



Lake Oakland: Interesting Facts and Figures

A publication of the Lake Oakland Improvement Board lakeoaklandboard.org

Lake Oakland was first mapped by the Michigan Department of Conservation Institute for Fisheries Research in 1944. The original mapping was conducted through the ice with weighted drop lines. This was a slow and laborious process and took many days to complete.

The lake bottom was re-mapped again in 2018 using Sonar and hydro-acoustic mapping software. The entire lake was mapped in a single day. In terms of water depths, the new map is remarkably similar to the 1944 map.

Lake Oakland has a surface area of 311 acres. Of Michigan's 10,031 lakes 5 acres or greater in area, Lake Oakland ranks in the top 11%.

Lake Oakland has a maximum depth of 65 feet and a mean or average depth of just under 11 feet.

The lake has a volume of 3,364 acre-feet which equates to nearly 1.1 billion gallons of water. The entire volume of Lake Oakland is replenished, on average, every 67 days.

Lake Oakland has a shoreline length of 10.5 miles and a shoreline development factor of 4.2. Shoreline development factor is a measure of the irregularity of the shoreline. A perfectly round lake would have a shoreline development factor of 1.0. With a shoreline development factor of 4.2, the shoreline of Lake Oakland is over four times longer than if the lake were perfectly round.

Lake Oakland has a legally established lake level of 957.5 feet above sea level. The legal level is maintained by a dam at the southeast end of the lake. Water flows from Lake Oakland to the Clinton River which flows into Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie. The elevation difference between Lake Oakland and Lake Erie is about 384 feet.

Historical water quality sampling results indicate that Lake Oakland, on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being excellent water quality and 100 being poor, is 46 indicating moderate water quality.

Lake Oakland has a diverse fishery. The most recent Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fishery report can be found here: <http://www.lakeoaklandboard.org/news.html>.

To protect inland lakes from nutrient pollution, Michigan enacted a law in 2012 that prohibits the application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus unless a new lawn is being established (and phosphorus is needed to promote root growth), or if a soil test indicates a phosphorus deficiency. If you apply lawn fertilizer near the lake, be sure to use a phosphorus-free fertilizer. The middle number on the fertilizer bag (12-0-8) will be zero.

In a recent assessment of the nation's lakes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that lakes lacking natural shorelands were three times more likely to be in poor biological condition. Preserving and restoring natural shoreline areas is one of the most important things you can do to protect water quality.

To find out more about Michigan lakes and what you can do to protect them, visit www.michiganlakeinfo.com.

