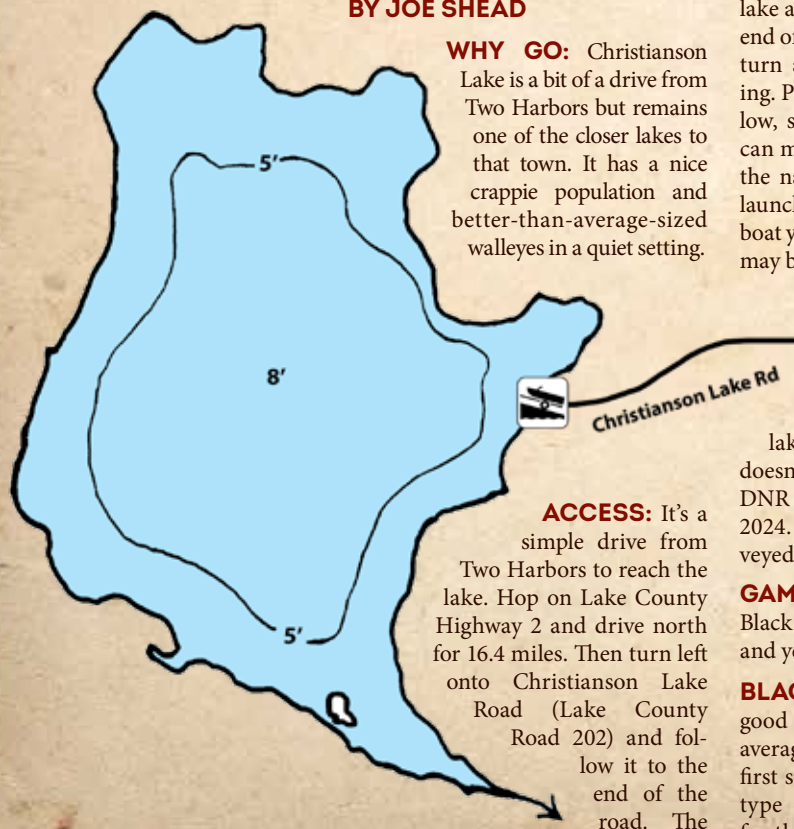


FISHING HOLE

CHRISTIANSON LAKE

BY JOE SHEAD

WHY GO: Christianson Lake is a bit of a drive from Two Harbors but remains one of the closer lakes to that town. It has a nice crappie population and better-than-average-sized walleyes in a quiet setting.



ACCESS: It's a simple drive from Two Harbors to reach the lake. Hop on Lake County Highway 2 and drive north for 16.4 miles. Then turn left onto Christianson Lake Road (Lake County Road 202) and follow it to the end of the road. The

lake access is just a right of way at the end of the road with a narrow place to turn around and very limited parking. Plus, the boat launch is very shallow, so you'll need a small boat you can manually float off a trailer. Given the narrow turnaround and shallow launch, a canoe, kayak, or other small boat you can haul on your car or truck may be the best option.

VITALS: Christianson Lake is 150 acres with a maximum depth of just 8 feet. The lake is bog-stained, and water clarity is only 2 feet. The lake is moderately developed and doesn't get a lot of boat traffic. The DNR surveyed the lake in 2017 and 2024. Prior to that, it hadn't been surveyed since 1981.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Black crappie, walleye, northern pike, and yellow perch.

BLACK CRAPPIE: You'll find good numbers of crappies with good average size in Christianson. "The first survey we did (2017) we saw the type of numbers you would expect for that type of lake," said Matt We-

berg, Finland area fisheries supervisor. "The last survey (2024) was above average." Weberg said there are lots of 10-inch crappies in Christianson. The biggest that turned up in the survey was a little over 13 inches. As is typical of lakes in the Finland district, crappies seem to have boom-and-bust recruitment, although the DNR sampled crappies from seven different year-classes.

WALLEYE: Christianson has a good walleye population with a high average size. "The last survey, walleye were pretty large to be honest," Weberg said. "The population right now is primarily older fish. The average length of basically 20 inches—that's quite large for the Finland area." During the 2024 survey, the DNR found an average of 3.5 walleyes per net. None were smaller than 15 inches or younger than 6 years old. The survey showed a population of large, older fish with an average length of 19.8 inches. During the 2017 assessment, more smaller fish appeared in the survey. Perhaps there were a few years of poor recruitment, with few younger fish showing up in the

population. The fish sampled in 2024 could be traced to seven different year-classes. No stocking takes place in Christianson.

NORTHERN PIKE: Likewise, there was variability between the 2017 and 2024 surveys of northern pike. The older survey showed smaller fish, with the largest measuring less than 24 inches. Meanwhile, the later survey showed fish as large as 30 inches. In fact, 21% of the pike sampled in the 2024 survey were over 24 inches, while none reached that mark just seven years earlier. "It's not probably a lake to target larger fish, but for folks who like to eat pike, there's a fairly good population of eater-sized fish," Weberg said.

YELLOW PERCH: Yellow perch are present as well and provide a bonus fishery. "Abundance is a little below average for that type of lake," Weberg said. Although they're not abundant, you might find some keepers. Perch reach 10 inches fairly regularly, and fish reaching the foot mark have been documented.

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