



# MICHIGAN ICE SPECIES AVAILABILITY GUIDE

## Color Key



**Note:**

All species can be targeted on inland lakes, but Grand Traverse Bays may have better fishable populations of certain species like whitefish, lake trout and burbot.

**There is no truly "safe" ice, and caution should always be taken when venturing out onto the ice for any reason. Clear "black" ice, free from bubbles or snow, is the strongest. It is not recommended by Sport Fish Michigan or the Michigan DNR to venture out onto any ice less than 4 inches. Doing so presents an undue risk and should be avoided.**

**Ice conditions are judged daily by Sport Fish Michigan Guides, and trips may be cancelled due to unsafe conditions at their discretion.**

This chart is intended for informational purposes only.

Species	Target Time of Day	First Ice	Mid-Season	Last Ice
Walleye	Early Light, Late Afternoon, Dusk, First Hour of Dark	Peak	Season	Peak
Yellow Perch	Early Light, Late Afternoon, Dark	Peak	Season	Peak
Smelt	After Dusk - until Midnight	Season	Peak (night-time peak)	Season
Whitefish	On Inland Lakes: Early and Late Day On Grand Traverse Bays: All Day	Peak	Season	Peak
Burbot	All Day and into the Evening	Season	Peak	Season
Pike	Early Morning, Late Afternoon	Peak	Season	Peak
Bluegill	All Day, particularly in Early Morning and Late Afternoon	Peak	Season	Peak
Lake Trout	All Day	Peak	Season	Peak

**Note:**

Seasons indicated in this guide represent when a species is more likely to be caught while also coinciding with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) legal regulations. Additionally, some waters in Michigan have different open and close dates. This chart is intended for informational purposes only, but is not a legal guide. For full DNR regulations and restrictions, please refer to the DNR website or published guide books, available at most sporting goods stores and anywhere Michigan Fishing Licenses are sold.