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Best ice fishing lakes.

There's a lot of fishing going on at Curlew Lake. Named for a common wading bird, Curlew Lake is stocked with popular game fish like rainbow trout, kokanee and the highly prized and potentially record-breaking tiger muskie. The lake also holds a very large population of yellow perch, which were illegally introduced to the lake in 2011, and also features fine bass fishing, particularly in high summer when this lake is welcome camping retreat. The nearly 900-acre lake itself is long and narrow, running north-south. Curlew Lake is believed to be a remnant of the Ice Ages, along with the rest of the Curlew Valley. The lake also is home Curlew Lake State Park, on the lake's southeastern shore. The downside — or, perhaps, upside, depending on your perspective — of fishing at Curlew Lake is that it's well off the beaten path. Republic, a town of about 1,000 people, is a few miles to the southwest in lightly populated Ferry County. The closest city of any size is Penticton, British Columbia, with all of about 34,000 residents, about two hours to the northwest. Spokane is at least a two-and-a-half-hour drive, 120 miles or so southeast of Curlew Lake State Park. The area is gorgeous, though, and the weather in summertime couldn't be better. Winters are cold and snowy, and when the lake freezes over, ice fishing becomes a popular activity at the state park, which offers year-round access. Curlew Lake Trout Fishing Rainbow trout may not always be the biggest attraction in a lake that's teeming with perch and bass and is one of a handful of Washington lakes stocked with the famous tiger muskie, but Curlew Lake is undoubtedly a good spot for trout. The beauty of rainbow trout is they can be caught with a variety of approaches, and by anglers of many skill levels. Rainbows will respond to most common fishing techniques, from still fishing to trolling to fly fishing, and put up some decent fight on the line. Trout don't like the summer heat and will be tougher to find when it's hot out. Look for trout to be feeding near the surface and in the shallows in the spring and again by about mid-fall, but they're likely to be seeking out cooler water, perhaps closer to the lake bottom, in the hottest months. Adjust your techniques accordingly. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was stocking about 180,000 juvenile trout at Curlew each fall, at last check. Given the winter to grow, catchable trout are plentiful in Curlew's waters by spring, with excellent prospects in May and June particularly. Fall is also a fine time to fish for trout, with October a particular standout. Trout also can also be caught by ice-fishing in the winter months on the frozen lake. There are no lake-specific restrictions on Curlew Lake, so follow the state's standard bag limit of five for rainbow trout. More for you: Learn all about the best trout fishing techniques and tips. Kokanee Fishing at Curlew Lake There's almost nowhere for fish to go from Curlew Lake, which is fed by meltwater and mountain streams, and the only salmon to catch here are landlocked. Kokanee is the common name for sockeye salmon that never make the great migration to the ocean that marks the classical life cycle of salmon. Because they live their entire lives in freshwater, kokanee don't grow as large as ocean-going sockeye. In fact, they're sometimes called silver trout because they more closely resemble trout — a cousin of salmon — in size and shape. Make no mistake, though — kokanee are scrappy and aggressive. (And, we might add, quite tasty.) At Curlew Lake, kokanee are a relative newcomer, with the WDFW stocking tens of thousands of younger salmon to boost the fishing options here. Kokanee are stocked at Curlew Lake as fry and fingerlings, similar to the majority of the lake's rainbow trout. At last look, the annual planting of young kokanee was 24,000. Trolling for kokanee is generally regarded as the most reliable method to catch them, although jigging and bait-fishing can work as well at times when you really have a school of kokanee pinpointed. "Kokes" will often respond to disturbances in the water in front of them, which draw them close enough to strike your smaller lure. Trollers typically use attractors such as dodgers or flashers to draw their attention to your erratically moving and brightly colored lures, and you're often in business. The best time to fish for kokanee is spring and early summer. Like trout, they're not particularly comfortable in summer heat, so they'll seek out cooler parts of the lake. Kokanee will gather in schools to feed. If you find one of these groups, jackpot! They can be tricky to spot, especially when they're deeper in the water. Try using a depth finder to locate them. There's plenty of deep water in the wide central part of the lake, north from Zippel Island up to the area around Fisherman's Cove and Tiffany's resorts, including holes dropping to well over 100 feet deep. Farther south, there's a wide hole to about 95 feet deep just north of Wiseman Island, a short boat ride north around the island from the state park. If you don't want to miss out on these spunky and delicious little salmon on your next trip, pick up some great kokanee fishing tips in this article. Curlew Lake Bass Fishing Curlew Lake has resident largemouth and smallmouth bass. Of the two, the largemouths often offer the better fishing prospects. As the trout and kokanee become harder to catch in the summertime, it's the height of bass fishing season. Prospects for largemouth bass are excellent in these months, and from May to October more broadly, both largemouth and smallmouth bass aren't hard to find. Bass follow a distinct pattern of behavior: They're at their most active in the morning and evening, doing much of their feeding during these times to avoid the bright light and the heat of midday and the afternoon. While bass don't disappear into the ether between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. or so, they'll often retreat to deeper waters, or perhaps in shady areas, moving and eating less until it cools off again, meaning it takes some effort to coax them into a bite during this "down time." However, deep-water tactics using soft plastic presentations will still be worth your while. Largemouth bass in particular favor weedy, vegetated areas. Curlew Lake has four islands, around which vegetation can get pretty thick. There also are very shallow (sometimes too shallow) areas at both the far north and far south ends of the lake. These are good spots to fish for largemouth bass, as well as smaller coves, points, docks and other fish-holding structures. While largemouth bass will eat pretty much anything, smallmouth bass aren't as readily equipped for prey like amphibians and birds. But smallmouths make up for their smaller size and narrower mouths with their "Napoleon complex," as some anglers like to call it — they're aggressive and acrobatic, attacking spinners, jerkbaits and other dancing lures and splashing madly about in open water. Compared to largemouths, smallmouths often prefer rocky cover like boulders, rocky points and underwater humps and shelves. Bass fishing from December through March is typically poor, improving just slightly in April, with the Curlew Valley's long winters. Sometimes bigger bass will be the first to start biting as water temperatures rise into the mid- to upper 40s and they start thinking about preparing for the spring spawn. Pick up a bunch of helpful bass fishing techniques and tips in our simple angling guide. Yellow Perch Fishing Yellow perch are not native to Curlew Lake (and nor are several other species found there), but you'll nonetheless find them in abundance there. Perch are relative newcomers, after someone illegally planted them in the lake in 2011 or so, putting pressure on the trout fishery. Despite state fishery managers' efforts, the perch population has blown up at the lake. All of this is to say, if you're looking for an excuse to go fishing, look no further: It is your patriotic duty to fish up as many yellow perch as you can fit in your ice chest on Curlew Lake. Anglers are actively encouraged to catch perch and not release them. That said, perch make very good eating fish, so this isn't a tremendously heavy lift, although most aren't big. There is no bag limit or size restrictions. Indeed, perch fishing prospects range from good to excellent year-round, except in July and August, when catches might slow down a bit. Ice-fishing for perch is popular when there is safe ice in wintertime. Perch travel and feed in schools, so once one perch bites, the chances that more will follow are good. Two-pole fishing is allowed on Curlew Lake, so purchasing that endorsement can increase your perch yield as well. Learn how to fill your freezer with filets with our yellow perch fishing techniques and tips. Tiger Muskie Fishing at Curlew Lake And now we come to the big kahuna. Tiger muskies, a sterile crossbreed between the true muskellunge and the northern pike, are big, predatory fish introduced to manage Curlew Lake's population of northern pikeminnow. Northern pikeminnow, previously known as "squawfish" and also sometimes called dace, are voracious predators and competitors who can wreak havoc on salmon and trout populations. In Curlew Lake, the pikeminnows in particular were putting a big dent in the lake's historically productive trout fishery. Following the principle of "there's always a bigger fish," in certain lakes, Washington game authorities plant tiger muskies to give pikeminnows or other less desirable fish a predator of their own, helping to keep their numbers in check. Fortunately for the angling community, population control isn't the only thing tiger muskies are good for. By a small but devoted bunch of anglers, tiger muskies are often regarded as the pinnacle of freshwater fishing. And Curlew Lake grows them big. At last check, Curlew Lake still had produced the largest tiger muskie ever officially weighed, at nearly 38 pounds. Tiger muskies can grow more than 4 feet long, they're very powerful when hooked, they have sharp teeth that can inflict lacerations if you're not careful handling them, and they are extremely difficult to fool. All of that adds up to a big fish that's very hard to catch. The average tiger muskie expedition will conclude with little to no action, but if you catch one you won't ever forget it. Patience and skill alike are put to the test. Make sure to pack the right gear. A very large landing net or cradle is recommended, as are long-handled pliers to safely extract your hook from the fish's mouth before you toss it back. (Bag limits are extremely restrictive on tiger muskies, and most anglers let them go to fight another day.) You'll also need a strong, sturdy rod and a line that can handle up to 30 pounds or more. At Curlew Lake, April through October offer the best prospects for tiger muskie fishing. Ice fishing for tiger muskies is possible, although at that time of year, most anglers on the ice will be looking to help out with the lake's perch problem and maybe bag the occasional trout. Tiger muskies are considered "trophy fish." Snap a picture with your catch quickly. While state regulations do allow a specimen more than 50 inches long to be retained, most tiger muskies should be promptly released, so they can resume their critical place in the food chain. Read up more about techniques for fishing for tiger muskies at select Washington lakes. Planning Your Visit For most anglers, Curlew Lake will involve a time commitment and perhaps an overnight stay, but the variety of excellent fishing options, along with a beautiful setting and nice state park, are likely to make the effort worth your while. Where is Curlew Lake? Curlew Lake is in the Curlew Valley in north-central Washington. This is a remote area with few population centers and no big cities within a quick drive. The closest major city is Spokane. From Spokane, take Interstate 395 north. Upon crossing the Columbia River just past Kettle Falls, you'll reach a highway junction and turn left onto State Route 20, also signed as the Sherman Pass Scenic Byway. Follow the byway west toward Republic and then head north on State Route 21 to Curlew Lake State Park. All told, expect a three-hour drive or so. Curlew Lake may have enough fishing opportunity to also attract Canadian anglers, at least when the borders are allowing easy crossings. Washington's SR-21 turns into British Columbia Highway 41 at the border; it's the shortest numbered highway in the province, basically linking the state route to the Crownsnest Highway, or British Columbia Highway 3, which runs east-west from the Rocky Mountains to the Fraser Valley. It's a farther drive from Penticton, at two or more hours. Don't forget your passport. Camping and Amenities Many anglers access the lake through Curlew Lake State Park, which offers a campground and day-use areas, bank and boat fishing access and other amenities including hiking and biking trails and a swimming beach. There also are several private resorts at the lake with facilities that will appeal to boaters, RV'ers and other overnight guests. Find more fishing spots in Ferry County Washington Resources WDFW Fishing and Stocking ReportsWDFW Fishing RegulationsNational Weather Service forecasts

Curlew Lake Ferry - Washington. catches; 32 followers; spots; This body of water has a year-round open season. ... Find more fishing reports in Washington. ... Bonaparte is also a popular winter ice fishing lake. Expect kokanee in the 10-12 inch range along with triploid ead... Followers 20 Catches 2 Dakota Angler. 1.6K Subscribers • 467 Videos • 587K Views. Dakota Angler is one of the premier Bait & Tackle stores in the upper Midwest. It is the home of the Annual Dakota Angler Ice Institute, which is held every November! Dakota Angler provides everything to make your next fishing trip enjoyable and a success. 06:47. Curlew Lake Fishing Report Card. Here's your fishing report for today the 4th of March for Curlew Lake. We take a number of different data points to make our fishing recommendation. Our recommendation is based on aspects about the weather conditions, moon phase & water conditions. Of course these should only be used as indicators combined with ... 1 Fishing Report and Edits Details for Curlew Lake. Species Caught Here: Crappie. Public Property. 44.241650 -102.758781 Edit Details. Bodies of Water near Curlew Lake ... Fishing Curlew Lake, SD on 7/17/2022 will be best from 12:00AM through 12:00AM, and from 12:00AM to 12:00AM. If those times won't work for you, 12:00AM to 12:00AM looks ... Curlew Lake, Washington Fishing Report. 5 Star Fatty Day! Current fly fishing conditions are great! The fishing is abundant so get out there. Weather, flows are perfect. Hatch may be occurring. Trout are rising. 29.06.2022 - Curlew Lake Near Malo is located in Ferry County in Washington. If you live in Curlew Lake, Malo, Torboy, Pine Grove, Republic or Curlew you're less than 10 miles from Curlew Lake. The fishing regulatory body for Washington is Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. If you need a fishing licence you can purchase one directly from Curlew ... AddThis Utility Frame. CURRENTLY 79°. FAIR WINDS NORTH @ 13 MPH. HUMIDITY 31%. VISIBILITY 10 MI. DEW POINT 45°. FAVORITE. SOUTH DAKOTA FISHING REPORTS. Curlew Lake State Park is a jewel in the countryside. In northeastern Washington, only 25 miles from the U.S.- Canada border, the park is named for 5.5-mile-long Curlew Lake, an angler's dream. A fisher's catch might include trout, bass, yellow perch or tiger muskie. Bald eagles, ospreys and herons also like the fishing at Curlew; they live in ... 18.12.2021 - Curlew Lake. The "Holy Land" for Washington Yellow Perch ice fishing. Illegally introduced into the lake nearly a decade ago. Yellow Perch have become the dominant ice fishery in the lake. Due to the lake's productivity and fishing pressure, the lake's Yellow Perch have not yet become hunted like they have in so many other lakes in the ...



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