



MICHIGAN ICE SPECIES AVAILABILITY GUIDE

Color Key

- Orange bar: Peak
- Green bar: Season

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	Orange	Green	Orange
Yellow Perch	Throughout the Day	Orange	Green	Orange
Smelt	After Dusk - until Midnight	White	Orange (night-time peak) Green	Orange
Whitefish	On Inland Lakes: Early and Late Day On Grand Traverse Bays: All Day	Orange	White	Orange
Burbot	All Day and into the Evening	White	Orange	Orange
Pike	Early Morning, Late Afternoon	Orange	White	Orange
Bluegill	Early Light and Last Light	Orange	Green	White
Lake Trout	All Day	Orange	Green	Orange
Steelhead	Throughout the Day, peaks at Early Light and Late Afternoon/Dusk	Orange	Green	Orange

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.