE

WHY GO: Kashabowie is an excellent lake for summer walleyes, smallmouth bass and northern pike. There's also some yellow perch and lake trout angling for those willing to put in the time.

ACCESS: Kashabowie has a public boat ramp near the southwest end of the lake. The gravel ramp does have some room for parking. It is right in the small, unincorporated community of the same name, that's just north of ON-802 and about an hour and 20 minutes west of Thunder Bay. There is also access available for guests of the two resorts on the south end of the lake, at Birch Point Resort and Kashabowie Lake Resort, according to Gerald Matson at Birch Point Resort.

VITALS: This long, big lake is in fisheries management zone 6. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources does not list a surface area or acreage for the lake, but Matson said it's about 19 miles long. It has an average depth of about 25 feet and a maximum depth of about 115 feet, according to OMNR.

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

WALLEYES: Mattson said the best walleye fishing is from about June through the rest of summer. "They tend to move around a bit, to different depths," he said, before

mentioning that, in general, Kashabowie is a harder lake for first-time visitors to the lake. "You really need to know how to fish it."

But it is a good walleye lake, he said, with good numbers of eater-sized walleyes and the chance to catch a trophy.

"I have seen lots of big walleyes come in," he said, mentioning that he's been at the resort for the past 20 years.

How big?

He mentioned one angler who kept both 12- and 13-pounders once, while mentioning that a lot of the big fish are returned to the lake. Just a week before, he said another angler brought in 6- and 7-pounders before releasing the walleyes.

The fishing is better on the northern end of the lake, he said. There is deeper water there, better structure and bigger bays. The locals tend to use minnows and leeches on the lake, while he said a lot of visitors prefer artificial baits for walleyes.

BIG BASS, TOO: The summer time is also an excellent time to target smallmouth bass on the lake, and there are some dandies swimming around, Matson said.

"You see fish up to 5 and 6 pounds," he said.

A number of anglers do target them with the typical bass lures, such as topwaters

and plastics, but walleye anglers will also end up catching them as well.

PIKE: There are some pretty nice northern pike in Kashabowie, Mattson said, mentioning that an angler recently brought in a 41-incher.

"You are getting close to 20 (pounds)," he said.

Kashabowie's pike tend to be found in or around deeper water, so those looking to target these toothy denizens will want to head to the north end of the lake, Matson said.

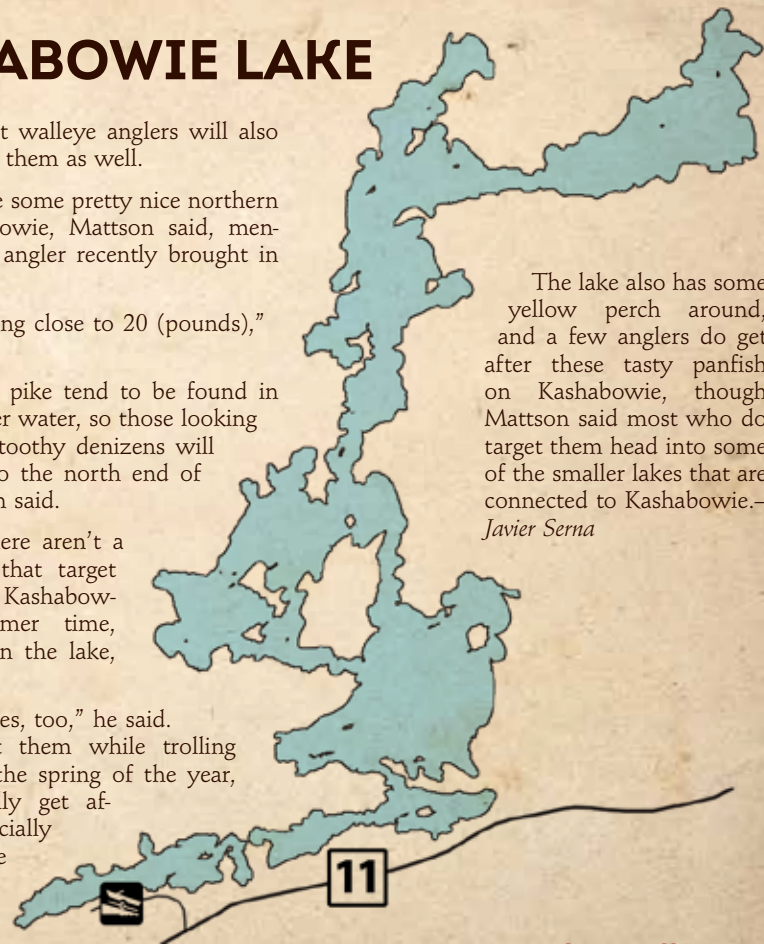
THE REST: There aren't a lot of anglers that target lake trout in Kashabowie come summer time, but lakers are in the lake, Mattson said.

"Some big ones, too," he said. "Guys will get them while trolling for walleye in the spring of the year, but few actually get after them, especially when they are down deep in the summer."

He believes there are some big ones in the lake, but most of the ones he has seen top out at about three pounds.

The lake also has some yellow perch around, and a few anglers do get after these tasty panfish on Kashabowie, though Mattson said most who do target them head into some of the smaller lakes that are connected to Kashabowie.—

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