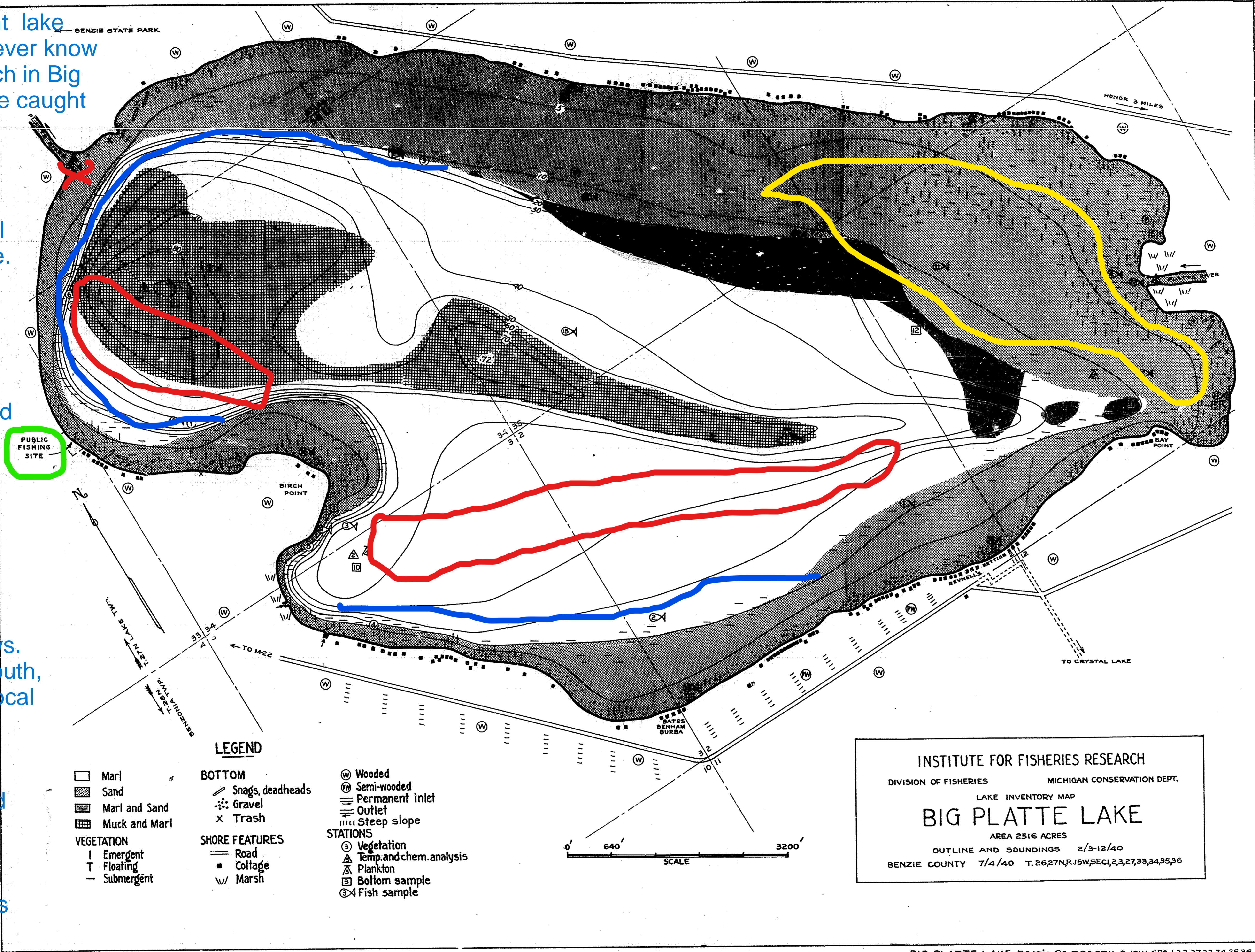


This is an excellent lake for fishing! You never know what you may catch in Big Platte Lake. I have caught steelhead, big walleyes, bluegill, 14 pound catfish, huge smallmouth, and the occasional large northern pike. Almost all of the walleyes are legal and of good size. In the Spring they feed on coho fingerlings released from the Platte River State Hatchery so try to avoid fishing for walleyes then. Try the areas in Red trolling with crawler harnesses and flicker minnows. As for the smallmouth, I can tell you the local bass clubs love to fish this lake and for good reason. They are huge and there's lots of em. Fish the dropoffs marked in blue and near the docks in the Spring.



The areas in yellow are where I've had the best luck for big panfish. Most of the perch are small on this lake but there are some nice gills on it. You'll find the catfish shallow in the Spring and you'll catch them trolling crawlers slow in 30 feet of water. You'll know when you hook into one as you won't be able to move it hardly until you tire it out. Get ready for a battle! Same thing for the huge pike, I've had them hit harnesses and smaller flutter spoons. I've caught one steelhead and I know many friends who have also caught very respectable brown trout too.

On a side note, the swimming for the family is excellent by the Platte River, marked with a red X.

BIG PLATTE LAKE Benzie Co. T.26,27N, R.15W, SEC.1,2,3,27,33,34,35,36