# Angler's Guide to Stocked Lakes in the Yukon







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March, 2006

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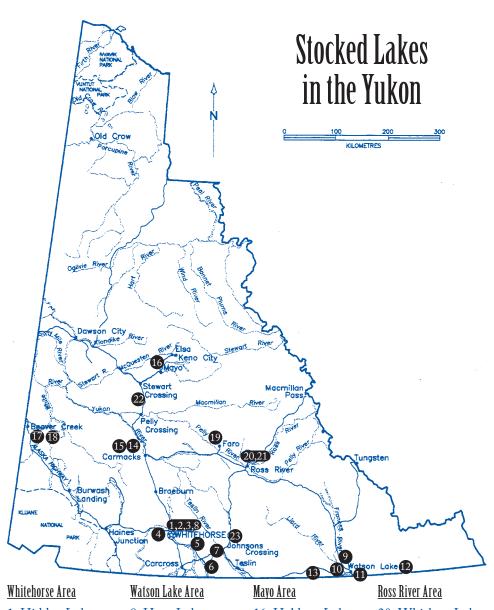
- Yukon Government collection
- Environment Yukon, Fisheries Section staff
- Donna Milne: cover (3rd inset), pg 11, pg 19
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## **Good Fishing - Easy Access**

Yukon residents and visitors have been enjoying the benefits of rainbow trout stocking since the Alaska Highway was opened to public travel in the late 1940s.

Today, Environment Yukon's Fisheries Section works closely with the Yukon Fish and Game Association to provide good fishing opportunities within easy access of most communities. Twenty-four lakes are now stocked with rainbow trout, arctic char, kokanee salmon, chinook salmon and bull trout. Stocked lakes not only provide good fishing, they also take some of the angling pressure off slow-growing native fish such as lake trout.

Families can easily reach most of the lakes listed in this booklet. You can drive to many of them. A few require a short walk on trails no longer than 1 km. Access roads are not maintained through the winter but hard-packed snowmobile trails usually provide easy access for ice fishing.

#### **Fishing regulations**

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- You need a valid Yukon fishing licence if you want to angle in stocked lakes.
- You do NOT need a salmon tag to fish for stocked chinook salmon in Judas Lake.
- The daily catch limit for stocked rainbow trout and arctic char is five fish of each species (the daily catch limit for wild populations is two fish of each species).
- You must read the Fishing Regulations Summary booklet to learn about other rules that apply.

#### Protecting the environment

- Bring out all your garbage, especially old fishing line.
- If you want to build a campfire use an existing fire circle and burn dead wood only. Don't cut down live trees.
- Make sure your fire is completely out before you leave.

For information on live release please check page 23.

#### **Rainbow Trout**

Rainbow trout have been stocked successfully in the Yukon since the late 1940s. The rainbow is a popular game fish because it has a beautiful appearance, fights aggressively, tastes great and can be caught by fly fishing anglers. It strikes vigorously at artificial lures as well as natural baits.

This trout has a light-coloured body sprinkled with black spots, which line up in radiating rows on the tail. Its name comes from the broad stroke of pinkish colour, which runs down the side of the fish from its head to near its tail. As with most fish, the back is darker than the sides.

The fine tasting flesh ranges from white to bright red in colour, depending on the fish's diet. Rainbow trout eat insects, plankton, crustaceans, fish eggs and small fish. Their habit of taking adult insects on the surface makes dry fly fishing particularly effective.

Rainbows can live as long as 11 years but the normal life span is 4 to 6 years. Rainbows stocked in small pothole lakes seldom reproduce.

#### Arctic Char

The Yukon stocking program was expanded in 1990 to include arctic char. This fish shares many of the characteristics that have made the rainbow trout so popular.

Small char may jump several times when hooked. They can be caught on streamers and occasionally on dry flies, but a flashy spoon is considered most effective. Ice fishing anglers catch this fish on spoons and pixies with roe bags attached.

The arctic char has a slightly forked tail and a dark body covered with light spots, except for the head. Although its colour can vary tremendously, this fish is normally silvery-green on its sides with large pink, red or cream-coloured spots. The lower fins have white leading edges.

The flesh colour varies from white to red, depending on the fish's diet. Young char feed heavily on shrimp and insect larvae. Adult char feed mainly on small fish and insect larvae found on lake bottoms.

Wild char populations usually spawn in September or October. Arctic char may live as long as 15 years but they grow slowly, especially after they reach 10 years of age.





#### **Bull Trout**

Bull trout have long been confused with Dolly Varden although we now know they are a distinct species. They occupy different geographic ranges in the Yukon and are found within the Liard drainage.

Yukon Fisheries staff have conducted egg takes on bull trout and currently have a brood stock at the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery. In September 2005, 900 fry were stocked in Long Lake.

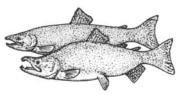
Although similar in appearance to Dolly Varden, the easiest way to distinguish using physical characteristics are the bull trout have no black spots on the dorsal fin, and the eye is closer to the top of the head than Dolly Varden.

Bull trout are found in deep pools of large rivers, deep cold lakes and small streams.

Their diet is made up of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and become piscivorous in large rivers and lakes. Spawning occurs in fall over gravel stream beds, and the color change is very dramatic. The population in Long Lake will not reproduce.

#### Kokanee Salmon

Kokanee are landlocked sockeye salmon. They are identical to the sea-run sockeye except for their size, which is about 20-40 cm (8-16 in.) in length. They follow the same life cycle as their sea-going relatives and usually mature at four years of age.



Kokanee can be caught on reddish, fluorescentcoloured wet flies, reddish wool or lures fished at or near the bottom.

Kokanee are bright silver-bluish in colour and typically trout-like in appearance. At spawning time they take on the appearance and colouration of spawning sea-run sockeye. Males become bright red on the back and sides with dirty white underparts. Their heads turn green while their snouts and the sides of their jaws are grey. Females have a similar appearance, but the body is a darker grey-red colour.

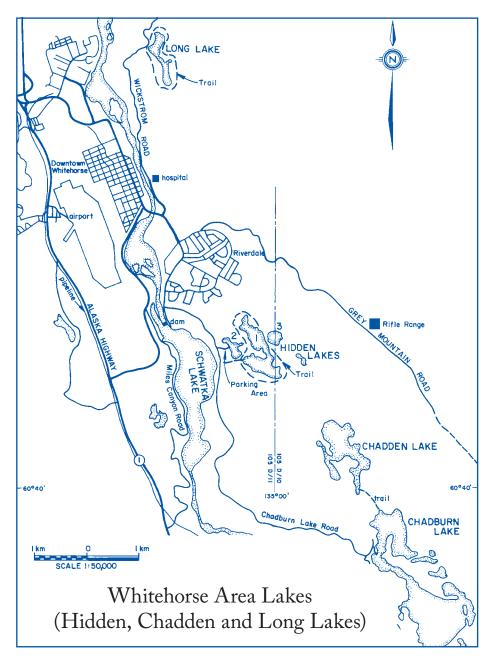
Kokanee spawn during late August to early September and die at or near the site where their life began.





Whitehorse Area

The Hidden Lakes are located on the east side of the Chadburn Lake Road behind the Riverdale subdivision. Chadburn Lake Road starts at Nisutlin Drive just before the Whitehorse Fish Ladder.

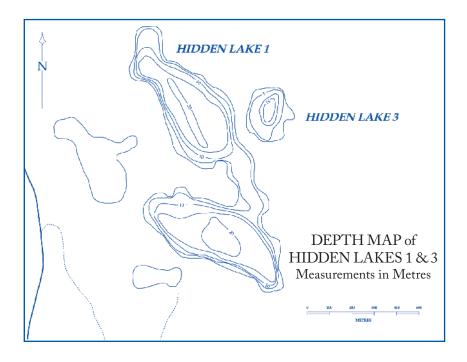


A short side road beginning at km 1.7 of the Chadburn Lake Road leads to Hidden Lake 2. The road has been improved and parking is available at the lake. A footpath beginning at the south shore of Hidden Lake 2 leads to Hidden Lake 1 where it joins a path that runs around the lake and joins up with Hidden Lake 3. The trail provides a complete view of this lake. A narrow rise of land separates Hidden Lakes 1 and 3.



Hidden Lakes 1 and 3 are especially popular with Whitehorse residents during the spring ice fishing period. Anglers are often able to catch rainbow trout up to 2 kg (4 lb.) in weight. A canoe or small boat is useful in these lakes in the summer because the shorelines are choked with snags and submerged trees.

Rainbow trout stocking began in 1982 and Hidden Lakes 1 and 3 have been stocked every two years since then. The latest stocking occurred in 2005 with Hidden Lake 1 receiving both rainbow trout and Kokanee salmon and Hidden Lake 3 receiving both rainbow trout and a small number of arctic char. Hidden Lake 2 has not been stocked since 1985 when it became apparent that the fish were not surviving through the winter.



#### Chadden Lake

Chadden Lake is reached from the Chadburn Lake Road in the Riverdale subdivision. This road begins at Nisutlin Drive just before the Whitehorse Fish Ladder. Drive to Chadburn Lake at the end of the road. A 1 km footpath connects the northwest corner of Chadburn Lake to the south end of Chadden Lake. The path can be reached by canoe or by walking along the northwest shore of Chadburn Lake.

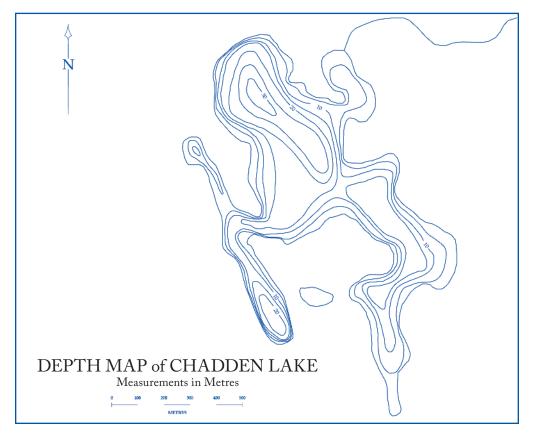
You may want to portage a canoe over to Chadden Lake because much of the lake is ringed with partially submerged trees making shore fishing difficult.



*N*hitehorse Area

Rainbow trout up to 3-4 kg have been taken from this lake. It's a popular fishing spot for Whitehorse anglers.

Chadden Lake was first stocked with rainbow trout in 1980 and has been stocked every two years since then. The most recent stocking took place in 2005 when 23,000 rainbow trout were released.



#### Long Lake

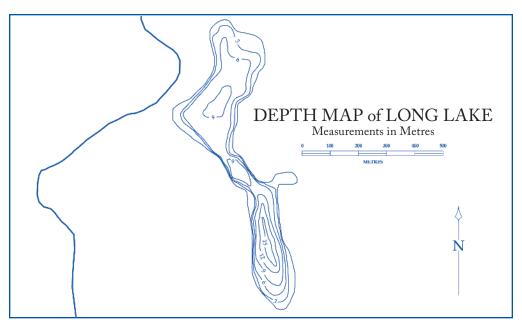
Long Lake is reached from Wickstrom Road, which starts in front of the Whitehorse General Hospital on the east side of the Yukon River. Follow this road for about 4 km until you see Long Lake on the right hand side. There is plenty of parking space and fire-pits are available for cooking your catch. A well-beaten trail around the lake provides plenty of opportunities for shoreline fishing and hiking.

Long Lake was first stocked in the 1960s and rainbow trout averaging 2 kg (4 lb.) were caught. The largest rainbow ever taken from a stocked lake came from here. It weighed in at 8.6 kg (19 lb.). Unfortunately, by the early 1990s the food source had been seriously depleted. Attempts to stock arctic char and chinook salmon were unsuccessful. In 1995 fisheries staff surveyed the lake and found few fish had survived from previous stockings of this lake.

By 1998 the food sources had recovered. Long Lake was stocked with Kokanee

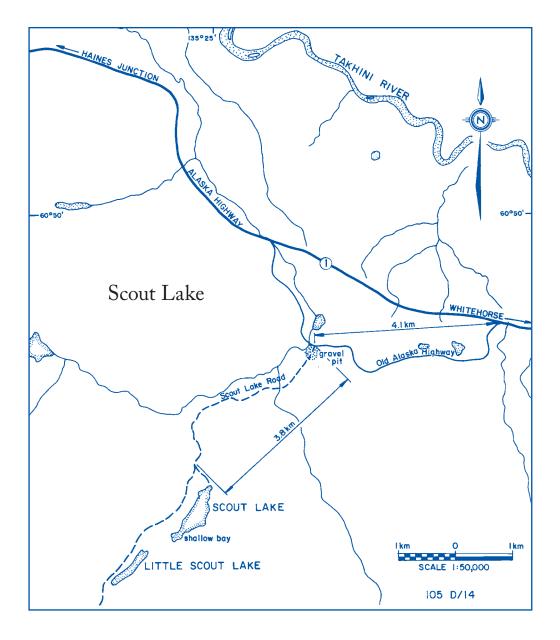
salmon, giving anglers an opportunity to fish for a species that is otherwise not found in the Whitehorse area. The Kokanee are gone now so in September 2005, 900 bull trout fry averaging about 70 -100 grams were stocked. These fish come from the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery's brood stock. Their growth is slow but take a walk around the lake in the summer of 2006 and see if you see any.





# Scout Lake

Scout Lake is reached from the Alaska Highway west of Whitehorse. Follow the Alaska Highway to the Klondike Highway junction. Continue along the Alaska Highway for another 6.7 km where you will turn left (south) onto the old Alaska Highway. Turn at the gravel pit and follow the unmaintained road for 3.8 km, then take the left-hand fork in the road.



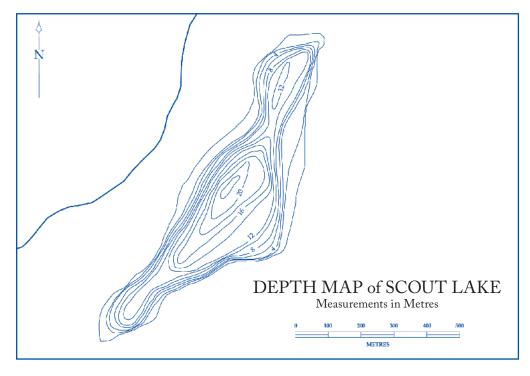
It leads 200 metres to a small parking area above the lake. A canoe can easily be dragged down to the lake. The shoreline is clear of trees making it easy to fish from shore.

This lake was most recently stocked with rainbow trout in 2005.

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Local residents have reported great catches from Scout Lake during open-water and ice fishing seasons. The lake continues to produce rainbow trout in the 3-4 kg (7-9 lb.) range. Food is plentiful making the trout difficult to catch.

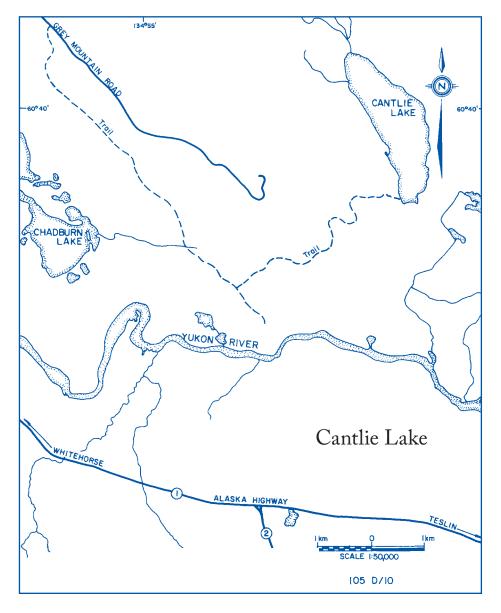




#### **Cantlie Lake**

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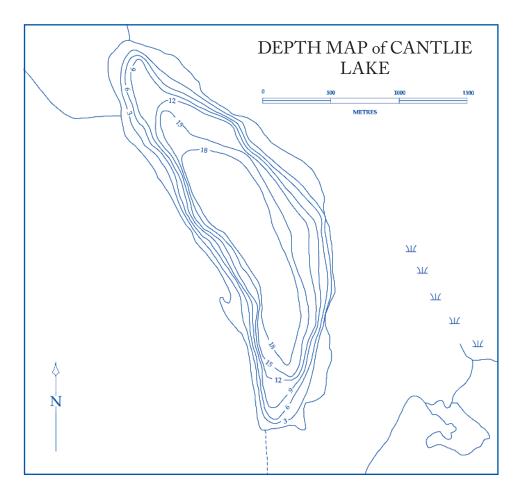
Located behind Grey Mountain, Cantlie Lake is reached from the Grey Mountain Road in the Riverdale subdivision. The trail leading to Cantlie Lake branches off the right hand side of Grey Mountain Road at km 8, between the rifle range and the lookout. It's an old cat trail, not recommended for full size vehicles, including four-wheel-drives. The lake is best accessed by foot, bike, ATV, snowmobile or air.



The distance from the Grey Mountain Road to the lake is 14 km. There are quite a few trails branching off from the Cantlie Lake trail. Just keep to the left and you'll be okay. There are three difficult, steep hills near the end of the trail so be careful.

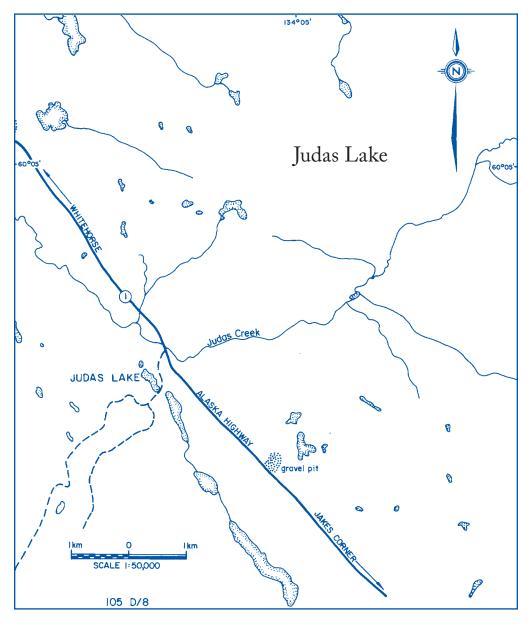
Cantlie Lake is the largest of the stocked lakes and the first to be stocked with arctic char. A total of 70,000 fry were released in this lake in 1990 and 1991. This is one of the few lakes where stocked arctic char are spawning successfully, because of this, restocking has not been necessary.

Since 1998, Fisheries staff has been conducting egg takes at the lake and this success has ensured that other lakes are stocked with locally grown arctic char.



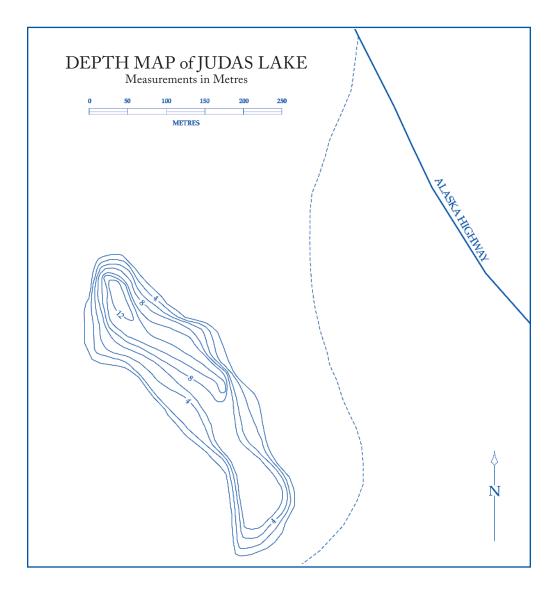
# Judas Lake

Judas Lake is reached from the Alaska Highway, 75 km south of Whitehorse. Follow the highway past the south end of Marsh Lake to the point where Judas Creek crosses the highway. A short rough trail, easily visible on the west side of the highway, leads to Judas Lake. Stay on the trail that initially runs parallel with the highway.



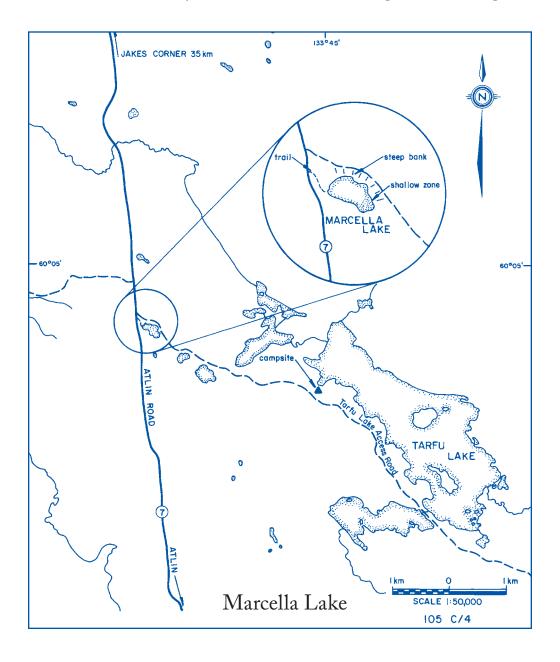


Rainbow trout stocking began in 1982. Stockings have been successful and anglers have reported good summer fishing. Judas Lake was last stocked in 2004 with 5,000 rainbow trout and in 2003 with 2,000 Chinook salmon. The small fish that you'll see in the shallows are lake chub, a great food source for the larger rainbows in the lake.



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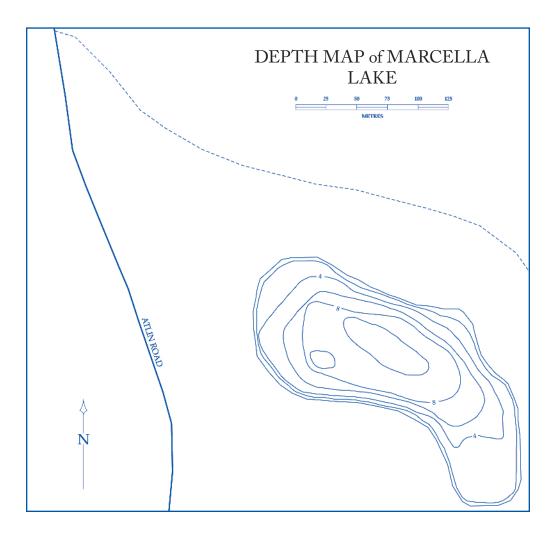
Marcella Lake is located at km 33 of the Atlin Road, at the junction of the Tarfu Lake access road. This small pothole lake is visible from the Atlin Road on the east side. A short foot trail leads down to the lake. Shore angling is possible but a small boat or canoe would allow you to fish the lake without having to scramble along



its steep shoreline. The trail to the lake is steep, but short, so a canoe can easily be lowered to the water.

Overnight camping facilities are available at the nearby Tarfu Lake campground. Tarfu Lake has wild populations of arctic grayling, northern pike and lake trout.

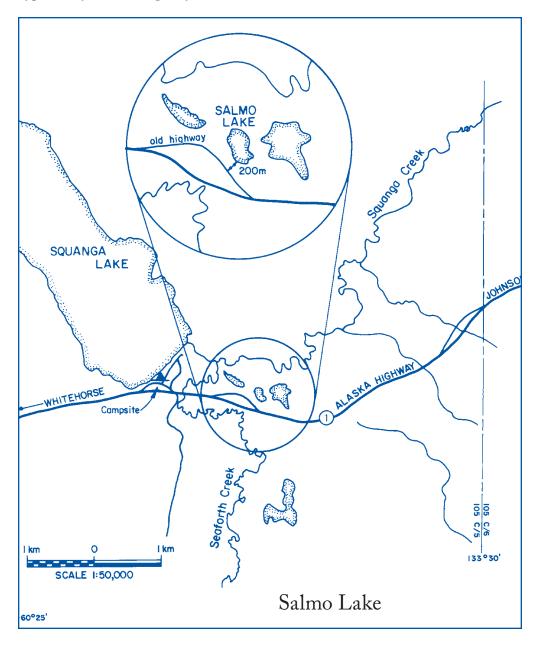
Marcella Lake has been stocked with rainbow trout since the 1970's. Concentrations of rainbow trout, ranging in size from 1-2 kg (2-4 lb.) are found swimming in the shallows. This is a great fly-fishing lake, so get out your belly boats!

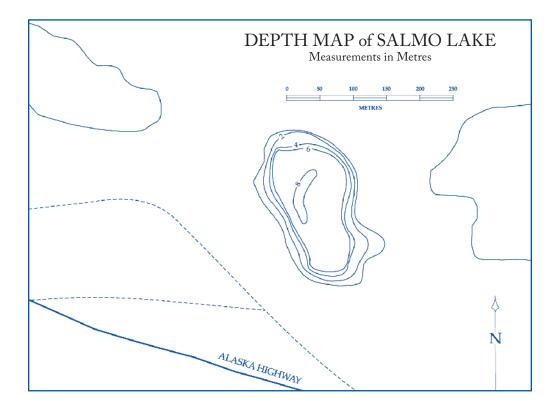


#### Salmo Lake

Vhitehorse Area

Salmo Lake is located near Squanga Lake at km 1368 on the Alaska Highway. It is the middle of the three small lakes on the north side of the highway. To reach Salmo Lake, turn on to the short piece of old Alaska Highway that has been bypassed by the new highway. A 20-metre trail leads to Salmo Lake.





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You can camp at the Squanga Lake campground and fish Squanga as well as Salmo Lake. Squanga Lake has wild populations of whitefish and arctic grayling as well as an excellent northern pike fishery.

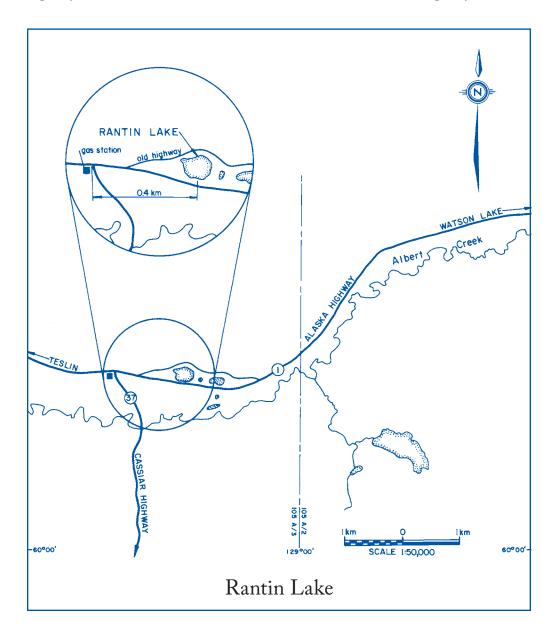
Salmo Lake has been stocked with rainbow trout since 1982. The most recent stocking occurred in 2004. The lake is easily fished from shore and fly-fishing anglers have reported good results.



#### **Rantin Lake**

Watson Lake Area

Rantin Lake is located about 1 km east of the Alaska and Cassiar highway junction, which is 15 km west of Watson Lake. It is visible from the road. In the summer anglers can reach the lake from a section of the old Alaska Highway where vehicles can be parked away from highway traffic. During winter, when the old highway is snowed over, Rantin Lake is accessed from the Alaska Highway.





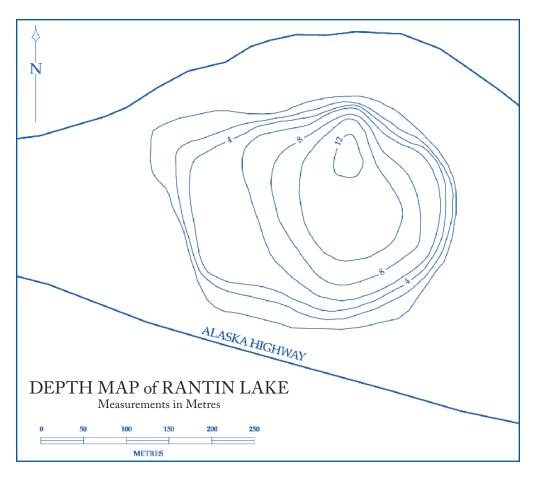
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Rantin Lake is a great ice fishing lake. About 10,000 rainbow trout were stocked here during three releases in the early 1980's. The most recent stocking was in 2005.

About half of the lake can be fished from shore. A small boat or canoe can be easily launched at several points.

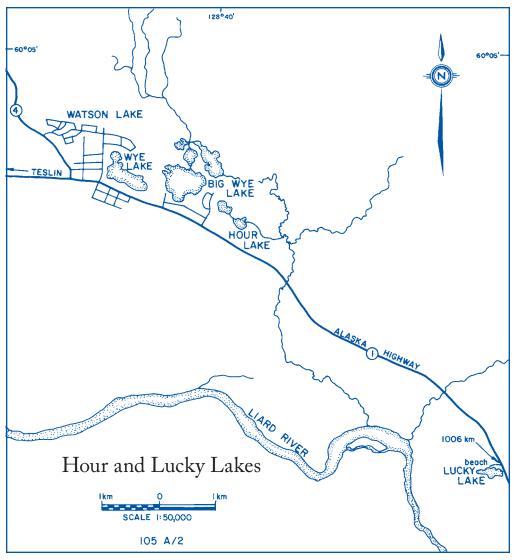


Watson Lake Area

Hour Lake lies within the Bellview subdivision in the Town of Watson Lake. A sign at the east end of town provides direction to the lake. There is a ski trail around the lake and a boardwalk with access points for fishing.

Hour Lake was first stocked with rainbow trout in 1990 and was restocked with 4,000 rainbow trout in June 2005.

To give residents a variety and a new species to fish for, 1,500 Kokanee fry were stocked in August 2005. Look for these fish in the spring. They are easy to see as they swim as a school along the shoreline.



## Lucky Lake

Lucky Lake is on the south side of the Alaska Highway about 10 km south of Watson Lake and is located right beside the road. This lake is a popular recreation and swimming area for Watson Lake residents, so please be careful with your hooks. Try going barbless.

Lucky Lake is easily fished from shore and there are many places to launch a canoe. Picnic tables and fire pits are available to enjoy a fresh meal of rainbows.

Lucky Lake was stocked four times in the 1980s with a total of 15,000 rainbow trout. The most recent stocking took place in June 2005.

#### Live release



Live release is a valuable conservation tool when you're angling for wild fish. Stocked fish, however, are there to provide you with a good meal as well as an enjoyable experience. If you do practice live release on stocked fish, here's how you can reduce the mortality rate to near zero.

• Handle the fish gently.

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- Use single barbless hooks.
- Never throw a fish back into the water.
- Use artificial lures.
- Cut the line from deep-hooked fish.

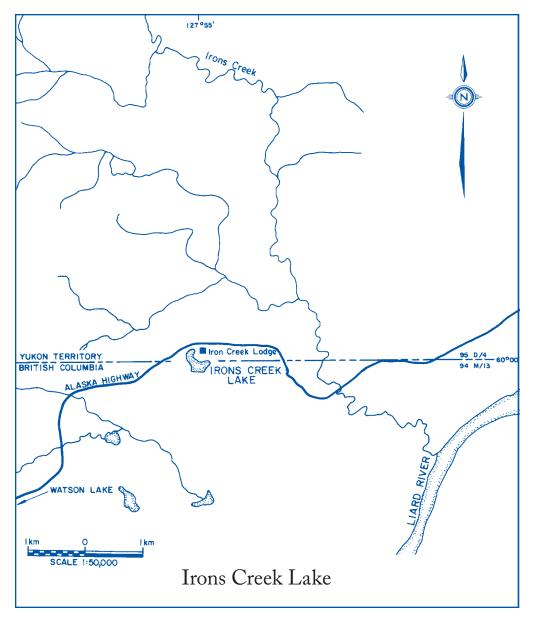
For more information about how to live-release, consult the Yukon Fishing Regulations Summary.

Like all living things, stocked fish should be treated with respect.

Vatson Lake Area

Irons Creek Lake is located behind Irons Creek Lodge, 45 km east of the town of Watson Lake. Just park beside the lodge, follow the short trail and start fishing.

Irons Creek Lake was stocked with rainbow trout for the first time in 1990. The released fry weighed 3 g (1/10 oz.), and by 1992 they had grown to about .5 kg (1 lb.) in weight. The lake was restocked in 2003.

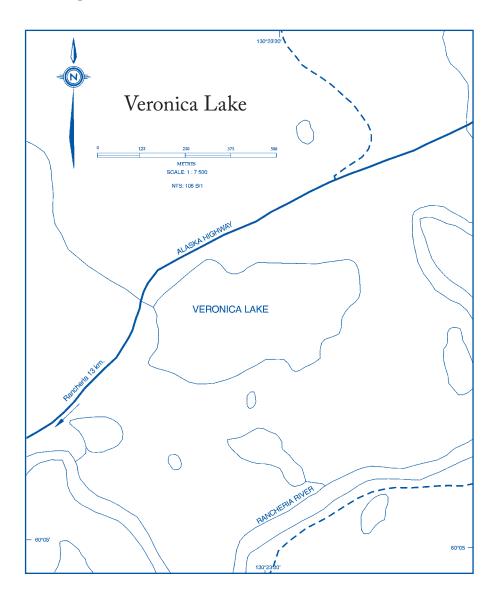


#### Veronica Lake

and a single participation

Veronica Lake is located on the south side of the Alaska Highway approximately 12 km south west of Rancheria. Just pull off the highway and park beside the lake. You must walk down a steep hill to get to the lake, but fishing is easy from shore.

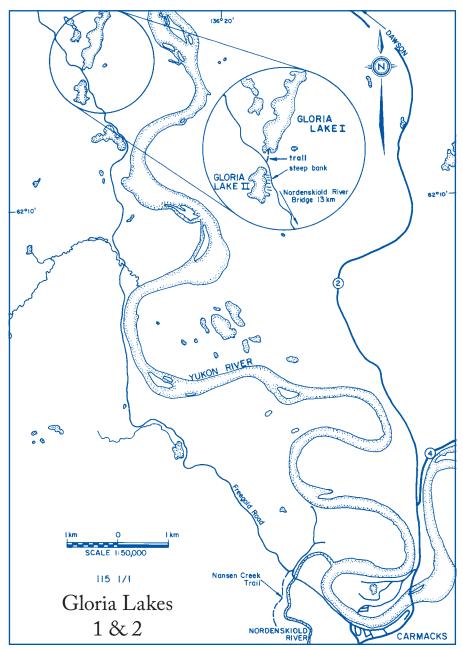
Veronica Lake was first stocked in June 1998 with rainbow trout and arctic char. In 1999 another 15,000 rainbow trout were stocked and growth has been good. Anglers ice fishing in 1999 were catching both species and both were averaging around .5-1 kg (1-2. lb.). Arctic char were last stocked in June 2005.



# Gloria Lake I

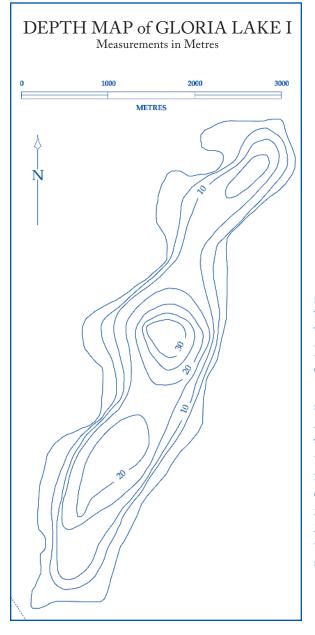
Carmacks

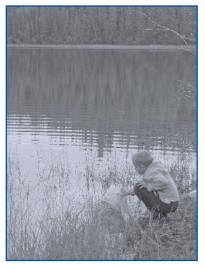
Gloria Lake I is located off the east side of the Freegold Road. Traveling from Carmacks you will see Gloria Lake II on the left-hand side about 14 km from the Nordenskiold River Bridge. Gloria Lake I cannot be seen from the road, but there





is an obvious pullout on the left a few hundred metres past Gloria Lake II. Park here and then walk across the road where you will find a path leading down to the southern shore of Gloria Lake I.





This lake is easy to walk around and fish from shore because it has a clear shoreline. You can also hike up the steep hills that surround this lake and enjoy beautiful views of the area.

Gloria Lake I was first stocked with arctic char in 1996. At the time of stocking, the fry varied in size from 5 to 25 g (less than 1 oz.). Many fish weighing from .5 to 1 kg (1-2 lb.) were caught during the first winter ice fishing season. In September 2005 Kokanee were stocked and they should be catchable by late summer 2006.

## Gloria Lake II

Gloria Lake II is the second lake that you see on the left-hand side when travelling up the Freegold Road, about 14 km from Carmacks. The first lake is similar in size but is too shallow for stocking. There is a sign located at Gloria Lake II describing the stocking history.

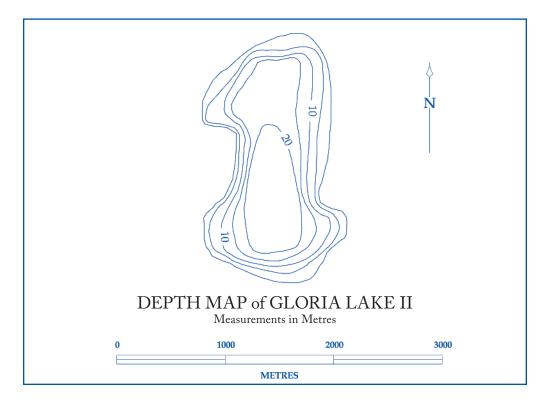
A gentle slope at the north end of the lake provides the easiest access route for launching a small boat, but a boat is not necessary. The shoreline is clear enough to



Carmacks

walk around and to permit casting. The lake drops off quite nicely so it is easy to cast into the deeper, cooler water in the summer.

Gloria Lake II's stocking history is long and varied. It was first stocked with rainbow trout in 1982 and the most recent stocking occurred in 2004. Anglers are continuously catching rainbows in the 1-2 kg (2-4 lb.) size. Try it out!



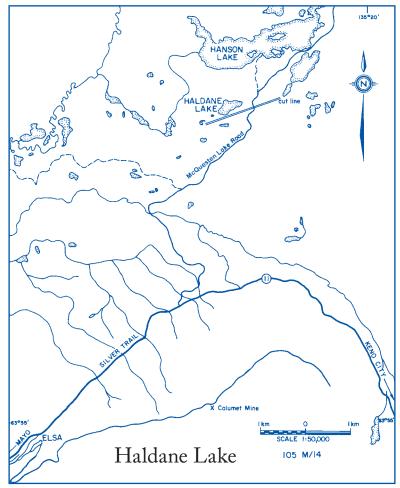
#### Haldane Lake

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Haldane Lake is located on the McQuesten Lake road, which branches off the north side of the Silver Trail about 5 km north of Elsa. Haldane Lake is visible off the west side of the McQuesten Lake road, about 9 km in. A short trail provides easy access from the road to the east side of Haldane Lake. McQuesten Lake road is rough and narrow with several steep grades. It is best suited to pick-up trucks or four-wheel-drives.

Since the shoreline of Haldane Lake is wet, muddy and heavily overgrown, a boat is recommended.

Haldane Lake was first stocked in 1982 when 5,000 rainbow trout were released. It has been restocked with rainbows numerous times since then, most recently in 2004. Local anglers report good catches from this lake, an indication that survival and growth rates are high.



## **Upper and Lower Timothy Lakes**

You can access these lakes from Kilometre 1907 along the Alaska Highway. The route begins at a small gravel pit on the west side of the Highway. The trail begins on an old access road that climbs a hill and connects to the abandoned Haines to Tok pipeline right of way. Follow the old pipeline right of way for about 1 km. At this point a well-defined trail branches off the left side of the right of way and leads down to Lower Timothy Lake. The pipeline part of this route can be wet and boggy in some places. From Lower Timothy Lake there is a trail to Upper Timothy Lake. Go back out to the pipeline right of way and continue further along. After dropping down a hill and crossing a small drainage continue up the hill and watch for a trail off your left side. This trail travels through large aspen and some lower hummock ground. The walk into Upper Timothy on this trail will take about 15 minutes.

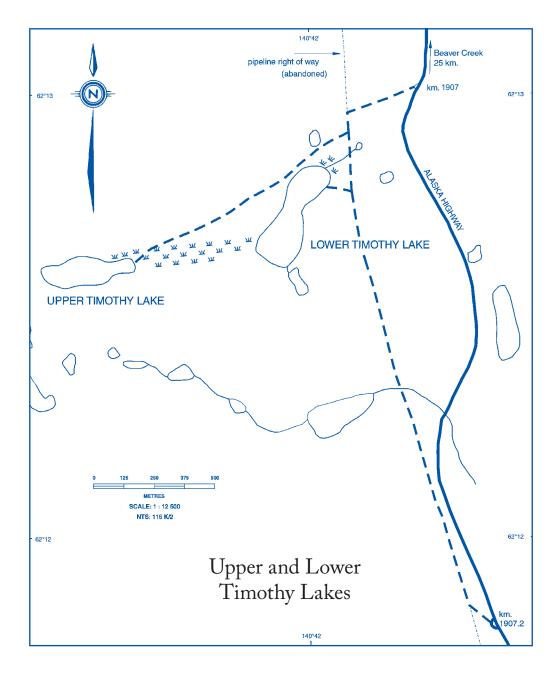
A footpath only exists if you walk along the lakeshore of Lower Timothy until you're directly across from the trail that brought you to the lakeshore. From this point walk directly uphill into the aspens and you should be able to pick up the trail to Upper Timothy. It is possible to access both these lakes by ATV or snowmobile although the trails are rough and quite boggy in places.

These are small lakes and have some shoreline access, but Upper Timothy Lake has very little open shoreline. Summer angling from shore is challenging because both lakes have shallow Lilly pad margins that come right up to shore. Best being on the water and casting in rather than having to drag a lure through the Lilly pads. These are good lakes for belly boats or a small inflatable. In the summer try casting along the outer margins of the Lilly pads.

Both lakes were most recently stocked with rainbow trout in the spring of 2002. Recent reports from Upper Timothy Lake suggest that the fish are in poor physical condition and may be experiencing a shortage of food.

#### These lakes are difficult to find, but make it an adventure!

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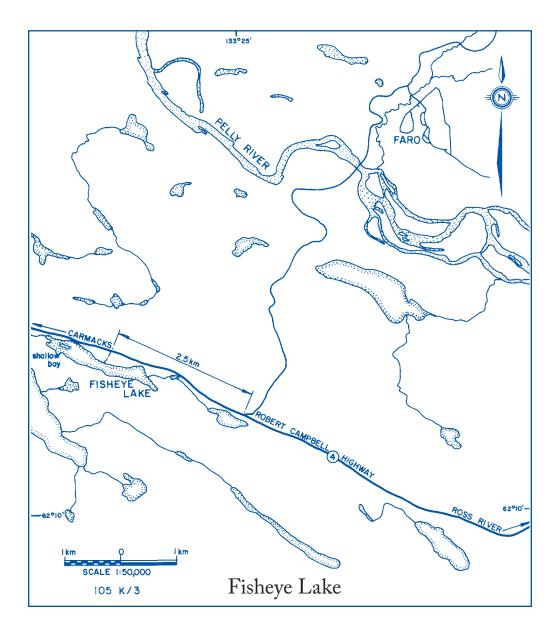
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# Fisheye Lake

Fisheye Lake is located on the south side of the Robert Campbell Highway at km 416, about 2.5 km west of the Faro turnoff. It is visible from the road. A short access road leads to the lake and provides parking. This is a large lake, easily accessible by boat. Government campgrounds are located nearby at Johnson Lake and Drury Creek.

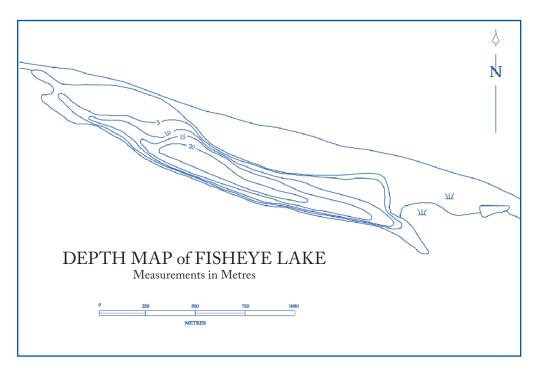




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Fisheye Lake produces good catches of rainbow trout during both summer and winter. The lake was last stocked in June 2005 with 7,000 rainbow trout. Kokanee salmon fry were first released in 2000 to give anglers an opportunity to catch another species with the last stocking in the fall of 2005.

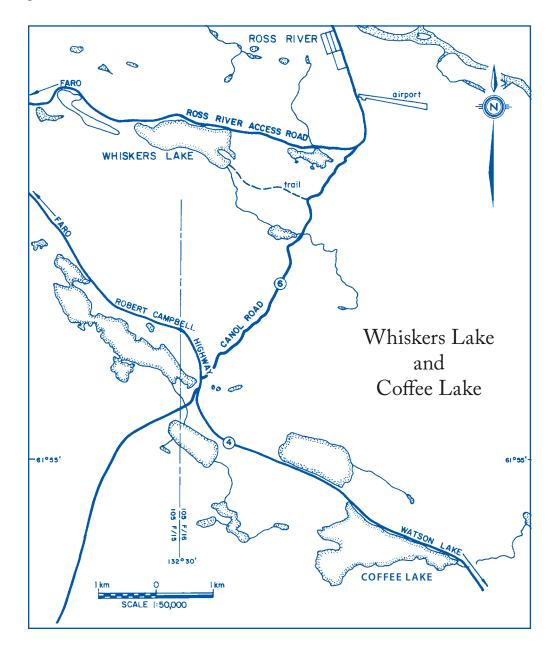
Fisheye is a great fish viewing lake. In August, the Kokanee are schooling in various locations as they get ready to spawn, and the rainbows cruise just off the drop off. Get your canoe out and go have a look, great fish viewing.



### Whiskers Lake

Ross River.

Whiskers Lake is a large, deep lake on the south side of the Ross River access road about 2 km from the Canol Road. Since the steep shoreline provides few opportunities for shore fishing, a small boat or canoe is recommended. The easiest place to launch a boat is at the west end of the lake.



Local anglers have reported good results from Whiskers Lake during the ice fishing season as well as the open-water period.

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The lake was most recently stocked with rainbow trout in 2004. Arctic char were stocked in 1999 so give them a cast too.

#### **Coffee Lake**

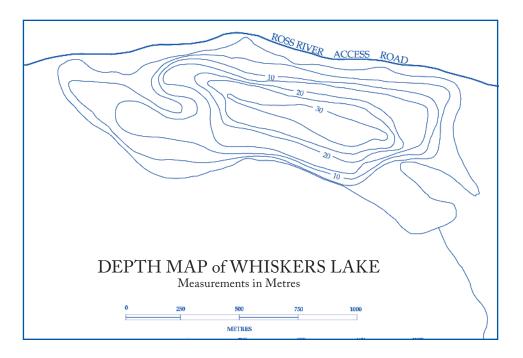
Coffee Lake is located at Kilometre 350 of the Robert Campbell Highway. This large lake is found on the south side of the highway and has 2 access roads. The first access road follows the backside of the lake and terminates at a rustic boat launch.

This road gets very muddy in the summer. The second access is at a lakeside pull-off. A boat launch is also available. Ample parking is available at both sites.

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Coffee Lake was first stocked in 1991 with arctic char. In 1993, due to overstocking and cold winter conditions, the lake winterkilled. In October 2005, 10,000 Kokanee fry were released.

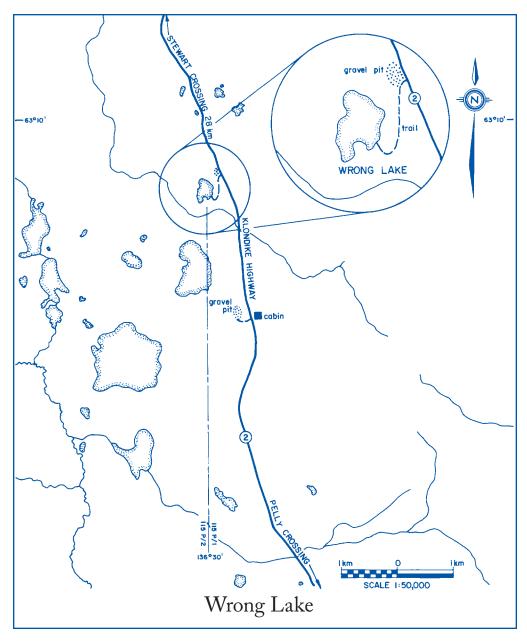






# Wrong Lake

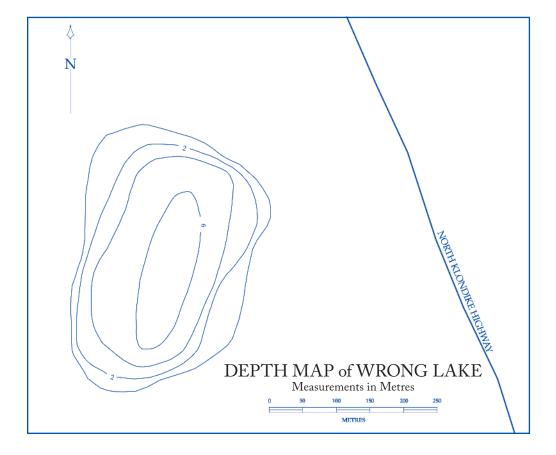
Wrong Lake is on the west side of the Klondike Highway about 28 km south of Stewart Crossing or 41 km north of Pelly Crossing. This lake is very small and hard to find. Some anglers have confused Wrong Lake with the larger, more visible lake 1 km to the south.





The access road to Wrong Lake begins at a gravel pit on the west side of the Klondike Highway. The road is used by Yukon Government water trucks and is well maintained through the summer. The closest landmark is a small cabin on the east side of the highway 2.5 km to the south. Wrong Lake was last stocked in 2004 with rainbow trout.

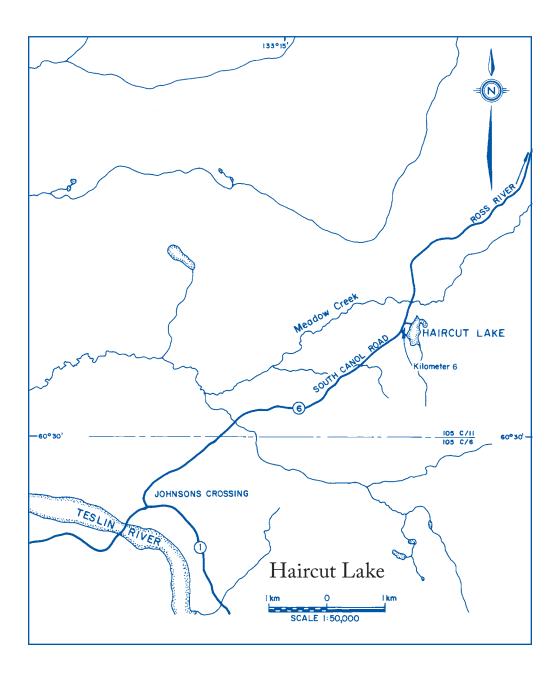
Shoreline fishing is easy and you'll find the rainbows swimming in the weedy shallows around the lake. Parking is available and it's a nice spot for a day of angling.



#### Haircut Lake

Teslin.

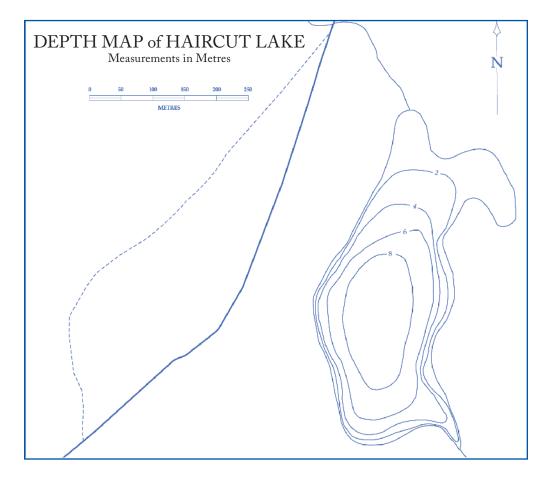
Haircut Lake is on the South Canol Road at km 6, just north of Johnson's Crossing. There is a rough access road to the lake. If you are travelling from Johnson's Crossing and reach the Meadow Creek bridge, you have gone too far.





There is very little room to turn around at the end of the access road so larger vehicles should park just off the Canol Road and walk in. Please pull over far enough to avoid blocking traffic. The steep hill down to the lake makes boat launching difficult, and shore fishing is also difficult due to heavy undergrowth.

This lake was first stocked with rainbow trout in 1973, with the most recent stocking in 2005.



Lake	Species	Most Recent Stocking
CANTLIE	Arctic char	June 1999 (reproducing)
CHADDEN	Rainbow trout	June 2005
COFFEE	Kokanee salmon	October 2005
FISHEYE	Rainbow trout Kokanee salmon	June 2005 July/October 2005
GLORIA I	Kokanee salmon	September 2005
GLORIA II	Rainbow trout	June 2004
HAIRCUT	Rainbow trout	June 2005
HALDANE	Rainbow trout	June 2004
HIDDEN #1	Rainbow trout Kokanee salmon	June 2005 July 2005
HIDDEN #3	Rainbow trout Arctic char	June 2005 January 2005
HOUR	Rainbow trout Kokanee salmon	June 2005 August 2005
IRONS CREEK	Rainbow trout	June 2003
JUDAS	Rainbow trout Chinook salmon	June 2004 June 2003
LONG	Bull trout	September 2005
LOWER TIMOTHY	Rainbow trout	June 2002
LUCKY	Rainbow trout	June 2005
MARCELLA	Rainbow trout	June 2005
RANTIN	Rainbow trout	June 2005
SALMO	Rainbow trout	June 2004
SCOUT	Rainbow trout	June 2005
UPPER TIMOTHY	Rainbow trout	June 2002
VERONICA	Rainbow trout Arctic char	June 1999 August 2005
WHISKERS	Rainbow trout	June 2004
WRONG	Rainbow trout	June 2004

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#### Take only what you need.

#### Use all that you take.



#### Good Luck — Good Fishing!



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