Welcome to Ottawa County, where the fishing is great! Spend a day on the breakwaters of Grand Haven or Holland State Parks angling for perch. Troll Lake Michigan for five species of sport fish aboard a charter boat with an experienced captain. Fish our inland waters for panfish, walleye or bass. Introduce your kids or grandkids to a sport where you can spend hours of quality time together. Whatever your pleasure, enjoy some of the best sport fishing in the Midwest.

Good luck and good fishing!

**TOURNAMENTS**

**Year-Long Fishing Contest**
Grand Haven Steelheaders
www.ghsteelheaders.com

**Michigan Steelheaders Challenge - Holland**
Third weekend in May
www.hollandsteelheaders.org

**Grand Haven Offshore Challenge**
First weekend after Memorial Day
www.grandhavenoffshorechallenge.com

**FREE Family Fishing Weekend**
Riley Ponds in Holland
Second Saturday in June
Kids fish for free; fish will be cleaned and filleted to take home. 616-738-4233

**Pioneer/Elks Tournament - Holland**
Third Saturday in July
269-561-6864

**Big Red Classic - Holland**
First weekend in August
www.bigredclassic.com

**Gold Coast Tournament - West Olive**
Late August
616-786-9314

**Grand Haven Salmon Festival / Big King Contest**
Third weekend in September
www.visitgrandhaven.com
**FISH YOU CAN CATCH!**

Chinook Salmon

*Late Spring, Summer: Lake Michigan offshore*

Ottawa County offers some of the best Chinook salmon fishing in the world. This prized fish is a superb fighter and tastes delicious. Seaworthy boats are needed to take advantage of prime fishing in July and August, but pier fishermen can also catch good numbers of salmon on lures and live alewife wherever water temperatures are in the 50s. May is productive for boat and pier anglers, and rivermouth fishing can be fantastic in September. Coho salmon can also be caught.

- **May, June, August, September, Mixed and Fall:**
- **April, June, January, February, March, November, December:**

Steelhead

*Spring and Fall: Pier and surf*

- **Spring:** Lake Macatawa offshore
- **Fall:** Ottawa River and Grand River

These giant lake-run rainbow trout are loved by anglers for their fantastic jumps and impressive speed. Steelhead are sometimes caught along with Chinook salmon, and are often found at temperature breaks or "scum lines" 8-15 miles offshore near the surface. Near shore fishing can be good during summer for anglers using alewife or shrimps, but surf and pier fishing are best in spring and fall when steelhead will take spawn bags.

- **April, May, July, August, October, November:**
- **January, February, March, June, September, October, December:**

Lake Trout

*Spring: Lake Michigan offshore*

- **Spring:** Ottawa River and Grand River
- **Fall:** Lake Macatawa, Crockery Lake

Native lake trout live longer and often grow bigger than salmon and steelhead. Offshore trailers often target lake trout close to bottom in water up to 300 feet deep. Recent stockings of lake trout close to shore could improve fall pier and river fishing in years to come as well as providing ice fishing opportunities on Lake Macatawa.

- **May, June, July, August, September, November, December:**

Yellow Perch

*Year-round: Most area waters*

- **Spring:** Ottawa River and Grand River
- **Summer:** Ottawa River and Grand River
- **Fall:** Lake Macatawa, Grand River
- **Winter:** Lake Macatawa, Grand River

Popular panfish that travels in large schools. Lake Michigan can produce excellent catches of perch for boat anglers off of Holland and in 60 feet of water south of Grand Haven. From July-September pier anglers using small bait fish can have excellent success if water temperatures are in the 60s. Ice fishing is best in the Big Bay of Lake Macatawa, Pigeon Lake, and Bruce Bayou, but ice, shore, and boat angling can be good on many area waters.

- **April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December:**

Bass

*Late Spring-Fall: Grand River, Spring Lake, Lake Macatawa, Crockery Lake and bayous*

Late spring through early fall is typically best time to target bass. May as huge schools of fish enter the lower Macatawa River. Late spring through early fall is typically best time to target bass.

- **June, July, August:**
- **September, October, November, December:**

Walleye

*Late Spring-Fall: Lake Macatawa, Grand River*

Walleye are wanderers that often move between rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan. In spring and fall walleye fishing is best in shallow water close to points and other structure. Lake-dwelling walleyes move deeper in summer. Walleye feed best when light levels are low due to murky water, overcast skies, or nightfall. Lake Macatawa consistently offers up the area’s biggest walleye, with fish over 30 inches caught each year.

- **March, April, July, May, June:**
- **September, October, November, December:**

Bluegill

*Year-round: Most inland waters*

This widespread and abundant panfish is a family favorite and a common catch for shore and ice anglers. Bayous, eastern Lake Macatawa, and Spring Lake offer the most consistent bluegill fishing. Shore fishing is usually best in spring when fish spawn over shallow sandy nests. A small red worm or wax worm fished under a bobber works best. Bluegill suspend near drop-offs later in the year and can be caught with slip floats fished from shore or from small boats.

- **March, April, May, June, July, August:**
- **September, October, November, December:**

Channel Catfish

*Summer: Grand River and Lake Macatawa*

These abundant and hard-fighting fish are easy to catch on cut bait or shrimp. Small catfish are good eating, big ones can weigh ten pounds or more. Flathead catfish are also caught by anglers fishing large live bait in the Grand River and can weigh over 40 pounds.

- **July, August, September, October:**
- **May, April, November, December:**

**Whitefish**

*Fall: Lake Michigan piers*

A salmon egg or a wax worm on a tiny hook works best for these tasty fish. Lake whitefish are caught alongside round whitefish (a.k.a. menominee) in October and November.

- **October, November, January, February, December:**
- **March, April, May, June, July, August, September:**

**COLOR KEY:**

- **Excellent**
- **Very Good**
- **Good**
- **Fair**
- **Poor**

**Closed Season**

**Check MDNR regulations for open seasons**

**Last Saturday in April:**

**March 15**

**Don Peterson**

Photo credit: Don Peterson
1. North Pier Access - Outstanding Lake Michigan fishing for all big lake species including perch, salmon and steelhead.

2. Grand Haven State Park - (south pier access) Popular Lake Michigan fishing pier at the mouth of the Grand River. Pier access through the State Park.

3. Harbor Island Linear Park - Fishing platforms and walkway provide shore access to south channel and power plant discharge. Seasonal fishing for salmon, steelhead and catfish (take Third Street north to Harbor Island).

4. Lighthouse Connector Park - Linear park along the Grand River extending from the south pier to Grand Haven’s boardwalk. Fish for river species.

5. Mill Point Park - Fish for Grand River species off the bank or from a deck at the river’s edge.

6. Jackson Street Dock - Small concrete landing provides shoreline access to Spring Lake. Fish for perch, bass and catfish (take M-104 to Jackson Street in Spring Lake Village, north to lake).

7. Petty’s Bayou - Popular shore and bridge fishing for panfish and bass.

8. William Ferry Park - Shoreline fishing along the channel connecting Spring Lake to the Grand River.

9. Indian Channel Launch - Grand River shoreline fishing for a full range of river species in a remote setting.

10. Pottawatomie Park - Fishing access to Pottawatomie Bayou from shore or large floating dock. Catch perch, bass, pike and other warm water species (US-31 to Comstock and east to park).

11. Pottawatomie Bayou Bike Path - A wooden walkway provides fishing for perch, bass and pike.

12. Bignell Park Shoreline - Fishing access to Millhouse Bayou with opportunities to catch perch, bass and pike.

13. Bruce’s Bayou West - Scenic bayou with excellent fishing for bass, pike and panfish.

14. Bruce’s Bayou East - Boat launch to a wild and remote bayou popular for perch, pike and panfish.

15. Conner Bayou - Grand River shoreline access at new (2013) county park (North Cedar Drive ½ mile west of 128th Avenue to parking area on right).

16. Jubel Bayou - One mile of Grand River shoreline at a rustic site with fishing for all types of river species (Leonard Road to 104th Avenue south to access point on Circle Drive).

17. Riverside Park - Grand River shoreline fishing for bass, walleye and catfish. Interior pond with handicap accessible dock popular for panfish (M-45 to 104th Ave., north to North Cedar Drive, east to the park).

18. Bur Oak Landing - River access at a rustic site with fishing for all types of river species (Leonard Road to 90th Avenue, south to river).

19. Bass River Recreation Area - Extensive bayou and small lake access on state land with minimal development. Fishing for perch, walleye and bass (for best fishing access take Warner Street to South Cedar Drive, then north to rustic parking area).

20. Eastmanville Bayou - River and bayou access for a variety of species, including ice fishing on bayou (access from 68th Avenue).

21. Deer Creek Park - Bank fishing at the mouth of Deer Creek on the Grand River. Popular for all river fish species (Leonard Road at Eastmanville, east to 60th Avenue, south to the park).

22. Grand River Park - Shoreline fishing on the Grand River for all types of river species, dock and bank fishing for perch and bass on a 12-acre gravel pit lake (Filmore Street to 28th Avenue, north to park).

23. Bend Area - Perch and bass fishing by shore or carry-in boat on gravel pit lake (Cottonwood to Taylor Street to 12th Avenue, north to park).

24. Maplewood Park - Perch and bass fishing in a small gravel pit lake (located on 123rd Avenue between Cottonwood Drive and Baldwin Street in Jenison).

25. Georgetown Community Park - Perch and bass fishing in a small gravel pit lake (on 8th Avenue and Rosewood just south of M-21 in Jenison)

26. Sheldon Landing - Access to lower Pigeon Creek near Pike Lake with bank fishing for perch, pike and bass (east of Lakeshore Dr.).

27. Pigeon Creek Park - Bike park trails to Pigeon Creek and wade stream to fish for brown trout (from US 31 take Stanton Street 3 miles east to park).

28. Block Lake Boardwalk - Fishing dock on Lake Macatawa popular for perch, bass and walleye (Ottawa Beach Road west to park entrance; located ½ mile east of entrance to Holland State Park).

29. Holland Harbor Fishing Access - Fishing docks and boardwalks provide access to a wide variety of species in shallow and deep habitats.


31. Dunton Park - Shoreline fishing on Lake Macatawa. Good fishing for perch, bass, catfish and walleye (on Howard west of N. River Avenue).

32. Van Broug Park - Floating dock on the Macatawa River. Fish for perch, bass, white bass and river species (where Pine Street meets N. River Avenue.

33. Kollen Park - Extensive shoreline fishing on Lake Macatawa. Catch perch, pike, walleye, white bass and walleye (take 8th Street west to VonRalle Avenue).

34. Holland Fish Cleaning Station - Across from DNR launch on Ottawa Beach Road before entrance to Holland State Park. Open to public; DNR entry fees apply.

35. Grease Park - Fishing dock access to Crockery Lake. Popular for perch and bass (B-72 north to Hoover, east to 24th Avenue, south to the park).
Holland Area Accommodations

America’s Best Value Inn ........................................... (616) 396-8822
www.americasbestvalueinn.com

Best Western Holland Inn ........................................ (616) 994-0400
www.bestwestern.com/oholland

CityFlats Hotel ....................................................... (866) 609-2489
www.cityflatshotel.com

Comfort Inn .......................................................... (616) 392-1000
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/mi410

Country Inn by Carlson ........................................... (616) 396-6677
www.countryinns.com/hollandmi

Days Inn .............................................................. (616) 392-7001
www.daysinn.com

DoubleTree by Hilton .............................................. (866) 609-2489
www.doubletreebyhilton.com

Econo Lodge .......................................................... (616) 392-7073
www.econolodge.com

Fairfield Inn .......................................................... (616) 786-9700
www.marriott.com/grrfi

Hampton Inn ........................................................ (888) 933-8500
www.hilton.com

Haworth Inn & Conference Center ............... (800) 903-9142
www.haworthinn.com

Holiday Inn Express ............................................... (866) 315-6182
www.choicehotels.com

Knights Inn ............................................................ (616) 392-8521
www.knightsinn.com

Lake Michigan Cottages ............................. (800) 870-3393
www.lakeMichigancottages.com

Lakeview Inn ........................................................ (800) 933-8500
www.choicehotels.com

Sleep Inn & Suites .................................................. (616) 892-8000
www.sleepinnallendale.com

Super 8 - Hudsonville ........................................... (616) 896-6710
www.super8.com

Value Place Hotel ............................................... (616) 738-8200
www.valueplace.com

Grand Haven Area Accommodations

Best Western Beacon Inn ....................................... (800) 528-1234
www.bestwestern.com/beaconinn

Bluewater Inn & Suites ........................................ (616) 846-7431
www.bluewaterinnandgrandhaven.com

Boyd House B&B .................................................. (616) 846-3538
www.boydhouse.com

Best Western Holland Inn ...................................... (616) 994-0400
www.bestwestern.com/oholland

Country Inn by Carlson ........................................ (616) 396-6677
www.countryinns.com/hollandmi

Days Inn .............................................................. (616) 392-7001
www.daysinn.com

Econo Lodge .......................................................... (616) 392-7073
www.econo.com

Fairfield Inn .......................................................... (616) 786-9700
www.marriott.com/grrfi

Hampton Inn ........................................................ (888) 933-8500
www.hilton.com

Haworth Inn & Conference Center ............... (800) 903-9142
www.haworthinn.com

Holiday Inn Express ............................................... (866) 315-6182
www.choicehotels.com

Knights Inn ............................................................ (616) 392-8521
www.knightsinn.com

Lake Michigan Cottages ............................. (800) 870-3393
www.lakeMichigancottages.com

Lakeview Inn ........................................................ (800) 933-8500
www.choicehotels.com

Sleep Inn & Suites .................................................. (616) 892-8000
www.sleepinnallendale.com

Super 8 - Hudsonville ........................................... (616) 896-6710
www.super8.com

Value Place Hotel ............................................... (616) 738-8200
www.valueplace.com

Holland Charter Fishing

Bachelor One Charters ....................................... (616) 796-9977
Captain Bill MacLean • bill@billsmarlin.com
Yacht Basin Marina, Slip F-A-50

Cindy Sue Charters ............................................... (616) 450-4921
Captain Dave Myers • cindiesuecharters@comcast.net
Yacht Basin Marina, Slip E-11

J.J. Sportfishing Charters ............................... (616) 399-9273
Captain Jim Swainsey • swainsey@hotmail.com
Yacht Basin Marina, Slip JD-3

Take Me Out Charters .......................................... (616) 328-2555
Captain Kris Arnold • krism4532@yahoo.com
Yacht Basin Marina, Slip 4A-53

Grand Haven Charter Fishing

Fish N Grin Charters ............................................. (517) 819-7991
Captain Denny Grinold • oldgrin106@comcast.net
Grand Isle Marina, Slip #25A

Bait and Tackle

Mac Baits .......................................................... (616) 392-2553
669 Douglas Ave., Holland • macbaitsatt.net