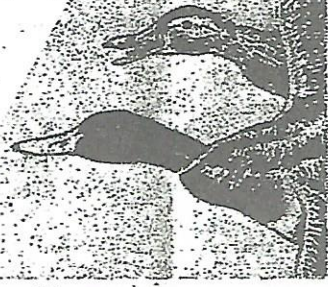




Jim Peterson's
**Outdoor
 News**
The Sportsman's Weekly



LAKE OF THE WEEK

**Mink, Somers
 Lakes 'Hot'**

Lakes of Week.

One of the "hottest tips" for ice fishermen last weekend was the "slab" crappies of Mink and Somers Lakes north of Maple Lake, Minn., in Wright County, about 40 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

They are the Outdoor News Lakes of the Week.

"I'VE HEARD several reports that the crappies were 'hot' at Mink Lake," said Jim Markham of Markham's Sporting Goods on Highway 55. "And, I know they're getting big ones because the guys all want fatheads for bait. Fatheads get the biggest crappies."

Two people who stopped at the Outdoor News booth at the Minneapolis Boat Show told us of the big crappies in Somers Lake, which is connected with Mink Lake.

THE MINNESOTA Department of Natural Resources considers the two lakes as one for management purposes and classes them as a waterfowl-walleye-panfish lake.

"There are only two deep holes, one in each lake," said Markham, "They're the only good places to fish, so it isn't hard to find the right spot. Just follow the crowd."

MARKHAM ALSO said the lakes are good for summer fishing, and boats can get under the bridge (which does not show on the map) when the water isn't too high or too low.

The public access, with 5.4 acres of ground, is located on the southwest side of Mink Lake near the channel to Somers Lake. It is owned and maintained by the DNR.

DNR RECORDS also show that Mink Lake has an area of 301 acres and a maximum depth of 39 feet, while Somers Lake has an area of 158 acres and a maximum depth of 21 feet.

The 1971 lake survey showed that shoal soils are 30% sand, 30% muck and 40% sand-muck. The water has a green-brown color from algae and is fairly cloudy with a Secchi disc reading of 2.6 feet.

FISH PRESENT in test nets included carp, golden shiners, black and brown bullheads, northern pike, walleyes, green sunfish, pumpkinseeds, bluegills and black crappies.

Fish stocking in recent years:
 1973-100,000 walleye fry and 1,600 adult bluegills; '77-1,600 adult bluegills; '76-1,000 adult crappies; '75-3,400 adult and 2,275 yearling sunfish; '71-300,000 walleye fry, 11,250 northern pike fingerlings, 2,445 adult sunfish and 565 adult crappies; '70-200,000 walleye fry and 1,630 yearling sunfish.

Rough fish removal operations:

1978-79-9,500 pounds of carp and 400 pounds of bullheads; '74-75-1,050 pounds of bullheads; '70-71-5,850 pounds of carp, 3,825 pounds of bullheads and 200 pounds of perch; '69-70-1,550 pounds of bullheads.

MUCH OF the shallow water in Mink and Somers Lakes is good for waterfowl.

For further information on Mink and Somers Lakes contact Markham's Sporting Goods on Highway 55 near Hamel, Minn., or the Montrose, Minn., area DNR fisheries headquarters.