Island Voices

I wake in darkness to a splish, splash, sploosh. Though I can’t even see its silhouette, I know a moose is nearby—perhaps munching on a breakfast of aquatic plants.

In a rush of wing on air, a dark shape glides to a nearby tree. From the shadows I sense the gray jay’s head cocked, its beady eyes scrutinizing my every move. A white-throated sparrow whistles a few tentative clear notes. Then the forest explodes into a stereophonic chorus of raucous bird song.

I know this place by its voice, its soundtrack imprinted on my memory and my soul. The sun peeks through the trees. A shelter door slams. The new day has dawned on Washington Creek.

This soundscape, its cadence, its keynotes, its dynamics, varies throughout the day, through the seasons, and across time.

A little over a century ago, this place would have sounded very different. No moose for a morning alarm. A distant howl was coyote, not wolf. Voices of miners on their way to work replace the hum of campers greeting the morning.

In the mid-2000s, low water levels allowed Washington Creek to fill with reeds, bringing new musicians: the conk-a-ree of red-winged blackbirds and the rattling bugles of sandhill cranes.

In recent years, climate change has increased the winds whipping across Lake Superior. Crashing waves and churning seas have become more constant companions.

Last summer, the cries of wolves—mostly absent for several years—thrilled visitors once more.

The park sings its story to us. Listen carefully. Experience Isle Royale with all your senses.

The island is calling.

Val Martin, Park Ranger

Welcome to Isle Royale National Park

I never lived beside a large body of water, before I came to Isle Royale. The sound of waves gently lapping, and occasionally crashing on the shore has become a key aspect of my Isle Royale soundscape. I miss that sound while in town during the winter and can’t wait to get back each season to hear it again. I’m sure many visitors also appreciate those lake sounds and the other natural sounds of the island.

But does anyone come to hear the noise of a generator or a boat engine? These human-made sounds are part of the operation of the park.

To lessen their intrusion on Isle Royale’s soundscape, the National Park Service has made significant changes: replacing 35 two-stroke outboard boat engines with quieter four-strokes to reduce boat traffic noise and installing solar panels at Rock Harbor and Windigo to limit the rumbling of generators.

During your next visit, take a few moments and listen to the wilderness. It will be easier to hear now than it was a few years ago.

Liz Valencia, Manager, Interpretation and Cultural Resources
Sound Impressions

Arriving on Isle Royale, we trade the grumble of traffic and whirr of espresso machines for the chatter of red squirrels, the trill of a thousand toads, and the ferry horn signaling our bittersweet departure.

To each of us, the island expresses itself in different ways. Experience the park through artists and researchers to hear how this soundscape speaks to them.

Listening to Landscape

I’d heard backpackers talk about going to West Chickenbone Campground for a variety of reasons, but I was looking to distance myself from others’ sounds if possible, so I headed to East Chickenbone instead.

As an artist, the focus of my work is nature sound and sound ecology. During my time as resident artist in 2019, as I hiked the island trails, I found some of the most immersive listening places I’ve ever experienced.

The most memorable listening experiences during my stay occurred while pausing along Scoville Point Trail, on top of Mt. Franklin, and two hours before sunrise at McCargoe Cove. However, the highlight from my time was at East Chickenbone Lake.

There, at the water access area in the evening (loon, mergansers, moose, beavers), in the campground at night (many loons), and in the nearby meadow pre-sunrise for the dawn chorus of woodland birds, the listening experience was spectacular.

When out on the trail, consider planning pauses to listen as you take a break or, better yet, wake up a little earlier to experience the dawn chorus before striking camp. An entirely new version of Isle Royale can emerge right in front of your ears.

Alex Braidwood, Soundscape Artist, Artist-in-Residence 2019

Listen to Alex’s work at listeninginstruments.com. Follow his sound art adventures on Instagram @listeninginstruments.

Learning By Ear

Night falls over Lake Richie. As darkness arrives, we lose our sense of sight, but still hear what is happening around us—loons call across the lake, wind rustles the trees. What else happens that our ears cannot perceive?

Bats are winging their way through the skies and making quite a racket! An echolocating bat sends out sound waves at least ten to twenty times per second, and uses its fine-tuned hearing to translate returning echoes into a “map” of its surroundings. Bats rely on echolocation for navigating and pinpointing prey, using distinctive sounds for each task. Bat calls are so high-pitched they are above the range of human hearing.

So how can we listen in to discover what bats are up to? Researchers use acoustic detectors with ultrasonic microphones to eavesdrop, recording calls as bats fly by. A specialized software program helps visualize the sound files and identify the species.

National Park Service biologists have monitored Isle Royale bats since 2011. At one survey site near Lake Richie, scientists have collected over 2,000 recordings during only a few weeks of sampling, documenting six different species. We’ll keep listening in 2020.

Katy Goodwin, NPS Great Lakes Inventory & Monitoring Network

For more on bat monitoring visit: www.nps.gov/im/glkn/bats.htm
Your Impressions
As you explore from Windigo to Rock Harbor, from Todd Harbor to Malone Bay, what captures your attention?
What makes you pause, stop, and listen?
Find your sounds. Find your park.

Composing Wild Song

I'm the next of kin to the wayward wind, I'm goin'...
I can't sing this dance, or dance this song—I'm gone someplace where I won't make the greedy richer
in the rock and birch bark shore of old Minong

When absolute silence finally finds you at Isle Royale's northeastern-most point, when the fog of the mighty lake hushes the thicker fog of modern life into less than a whisper, the first thing you notice is that it is no silence at all.

You hear the lapping breath of cove waves, the faint hint of wind through branches. You fall straightway into the subterranean levels of consciousness, where the call of sandhill cranes reverberates from deep woods.

Later, after the day's soundscape of the business of the wild gives way to night, and the fire crackles in the hearth at Dassler Cabin, there are songs. The songs have come from the merging with a world more natural than most of us have ever experienced, from the mantra of Superior's pulse on Scoville Point, from the ether-consciousness of being left alone and protected, like the island itself.

David Huckfelt, Singer and Songwriter, Artist-in-Residence 2018
Support David's Isle Royale inspired debut solo record “Stranger Angels” at www.davidhuckfelt.com

Science, Music, and the Sound of Wolves and Moose

Through science and art, you can grow to understand a wilderness soundscape.
Sonification is an art form, sometimes called data-driven music. Imagine an orchestra. In this orchestra, the musicians playing the instruments are not human. Rather the instruments are played by data—that has been collected from nature. In this case, the music is created by numbers representing fluctuations in wolf abundance, moose abundance, and climate on Isle Royale National Park going back to the late 1950s.

This sonification of Isle Royale wolves and moose involves two basic components. The first requires transforming numbers into music with mathematical techniques. The second is artistically demanding and requires a specific translation from numbers to music that is not only faithful to the numbers, but also pleasing to the ear.

Fluctuations in wolf abundance over the years are expressed as musical notes that rise from a dulcimer-like instrument. Fluctuations in moose abundance are notes flowing from a pulsing rhythmic synthesizer. Temperature and rain patterns from year-to-year are registered as varying velocities of rain and other musical notes. Wolf abundance is accentuated by actual wolf sounds.

You can experience Isle Royale's wilderness soundscape, first-hand, by listening to the sonification of the island's wolf-based food web at isleroyalewolf.org/sonification.

Dr. John Vucetich, Distinguished Professor, Co-leader of Isle Royale Wolf/Moose Study
Images courtesy of R.O. Peterson and isleroyalewolf.org

Soundscapes Are Parkscapes

Natural and appropriate cultural sounds are a valuable part of the special places that the National Park Service (NPS) preserves. Each national park has a unique soundscape. The NPS works to improve soundscapes in national parks so that visitors can better experience the intrinsic sounds of the park and wildlife can better hear and communicate for survival (www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/soundpreservation.htm).
Caution – Wilderness Ahead!

Lake Superior and the island’s wilderness present challenges and hazards to the inexperienced or ill-prepared. Bring a first aid kit, a supply of any needed medications, and clothing appropriate for the time of year and planned activities.

Emergencies

Basic emergency services are available on the island, but contacting rangers for assistance can be difficult. Emergency response and evacuation take time, requiring you to rely on your own skills and equipment. Most private boaters on Lake Superior have radios and may be able to contact park rangers in an emergency.

Cell phone service is unreliable; do not depend on it.

To contact the park in an emergency: 440-546-5945

Watch the Weather

Weather and lake conditions can deteriorate quickly and unexpectedly. Fog and waves can create dangerous conditions for boaters and paddlers.

Hypothermia can occur any time, especially near Lake Superior. The best defense is to stay warm and dry. Dress in layers and don raingear before you get wet. Mild symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, apathy, and coordination loss. If someone shows these signs, warm and dry the person, add more layers, climb in a sleeping bag, and sip warm liquids.

On the Trail

Watch Your Step! The footing is often uneven. Roots and rocks can trip the unwary hiker. When wet, trails are muddy; roots, rocks, and boardwalks are extremely slippery.

Stay on the Path: As you travel, you may encounter obstructions. Go over or under downed trees, through puddles and mud. Skirting obstructions widens or creates new trails, impacting habitat.

Wheeled vehicles (except for non-motorized wheelchairs) or other mechanical forms of transportation are not allowed outside developed areas at Rock Harbor and Windigo. This includes bicycles and portaging devices.

Plan Conservatively: Many people underestimate hiking travel times and overestimate their abilities. Plan shorter, realistic travel days; don’t turn your wilderness trek into a forced march.

Be Kind to Your Feet: Wear sturdy, well-broken-in boots. Address hot spots and small blisters right away, before they become real problems. Give your feet spa treatment after hiking by soaking them in a lake and wearing comfy shoes in camp.

Wildlife

Isle Royale is home to an abundance of animals, but common species from the surrounding mainland are missing. Island isolation has created a simple, yet spectacular ecosystem.

Show Respect. Observe, photograph, and enjoy park wildlife from a safe and respectful distance. If an animal changes its behavior, you are too close.

It is illegal to feed, touch, tease, or intentionally disturb wildlife, their homes, nests, or activities.

Loons are especially susceptible to disturbance, and may abandon their shoreline nests when approached too closely. From May through July 15 (loons nesting season) visitors must stay at least 150’ away from small islands and from nests along the shore. If a loon cries out, you are too close.

Moose are large and potentially dangerous animals. Always give them wide berth. If you encounter a moose, step behind a tree and wait for the moose to move on. Throughout the spring and summer, female moose are rearing young and are very protective. Never get between a cow and her calf. During fall rut, bull moose are often aggressive.

Wolves are rarely encountered. Respect them by keeping your distance and ending any encounters quickly. Report wolf sightings to a ranger.

Insects

Expect mosquitoes and black flies to peak in June or July. During wet summers, mosquitoes can continue well into August. Bring repellent, netting, or other skin barriers. Dry summers often result in an abundance of wasps. Bring an epinephrine kit if allergic to stings.

Drinking Water

Potable water is only available in Rock Harbor and Windigo. Early- and late-season visitors should plan for no potable water anywhere on island.

All surface lake and stream water should be considered contaminated with pathogens. Drinking contaminated water can make you very sick.

Purify Water

Use one of these methods:

- Filter and Disinfect
- Boil

Filter and Disinfect

Pass water through a 0.4-micron filter and disinfect using chemical treatment...

Boil

Bring to a roiling boil for at least one minute.

SteriPENs and other UV purifiers have not been manufacturer-tested for an Isle Royale parasite and cannot be considered effective.

For detailed water purifying information visit: www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/backcountry-health.htm.

Dehydration

Drink plenty of water. When dehydrated, you tire more quickly, do not think clearly, and are more prone to fall. Dehydration is a factor in most medical problems experienced in the park.

Water is scarce between campgrounds, especially along ridges. Carry a minimum two quarts of water per person; drink and refill whenever near water sources. In hot weather start hiking early and travel at a slower pace. In cold weather dehydration occurs as people do not feel thirsty and drink less.

Watch for mild signs of dehydration: thirst, fatigue, headache, and dizziness. Signs of severe dehydration include: nausea, reduced or no sweating, and long stretches without urinating.

Toxic Water Alert

In recent years, algal blooms have occurred in interior lakes. Blue-green algae can be toxic and purifying does not remove toxins from the water. Avoid drinking, swimming, and fishing if water has a cloudy blue cast or looks like “pea soup.” If algal blooms occur, advisories will be posted at park visitor centers, affected lakes and campgrounds, and through website alerts.

Pets

Dogs, cats, and other mammals are not allowed. This includes pets on boats within park boundaries, which extend 4.5 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 service dogs. For details visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/service-dogs.htm.
Protecting Your Park

Please do your part to preserve and protect the park’s wilderness character for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Leave No Trace

Adventure, simple living, and solitude are important components of an Isle Royale visit. To ensure these experiences, visitors should be familiar with skills and habits that foster a Leave No Trace ethic. Visit www.lnt.org.

Leave What You Find

Removing, possessing, or disturbing park resources is prohibited. Antlers, plants, driftwood, cultural or archeological objects, rocks/minerals including those in Lake Superior must be left where found. Fishing and picking small quantities of berries/mushrooms for consumption are allowed. Graffiti and the building of cairns (rock piles) mars the park for other visitors. Leave the park as you find it.

Quiet, Please

Most visitors come to Isle Royale to hear the sounds of nature in a wild setting. Be aware of your volume so others may enjoy the peace and solitude.

Quiet Hours are between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am eastern time. If people in adjacent campsites can hear your activities, you are being too loud.

Operation of electronic and motorized devices such as stereos, televisions, and portable generators is not permitted except in the developed areas of Rock Harbor and Windigo, and in Lake Superior waters outside of designated quiet/no wake zones.

Minimize Use of Fires

Campfires are permitted at a handful of campgrounds (see page 6). A designated quiet/no wake zones.

Be Safe With Fire: Keep your fire small and burn down to ash; be sure the fire is completely out before leaving it.

Keep the Island Clean

Food Storage: Practice proper food storage and keep a clean camp. To protect your food from wildlife make sure it is sealed in scent-proof containers and secured. Hard-sided containers are preferred, but using doubled zip-lock bags for your food and scented items is also appropriate. Animals will steal unattended food and other items.

Trash: All trash and leftover food (including peels, cores, and nutshells) must be packed out. Trash and food scraps must not be burned, buried, or placed in outhouses. Carrying a zip-lock bag for securing small pieces of trash helps prevent inadvertent littering.

Human Waste Disposal: Use outhouses. Never defecate within 100’ (at least 50 steps) of lakes, streams, or campsites. In areas without outhouses, dig a cathole 6” to 8” deep; after use, cover with soil. Urinate on durable surfaces, like rocks or bare soil, away from water sources and campsites.

Cookware Cleaning: Wash dishes at least 100’ from water sources and campsites. Even biodegradable soap take a long time to degrade. Use a strainer to remove food bits and pack them out with your trash. Disperse remaining water away from water sources and campsites.

Bathing: Get wet, then move at least 100’ away from all water sources and campsites to lather and rinse. Use soap sparingly, if necessary.

Clean During Your Trip

• Filter water in the area and store it in a clean container.
• when filtering water, change or clean these filters before using the water in your pack.
• Change water filter after 1000 gallons or 10 days as the filter is being used.
• Clean your water filter before using it inland.

Clean Before Arrival

• Boots, gear, and vessels must be clean and free of plants, fish, animals, dirt, and mud.

Zebra Mussels Not Welcome

Surprise!!

3000 of my best friends are here to par-tee!

These plankton platters are deeeelish!

In 2018 several thousand invasive zebra mussels were removed from Isle Royale docks. Due to park removal efforts, fewer were found in 2019. But our work to prevent the spread is ongoing.

Bull Thistles are Bullies

Bull thistle is aggressively invasive, spreading along trails ever further into wilderness. The park monitors, maps, and tries to remove this other target species that outcompete native island plants.

What Can You Do?

Clean Before Arrival

• Boots, gear, and vessels must be clean and free of plants, fish, animals, dirt, and mud.

Clean During Your Trip

• After filtering Lake Superior water, change or clean your water filter before using it inland.
• Nonmotorized vessels and fishing gear must be cleaned appropriately if moving inland.

Report

• Report sightings of any invasives to a ranger.

Park Regulations

The regulations of Isle Royale National Park are intended 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.

For detailed information on park regulations visit www.nps.gov/isro/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm.

No Drone Zone: Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft on lands and waters of the park is prohibited.

Weapons, Traps, & Nets: The use or possession of weapons, traps, and nets is prohibited. Weapons include any implements designed to discharge a projectile or missile in the air or water and include slingshots, blowguns, and bows and arrows. Fireworks are prohibited.

Exception: Possession of firearms within the park is regulated by Michigan law. The discharge of firearms within park boundaries is prohibited.

Marijuana Prohibited: While recreational and medical marijuana are now legal in many states, marijuana remains illegal on federal lands including Isle Royale National Park.
Voyageur II
During its clockwise circumnavigation, Voyager II provides drop-off and pick-up services at several locations. See page 11.

Ranger III
Houghton, MI, to Windigo
71mi/114km
5.5 hours one-way

Seaplane
Hancock, MI, to Windigo
61mi/98km
35 minutes one-way
Grand Marais, MN, to Windigo
57mi/91km
30 minutes one-way
Grand Portage, MN, to Windigo
22mi/35km
2 hours one-way

Sea Hunter III
Grand Portage, MN, to Windigo
22mi/35km
1.5 hours one-way

Campgrounds

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Canoe Portages
Distance•Elevation Change•Comment
1. Malone Bay - Siskiwi Lake 0.3 mile, 40° Gradual Slope
2. Siskiwi Lake - Intermediate Lake 0.4 mile, 40’ Gradual ups and downs
3. Intermediate Lake - Lake Richie 0.6 mile, 120’ Hilly and wooded
4. Wood Lake - Lake Whittlesey 0.6 mile, 80’ Rolling
5. Lake Whittlesey - Chippewa Harbor 0.6 mile, 140’ Steep grades and rocky
6. Chippewa Harbor - Lake Richie 1.2 miles, 160’ Hilly
7. Mossey Basin - Lake Richie 2.0 miles, 120’ Gradual but long
8. Lake Richie - Lake LeSage 0.6 mile, 100’ Steep grades, wet
9. Lake LeSage - Lake Livermore 0.4 mile, 80’ Steep grades, wet
10. Lake Livermore - Chickenbone Lake 0.2 mile, 40’ Steep but short
11. Chickenbone Lake - McCargoe Cove 1.2 miles, 80’ Hilly
12. Pickeral Cove 0.1 mile, 10’ Short and sweet
13. Lake Cove - Stockly Bay 0.1 mile, 8’ Short and sweet
14. Five Finger Bay - Duncan Bay 0.2 mile, 8’ Short and sweet
15. Duncan Bay - Tobin Harbor 0.8 mile, 175’ Extremely steep
16. Tobin Harbor - Rock Harbor 0.2 mile, 40’ Gradual up and down

*Rock Harbor one night stay limit in effect 6/1 - 9/15.
Things to Do

Hiking
Over a hundred miles of trail wind through forests and hug the shoreline, climb steeply to ridgetop views, and descend into wetlands. Ninety-nine percent of the park’s land base is federally designated wilderness that beckons you to explore.

Camping
Thirty-six campgrounds are scattered throughout the park. Campsites are accessible only by foot or watercraft. All campgrounds have tent sites, outhouses, and are near a water source. Many of the campgrounds located on the Lake Superior shoreline offer docks, shelters, and picnic tables. Camping Permits are required for all overnight stays at campgrounds, cross-country sites, docks, or at anchor.

Group Camping (seven or more people)
Advance reservations are required for any group or organization, including families and friends traveling together, bringing seven or more people to the island (see page 9).

Small-party Camping (six or fewer people)
All small-party campsites contain either tent sites or a three-sided shelter. Shelters and tent sites for individual small parties are available first come, first served. Expect crowded campsites from mid-July through mid-September. Expect to have conversations about sharing tent pad and shelter space.

Shelters: Shelters may not be reserved and may not be used solely for cooking or gear storage. To minimize damage to vegetation, tents and hammocks may not be erected outside shelters; tents may be used inside shelters. Using nails, staples, tacks, and/or tape to attach items to shelters is prohibited.

Hammocks: In campgrounds, hammocks may only be used within the existing impacted area of designated tent sites and not in the surrounding trees. Hammocks may not be hung at shelter sites or inside shelters. Permissible hammock locations may not be available; plan on bringing a tent. Choose trees with care; many cannot support a hammock. Hammock use must not damage trees.

Off-trail Camping: Campers must stay in established camp sites unless off-trail (cross-country) arrangements are made when permitting. Terrain and vegetation make off-trail hiking and camping difficult.

Paddling
With numerous lakes, bays, and islands, the park provides miles of waterways for the experienced canoeist and kayaker. Route Considerations: Lake Superior is well-known for its cold waters, fog, and sudden, wave-generating squalls. Small, open vessels are encouraged to use interior lake waterways instead.

Requirements: Every paddler must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. Wear it; your life may depend on it.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
• Vessel owners are legally responsible for invasive species decontamination prior to entering park waters. Learn how to decontaminate your vessel at stopaquatichitchhikers.org/prevention.
• Before moving from Lake Superior to interior waters, wipe down your gear and storage, tents and hammocks may not be erected outside shelters; tents may be used inside shelters. Using nails, staples, tacks, and/or tape to attach items to shelters is prohibited.

Fishing
With its multitude of reefs and bays on Lake Superior and its numerous interior lakes and streams, Isle Royale provides varied opportunities for recreational fishing.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
• Before your island trip, clean fishing gear and change line spools.
• When moving from Lake Superior to interior waters, clean gear and change line spools.

Lake Superior Waters
• A Michigan fishing license is required for fishing in Lake Superior, including bays and harbors, and when transporting fish from island to mainland. Youth age 17 years or younger may fish without a license.
• Transporting fish or fish parts for use as bait to the park is prohibited. Possession or use of bait for fishing within Lake Superior park waters is limited to fish and/or fish parts caught within park waters.

Interior Lakes and Streams
• Licenses are not required to fish on Isle Royale’s interior waters.
• Barbless hooks and artificial lures only in all interior lakes and streams.

Fishing Licenses: Only 24-hour licenses are available on the island, and only when Isle Royale Resort stores are open (see page 10). Purchase a Michigan fishing license in advance, and download a copy of the Michigan Fishing Guide at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Disposal of Fish Remains: Eliminate potential for attracting and feeding wildlife by reducing unsightly fish remains and odors. Clean fish away from docks and campgrounds. Do not throw remains into shallow water, to gulls, or to other wildlife. To dispose of remains:
• At Rock Harbor and Windigo, use the fish cleaning station.
• At other Lake Superior locations, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4“ or less) into water at least 50“ in depth.
• At interior lakes, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4“ or less) into deep water via canoe or move at least 200“ (75 steps) from campground and throw chopped remains as far as possible into deep water.

Fish Consumption Advisory: Fish in some interior lakes show elevated mercury levels. Review safe fish consumption guidelines.

Camping
• At interior lakes, deposit chopped remains (pieces 4“ or less) into deep water at least 50“ in depth.

Permissible hammock locations may not be available; plan on bringing a tent. Choose trees with care; many cannot support a hammock. Hammock use must not damage trees.

Shelters may not be reserved and may not be used solely for cooking or gear storage. To minimize damage to vegetation, tents and hammocks may not be erected outside shelters; tents may be used inside shelters. Using nails, staples, tacks, and/or tape to attach items to shelters is prohibited.

Fishing
• Before your island trip, clean fishing gear and change line spools.
• When moving from Lake Superior to interior waters, clean gear and change line spools.

Lake Superior Waters
• A Michigan fishing license is required for fishing in Lake Superior, including bays and harbors, and when transporting fish from island to mainland. Youth age 17 years or younger may fish without a license.
• Transporting fish or fish parts for use as bait to the park is prohibited. Possession or use of bait for fishing within Lake Superior park waters is limited to fish and/or fish parts caught within park waters.

Interior Lakes and Streams
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Fishing Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
<th>Daily Possession Limit</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>10“ except 15“ for Lake Trout</td>
<td>5 in any combination, but no more than 3 Lake Trout - only one Lake Trout over 34“</td>
<td>*1, *2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>April 16 to Oct 31</td>
<td>7“</td>
<td>Catch and release only - No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>Last Saturday in April to Labor Day</td>
<td>7“</td>
<td>Catch and release only - No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout in Sikivelt Lake</td>
<td>April 16 to Oct 31</td>
<td>7“</td>
<td>Catch and release only - No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaster Brook Trout in Lake Superior</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only - No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook Trout in Streams</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only - No possession allowed.</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>May 15 to Oct 31</td>
<td>Lake Superior 24“ - Interior no min size, 30“ max</td>
<td>5 in any combination, but no more than 2 Northern Pike</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye in Lake Superior and Interior Lakes</td>
<td>15“</td>
<td>No minimum size</td>
<td>50 Recommended Daily Limit of 10</td>
<td>*3, *4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Review the Michigan Fishing Guide for additional fish species, seasons, creel limits, and 2020 regulation updates and changes.

8 Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park – 2020
Things to Do

Boating
Hundreds of islands and surrounding Lake Superior waters are within the boundaries of the park. Numerous docks and countless anchorages provide access for power and sailboats.


Lake Superior offers challenging and often dangerous weather: fog, high winds, waves, and thunderstorms. Combine rocky reefs and limited safe harbors with Isle Royale’s remoteness, and it pays for you, your crew, and your boat to be shipshape.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species: Vessel owners are legally responsible for invasive species decontamination prior to entering park waters (extending 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outermost land areas of the park). Learn how to decontaminate your vessel at stoppassaquaticinvaders.org/prevention.

Day Use: Boaters visiting the park or park waters for the day are required to pay entrance fees (see page 12) and are encouraged to fill out a day permit at Windigo, Rock Harbor, or Houghton. Call (906) 482-0984.

Overnight Stays: Boaters staying overnight at anchor, at docks, or in campgrounds must obtain a permit at Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo. Boaters are encouraged to permit ahead of their trip. Call (906) 482-0984.

Restricted Water Activities:
• Water skiing and personal watercraft including vessels referred to as Jet Skis, Waverunners, or Sea-dos are prohibited in all park waters.
• Vessels with motors (even if not in use) are prohibited on interior lakes and streams which are in designated wilderness.

Quiet/No Wake Zones: These zones promote quality visitor experience by providing relatively tranquil, natural marine surroundings. Within the zone, vessels must not exceed 5 mph or create a wake in excess of surrounding seas. Consult www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/Quiet-No-Wake.htm (see pages 6 and 7).

On-Board Generators: The operation or use of permanently installed (by the boat manufacturer) on-board vessel generators is limited to specific times and locations. Visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/boating-guide.htm.

Fuel: Vessels carrying spare fuel in portable containers must use legally approved containers. Fuel may not be stored on docks.

Gasoline and diesel fuel are sold at Rock Harbor and Windigo when Isle Royale Resort stores are open (see page 10). Early and late season fuel may be obtained at Windigo and Mott Island if personnel are available.

Customs
All vessels arriving from Canada (US or Canadian) must clear US Customs at the Windigo or Rock Harbor Visitor Center during regular business hours. A valid passport, US Passport card, enhanced driver’s license, or Trusted Traveler Program card is required. US citizens who have made any purchases abroad, and visitors from Canada, can be cleared for Isle Royale only. For additional information visit www.cbp.gov.

Diving
Experienced divers can explore the National Park Service’s most intact collection of shipwrecks.

Dive Permits are required. Each diver must permit at Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo before diving.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species: Wash all gear in warm, chlorinated tap water. Dry for seven days before entering park waters.

To learn more visit: www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/scuba-diving.htm.

Group Camping
Want to bring seven or more people to camp in the park? Advance reservations are required for any group or organization, including families and friends traveling together, bringing seven or more people to the island.

If your group exceeds ten people, you must split into two parties, each independent and traveling on completely separate itineraries. This means that groups with small parties cannot camp in the same campground at the same time.

Organizations may not have more than twenty people camping on the island at any one time and are responsible for eighty people a year.

Group leaders should carry medical information for each group member including known allergies, medical conditions, and medications currently taken.

How to Make A Group Camping Reservation Request
1. All group camping reservations must be made in advance.
2. Check out the group camping website: https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/group-camping-introduction.htm.
4. Click “Continue to Form” (blue button in lower right corner).
5. Fill out the information in the online form: purchaser information, permit fee, and requested itinerary for each permit.
6. Submit payment.
7. After January 2, the park will contact you to confirm your requested itinerary or discuss any necessary changes. If modification is needed, staff will work with you directly to find an itinerary that works for your group.
8. Once an itinerary is approved, you will receive a permit confirmation email.

If You Have | You Will Camp At | Type of Permit | Obtain Your Permit At | Special Recreation Permit Fee
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
6 people or fewer | Individual Campsites, first-come, first-served | Small-party Backcountry Camping Permit | Rock Harbor or Windigo Visitor Center upon arrival to island, or onboard Ranger II ferry | $0
Two or more parties of 6 people or fewer (not to exceed 20) | Individual Campsites, first-come, first-served | Small-party Backcountry Camping Permit for each party of campers with completely separate itineraries** | Access the Isle Royale NP Group Fee form on www.pay.gov. The online form is available from January 2 through October 15 each year | $25 per permit
One group of 7 – 10 people | Reserved Group Campsites | Group Camping Permit | After January 2, the park will contact you via email or phone to confirm your requested itinerary or discuss any necessary changes. | $50
Two groups of 7 – 10 people | Reserved Group Campsites | Two Group Camping Permits with completely separate itineraries** | After January 2, the park will contact you via email or phone to confirm your requested itinerary or discuss any necessary changes. | $25 per permit
One group of 7–10 people and one or two parties of 6 people or fewer (not to exceed 20) | Reserved Group Campsites and Individual Campsites first-come, first-served | Group Camping Permit and Small-party Backcountry Camping Permit(s) with completely separate itineraries** | After January 2, the park will contact you via email or phone to confirm your requested itinerary or discuss any necessary changes. | $25 per permit

** Separate itineraries means that small parties/groups cannot camp in the same campground at the same time.

2020 – Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park 9
### Visitor Centers and Programs

Ranger programs are offered at Rock Harbor, Windigo, Houghton, and aboard Ranger III. Check local bulletin boards for schedules. The tour boat The Sandy offers guided excursions.

- All times are eastern time
- $ = transportation cost

#### ROCK HARBOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROCK HARBOR VISITOR CENTER</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information, books, maps, camping permits, dive permits, passes, ranger program schedules</td>
<td>6/8 – 9/12: Daily 8:00 am to 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Prior to 6/8 and after 9/12: Open intermittently</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

#### THE SANDY TOURS FROM ROCK HARBOR

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#### Hidden Lake/Lookout Louise ($)

- A 4-mile boat trip with a 2-mile round trip hike up to Lookout Louise for views of Canada. Return on the boat or hike 9.4 miles back to Rock Harbor.
- 9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Water Bus)
- 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm

#### Passage Island ($)

- An 8-mile boat tour crosses a popular shipping lane. The 3-mile round-trip hike leads to Passage Island Lighthouse.
- 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm

#### Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Light ($)

- A 6-mile boat tour to the historic commercial fishery and a quarter-mile hike to enjoy the Rock Harbor Lighthouse exhibits.
- 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Water Bus)
- 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Water Bus)

#### Raspberry Island/Sunset Cruise ($)

- A 1-mile hike around Raspberry Island for scenic views of shoreline, forest, and bog. Then cruise around Blake Point to view Canada and enjoy a Lake Superior sunset (after Aug. 15, cruise only).
- 8:00 pm to sunset in June - July
- 7:30 pm in Aug-September

#### Windigo Visitor Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Windigo Visitor Center</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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#### Houghton Visitor Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Houghton Visitor Center</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information, planning, books, maps, Ranger III and group camping reservations, dive permits, boat camping permits, and passes</td>
<td>5/25 - 9/15: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm 9/16 through 5/24/2021: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; closed federal holidays</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Keweenaw Waterway Cruises ($)

- Enjoy a three hour afternoon Keweenaw Waterway Cruise aboard Ranger III. Explore waterway landmarks with a ranger. For reservations go to www.pay.gov (search Isle Royale) or call 906-482-0984.
- 6/25, 7/9, 7/13, 8/9, 12:30 pm

#### Ranger III Tour: Join a free, one hour ranger-led tour of the iconic Ranger III. Limited to 20 participants.

- 2:00 pm

#### Ranger at the Beach: Join a ranger at a local beach to watch the Ranger III return from Isle Royale and enjoy ranger-led activities. One hour, free program. For more information call 906-482-0984.

- Hancock Beach 2:00 pm
- 7/15 - 8/26

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### Isle Royale Resorts

#### Rock Harbor

- **Lakeside Lodge Rooms**
  Sixty rooms available; each accommodates four and offers private bath. Open 6/5 through night of 9/11.

- **Housekeeping Cabins**
  Twenty duplex cottages accommodate six and are furnished with kitchenettes, utensils, dishware, private bath, double bed and one bunk bed. Open 5/22 through night of 9/11.

- **Gift Shop and Dockside Store**
  Handcrafted gifts, apparel, postcards, souvenirs, daily fishing licenses, and tackle.
  Store offers camping, hiking, and boating supplies, groceries, freeze-dried foods, fishing tackle, stove fuel, showers, laundry, and sundries.
  Gift Shop open 6/5 through 9/11; Dockside store open 5/22 through 9/11.

- **Lighthouse Restaurant and Greenstone Grill**
  Hearty meals, including lake trout. Everyone welcome for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
  Food service open 6/5 through breakfast on 9/12.

- **Marina**
  450 feet of dock space, accommodating boats up to 65 feet. Electrical and fresh water hook-up, sewage pump-out, gasoline and diesel fuel, motorboat, canoe, and kayak rental.
  Services open 5/22 through 9/11.

- **Fishing Charters and Sightseeing**
  Charters are fully equipped for catching lake trout and salmon. For details on sightseeing tours aboard The Sandy, see above. Open 6/5 through 9/11.

#### Windigo

- **Windigo Store and Marina**
  Groceries, cold sandwiches, camping supplies, stove fuel, daily fishing licenses, tackle, gifts, and sundries. Marina offers gasoline, diesel, pump-out service, and motorboat, canoe and kayak rental. Showers and laundry available. Open 6/2 through 9/11.

- **Windigo Camper Cabins**
  Two rustic cabins; each accommodates up to six and is furnished with table, chairs, full size futon, bunk beds with mattresses, electrical outlets and lighting. Each has a picnic table and propane grill. Water spigot and privy are nearby. Open 6/2 through night of 9/11.

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Contact Isle Royale Resorts

www.rockharborlodge.com

Summer Phone: 906-337-4993
Winter Phone: 866-644-2003

Email: info@isleroyaleresorts.com

10 Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park – 2020
Transportation Services

From Houghton, Michigan

Ranger III
6 hours one-way to Rock Harbor, 5.5 hours one-way to Winagong, NP5 owned and operated.

Schedule (eastern time)
Outbound Island Trips
Hooge to Rock Harbor 9:00 am 5/26 – 9/11
Windigo to Rock Harbor 9:00 am 9/23 – 9/30

• Child (1 – 15)........$76.00
• Adult...............$94.00
• Child (3 and under)......Free

Inflatable Boats $15.00

Canoes/Kayaks $40.00

Grand Portage to any same-day stop beyond Windigo or any same-day stop beyond Winagong to Grand Portage

Adults........$94.00

Child (4 – 15)........$86.00

Grand Portage to any same-day stop beyond Windigo or any same-day stop beyond Winagong to Grand Portage

Adults........$94.00

Child (4 – 15)........$86.00

Inter-island travel between various same-day island stops

Adults........$62.00 – 75.00

Child (4 – 15)........$57.00 – 68.00

All Season

Canoe, Kayak..$40.00

40 lbs. per person...

Free

Additional fare...$40.00 per 10 lbs.

Reservations
Payment required for confirmed reservations.

Cancellations
Refund is 85% of fare, provided cancellation is received at least 2 weeks prior to departure.

Miscellaneous
Parking fee, Hot coffee, Fishing poles must be in protective cases, Hard gear must be in secured closed packs, Arrangements for advance freight.

Contact Information
Grand Portage Isle Royale Transportation Line, Inc.
Phone: 218-600-0765
Email: reservations@isleroyaleboats.com
Website: www.isleroyaleboats.com

Join Ranger III for a Windigo Trip
Outbound for 2020: 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1
Inbound for 2020: 6/3, 7/8, 8/5, 9/2

Make Ranger III Reservations Online
Visit www.isleroyale.com and search Ranger III.

• Passengers

• Canoes/Kayaks

• Boats up to 20'

• Keweenaw Waterway Cruises

For a Windigo Trip

Ranger III
2020 – Your Guide To Isle Royale National Park 11

Join a Workshop
The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) promotes the public’s understanding and appreciation of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park through education and research.

Isle Royale Botany.....................June 8 - 13, 2020
Participants explore early season plants in the Rock Harbor Area.

Keweenaw Botany.....................July 7 – 9, 2020
Explore the Keweenaw’s shorelines, ridges, forests, and wetlands.

Isle Royale Night Sky Photography..................September 8 – 12, 2020
Capture images of the night sky at this nature photography workshop.

More Workshop Information: http://irkpa.org/get-involved/workshops
Support Our Parks
Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association
Visit www.irkpa.org or call 906-483-8877

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) is the nonprofit partner of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Become a Member
Membership gives you the satisfaction of supporting the parks you love and provides you benefits including a 10% discount on store purchases. Over the last five years, IRKPA has given more than $100,000 to Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. Join online or at a visitor center.

Your Park Stores
• Calumet Visitor Center
• Houghton Visitor Center
• Rock Harbor Visitor Center
• Windigo Visitor Center

Your purchases support Isle Royale National Park

New: Trip Planning Package
New color Foot Trails and Water Routes, National Geographic map, and a scenic DVD to plan your trip $34.95
A comprehensive overview of the underlying geologic features that link Isle Royale, Lake Superior, and the Keweenaw .................. $9.95
Introduce young explorers to the wonders of Isle Royale with rhyming verse, watercolor images, and photos. ............ $9.95

Fees & Passes

| Rates & Explanation |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Daily Entrance Fee   | $7 per person per day to enter or remain in the park. Children 15 and younger are exempt. |
| Isle Royale Season Pass | $60, valid from April 16 through October 31 of the year indicated. Pass covers fees for the pass holder and up to three adults traveling with the pass holder (four total). |
| Federal Lands Passes  | Access, Annual, Military, and Senior Passes are honored. Pass covers fees for the pass holder and up to three adults traveling with the pass holder (four total). |
| 4th Grade Pass        | Through August 31, 2020, entrance fees will be waived for US students in 4th grade (and up to three accompanying adults). Student must present paper voucher or 4th grade pass upon arrival. Go to everykidoutdoors.go to receive a voucher. |

Pay Park Fees Online

You may pay fees and purchase federal lands passes in person upon arrival in Houghton, Rock Harbor, or Windigo.

Commercial Groups and Special Use Permits
For-profit groups providing goods, activities, or service to the general public within the park must obtain a Commercial Use Authorization. These groups include camps, outfitters, tour groups, or any other operation that provides compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit to an individual, organization, or corporation.
Commercial filming and still photography, and special events (e.g., weddings) require a Special Use Permit. For applications visit www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/special-permit-fees.htm.
Beyond 2020, the application process and fees will change.