



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park
U.S. Biosphere Reserve

Isle Royale Boating Guide



Welcome to Isle Royale National Park!

Boaters have been coming to Isle Royale to enjoy the clean, clear waters, the protected harbors and bays, the dramatic shorelines, and the excellent fishing for more than 100 years.

Many Isle Royale boaters make repeat trips to the island, and some can trace their island connections back for generations. Even first-time visitors can feel keen appreciation for the resources and values of this one-of-a-kind wilderness maritime park.

People come to Isle Royale for different reasons. Boaters, backpackers, scuba divers, lodge guests, paddlers, fishermen and sailors seek their own experience. The challenge for the National Park Service is to provide these differing visitor groups with recreational opportunities that are compatible with the preservation of park resources and the needs and expectations of different visitors.

Isle Royale National Park is by law a protected area. Ninety-nine percent of the land area of the park is Designated Federal Wilderness. The designation ensures that this Lake Superior gem will remain mostly undeveloped and preserved in its natural state. Legally, Wilderness Designation places restrictions on the kinds of activities that can occur within the park. The National Park Service is mandated to protect not only the natural and cultural resources of Isle Royale but the sometimes less tangible wilderness character. Some activities that would be acceptable in a mainland port or campground may be inappropriate in a Wilderness area.

To help you enjoy your stay, read this brochure thoroughly. Keep one in your boat's glove compartment or tackle box for reference. Much of the information is useful anywhere on Lake Superior. Please have a safe and

enjoyable visit to Isle Royale. If you have a question, suggestion, or need assistance, contact a ranger; they are here to assist you and to protect park resources.

Isle Royale National Park

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Houghton, Michigan 49931

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Website: www.nps.gov/isro

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Regulations & Wilderness Protection

The regulations of Isle Royale National Park are designed to protect park resources and appropriate visitor experiences. Regulations place strong emphasis on preserving Wilderness character and values. Visitors are responsible for adhering to park regulations. Isle Royale National Park's boundary extends 4-1/2 miles into Lake Superior from Isle Royale and the outer islands or to the international boundary. Regulations are available at any ranger station.

Isle Royale National Park is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States. Park rangers are legally responsible for the enforcement of all park regulations, US Coast Guard marine safety regulations, the criminal laws of the United States, and applicable laws of the State of Michigan. The Michigan DNR, USCG, and US Customs Service may, at times, have officers in the park to enforce laws and regulations.

Quiet Hours

Most visitors come to Isle Royale to hear the sounds of nature in a wild setting. Excessive noise disturbs wildlife and other visitors. Sound travels easily over the water. During quiet hours, between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. EDT, if people in adjacent campsites can hear your activities, you are being too loud.

As part of the implementation of the General Management Plan for Isle Royale National Park, regulations to reduce noise are in effect, as identified in this brochure.

Pets

Dogs, cats and other pets are not allowed. This includes pets on boats within the park boundaries, which extend 4-1/2 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park. Visitors bringing pets to Isle Royale will be required to leave immediately. Pets disturb wildlife and can transmit diseases, particularly to wolves. Special conditions apply to guide dogs. Please contact the park for further information.

Portable Generators & Electronic and Motorized Devices

The operation of electronic and motorized devices such as stereos, televisions, radios tuned to commercial stations, and portable generators is not permitted except in developed and open-water motorized zones. Developed areas include the Windigo and the Rock Harbor developed areas, and the Mott Island Headquarters area. Open water motorized zones include Lake Superior waters outside of designated "Quiet/No-Wake Zones."

On-Board Generators

The operation or use of permanently manufacturer-installed on-board vessel generators is **allowed** from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in developed zones, and at the following docks: Beaver Island, Belle Isle, Caribou Island, Grace Island, Hay Bay, Malone Bay, Rock Harbor, and Windigo.

The operation or use of permanently installed on-board vessel generators is **prohibited** at the following public docks: Birch Island, Chippewa Harbor, Daisy Farm, Duncan Bay, Duncan Narrows, McCargoe Cove, Merritt Lane, Moskey Basin, Siskiwit Bay, Three Mile, Todd Harbor, and Tookers Island.

The operation or use of permanently installed on-board vessel generators is permitted between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. EDT by vessels at anchor within Quiet/No-Wake Zones except when anchored within 1/4 mile of designated park docks (listed above) where on-board generator use is prohibited.

Quiet/No-Wake & No-Wake Zones

These zones, located in sheltered Lake Superior harbors, bays, and other designated areas, protect the natural quiet and wilderness values sought by most Isle Royale visitors and reduce wake impacts on park resources and paddlers. The zones promote a quality visitor experience by providing relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings. Within the Quiet/No-Wake Zones and No-Wake Zones, vessels must not exceed 5 mph OR create a wake greater than the existing sea conditions. In flat, calm water, this means not making a wake or exceeding 5 mph. In a one foot sea, a boat could travel up to a speed that would create a one-foot wake. The following Quiet/No-Wake Zones, not marked by buoys, are designated within the following boundaries of Isle Royale National Park.

Todd Harbor

Beginning at Kamloops Point, thence following the coastline southwesterly around the perimeter of the harbor to Wilson Point, thence northeasterly on a direct line back to Kamloops Point.

Johns Island

Entire small cove on northeast side of the island.

Barnum/Washington Islands

The sheltered waters bordered on the north by Barnum Island, the west and south by Washington Island, and the east by Booth Island.

Hay Bay

Beginning at a point 1/8 mile northeast of the Hay Bay Campground and dock, thence southwesterly to the end of the bay.

Wright Island

Sheltered cove by historic Wright Island Fishery located on the southwest side of Wright Island.

Malone Bay

Portion of Malone Bay bordered on the east and south by Hat, Ross, and Malone Islands, then northwesterly to the point of land adjacent to the Malone Bay dock, thence northeasterly along the shoreline back to Hat Island.

Chippewa Harbor

All of Chippewa Harbor, beginning with the small, unnamed island of rock located at the narrow entrance to the harbor.

Conglomerate Bay

All of Conglomerate Bay.

Moskey Basin — Beginning at Baker Point and including all of Moskey Basin.

Lorelei Lane

The narrow waterway beginning at the northeast end of Mott Island, thence northeasterly to Smithwick Channel. This designated zone is bordered on the south by a line of named and unnamed islands including (from SW to NE) Outer Hill, Mad, and Heron Islands. The zone is bordered on the north by Inner Hill, Star, Davidson, Tookers, Shaw, and Smithwick Islands.

Tobin Harbor

Western half of Tobin Harbor, beginning at a line connecting Moose Point on the south and the Duncan Bay Portage Trail on the north, southwesterly to the west end of the harbor.

Merritt Lane

All of Merritt Lane, beginning at Red Rock Point near the southwest end of Porter Island, thence northeasterly to a point 1/8 mile northeast of the Merritt Lane Campground dock, and including all waters bounded by Porter Island on the west, Long Island and Third Islands on the south, and Elizabeth and Merritt Islands on the east.

Passage Island

All of the Small Boat Cove on the south side of Passage Island.

Duncan Bay

All of Duncan Bay, including side bays, beginning at the Duncan Bay Narrows.

Five Finger Bay (including Stockly Bay)

All waters within these two bays located south of a line running from Hill Point, thence northeasterly on a straight line through Battleship Island to the main island of Isle Royale.

Lane Cove

All of Lane Cove.

Robinson Bay, Pickerel Cove, Belle Harbor Area

All of the named waters. The coastline of Belle Isle (south shore) and the main island (Isle Royale) define the north, west, and south perimeters of the zone. The eastern perimeter begins at the dock of the Belle Isle Campground, thence south to Johnson Island, thence northeasterly to the southwest end of Cork Island continuing northeasterly to Dean Island, and finally on a direct line from the northeast end of Dean Island to Hill Point.

Crystal Cove

All of Crystal Cove on the northeast end of Amygdaloid Island.

McCargoe Cove (including Brady Cove)

All of McCargoe Cove, beginning at Indian Point at the mouth of McCargoe Cove.

See maps of these zones at Windigo, Rock Harbor, Mott Island, Houghton, on the *Ranger III*, and in the park newspaper, *The Greenstone*.

Minimize Use of Fires

Campfires are allowed at selected campgrounds. Backpacking stoves are needed; they are light, dependable, easier to use, and less damaging to the park than wood fires. Twig-burning backpacking stoves are permitted. Metal fire rings/grills are provided where campfires are allowed. Never build your own ring. Use only dead and down wood. Keep fires small, using wood wrist-sized or smaller. Small wood burns more completely, can be broken by hand or foot, and eliminates the need to pack hatchets or saws. Do not peel bark or cut standing trees or branches. Collect wood from a wide area away from the immediate camp area to avoid depleting the camp area of wood/potential nutrients. Extinguish your campfire completely before you depart the area.

Alcohol Ban

Open containers of alcohol are prohibited in campgrounds, on docks, and on-board docked vessels at both Siskiwit Bay and McCargoe Cove.

Respect Wildlife

Observe, photograph, and enjoy park wildlife from a safe distance. If animals flee, become defensive, or change their natural activities in your presence, you are too close! Cow moose with calves, particularly in the spring, and bull moose during the fall rut can be dangerous; give them a wide berth. It is illegal to feed, touch, tease, or intentionally disturb wildlife, their homes, nests, or activities. Resist the urge to feed wildlife. You risk a painful bite. Animals, particularly fox and otter, when habituated to human food, may have to be destroyed. When boats are at dock, stow all gear; foxes can and do board boats.

Restricted Water Activities

Water skiing and personal watercraft (including vessels commonly referred to as jet skis, waverunners, sea-doo's, wet bikes, or surf jets) are prohibited. Inland lakes and streams can only be explored by paddling, as they are Wilderness waters. Vessels with motors (even if not in use) are prohibited on inland lakes and streams.

Trash

Garbage removal is a big problem for the park. All Isle Royale garbage must be hauled off the island and back to the mainland. This is expensive and takes away from other park services, like dock maintenance. You can help. Please take your garbage, including uneaten food and cigarette butts, back to the mainland and dispose of it properly. Do not wash dishes or bathe in lakes and streams. For all washing, take water in a pot away from the water source. Dispose of soapy water in the soil 100' from lakes and streams. Don't burn or bury trash. Don't leave it behind for animals to get into. Head pump-out service is available at Windigo and Rock Harbor when the concession operation is open. Federal regulations prohibit the discharge of any waste, **including gray water**, into park waters.

Regulations & Wilderness Protection

Boating at Isle Royale can be challenging and treacherous. Consider the following ideas to help you plan a safe trip.

Charts

All boaters at Isle Royale National Park should have Great Lakes Chart #14976. This chart shows the island, underwater features, and navigational aids. There are many reefs and shoals around the island, and the bottom comes up abruptly in many places. Charts are sold at Rock Harbor, Windigo and Houghton Visitor Centers, and by mail order by calling 1-800-678-6925.

Float Plan

It's a good idea to leave a trip float plan with someone. The plan should include your itinerary, a complete boat description, a list of all passenger names and their home phone numbers, and an emergency phone number to call should your party become overdue.

Required Equipment

Vessel equipment must meet US Coast Guard and Michigan requirements. Brochures on equipment requirements are available from most Coast Guard stations and DNR offices. Be sure all equipment is in good condition. Michigan State laws require that children under six years wear a Type I or II personal flotation device (PFD) when on an open boat deck. All boats must carry wearable PFDs for each person on-board. As cold as Lake Superior is, wearing your PFD is always a smart idea.

Respect Other Boaters - Watch Your Wake

Boaters are legally responsible for any damage caused by the wake of their boats. Observe No-Wake Zones, which are marked by buoys. Practice caution and courtesy near all docks. Be alert for canoes and kayaks and make no wake when passing them. Make no wake when within 200' of a diver's flag.

Emergencies

Report any emergency to the nearest ranger station or the US Coast Guard via marine radio. Friends or family on the mainland with an emergency message should contact park headquarters in Houghton at (906) 482-0984 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT Mondays through Saturdays, 6/17 to 8/17, and the rest of the season 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For after hours assistance, call Rock Harbor Ranger Station at (906) 483-3170, Windigo Ranger Station at (906) 337-4994, or your nearest USCG office. NPS personnel may also be reached through the Houghton Police Department at (906) 482-2121.

Isle Royale Mileage Chart

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	—
1. Grace Island	—	3	4	28	26	29	28	36	43	46	43	43	46	47	48	49	50	46	49	41	31	33	34	5	1	
2. Beaver Island CG	3	—	1	31	29	32	31	39	46	49	46	46	49	49	50	51*	52	52	48	51	43	33	35	26	7	2
3. Windigo	4	1	—	32	30	33	32	40	47	50	47	47	48	50	51	52*	53	53	49	52	44	34	36	27	8	3
4. Siskiwit CG	28	31	32	—	6	11	12	20	26	29	26	26	27	29	30	31	32	36	40	43	45	51	53	60	33	4
5. Hay Bay CG	26	29	30	6	—	7	9	16	23	26	23	23	24	26	27	29	29	32	36	39	41	47	49	56	31	5
6. Malone Bay	29	32	33	11	7	—	3	10	17	20	17	17	18	20	21	22	23	26	30	33	35	41	43	50	34	6
7. Isle Royale Light	28	31	32	12	9	3	—	9	15	18	15	15	16	18	19	20	21	24	28	31	33	39	41	48	53	7
8. Chippewa Harbor CG	36	39	40	20	16	10	9	—	7	10	7	7	8	10	11	12	13	16	20	23	25	31	33	40	41	8
9. Middle Island Passage	43	46	47	26	23	17	15	7	—	3	1	1	2	4	5	6	7	9	13	16	18	24	26	33	48	9
10. Moskey Basin CG	46	49	50	29	6	20	18	10	3	—	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	13	17	20	22	28	30	37	51	10
11. Daisy Farm CG	43	46	47	26	23	17	15	7	1	3	—	1	2	4	5	6	7	10	14	17	19	25	27	3	48	11
12. Caribou Island CG	43	46	47	26	23	17	15	7	1	4	1	—	1	3	4	5	6	9	13	16	18	24	26	33	48	12
13. Mott Island	43	49	48	27	24	18	16	8	2	5	2	1	—	2	3	4	5	8	12	15	11	23	25	32	47	13
14. Three Mile CG	46	49	50	29	26	20	18	10	4	7	4	3	2	—	1	2	3	6	10	13	15	21	23	30	49	14
15. Tooker's Island CG	47	50	51	30	27	21	19	11	5	8	5	4	3	1	—	2	2	5	9	12	14	20	22	29	48	15
16. Rock Harbor Lodge	48	51*	52*	31	29	22	20	12	6	9	6	5	4	2	2	—	1	4	8	11	13	19	21	28	47	16
17. Raspberry Island	49	52	53	32	29	23	21	13	7	10	7	6	5	3	2	1	—	3	7	10	12	18	20	27	46	17
18. Hidden Lake	50	52	53	36	32	26	24	16	99	13	10	8	8	6	5	4	3	—	6	9	12	18	19	28	45	18
19. Duncan Narrows CG	46	48	49	40	36	30	28	20	13	17	14	13	12	10	9	8	7	6	—	3	9	14	16	24	43	19
20. Duncay Bay CG	49	51	52	43	39	33	31	23	16	20	17	16	15	13	12	11	10	9	3	—	12	17	19	27	46	20
21. Belle Isle CG	41	43	44	45	41	35	33	25	18	22	19	18	11	15	14	13	12	12	9	12	—	7	9	15	38	21
22. Birch Island CG	31	33	34	51	47	41	39	31	24	28	25	24	23	21	20	19	18	18	14	17	7	—	2	9	26	22
23. McCargoe Cove CG	33	35	36	53	49	43	41	33	26	30	27	26	25	23	22	21	20	19	16	19	9	2	—	11	28	23

CHANNEL

PROPER USE

16

DISTRESS, ship to ship shore

6

Hailing Intership (Safety Only)

22A

Communication with US Coast Guard

68, 69,
70, 78A

Non-Commercial Intership and Ship to Coast

162.550 MHz
162.400 MHz
162.475 MHz

NOAA Weather Broadcast

24, 25, 26, 27,
28, 84, 85, 86

Ship to public coast

23. McCargoe Cove CG	33	35	36	53	49	43	41	33	26	30	27	26	25	23	22	21	20	19	16	19	9	2	—	11	28	23
24. Todd Harbor CG	34	26	27	60	56	50	48	40	33	37	34	33	32	30	29	28	27	28	24	27	15	9	11	—	19	24
25. Huginnin Cove	5	7	8	33	31	54	53	41	48	51	48	48	47	49	48	47	46	45	43	46	38	26	28	19	—	25
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	—

*=via south shore. Add 5 miles more via north shore. NOTE: Mileage is in statute miles.

Weather Information

Severe weather (high winds, rough seas, & fog) can set in with little or no warning. Hear continuous NOAA weather broadcasts on channel 26 or weather stations 2, 3 and 4 from both US and Canadian stations. Canadian forecasts from Thunder Bay can be more accurate for Isle Royale. Check <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/> for Isle Royale and MI Upper Peninsula weather and <http://www.weather.com/> and enter zip code 55605 for Grand Portage, MN weather.

A marine weather forecast (MAFOR) can include a five-digit code as explained below. MAFOR code example: “11604” - this means the weather forecast is for Lake Superior waters (1), the first three hours of the forecast period (1) west winds are predicted (6) at 0 to 10 knots (0) with fog (4).

Useful Radio Frequencies

Above and to the right is a list of some radio frequencies you may find useful while cruising Lake Superior. Ranger Stations at Mott Island and Windigo monitor channel 16 during normal business hours. The National Park Service uses Channel 68 and 9 as the park’s working channels.

MAFOR Code

Forecast Period	Wind Direction	Wind Force	Forecast
0 = begin period	0 = calm	0 = 0 to 10 knots	0 = moderate or good visibility (3 nautical miles)
1 = 3 hours	1 = northeast	1 = 11 to 16 knots	1 = risk of ice accumulation
2 = 4 hours	2 = east	2 = 17 to 21 knots	2 = strong risk, ice accumulation
3 = 9 hours	3 = southeast	3 = 22 to 27 knots	3 = mist (visibility ship to ship to 3 nautical miles)
4 = 12 hours	4 = south	4 = 28 to 33 knots	4 = fog (visibility less than 5/8 nautical miles)
5 = 18 hours	5 = southwest	5 = 34 to 40 knots	5 = drizzle
6 = 24 hours	6 = west	6 = 41 to 47 knots	6 = rain
7 = 48 hours	7 = northwest	7 = 48 to 55 knots	7 = snow, or rain and snow
8 = 72 hours	8 = north	8 = 56 to 63 knots	8 = squally weather with or without showers
9 = occasionally	9 = variable	9 = over 64 knots	9 = thunderstorms

Dock Accessibility

Leave dock space at the following docks to allow either the 60' ferry boat *Voyageur II* or 63' *Wenonah* access to load and unload passengers. The schedule is listed below. Times are approximate and are given in Eastern Daylight Time.

<u>Dock</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
Daisy Farm	Tue/Thur/Sun	9:30 a.m.
Chippewa Harbor	Tue/Thur/Sun	10:00 a.m.
Malone Bay	Tue/Thur/Sun	11:00 a.m.
McCargoe Cove	Mon/Wed/Sat	2:30 p.m.
Belle Isle	Mon/Wed/Sat	3:00 p.m.
Windigo - East	Daily	12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Windigo - West	Mon/Wed/Sat	11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Windigo - West	Sun/Tues/Thurs	1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

The Lodge tour boat, the 40' *MV Sandy*, also stops at several Rock Harbor area docks and McCargoe Cove. Dock space is reserved for the *MV Sandy* at the following docks and times.

<u>Dock</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
Passage Island	Mon/Fri	2:30-5:30 p.m.
Hidden Lake	Tue/Thur	9:30 -11:30 a.m.

McCargoe Cove	Wed	11:00-3:00 p.m.
Edison Fishery	Thurs/Sat	2:30-5:00 p.m.
Raspberry Island	Daily	8:00-9:00 p.m.

Do You Know These Flags?

NOTE: Shipwreck mooring buoys are for divers' use only.

Alpha Flag



Vessel has personnel and/or equipment in water and is unable to maneuver. Do not approach; maintain a safe distance of at least 200' around vessel. Watch for divers. Flag colors are blue and white.

Diver Down Flag



This flag may be flown from a vessel or a float and signifies that divers are below and caution is required. Vessels must not exceed 5 mph or create a wake within 200' of a Diver Down flag. Establish and maintain communications with dive boats displaying a flag before approaching. Flag colors are red and white.

Divers

A permit is required before diving. Check in at the Rock Harbor or Windigo Ranger Stations. You must fly the Diver Down or Alpha flag while diving. All wrecks and artifacts are protected by Federal law. Do not remove anything. The shipwreck *America* is closed for diving between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. EDT, to allow ferry passengers to view the wreck. Portable compressors may only be operated at public docks located at Windigo, Rock Harbor, and Malone Bay and only at specified times. Please consult the Park's Scuba Diving brochure for additional information.

Customs

All vessels (U.S. or Canadian) arriving from Canada must clear U.S. Customs upon arrival. Customs service is only available at the Rock Harbor and Windigo Ranger Stations.

Fishing at Isle Royale

Only 24-hour fishing licenses are available on the island when the Rock Harbor Lodge or Windigo store are open. Michigan fishing licenses may be purchased on-line at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

All fish in your possession count toward your limit, regardless of where and when you caught them. All fish in your possession must be measurable and identifiable by species. This requirement will be met by leaving the head and skin on.

A Michigan Fishing license is required for fishing in Lake Superior, including narrow bays and harbors, and when transporting fish from the island to the mainland. Licenses are not required to fish the inland waters. Michigan size, season, and possession limits apply. Only artificial lures may be used in inland lakes. Artificial lures are defined as man-made, in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait, used to attract fish for the purpose of taking them, including artificial flies. Live, dead, or preserved bait or organic food bait may not be used or possessed.

Trout and Salmon

Season: April 16 to October 31

Minimum Size Limit: 10"

Possession Limit: 5 in any combination, but no more than 3 of any one species

Walleye and Northern Pike

Season: Pike - April 16 to October 31

Walleye - May 15 to October 31

Minimum Size Limits: Walleye - 15"

Northern Pike - 24"

Possession Limit in Combination: 5 in any combination, but no more than 2 Northern Pike.

Coaster Brook Trout

This species is extremely rare, therefore, special regulations exist to protect these fish.

Season: May 1 to Labor Day

Minimum Size Limit: 18"

Possession Limit: one Coaster Brook Trout

Brook Trout — Inland Streams

Season: last Saturday in April to August 15

Minimum Size Limit: 7"

Possession Limit: 2, with no more than one over 12"

Fish Consumption Advisory

Contaminants discovered in the Park ecosystem remind us that although Isle Royale is remote, it is part of a global system. Ongoing research in six inland lakes (Sargent, Siskiwit, Eva, Shesheeb, Wagejo, and Anglemorm) shows fish with mercury levels exceeding the State of Michigan fish consumption advisories.

For information on fish consumption advisories check with park staff or visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>.

Disposal of Fish Remains

Lake Superior Campgrounds: Do not clean fish directly on docks. In Rock Harbor use the fish cleaning station. At campgrounds, clean fish away from the dock and campsites. Remains can be cut into small pieces (less than 4") and left on the shore at least 100' from the campground and dock. Do not throw pieces to gulls or into the water near shore. Scrub up and rinse away all blood and slime from any onshore surfaces. Dump chopped remains in 50' or deeper water to reduce unsightly remains and odors near campgrounds and unnaturally large gatherings of gulls. These gull congregations negatively affect other shore-nesting waterfowl.

Interior Campgrounds: Clean fish away from campsites. Place remains on shore at least 100' from the campground, between the water and the vegetation. Scrub up and rinse away all blood and slime from onshore surfaces.

Fishery Conservation

Remote natural areas such as Isle Royale provide opportunities for outstanding recreational fishing of wild, native fish stocks replenished solely through natural reproduction. Wild fish populations are an integral part of a much larger aquatic and riparian ecosystem and play a key role in the natural food web. How can you assist in conserving this fishery and minimize damage to Isle Royale fish?

- The park encourages anglers to catch only what they will keep or eat and then stop fishing and enjoy Isle Royale's other attractions. Catch and release, while encouraged, can be damaging and very stressful on fish. This is especially true for lake trout brought up quickly from deep waters.
- Do not keep undersize fish; they are natural food for the local wildlife such as loons, osprey, otters, and eagles. Releasing larger fish and keeping the medium-size fish helps maintain fish populations. Larger fish may be 40-50 years old and produce more offspring than smaller fish.

Medium-size fish are also better tasting, so consider taking pictures of the large fish, then carefully releasing them. Instead of killing trophy fish, consider modern graphite mounts.

Transporting Fish to the Mainland

You may possess one day's catch. While the license holder remains on the island, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allows those with DNR permits to ship legally-taken fish on the *Ranger III*, *Isle Royale Queen IV*, *Wenonah*, *Voyageur II* and the sea-plane. This one-time per year permit covers up to a single day's catch limit.

Fish must be claimed when the ferry service arrives at their destination. To obtain permits, write: Department of Natural Resources, 427 U.S. 41 North, Baraga, Michigan 49908-9627 or call (906) 353-6651. If you are returning on the *Ranger III*, check your fish with the ship's purser. Do not transport fish in coolers on private boats aboard the *Ranger III*.

Commercial Nets

You may see gill nets set in the Rock Harbor and Washington and Grace Harbor areas, placed by the National Park Service's fisherman at the Edisen Fishery and Washington Island. The Edisen Fishery demonstration is established as a cultural exhibit preserving the rich history of commercial fishing at Isle Royale. Please do not damage the nets. Cut nets can continue to catch and unnecessarily kill fish. Do not troll or motor between net buoys.

The fish caught at the Edisen Fishery and Washington Island provide valuable data to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to

monitor fish populations. To find out more about Isle Royale commercial fishing or the fish monitoring program, weekly fishery tours at Edisen Fishery are given during the summer months.

Fueling, Pump-Out, & Repair

There are no commercial boat repair facilities within the park. Fuel is sold from mid-May to mid-September at Rock Harbor and mid-June to early September at Windigo. Diesel fuel is only available at Rock Harbor.

Early and late season service or fuel may be obtained at Windigo and Mott Island if personnel are available. Head pump-out service is available at Windigo and Rock Harbor when the concession operation is open. Federal regulations prohibit the discharge of any waste, **including gray water**, into park waters. Vessels carrying spare fuel in portable containers must use legally approved containers. Fuel may not be stored on docks.

Learn More

In addition to regularly scheduled programs at Rock Harbor, Daisy Farm, and Windigo, other educational opportunities are available for boaters. Drop by Edisen Fishery in the Rock Harbor Channel, to get a glimpse of what life was like for commercial fishermen in the late 1800s through mid-1900s. While you are there, take a short stroll and enjoy the maritime exhibits housed in the Rock Harbor Lighthouse. Stop at Raspberry Island for a self-guiding nature walk through a bog with insect-eating plants. Drop by an Isle Royale National Park Visitor Center for more places to visit by boat and learn about our cultural and natural history.

Docking, Anchoring, & Camping

All dock space and individual campsites (including all shelters) are available on a first-come, first-served basis. They may not be reserved or held for others prior to their arrival. From late-July to the end of August, expect to find crowded conditions at docks and campgrounds. Boaters who are already set up at a campsite and who have a valid camping permit must be given priority access to space at the dock. Observe consecutive night stay limits for each campground, in effect from June 1 through September 2.

Shelter Use

Shelters are occupied only when the backcountry permit is attached to the shelter's door. Boaters may only use one shelter. For example, you cannot cook in one shelter and sleep in another. No stapling is allowed. A free-standing tent may be erected inside a shelter, but not outside a shelter. Be gentle with shelter screens and doors. Do not do anything which would change the landscape, such as digging or trenching

around tents.

Group campsites, found in many of the larger campgrounds, are available through advance reservations only. These sites are for camping parties of 7 to 10 people. For reservations and information call (906) 482-0984; write to Group Camping Reservations, Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, Michigan 49931, or e-mail ISRO_GroupReserve@nps.gov.

Permits

Permits are required for all overnight camping, including anchoring out. Boater permits may be obtained at either the Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo Visitor Centers, or at the Superior National Forest Gunflint Ranger District in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

As a convenience to boaters with a Season Boat Rider Pass, the Houghton Visitor Center will provide boaters the option of obtaining a camping permit by regular mail, e-mail, or by fax. When using this service, boaters must submit their request at least two weeks in advance of their trip to the park. Boaters without a Season Boat Rider Pass, or Individual Season Passes for **all members on-board**, may obtain camping permits in person at the Houghton Visitor Center **no more than 48 hours in advance of intended departure**. Since user fees are non-refundable, boaters concerned about weather or mechanical problems may prefer to pay at Windigo or Rock Harbor.

User Fee

Visitors to Isle Royale are required to pay a \$4 per person per day user fee. Children 11 and under are free. Boaters have the option of either paying the daily fee or purchasing one of two optional passes.

The \$150 Season Boat Rider Pass is valid from April 16 through to October 31 of the year indicated. This pass covers the daily user fee for all persons on-board, when affixed to the private boat. The \$50 Individual Season Pass, valid for the same time period, covers the daily user fee for the person whose signature appears on the pass.

The optional season passes can be purchased in person at the Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo Visitor Centers, or at the Superior National Forest Gunflint Ranger District in Grand Marais, Minnesota. Boaters may also pay daily user fees and obtain camping permits at the Gunflint Ranger District.

Passes can also be purchased by calling the park's Houghton office at (906) 482-0984, faxing at (906) 482-8753, by writing to: Isle Royale National Park, 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, Michigan 49931 or by e-mail: ISRO_ParkInfo@nps.gov. Make checks payable to the "Department of the Interior, NPS"; VISA and MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are accepted.

When requesting the Individual Season Pass, include the recipient's full name, address, and telephone number. When requesting the Season Boat Rider Pass, include the owner's name, address, telephone number, boat registration number, length, make, color, type of craft, and name of the boat if applicable.

Docks

Generally, only docks that adjoin campgrounds are open for overnight use. The Rock Harbor Marina provides nightly slip rentals with utility service hook-ups.

Overnight docking is not permitted at the following areas:

- Raspberry Island Dock
- Edisen Fishery Dock
- Passage Island Dock
- Hidden Lake Dock
- Mott Island Docks (except for residents or invited guests of residents)
- Amygdaloid Island Dock
- *Ranger III* Dock at Rock Harbor
- The north side of the Malone Bay Dock
- *America* Dock
- Any NPS or concession fuel dispensing dock
- Any shipwreck mooring buoy
- Any other dock posted or signed as closed to overnight use or public entry

Anchoring out is allowed and encouraged; check with a ranger or other boaters for information on good anchorage locations.

Repelling the Invasion

There are many native aquatic plant and animal species at Isle Royale that are a significant part of this unique ecosystem. There are some species that are not native to Isle Royale, however, and coupled with other known invading species now found along the Lake Superior shore, they pose a serious threat to the native fish and other species at Isle Royale.

Spiny water fleas (Bythotrephes) and low levels of sea lamprey are found in Isle Royale waters. Zebra mussels are of great concern; we do not believe they are yet present in the park, but they are now found in mainland marina locations throughout Lake Superior. Other serious concerns include the ruffe, round goby, rusty crayfish, Eurasian water milfoil, and purple loosestrife.

What can you, as a boater, do to help prevent bringing such invaders to the island? Prevention is the key, for once an invader arrives in park waters, the chances of controlling it are almost none.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

There are several good practices you can use to help prevent the spread of invading species:

- ✓ If you dock your boat in a marina with known zebra mussel infestations (such as Duluth, MN or Thunder Bay, ON) or you visit those harbors prior to coming to the island, you should have your boat thoroughly cleaned and dried *before* coming to Isle Royale.
- ✓ Learn to identify these exotic species - there is good information available at park ranger stations to help identify exotic species, such as those listed above. If an invading species is suspected, report it to a ranger.
- ✓ Inspect your boat and boating equipment (anchors, downriggers, tackle) and remove any plants and animals that are visible *before* coming to the island.
- ✓ Drain water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom wells while on land, *before* coming to the island.
- ✓ No live bait is permitted in the inland lakes of Isle Royale; we strongly encourage you to only

use artificial lures on the Lake Superior waters of the park as well. *Never* release live bait into a water body!

- ✓ Wash/dry your boat, tackle, downriggers, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species on your boat and gear. Some aquatic species can survive more than 2 weeks out of water.
- ✓ If you have walked in purple loosestrife infested areas, be sure to thoroughly clean seeds from your clothing and muddy footwear, and never plant any seed mixture containing purple loosestrife.

These are important practices that each of you can take to help protect the aquatic plants and animals at Isle Royale.

For additional information on how you can protect the park from invasive species request the Isle Royale brochure "*Aquatic Invaders: Stop the Spread & Spread the Word*".