



Scenic views...

Little Lost Lake (see map) is also part of the Quartz Lake Recreation area. Little Lost Lake is located about 1/2 mile before Quartz Lake on the Quartz Lake Road. A hiking trail that starts at Quartz Lake leads to Little Lost Lake campground. Little Lost Lake covers 102 acres and has picnic and camping areas. Because it is very shallow, fish cannot survive over winter in Little Lost Lake. ADF&G annually stocks about 1,000 catchable-size rainbow trout there, supplying a good summer, fall, and early winter fishery.



hiking...



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Fishing Quartz Lake

Spring



...leads begin to open, fish begin to feed ...

Summer/Fall



Alaska Department of Fish & Game



Winter



Quartz Lake State Recreation Area, 16 miles north of Delta Junction provides many outdoor recreational opportunities: hiking, camping, picnicking, boating, hunting, and, of course, fishing—the most popular pastime at Quartz Lake.

Quartz Lake is the largest stocked-lake sport fishery in the Tanana River drainage. Anglers harvest more than 28,000 fish there annually, and the average angler catches three fish per day.

From mile 277.8 Richardson Highway, a 3-mile road leads to the lake and state park facilities. Picnic sites with shelters, toilets and water are conveniently located. A handicap accessible fishing dock and boat ramp provide easy access to this popular fishery. Two state park cabins are available for rent, and, during winter months, public-use ice-fishing houses can be rented. For information about these rentals, contact the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, (907) 451-2695. Because Alaska State Parks maintains the facilities, State Park campsite and boat launch fees are collected.

Private cabins are scattered along the northern and eastern shore. About half the land along the shore is undeveloped, and there is no road access beyond the campground. The lake covers 1,500 acres, more than 80 percent of which is less than 15 feet deep. Maximum lake depth is 40 feet (see map).

In 1970, Alaska Department of Fish and Game began stocking fish in Quartz Lake. Today, ADF&G annually stocks about 197,000 rainbow trout, coho (silver) salmon, and Arctic char.

Anglers 16 years and older must have an Alaska sport fishing license (or PID card, if applicable) in order to sport fish in Quartz Lake or any other water in Alaska.

Always consult the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for the water in which you plan to fish.

Sport fishing regulations booklets are available at ADF&G offices and all license vendors.

Quartz Lake is very productive—fish that are stocked as fingerlings are able to grow and can reach considerable size. Silver salmon grow to about 13 inches by the end of their three-year life cycle; rainbow trout can reach lengths of 18 inches or more in five years. Quartz Lake Arctic char can reach lengths of 28 inches.

Summer/Fall

From mid-June to mid-September, aquatic vegetation is thick in the shallower waters of Quartz Lake. Although the flowering lilies that dot the lake with yellow and green are a spectacular sight, they are a confounding factor to shore anglers. To avoid the inevitable snags and snarled line, shore anglers can fish near the boat ramp and along the rocky shoreline where vegetation is sparse. For more effective fishing, a small boat, canoe, or float tube will easily take you beyond the troublesome plant life.



Appropriate tackle in Quartz Lake. Plugs and spoons with good action should make for a successful day of fishing, if conditions are right. Artificial flies like egg sucking leeches, muddler minnows, damselfish, and woolly worms are very popular. Some anglers anchor in 20 to 30 feet of water and fish with shrimp or salmon roe for silver salmon and Arctic char.

Winter

By mid-November the ice is usually thick enough to support ice houses near the middle of the lake. Ice houses protect the angler from subzero temperatures and the stiff winds blowing across the lake. The inside of an ice-house is relatively dark, and anglers can see fish swimming beneath their ice fishing holes. Because they can actually watch a fish take the bait, most kids immensely enjoy ice fishing.



Lake ice should be at least 12 inches thick before you take a vehicle on the ice. Even then, hazards exist. The lake doesn't freeze evenly. The presence of underground springs, amount of snow cover, wind, and temperature fluctuations all affect ice thickness. Ice forms last over the deepest part of the lake, so even if the ice 10 feet off shore is 12 inches thick, ice over the middle of the lake will usually be much thinner. Always use caution and common sense when traveling on the ice. For more information on ice fishing pick up ADF&G's *Winter Fishing* brochure.

ADF&G issues each registered ice house a number that must be painted on the side and the roof of the building in characters at least a foot high.



When you fish through the ice, try jigging with shrimp or salmon roe. Arctic char come to bait more often when you add a small flashy spoon for color.

Anglers who wish to leave an ice house on the lake overnight, or for the season, must register the house with ADF&G.

By mid-February, ice can be 40 inches thick on the lake, so you will need an auger extension to drill through it. The ice begins to weaken by mid-April, and ADF&G requires ice house owners to remove their houses from the lake by April 30 each year.

Spring

When the ice is no longer fast to shore and leads begin to open, the larger rainbow trout come into the shallows as part of their spawning behavior. The smaller fish also come into the shallows to feed. This narrow window of time provides some of the most successful fishing of the season.

If you want more information about fishing at Quartz Lake, call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game: (907) 895-4632 in Delta, or (907) 459-7228 in Fairbanks. For information about other recreational opportunities, call Alaska State Parks: (907) 905-4599 in Delta in summer, or (907) 451-2695 in Fairbanks year-round.

Alaska's Anglers Pay Their Way!

The research and management projects which provided information for this pamphlet were funded through anglers' contributions to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. Anglers pay a manufacturer's excise tax every time they purchase sport fishing equipment. These anglers' dollars are distributed to state sport fishery management agencies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Federal Aid dollars and money from the sale of Alaska sport fishing licenses fund the Division of Sport Fish management, research, habitat, hatchery, education, and access programs.

