

# FISHING HOLE

## BARKER LAKE

BY JOE SHEAD

**WHY GO:** Barker Lake isn't a destination fishing lake, but it's close to Lutsen and if you've got a little time to spend in a canoe or kayak, you may get some decent-sized walleyes and possibly a pike or two on this quiet, undeveloped lake.

**ACCESS:** From Lutsen, head up Cook County Highway 4 (Caribou Trail) for 6.7 miles. Turn left onto Honey-moon Trail (Forest Road 164) and proceed 0.8 miles. Turn left onto Barker Lake Road and travel south 2.6 miles. Turn right and proceed about a quarter-mile on the short road that leads to Barker Lake. There's a carry-down access on the eastern tip of the lake with parking for about a half-dozen vehicles. There are no facilities.

**VITALS:** Barker Lake spans 149 acres with a maximum depth of 15 feet.

### GAME SPECIES PRESENT:

Walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, and smallmouth bass.

### WALLEYE:

Barker Lake is managed primarily for walleyes. The lake was stocked with walleyes until about 2000, but few stocked fish were showing up in DNR surveys, so stocking was discontinued. Walleyes are reproducing on their own and doing just fine. There's a good mix of eater-sized fish with a chance to catch something in the low-20-inch range.

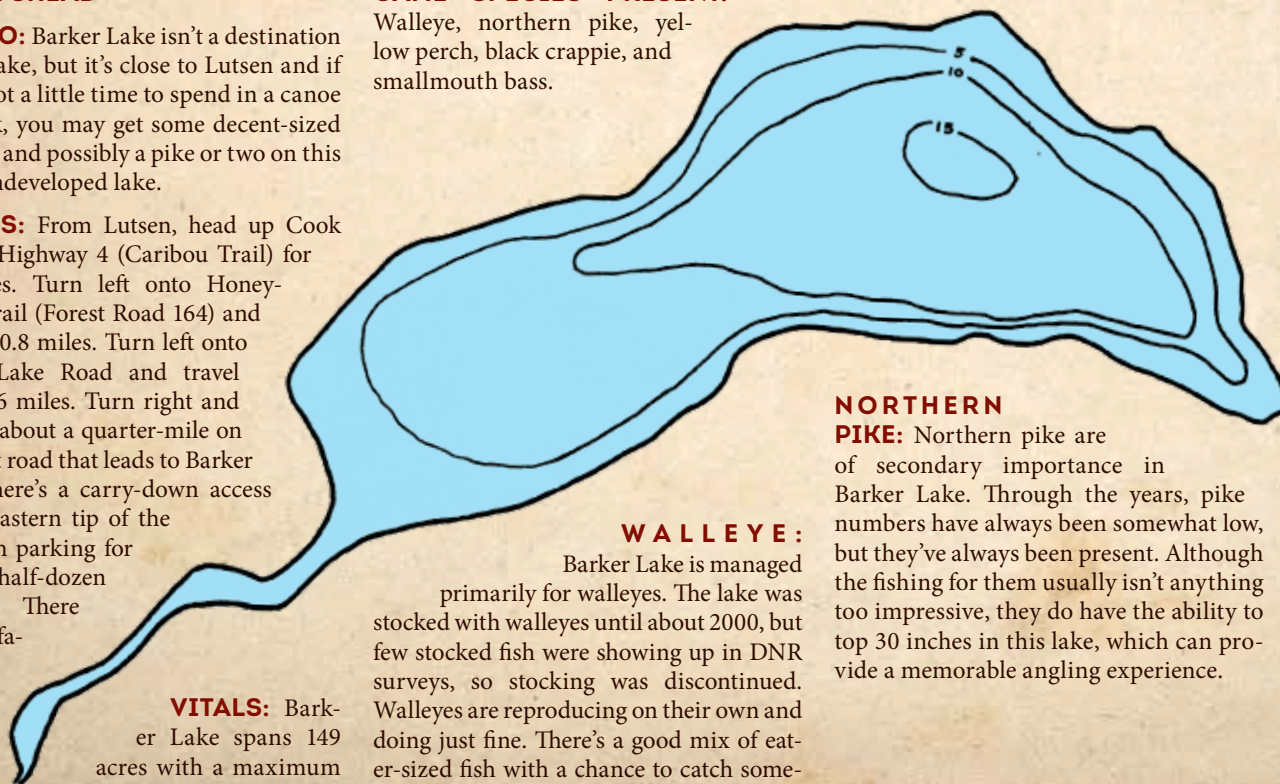
### NORTHERN PIKE:

Northern pike are of secondary importance in Barker Lake. Through the years, pike numbers have always been somewhat low, but they've always been present. Although the fishing for them usually isn't anything too impressive, they do have the ability to top 30 inches in this lake, which can provide a memorable angling experience.

**YELLOW PERCH:** Perch are present in average numbers, and although most fish you'll encounter will be small, you might get a 9- or 10-incher that's worth keeping.

**BLACK CRAPPIE:** Black crappies have been found in Barker in low densities since the 1970s. Although they seem to have persisted, their size and numbers appear low.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS:** The lake also has a few smallies, although they don't often show up in DNR nets. Although Barker isn't a top bass destination, it's possible you might tangle with a bronzeback on this lake.



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