

# FISHING HOLE ECHO LAKE

BY JOE SHEAD

**WHY GO:** Echo Lake is one of the most popular stocked trout lakes in the Finland area. The entire length of the lake runs along Lake County Highway 7 (Cramer Road) and numerous access points along the road provide good shore fishing. The lake is regularly stocked with rainbow trout and splake, providing good action.

**ACCESS:** Unlike some stocked trout lakes in the area, where you have to fight your way through the forest to reach a largely untapped gem, Echo Lake has easy access, and as a result, gets a lot of angling pressure. But that's OK because the lake is well stocked and provides good fishing. The lake lies 16 miles northeast of Finland on Lake County Highway 7 (Cramer Road). The road is gravel almost the entire way from Finland and will make a mess of your truck, boat and equipment if you travel it during or right after a rain. A steep gravel access is located on the west end of the lake. It's best suited to small boats. Parking is just along the road, with a wide spot suitable for about two rigs with trailers. There are no dock or restroom facilities, although there are outhouses at

Ninemile Lake Campground, just a half-mile southwest of the access. There are several cleared areas along the road, providing shore fishing opportunities just a car-length from the road. Ease of access for shore anglers is a real plus for Echo anglers, and people catch plenty of fish just soaking a nightcrawler on bottom from shore.

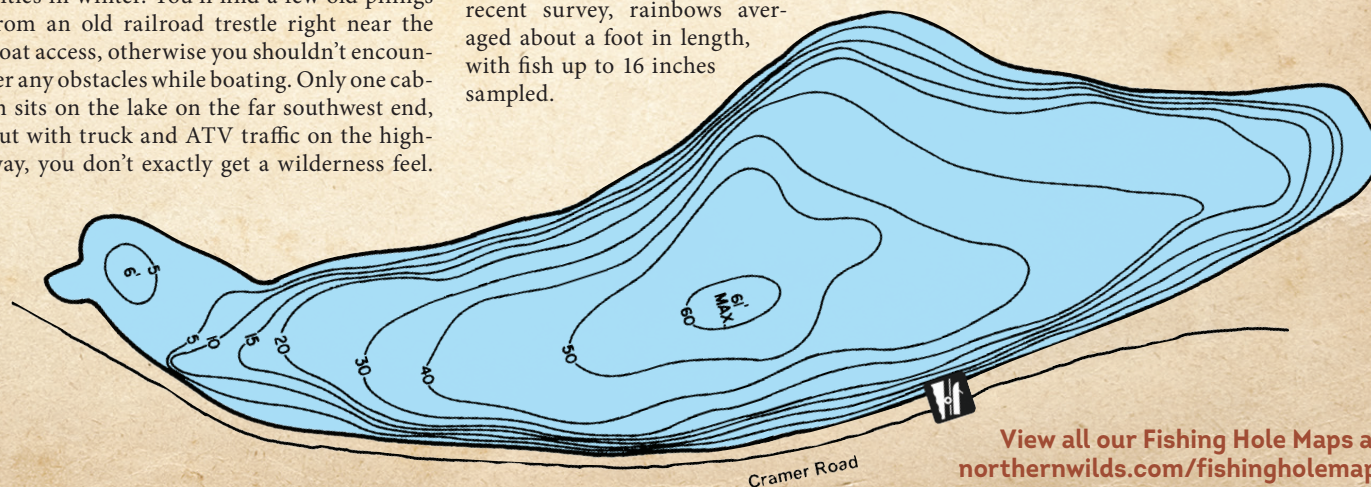
**VITALS:** Echo Lake is a long, narrow lake that spans 42 acres and has a maximum depth of 61 feet, with an average water clarity of 20 feet, making for good sight-fishing opportunities in winter. You'll find a few old pilings from an old railroad trestle right near the boat access, otherwise you shouldn't encounter any obstacles while boating. Only one cabin sits on the lake on the far southwest end, but with truck and ATV traffic on the highway, you don't exactly get a wilderness feel.

The lake is popular in both winter and summer and you'll likely encounter other anglers.

**GAME SPECIES PRESENT:** Rainbow trout and splake.

**RAINBOW TROUT:** Although stocking numbers vary, generally, about 4,000 yearling rainbow trout have been stocked each spring in recent years. Sometimes additional fingerling stockings are conducted if fish are available. Despite heavy fishing pressure, DNR surveys have shown that rainbows do overwinter in Echo Lake. In the most recent survey, rainbows averaged about a foot in length, with fish up to 16 inches sampled.

**SPLAKE:** Approximately 2,500 fingerling splake are stocked each fall, although those numbers sometimes fluctuate as well. Splake are a hybrid between brook trout and lake trout. Like rainbows, splake have been found to survive a few winters sometimes, with the average fish showing up in surveys about 12 inches, with some up to 16 inches or so present.



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