

# FISHING HOLE STEWART LAKE

BY JOE SHEAD

**WHY GO:** Stewart Lake is one of the closer lakes to Two Harbors and has a good boat ramp. It's a great multi-species lake, producing good catches of both panfish and gamefish.

**ACCESS:** Stewart Lake is located about 15 miles north of Two Harbors. The roads are good, although about half the drive is on gravel roads that are usually allowed to ice over in winter. From the east end of town, travel north on Lake County Highway 2 for 3.3 miles. Turn left onto Lake County Highway 12 and proceed for 3 miles. Turn right onto Moen Road and head north about a mile. Veer left as Moen Road changes into the Drummond Grade. Travel about 6.5 miles down the Drummond Grade and then turn right onto Stewart Lake Road. Follow Stewart Lake Road about 1.5 miles until the road ends at the lake. There's a concrete slab ramp and a dock. There's parking for about eight trucks and trailers.

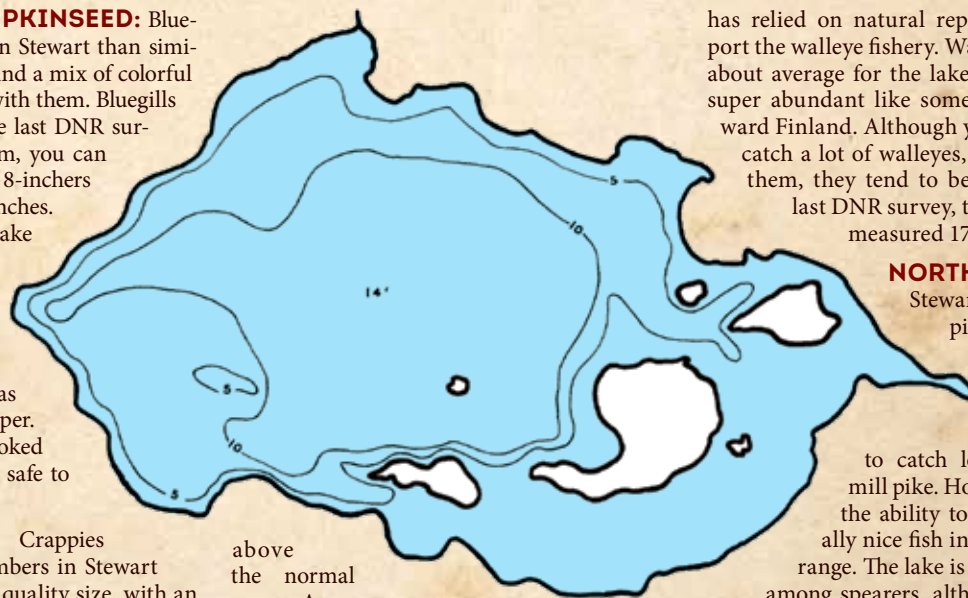
**VITALS:** Stewart Lake is 237 acres with a maximum depth of 20 feet. Average water clarity is 7.7 feet, and weeds grow to about 11 feet. The lake is lightly developed and has a mix of weedy areas with some rocky shoals, mostly around the islands.

**GAME SPECIES PRESENT:** Bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, walleye, and northern pike.

**BLUEGILL AND PUMPKINSEED:** Bluegills are more abundant in Stewart than similar lakes, and you'll also find a mix of colorful pumpkinseed sunfish in with them. Bluegills averaged 6.5 inches in the last DNR survey, but if you target them, you can find decent numbers of 8-inchers with some reaching 9 inches. It's a pretty good bluegill lake with good numbers of keepers. The downfall is a lot of these fish are infected with neascus (black spot)—a parasite that looks like the fish was sprinkled with black pepper. Although unsightly, if cooked properly, infected fish are safe to eat.

**BLACK CRAPPIE:** Crappies are found in average numbers in Stewart Lake. They are usually of quality size, with an average length of just under 10 inches in the last DNR survey, and the largest topping out at about a foot. Ice anglers frequently target them in the lake's deepest hole, although you will also catch them mixed in with bluegills in shallow, weedy areas.

**YELLOW PERCH:** Yellow perch are the predominant panfish in Stewart Lake, and their numbers in the latest DNR survey were well



above the normal range. As can be expected anytime you have a high perch population, there are a lot of small fish. However, perch do grow large in Stewart, with fish in the 9- to 10-inch range a real possibility. Probably the best perch fishing of the year is during the late-ice period, just a few weeks before perch spawn.

**WALLEYE:** Walleyes were stocked in Stewart Lake up until 2002. Since then, the lake

has relied on natural reproduction to support the walleye fishery. Walleye numbers are about average for the lake class. They aren't super abundant like some lakes further toward Finland. Although you probably won't catch a lot of walleyes, when you do find them, they tend to be nice. During the last DNR survey, the average walleye measured 17 inches.

## NORTHERN PIKE:

Stewart is a pretty good pike lake. Much of the lake is shallow and weedy, which is ideal habitat to catch lots of run-of-the-mill pike. However, the lake has the ability to produce some really nice fish in the 35- to 40-inch range. The lake is somewhat popular among spearers, although water clarity isn't great. But somehow some large specimens manage to escape spearers and anglers. Don't expect to catch a lunker every time out, but if you put in your time, eventually you might tangle with a really memorable fish.

View all our Fishing Hole Maps at:  
[northernwilds.com/fishingholemaps](http://northernwilds.com/fishingholemaps)