



TECH BULLETIN

OREGON

DETROIT LAKE

Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team.

Detroit Lake is located 50 miles southeast of the Oregon capital city of Salem, just off Highway 22. Detroit Dam, completed in 1953, was built as a flood-control project as well as a power generating source. It controls runoff from 438 square miles of the central Cascade Mountains.

The lake's 3,000 surface acres and 33 miles of shoreline offer excellent fishing for rainbow trout, kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon), chinook salmon and brown bullhead catfish. The lake is one of the most heavily stocked in the state and includes annual plants of 100,000 catchable rainbow (20,000 before opening of general trout season) as well as 100,000 chinook fingerlings.

RAINBOW TROUT

A variety of fishing methods produce fine catches of rainbows from opening day through June while water temperatures remain cool. Bank anglers casting small lures and plunking bait do very well at this time of year.

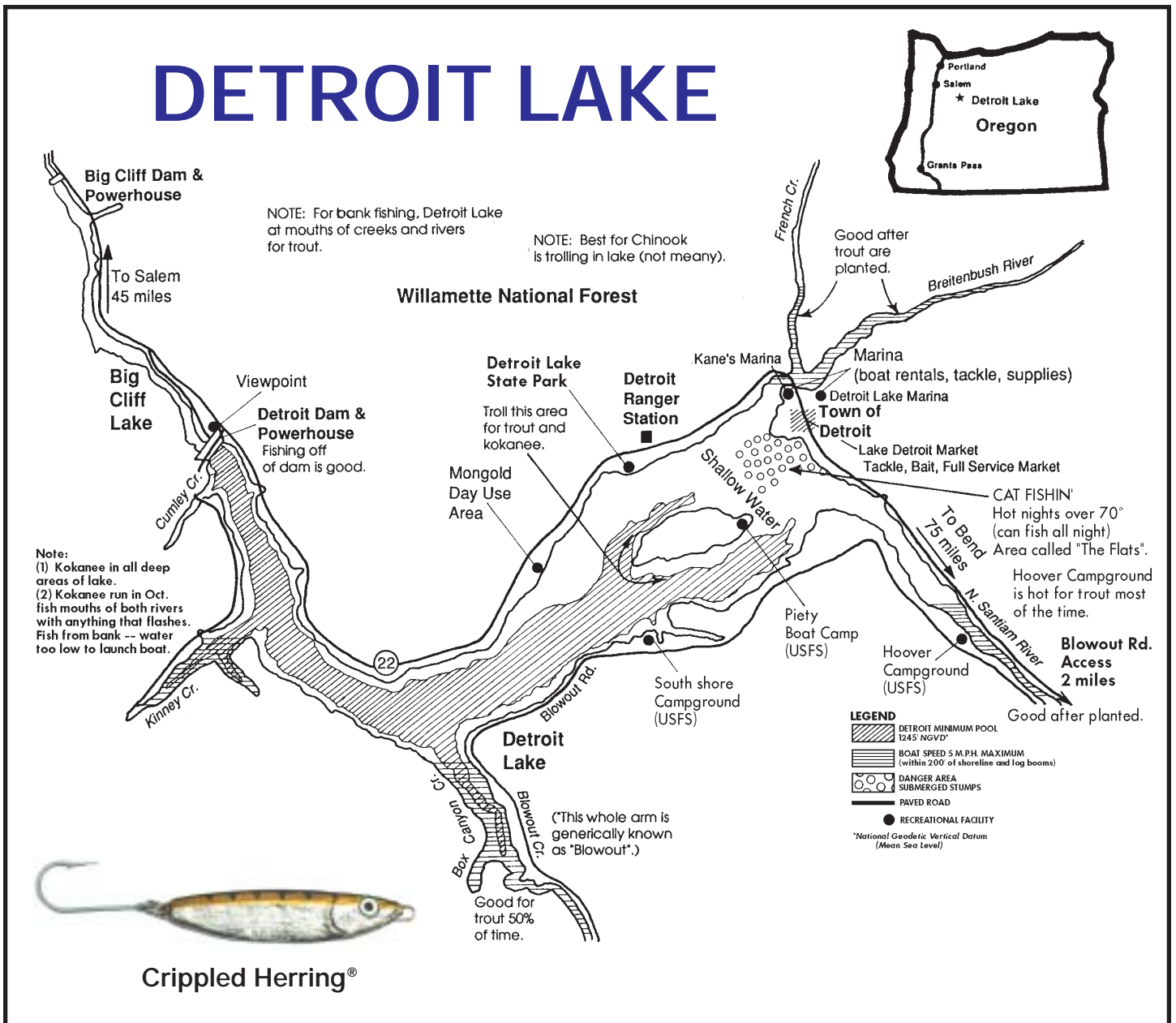
Those who cast weighted spinners and spoons also have good success. **Krocodile**® spoons in 3/16-oz. and 1/4-oz. weights in **Chrome**, **Rainbow Trout**,

"... excellent fishing for rainbow trout, kokanee, chinook salmon and brown bullhead catfish ... one of the most heavily stocked lakes in the state ..."

Pearl Bikini and **Frog** patterns; spinners such as the 1/6- or 1/4-oz. **Luhr Jensen**™ **Bang-Tail**® in **Grasshopper**, **Frog** and **Salmon Fly** patterns, and size 1, 2, and 3 **Metric Pro**™ Spinners in **Nickel** and **Brass** finishes are all good choices.

Bank anglers using bait generally tip their hooks with the usual fare including worms, salmon eggs and assorted floating baits such as **Berkley**® **Power Bait**®.

Detroit Lake trollers who fish for rainbows agree that a **Ford Fender**® makes a very productive attractor. Follow it with one of these proven lures, all of which offer great combinations for a full stringer: Size 1 or 2 **Needlefish**®, K3, K4 or K5 **Kwikfish**®, size 502 or 503 **Super Dupers**® or **Hot Shots**® in sizes



060 or 070. A low speed is recommended so the blades of the Ford Fender spin slowly. Use 24 to 48 inches of four- to 8-pound test leader between the attractor and the lure. Make

“When fishing for chinook salmon, a faster trolling speed is necessary.”

sure that hooks are “sticky” sharp by using a Luhr Jensen *Sharp Hook File™*.

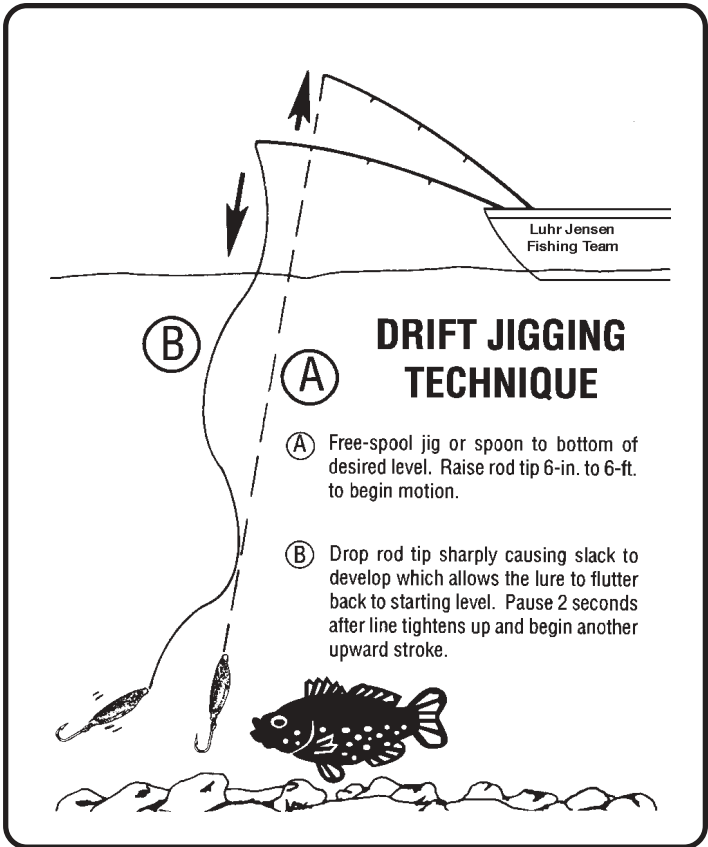
KOKANEE SALMON

Kokanee trollers should remember they are fishing for landlocked sockeye salmon. These fish like bright-colored lures with lots of flash. Needlefish, *Kokanee Kings™* and Super Dupers are very popular. These should be trailed behind a lake troll such as a *Willow Leaf* or *School-O-Minnows™*, or behind an 006 or 008 *Abe & Al®* rotating flasher using 18 to 48 inches of six- to 10-pound leader. A rubber snubber placed between the lake troll and leader will act as a shock absorber and help keep a hook from tearing out of the koke’s soft mouth.

Late in the summer, when water temperatures rise above 55 degrees, kokanee often can be found in deeper, cooler water (sometimes 100 feet or more) where they congregate in large schools. The jigging technique (see illustration) can then be very effective. *Nordic™* jigs in size 025, *Deep Stingers™* in one- and 3/4-ounce sizes and the one-ounce *Crippled Herring®* have proved themselves to be very productive. Again, bright colors, such as *Chrome/Blue* and *Mother-of-Pearl* work best.

CHINOOK

When fishing for chinook, a faster trolling speed is necessary. A large lake troll such as a *Ford Fender®*, *Dave Davis®* or *Cowbell®*, or a dodger will draw their attention. Lures to use with these trolls and dodgers should be somewhat larger



than those used for trout or kokanee. Kwikfish in sizes K5, K6 and K7 and #2 and #3 Needlefish work very well.

CATFISH

Catfish anglers concentrate their efforts in the shallow north end portion of the lake known as “the flats”. Normal catfish fare includes worms, shrimp or other baits commonly known as “stink baits”. Fishing for these bottom-dwellers often is done late at night, from late spring throughout the summer, but is particularly good on hot nights over 70 degrees.

SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your fishing success is to maintain super-sharp hooks on your lures at all times. A fine-toothed file such as Luhr Jensen’s *Sharp Hook File* is the absolute best hook sharpening tool available.

Hold the file parallel to the hook point and with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal on at least two sides to obtain a sticky-sharp point with a knife-like cutting edge. These files are available in 4-1/4” and 5-1/2” sizes and three styles: tang handle, with unbreakable plastic handle and with a handy stretch tubing “lanyard”.

TROLLING RIGS

Rainbow Trout

#1 Kokanee King™

#1 or #2 Needlefish®

#60 or #70 Hot Sho®

K3, K4 or K5 Kwikfish®

#503 or #506 Super Dupe®

Ford Fender Lake Troll®

Kokanee

School-O-Minnows™
Needlefish®

Willow Leaf
Kokanee King™

School-O-Minnows™

Chinook Salmon

(larger size trolls)

Ford Fender®

Abe & Al®
Flasher

Dave Davis®

Dave Cowbell®

Jensen Dodger™

K5, K6 or K7 Kwikfish®
#2 or #3 Needlefish®

POPULAR FINISHES: Nickel/Red, Brass/Red, Rainbow, Fire/Silver Prism-Lite®.

LAKE TROLLING TIPS

- 1. TROLL SLOWLY:** Big fish will not expend any more energy than necessary to catch a meal. Also, most lures will not perform correctly at fast speeds. The best advice is to troll very s-l-o-w-l-y. The slower the better.
- 2. VARY YOUR SPEED:** While slow is the password, this does not mean slow all the time. A lure running through the water at a constant speed, at a constant depth and giving off the same vibration pattern will not catch many fish . . . there’s just nothing there to indicate an easy meal is available or that something is in trouble. Slowly, yes, but adjust your speed every few minutes to change the lure’s speed and vibration pattern.
- 3. WORK IN “S” CURVES:** Consistent trolling results require that you do everything possible to keep from running in a straight line. We recommend an “S” pattern because every time the troll and lure are on the inside swing of the boat, the lure will drop deeper and slow down. On an outside turn, it will speed up and rise. With each turn you will impart a different action to the troll and trailing lure, signaling “Meal Time” to nearby fish.