

Fishing Marinette County

by Mike Mladenik



Marinette County waters sport a diverse fish population, offering something for every angler. If an angler can't find a place to their liking in Marinette County, they might as well quit fishing. Besides the variety in the type of fish you will find, you will also find a variety in the type of water you can choose to fish. With so many options you might need to add a few more days onto your vacation.

High Falls Flowage has historically been known for producing big fish. In May, look for walleye both along the shoreline and in the main part of the flowage. A 1/8 or 1/4 ounce jig and minnow is the best presentation. By late June, most walleyes will be in a summer pattern; weedlines will be prime feeding areas early and late in the day. The deeper rock humps are the prime daytime holding areas. Continue to use jigs, but tip them with a jumbo leech or nightcrawler.

During spring, smallmouth cruise the rocky shorelines and are eager to hit plastics or live bait. By mid-summer, smallmouth are active early in the day as they feed along the weedlines and rock piles.

In fall, work the deep rock piles with a jig and minnow.

High Falls has produced some record class muskies in recent years and if you are after a fish of a lifetime, it is as good a place as any. In June, fish a bucktail or shallow running crankbait on the edge of any fresh weedgrowth. As the summer progresses, concentrate crankbaits and jerkbaits on the deep weedlines. In fall drift, the deep water with a sucker.

For bluegill, work the bays; for crappie, focus on the wooded shorelines. In summer, while fishing weedlines, the action is best early and late in the day. In fall, crappie stack up along the weedlines.

Caldron Falls Flowage is "class A" musky water and is the premier musky lake in North-east Wisconsin. Caldron Falls Flowage has the perfect balance between good numbers and quality fish. The flowage is a typical Northwood's musky flowage with plenty of shoreline cover, cabbage weed beds and off shore structure. Fish the fresh cabbage with orange/black bucktails or twitch baits in June. As the summer progresses continue to fish the cabbage for action, but for big fish work the weedline with jerkbaits. In fall, deep diving crankbaits are deadly when fishing the weedlines and off shore structure.



Largemouth bass are also present in strong numbers on Caldron Falls. Cast the wooded shorelines with spinnerbaits and plastics. Fishing the slop with weedless spoons is also a good summer tactic. Panfish are also abundant on Caldron Falls. Crappie will suspend along the weedline while bluegill will hold tight to the base of the weeds.

2,400 Lake Noquebay is the largest lake in Marinette County and offers a multi specie fishery. The panfish bite is consistent throughout the year with typical panfish patterns being the norm. Fish the shallows in spring and early summer, and work the deeper weeds in the summer and fall. Bluegill are the dominate specie but a good crappie population is also present.



Largemouth bass are caught in the shallows in the spring with plastics and spinnerbaits. By summer the large bass are caught along the weedlines with jigs and plastics. Fishing heavy weed cover in summer can yield big largemouth. Though very few anglers target largemouth bass in the fall, but it is prime time for a lunker. While not known as a walleye lake a good walleye population is present. For walleye, concentrate on the deep weedlines with live bait presentations. For northern pike, it is hard to beat a spinnerbait or weedless spoon.

Scattered throughout Marinette County are countless smaller lakes that offer endless angling opportunities. Most of these lakes have good panfish and largemouth bass fisheries while some contain trout. Some of these lakes are remote and offer a wilderness experience. These lakes are easy to fish since both largemouth bass and panfish are present, and they are perfect for fly fisherman or anglers with a small boat.

Forming the border with Wisconsin and Michigan, the Menominee River flows through some of the states most pristine areas. The Menominee River boasts a "World Class" smallmouth bass fishery. Anglers encounter some of the largest smallmouth bass in North America and five pounders common. Besides smallmouth, anglers will find walleye, northern pike, sturgeon, musky and perch throughout the river.

By mid May, the big smallmouth are on the move as they prepare to spawn. Casting crankbaits and plastics around rock outcroppings produces lots of smallmouth. The larger smallmouth will hold just out of the current, and tight to the rocks. My favorite presentation is a four inch jerkbait or a tube. Even a small rock outcropping out of the main current can hold a bunch of big smallmouth. By summer, the smallmouth action heats up throughout the river with many aggressive smallmouth hitting plastics and surface baits. One August a client and I managed to boat 105 smallmouth on topwater baits. Fall is an excellent time for trophy smallmouth and each fall my clients boat numerous smallmouth over six pounds. On many fall days it is common to catch several smallmouth in the 20 inch class each day.



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