

FISHING HOLE ICARUS LAKE

WHY GO: This fairly remote Ontario lake, in Region 6, is a good lake trout lake and a decent option for small-mouth bass. There's also the chance of catching walleyes, though they are less prevalent.

ACCESS: For a lake that sits only about five miles north of the border (just north of North Lake), it will take some doing to get to Icarus. There is a boat launch with parking on the smaller Madalaine Lake, which connects to Icarus via a channel on the south end of Madalaine. That ramp is on the south side of Northern Lights Lake Road. To get there, head west on 588, from the junction at 593, just east of Suomi, Ontario. You'll be on 588 for about 10 miles.

VITALS: This 1,792-acre Ontario lake is pretty deep, giving coldwater refuge to lake trout and the ciscos that lakers and other predator fish love to gorge on. It has a maximum depth of about 140 feet, and an average depth of about 38 feet. It's just up the road from Northern Lights Lake, which sits to the east of Saganaga Lake.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Burbot, cisco, lake trout, northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and white sucker.

LAKERS: Robert Miller of Red Pine Outfitters, a little farther down the road on Northern Lights Lake, said winter is a better time to get at Icarus' lake trout, which tend to be numerous but on the smaller side. "They are small, nice-eating trout," he said, noting that on average, the trout run about half the size of the average Northern Lights laker.

The fish tend to run from a pound to three pounds. "Two pounds would be average," he said. "That's why I like going there."

Spring is a good time to get at these lakers, he said, but that slows down as the fish go deep in the summer. Late in September, before the season closes on the 30th, it can pick back up, if the water cools down enough.

He prefers to go during the winter, hitting the same rocky reefs that top off in 30 or 40 feet of water, with jigs tipped usually with a live minnow.

"It usually doesn't take long," he said.

SMALLIES, TOO: Miller said he has some customers that like to camp on Madalaine Lake and fish Icarus for smallmouth bass, which they tend to keep for a meal.

"They are not overly big smallmouths," he said.

Any of your standard bass baits can be productive, he said, and the fish are now abundant, though older records for the lake don't show smallies having been present before.

THE REST: The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources also lists ciscos, burbot and walleyes in the lake. Miller said the walleye bite tends to always be pretty tough on the lake. They, too, did not show up in older records for the lake.

"Years ago there were no walleyes in the lake," Miller said. "They are really not that prevalent. There are just a few in there."—*Javier Serna*



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