

Middle Branch Ontonagon River Fishing and Canoeing

Watersmeet, MI



This pretty, relatively undeveloped stretch of river is clean and clear, with excellent fishing for brook trout. It also happens to be right out the back door of Simpler Times Cabin! The Middle Branch, which begins at Crooked Lake, is navigable spring through fall from U.S. 2 in Watersmeet to just above Bond Falls - 25 miles in all. It's one of the few Upper Peninsula rivers served by a canoe livery, Sylvania Outfitters in Watersmeet. Refer to their page in this book for more information. The canoe and life jackets available at the cabin may be used at your own risk. Remember - life jackets only work if you are wearing them! Canoeing enthusiasts Jerry Dennis and Craig Date even highly recommend the Ontonagon River Middle Branch in their book, *Canoeing Michigan Rivers!*

From the bridge in Watersmeet, it is approximately a 3-4 hour canoe trip back to Simpler Times Cabin, depending on waterflow and operator skill. There are a few areas of minor rapids. For a shorter ride, there is access at the bridge off Buck Lake Road (about 1/2 mile toward Watersmeet) which is about a 30 minute trip back to the Cabin.

Fishing:

A fishing license with trout stamp is required by the State of Michigan for trout fishing in the river. Please contact the State of Michigan DNR for the most up-to-date information. Through 3/2013 for the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River:

Fishing Season: Last Saturday in April - September 30th

Minimum Size Limit: Brookies - 10", Browns - 12"

Daily Limit: 5 fish, no more than 3 trout 15" or greater

Most anglers on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon are fly fishermen/women although spinners and other tackle can be used as well. There are guides in the area if you need help getting started.

Cleaning Fish:

Please do NOT leave fish debris outside of the cabin after you are through cleaning your fish! We have several species of wildlife in the area that will be attracted to the scent and can become a nuisance. All remains are to be double bagged and disposed of promptly in the sealed trash bins. Please rinse the area with the provided hose as well.

Please refer to the information below for 2012 Michigan Fishing Licenses, species restrictions, and rates.

License Information

LICENSE TYPE - Purchase your fishing license (and more) online at www.michigan.gov/dnr	COST
DNR Sportcard	\$1.00
Resident	
24 hr. (Good for all species for a designated 24-hour period)	\$7.00
Senior (65 or older)	\$3.00
72 hr. (Good for all species for a designated 72-hour period)	\$21.00
Senior (65 or older)	\$9.00
Restricted (Good for all species EXCEPT trout, salmon, lake sturgeon, lake herring, amphibians, reptiles or crustaceans)	\$15.00
Upgrade to All-Species	\$13.00
Senior (65 or older)	\$6.00
Upgrade to All-Species	\$5.20
All-Species (Good for all species. See below)	\$28.00
Senior (65 or older)	\$11.20
Military (Residents serving in the U.S. Military, who are stationed outside of Michigan. See page 4).	\$1.00
Nonresident	
24 hr. (Good for all species for a designated 24-hour period)	\$7.00
72 hr. (Good for all species for a designated 72-hour period)	\$21.00
Restricted (Good for all species EXCEPT trout, salmon, lake sturgeon, lake herring, amphibians, reptiles or crustaceans)	\$34.00
Upgrade to All-Species	\$8.00
All-Species (Good for all species. See below)	\$42.00
Voluntary	
Young Angler All-Species (Good for all species). Residents or nonresidents under the age of 17.	\$2.00

