

Manistee River Tippy Dam State Recreation Area



Fish Species

Brown Trout; Steelhead

Species Description

The Manistee River below Tippy Dam is annually stocked with 60,000 brown trout, 84,000 steelhead, and 100,000 coho salmon. For several miles below Tippy Dam the Manistee provides year-round opportunities for catching resident brown trout over 20 inches in length. Steelhead are available year-round, although the best opportunities to catch them occur in March and April. Chinook and coho salmon are available in the fall. Steelhead average from 3-10 lbs, coho salmon from 2-6 lbs, and Chinook salmon are up to 20 lbs.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:44.26841 / Long:-85.93562

Noteworthy

The Manistee River below Tippy Dam is one of the most popular fishing locations in Michigan. This site provides outstanding fishing opportunities year-round. The stocked brown trout grow very well here and can reach large sizes. However, the resident brown trout fishery is often overlooked, as anglers typically associate Tippy Dam with salmon and steelhead fishing. Fly fishing is a popular way to catch the brown trout, although bait fishing and tossing lures are also productive techniques. The Manistee River here is very wadeable, with large gravel riffles punctuated by pockets and deeper holes. From here, anglers can hike downstream for several miles, and can access other popular sites including Suicide Bend and the Sawdust Hole (although parking is available near those sites as well). This site offers many amenities, including a rustic campground, a boat launch, a universally accessible fishing platform, a fish cleaning station, rustic toilets, and parking for 42 vehicles. Several bait and tackle shops are available in nearby Brethren. A Michigan Recreational Passport is required to enter the state recreation area.

Fishing Regulations

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

Directions to Site

From Manistee travel east on M-55 for 16 miles, then turn left (north) on High Bridge Road. Proceed 5.5 miles and turn right (east) onto Coates Hwy. Proceed 3.5 miles and turn right (south) onto