

St. Joseph River Jasper Dairy DNR Boat Launch



Fish Species

Steelhead

Species Description

Adult Steelhead average 7-10 lbs. Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon sizes vary depending on prey fish abundance in Lake Michigan. A mixture of stocked fish and wild brown trout from the tributaries can be found. Brown trout are rare in this stream reach, but a few fish move upstream from Lake Michigan during the fall and other fish may occasionally move into the river from tributary streams. Steelhead (mixture of stocked fish and wild fish from tributaries) are the primary species targeted by anglers. Steelhead are most abundant during September through April. Some steelhead move into the river during the summer, but these fish have to take refuge in or at the mouths of coldwater tributaries during hot weather. Wild and stocked Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon are present in September-mid October.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:42.008982 / Long:-86.390147

Noteworthy

This stretch of the St. Joseph River is navigable. During all seasons, boaters should be alert for shallow riffles, boulders, and logs. This is especially true during low water when it may be necessary to walk the boat over riffles. It is difficult to launch and retrieve boats at this site under low flow conditions. Boaters have been stranded in the river when gates have been closed at the Berrien Springs Dam (thus reducing stream flow) during the course of an outing. This portion of the St. Joseph River also provides good fishing for smallmouth bass, walleyes, channel catfish, and flathead catfish. There is a rustic toilet at the site.

Fishing Regulations

The St. Joseph River is a designated Type 3 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide.

Directions to Site

The Jasper Dairy DNR access site is located at the end of Jasper Dairy Road about one mile east of M-139. Jasper Dairy Road intersects with M-139 0.6 miles southeast of John Beers Road. There is a concrete boat ramp and a gravel parking lot with 42 spaces and a Michigan Recreation Passport is required. The launch is approximately 9.7 miles downstream of the Berrien Springs Dam.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)

swmichigan.org