

St. Joseph River Benton Harbor 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 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 and Coho salmon are present in September-mid October.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:42.104032 / Long:-86.465344

Noteworthy

There is a user fee at this site. This portion of the St. Joseph River is dredged to facilitate navigation. Local ordinances prohibit boats from exceeding no-wake speed from the mouth of the river to the upstream (south) end of Marina Island. (Thus, the upper limit of the no-wake zone is about 0.4 miles upstream of the launch.) This site has public toilets. This portion of the St. Joseph River also provides good fishing for smallmouth bass, walleyes, channel catfish, and flathead catfish.

Fishing Regulations

St. Joseph River at the Benton Harbor DNR Boat Launch is a designated Type 3 trout stream.

Directions to Site

The DNR access site in Benton Harbor is located on the west side of Riverview Drive 0.6 miles south of the intersection with West Main Street (also known as Business Route 94). The access site has a concrete boat ramp and a paved parking lot with 113 spaces. The launch is 1.6 miles upstream of Lake Michigan.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)

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