

# Fish You Can Catch

## Chinook Salmon

**Preferred Conditions:** 53°F-55°F  
Near shore, 300 feet of water

**Local Tips:** During the spring and fall, pier fishing in Grand Haven is great for chinook. In May, they come near shore to feed on alewife. In the fall, they move to their native streams.

**Fish Facts:** The chinook salmon offers the greatest challenge of any Michigan fish because of its trophy size and superb fighting qualities. Pier anglers use light line (6-20 lb. test) and live alewife as bait. In the fall, a variety of artificial baits are used.

## Coho Salmon

**Preferred Conditions:** 54°F  
Ten miles from shore to upper 20-40 foot water column

**Local Tips:** In April and early May, small boat anglers find the warm water discharge near Port Sheldon to be a good fishing area. During the same time, pier anglers catch coho by casting small spoons or natural baits.

**Fish Facts:** Coho is the smaller cousin of chinook. Coho can be distinguished from chinook by fewer spots on a somewhat forked tail and a black mouth with whitish gums. The anal fin has 13-15 rays, while the chinook has 15-17 rays. Keeping your alewife or smelt off the bottom with a large bobber is a successful technique for catching coho from the Grand Haven and Holland piers.

## Steelhead Trout

**Preferred Conditions:** 58°F-60°F  
Shallow depths of 8 feet or less

**Local Tips:** Shore fishing is found along the county's sandy beaches at Grand Haven State Park, North Beach Park and Holland State Park.

**Fish Facts:** In the fall, steelhead trout are caught in shallow depths of 8 feet or less using spawn bags and artificial lures. From late June through September, steelhead can usually be found concentrated near temperature breaks 8-15 miles offshore.

## Brown Trout

**Preferred Conditions:** Upper 50°F's  
Near shore or on shoals if the water temperature permits

**Local Tips:** The warm water discharge at Port Sheldon provides good early brown trout fishing. Pier anglers use dead smelt and live alewife as successful baits. Both the Holland area and Crockery Creek are stocked with brown trout annually.

**Fish Facts:** In the spring, brown trout frequent the shallows of Lake Michigan, particularly around piers, old wood abutments and power plant discharges. As summer approaches, they like points, ledges and gravel or rocky bottoms. As early as April, small boat anglers have luck trolling between sandbars in 6-12 ft. of water. Small artificial baits trolled at least 100 yards behind the boat are particularly successful.

## Lake Trout

**Preferred Conditions:** 49°F-51°F  
Near shore to 200 feet of water

**Local Tips:** In August, the large lake trout come offshore in Holland and Grand Haven. During this time it is not uncommon for anglers to catch 20+ pound lake trout.

**Fish Facts:** Since nearing extinction in the 1940's, the lake trout population has been maintained by stocking. More intensive stocking takes place on offshore reefs near the center of Lake Michigan.

## Yellow Perch

**Preferred Conditions:**  
Water temperatures and depths vary—can be caught year-around

**Local Tips:** From July to September, pier anglers in Holland and Grand Haven take excellent catches. The best waters for ice-fishing are Big Bay in Lake Macatawa, Pigeon Lake, Spring Lake, Bruce's Bayou and Lake Michigan.

**Fish Facts:** The best way to catch perch is to try likely locations and depths, moving every 10-15 minutes.

## Walleye

**Preferred Conditions:**  
Water temperatures vary-6-30 feet, deep rock areas near shore and submerged sandbars

**Local Tips:** Large populations are found in Lake Macatawa, the lower Grand River, Spring Lake and Crockery Lake.

**Fish Facts:** In the spring and fall, walleye fishing is best in shallow water close to points or mouths of rivers. Deep waters are best fished in the summer with line strung 30-50 yards behind the boat, and bait at the bottom in 6-30 ft. of water.

## Largemouth Bass

**Preferred Conditions:**  
Shallow waters early in the season, then up to 30 feet

**Local Tips:** Ottawa County offers some of the Midwest's best bass fishing. The Grand River bayous have some of the best fishing in the area, but bass can be found in most waters including Lake Macatawa, Pigeon Lake, Crockery Lake and Spring Lake.

**Fish Facts:** Largemouth bass may be caught by casting, using crank baits, and by still fishing with night crawlers, minnows, crayfish or frogs. For live bait, the best hook size is a long-shank No. 2. A medium action rod with 8-12 lb. test line works well. In areas of heavy log and tree cover, use a 15-20 lb. test line.

## Bluegill

**Preferred Conditions:**  
In spring, fishing is best 1-4 feet deep along weedy edges. In summer, 10-20 feet deep, and in winter, as soon as the ice forms.

**Local Tips:** All the Grand River bayous, particularly Lloyds, Stearns, Pottawatomie, Millhouse and Bruce's, produce consistent bluegill fishing. The eastern end of Lake Macatawa also produces bluegill.

**Fish Facts:** Best fishing times are early morning, after 4 p.m., and after dark. When bluegills bite, first let them nibble, then set the hook with a short tug. Red worms or wax worms are the best bait.

**Northern Pike** The bayous of the lower Grand River and Pigeon Lake offer good spring and fall pike fishing.

**Smelt** In April, hand nets used on the Grand Haven and Holland piers are successful in the evenings.

**Catfish** Both the Grand River and Lake Macatawa offer excellent catfish angling. Flathead catfish up to 30 lbs. have been caught, but 9-12 lbs. is more common.

**Menominee** During October and November, the Menominee come inshore and are accessible to pier anglers.

Grand Haven & Holland

Fish

## Fishing for Everyone

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. Whatever your pleasure, enjoy some of the best sport fishing in the Midwest. Good luck and good fishing!



## Tournaments

**Grand Haven Offshore Challenge**  
First weekend after Memorial Day  
[www.grandhavenoffshorechallenge.com](http://www.grandhavenoffshorechallenge.com)

**Big Red Classic - Holland**  
First weekend after July 4th  
[www.bigredclassic.com](http://www.bigredclassic.com)

**Pioneer/Elks Tournament - Holland**  
Third Saturday in July

**Gold Coast Tournament - Holland**  
Fourth Saturday in August  
269-561-6864 or 616-786-9314

**Grand Haven Salmon Festival & Big King Contest**  
Third weekend in September  
[www.visitgrandhaven.com](http://www.visitgrandhaven.com)

**Year-Long Fishing Contest**  
Grand Haven Steelheaders  
[www.gsteelheaders.com](http://www.gsteelheaders.com)

## For More Information Contact:



**Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
One South Harbor Drive  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
1-800-968-0892 • 616-842-4499  
[www.visitgrandhaven.com](http://www.visitgrandhaven.com)



**Holland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
76 E. 8th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
1-800-506-1299 • 616-394-0000  
[www.holland.org](http://www.holland.org)



**Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission**  
12220 Fillmore  
West Olive, MI 49460  
1-888-731-1001 x 4810 • 616-738-4810  
[www.co.ottawa.mi.us](http://www.co.ottawa.mi.us)



**Ottawa County/MSU Extension Sea Grant**  
333 Clinton St.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
616-846-8250  
[www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)

# Fishing Guide

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Chinook Salmon													
Coho Salmon													
Steelhead Trout													
Brown Trout													
Lake Trout	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗						⊗	⊗	⊗	Season: Extends from May 1st - Sept. 30
Yellow Perch													
Walleye				⊗	⊗								Season: Last Saturday in April - March 15th
Largemouth Bass	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗								Season: Saturday Preceding Memorial Day - Dec. 31st
Panfish													
Northern Pike				⊗	⊗								Season: Last Saturday in April - March 15th
Catfish													
Whitefish													
Smelt													

Excellent
  Very Good
  Good
  Fair
  Poor
 ⊗ Closed Season

• Always consult the Department of Natural Resources Fishing Guide for current regulations including seasons, size and creel limits. The guide is available free at stores selling fishing licenses. Check with bait shops for the most current fishing information.



BOAT	CAPTAIN	PHONE
Assassin	James Borst	616-889-7342
Book'em Dan-O	Dan Bursma	616-293-5819
Danel	Dana Bonney	616-638-6145
D'ann Marie	Dan Tebo	616-846-3700
Fish-N-Fun	Steve Fannin	616-638-6555
Gary Boy IV	Gary Bolhouse	616-361-0704
Hitman	Chip Klien/Jonathan Selbig	616-638-7226
Hot Spot	Brett Payne	616-638-6801
King One	Roger Belter	616-847-9318
Love-It	Brian/Bruce Cleveland	616-638-1764
Madcat	Derrick Curtis	616-437-9721
Melissa	Martin Kuks	616-647-4098
Never Miss	Denny Allen	616-836-0552
Old Grin	Denny Grinold	517-819-7991
Pole-Kat	Preston Kuks	616-844-7580
Red Boat	Bill & Judy Draper	616-842-2054
Reel Action	Mark Veurink	616-638-3331
Reel Work	Richard Vandermeiden	586-725-6958
Salmon Buster	Les Henderson	616-638-7411
Sea Flea	Brian Butts	616-886-1306
Shrimpboat	Robert Swantek	616-842-2815
Tab's	Ron Tabidon	616-846-8945
Tammy Too	Kenneth Melvin	616-638-1795
Teraken	Kenneth/Matt Whitney	616-846-6640
Thunderduck	Willis Kerridge	616-292-4113
Tomorrow's Dream	Mark Stosiak	810-335-0599
Wood's & Water	Tom Vanderwest	616-842-9450

## Charter Fishing

### Grand Haven

#### Harbourtown Charters

7227 Cannonsburg Rd., Belmont, MI 49306  
(616) 874-7386  
www.desperado.net

Located at slip #35a at Grand Isle Marina in Grand Haven.

#### Tab's Sportfishing Charters

1700 Robbins Rd. #405, Grand Haven, MI 49417  
(616) 846-8945  
www.TabsSportfishing.com

Fish Lake Michigan out of Grand Haven for trout and salmon aboard a 31 ft. Tiara. Corporate, individuals, families and multi-boats. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Slip #28A at Grand Isle Marina.

### Holland

#### Bachelor One Charters

523 Butternut Dr. #171, Holland, MI 49424  
(616) 399-6782  
bill@printhus.com

Flexible hours, party size 4-6 people. Equipment furnished. Fish cleaned and packaged. Brochure available. In the water early April through October.

#### J.J. Sportfishing Charters

4285 Estate Dr., Holland, MI 49424  
(616) 399-9273  
swancy@msn.com

Half-day and full-day charters. Party size 1-6 people. All equipment furnished, fish cleaned and packaged. April-September.

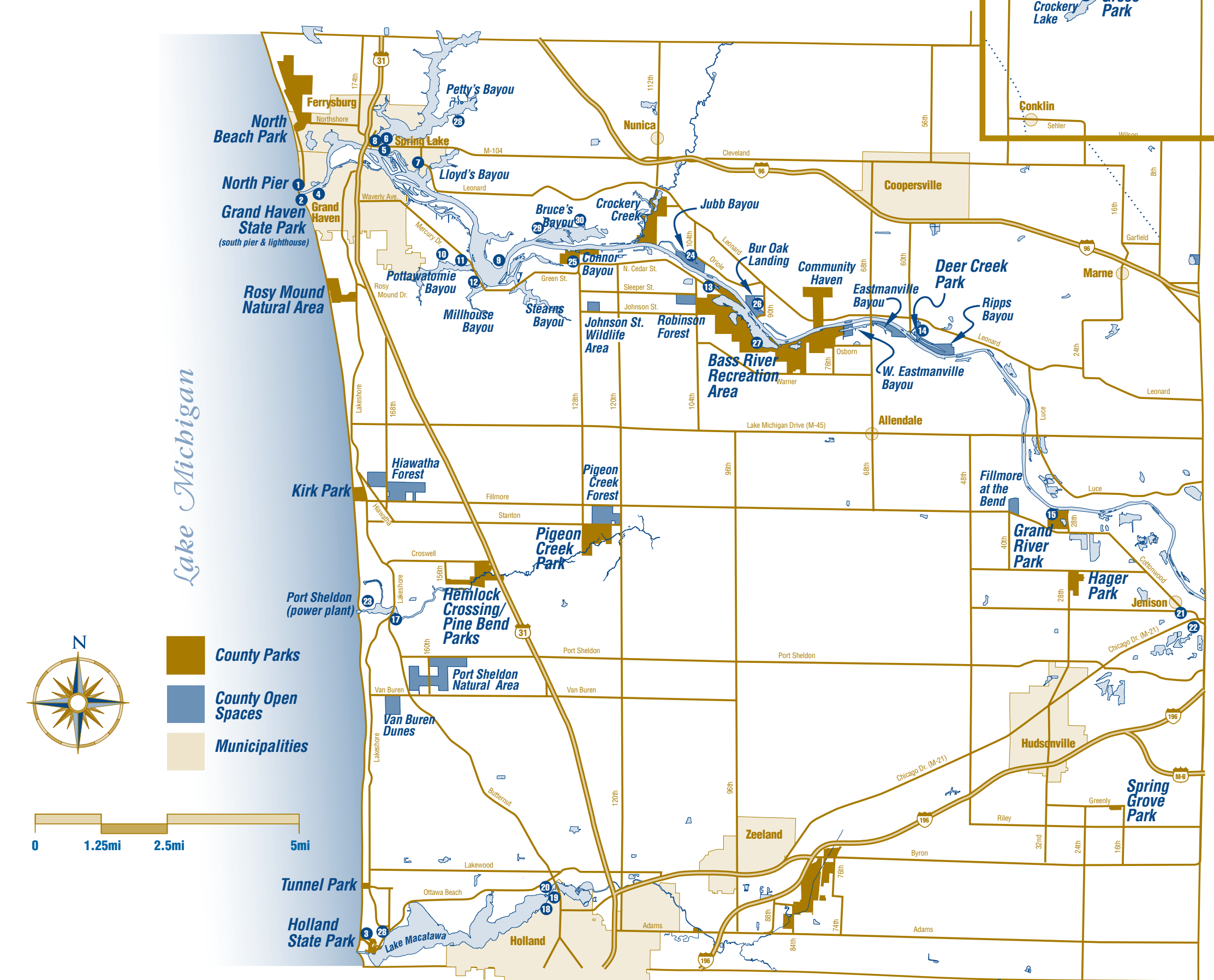
## Bait & Tackle/Charter

#### American Tackle Outfitters

360 Douglas Ave., Holland, MI 49424  
(616) 392-6688

We are your best source for fishing in Holland. We will help you catch fish and have charters available.

# Ottawa County Public Fishing Sites



**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 Holland State Park** Popular Lake Michigan fishing pier offers a wide range of Lake Michigan species. Pier access through the State Park.

**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 accesses to Spring Lake. Fish for panfish, bass and pike (take M-104 to Jackson St. in Spring Lake Village, north to lake).

**7 Lloyd's Bayou Bike Path Landings** Wooden landings along the Leonard Road bike path provide good access to Lloyd's Bayou. Fish for panfish, bass and pike.

**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.

**10 Pottawatomie Park** Fishing access to Pottawatomie Bayou from shore or large floating dock. Catch panfish, bass, pike and other warm water species.

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

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

**13 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).

**14 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).

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

**16 Grose Park** - Fishing dock access to Crockery Lake. Popular for panfish and bass (B-72 north to Hoover, east to 24th Avenue, south to the park).

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

**18 Kollen Park** - Extensive shoreline fishing on Lake Macatawa. Catch panfish, perch, bass and walleye.

**19 Van Bragt Park** - Floating dock on the Macatawa River. Fish for panfish, bass and river species.

**20 Dunton Park** Shoreline fishing on Lake Macatawa. Good fishing for panfish, bass and walleye.

**21 Maplewood Park** Panfish and bass fishing in a small gravel pit lake (located on 12th Avenue between Cottonwood Drive and Baldwin Street in Jenison).

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

**23 Pigeon Lake (north pier access)** Pier fishing on Lake Michigan for perch, steelhead and salmon. Approximately 1/3-mile walk to pier from parking area (Lakeshore Drive to Croswell Street, west to Olive Shores, turn south and follow sign to pier access parking).

**24 Jubb Bayou** One mile of Grand River shoreline at rustic site with fishing for all types of river species (Leonard Road to 104th Avenue south to access point on Oriole Drive).

**25 Connor Bayou** Grand River shoreline access at undeveloped county park (North Cedar Drive 1/4 mile west of 128th Avenue to parking area on right).

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

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

**28 Black Lake Boardwalk** Fishing dock on Lake Macatawa popular for panfish, bass and walleye (Ottawa Beach Road west to park entrance; located 1/2 mile east of entrance to Holland State Park).

**29 Petty's Bayou** Popular boat access to bayou and Spring Lake with good fishing for panfish, bass and pike.

**30 Bruce's Bayou West** Scenic bayou with excellent fishing for bass, pike and panfish.

**31 Bruce's Bayou East** Boat launch to a wild and remote bayou popular for bass, pike and panfish.

## Grand Haven Area Accommodations

AmeriHost	.....(800) 434-5800	www.amerihostinn.com
Best Western Beacon Inn	.....(800) 528-1234	www.bestwestern.com/beaconinn
Blue Water Inn	.....(616) 846-7431	www.bluewaterinngrandhaven.com
The Boyden House Inn B&B	.....(616) 846-3538	www.boydenhouse.com
Courtesy Motel	.....(616) 842-3420	
Days Inn	.....(800) 547-1855	www.daysinn.com
Fountain Inn	.....(800) 745-8660	www.fountain-inn-grandhaven.com
Harbor House Inn	.....(800) 841-0610	www.harborhousegh.com
Holiday Inn	.....(800) 788-8411	www.higrandhaven.com
Khardomah Lodge	.....(616) 842-2990	www.khardomahlodge.com
Lake Michigan Cottages	.....(800) 870-3393	www.LakeM.com
Lakeshore B&B	.....(616) 844-2697	www.bbonline.com/mi/lakeshore
Looking Glass Inn	.....(800) 951-6427	www.bbonline.com/mi/lookingglass
Serendipity Resort	.....(888) 205-7677	www.serendipityresorts.com
Sleep Inn & Suites	.....(616) 892-8000	www.choicehotels.com
Washington Street Inn	.....(616) 842-1075	www.bbonline.com/mi/washinn

## Holland Area Accommodations

America's Best Value Inn	.....(616) 396-8822	www.bestvalueinn.com
Best Inns and Suites	.....(616) 392-8521	
Best Western - Holland	.....(616) 994-0400	www.bestwesternholland.com
Comfort Inn	.....(616) 392-1000	www.choicehotels.com/ires/html/ComfortHome
Country Inn by Carlson	.....(616) 396-6677	www.countryinns.com/hollandmi
Days Inn	.....(616) 392-7001	www.michigandays.com
Econolodge	.....(616) 392-7073	www.choicehotels.com/ires/html/EconoHome
Fairfield Inn	.....(616) 786-9700	www.fairfieldinn.com
Hampton Inn	.....(888) 933-8500	www.suburbaninns.com
Haworth Inn	.....(800) 903-9142	www.haworthinn.com
Holiday Inn	.....(616) 394-0111	www.holiday-inn.com
Holiday Inn Express	.....(866) 315-6182	www.suburbaninns.com
Lake Ranch Resort (seasonal)	.....(616) 399-9380	
Microtel	.....(616) 392-3235	www.microtelinn.com
Residence Inn by Marriott	.....(616) 393-6900	www.residenceinn.com

**WHITNEY CHARTERS**  
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Captains Matt and Ken Whitney whitneycharters@charter.net

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Capt. Tom Vanderwest Cell Phone 616-842-0198  
231-893-6071

Web site: andrewsvanderwestcharters.com

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(616) 868-6473 Home

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