



# TECH BULLETIN

## WYOMING/UTAH BORDER

# FLAMING GORGE

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

*Flaming Gorge Country, a land of contrast and change, of forest and desert, of river canyons and lakes. Tying the region together are the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir which wind through the desert and along the north flank of the Uinta Mountains for 91 of the best fishing miles in the west.*

Located primarily in southern Wyoming and roughly one-third in northwest Utah, Flaming Gorge Reservoir is about 25 miles south of Green River, Wyoming and 175 miles east of Salt Lake City, Utah.

It boasts an abundant variety of game fish, some of which reach true lunger proportions. Examples include: a monster lake trout of 51 lbs., 8 oz. (taken on a *Frog* finish K16 *Kwikfish*® dragging the bottom with steel line at about 110 feet across from Lucerne Marina and just west of Antelope Flat Landing); a German brown trout of 33 lbs., 10 oz.; a kokanee salmon weighing in at 5 lbs., 5 oz.; and a rainbow trout of 26 lbs., 2 oz. All are lake and Utah state records. Wyoming state records include a 4-lb., 15-oz. kokanee and a 25-lb., 13-oz. German brown . . . some very impressive figures with the list continuing even further in the I.G.F.A. record book where several line class world records are entered! The lake record for smallmouth bass is 4 lbs., 6 oz.

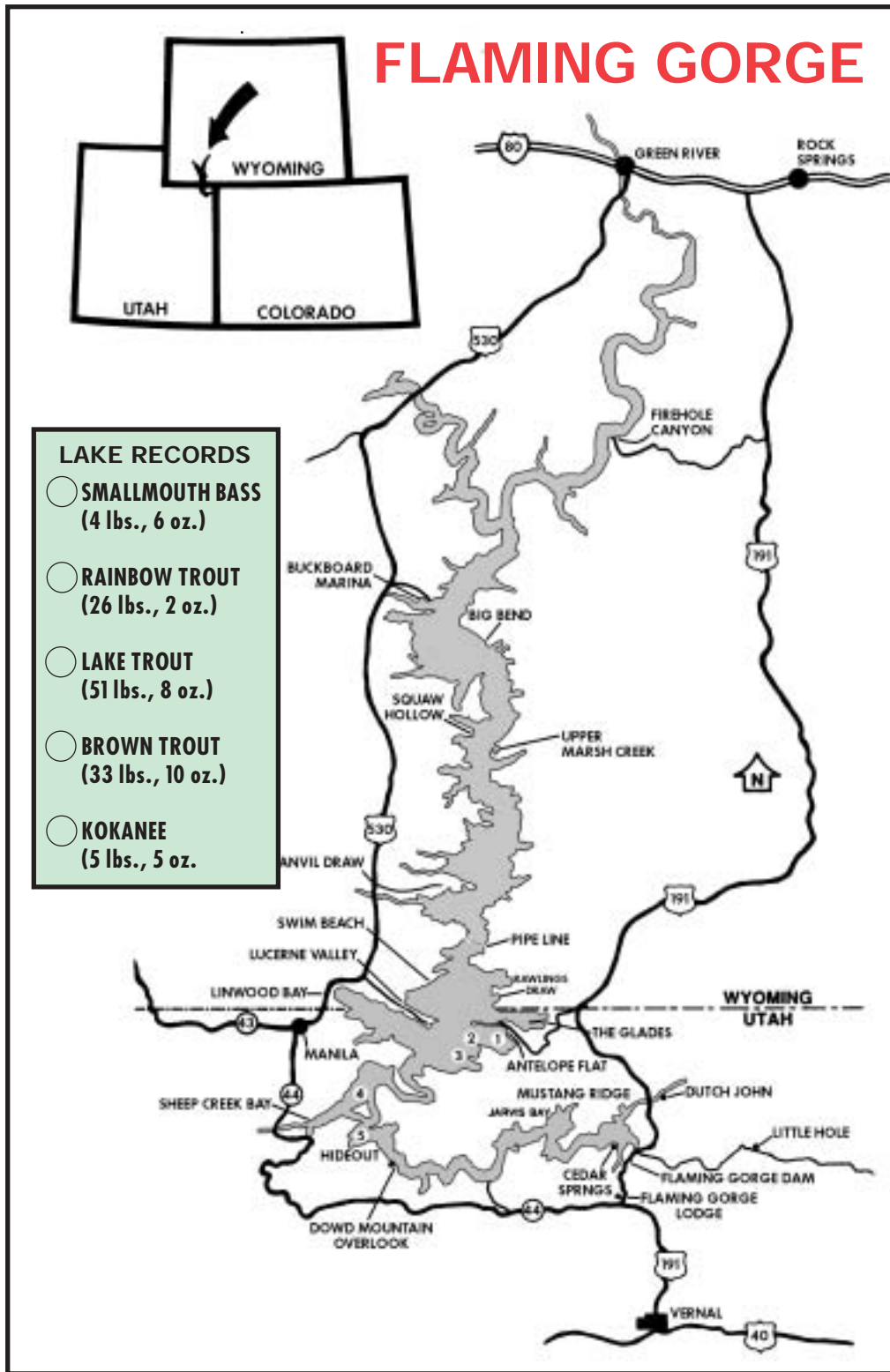
Popular areas for lake trout in Flaming Gorge are: Big Bend south of Buckboard Marina; Anvil and Rawlins draws; Swim Beach, Linwood Bay, Antelope Flat, Sheep Creek Bay, Hideout, Jarvis Bay, Mustang Ridge and near Cedar Springs Marina.

Top areas for kokanee salmon include Big Bend, Squaw Hollow, Anvil Flat, The Pipe Line, Sheep Creek and Hideout.

Prime areas for smallmouth bass are the abundant rock piles and points. Quality rainbow trout can be found everywhere along the 2,000 miles of shoreline of this world class trout factory.

Equipment which will come in handy for Flaming Gorge fishing includes a quality electronic fish locator and a medium action graphite rod with 6- to 10-pound line for kokanee, bass or trout and 8- to 20-pound line for lake trout. A downrigger is a plus for trolling with light lines and rods here, although specialized wire or lead core trolling rigs also are very popular.

Note: "Draggin' Steel" (trolling with wire) for lake trout requires rod guides made of hardened steel or carbide and a reel ca-



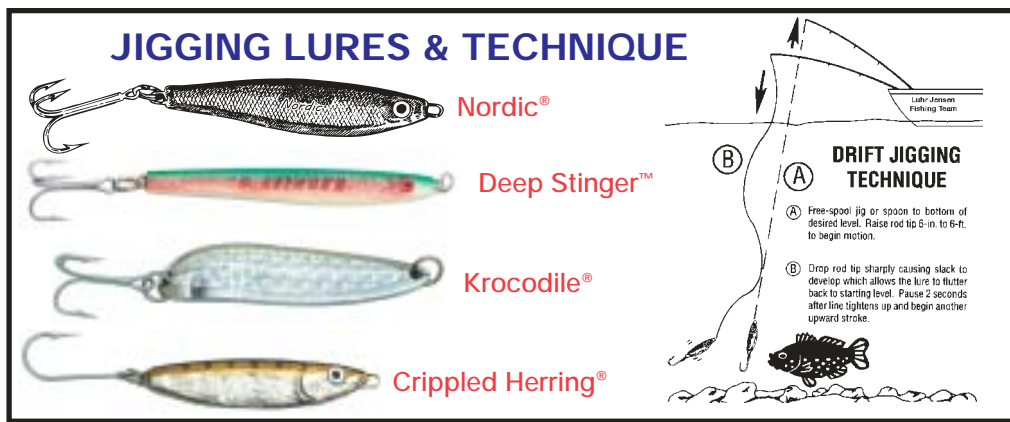
pable of holding 200 to 250 yards of 100-lb. test wire line. A pair of leather gloves to handle line and a short length of steel pipe (to wrap your line around) will come in handy should your lure become snagged.

A word of safety when handling wire: **Do not wrap the line around your hands.** Use the steel pipe to pull free of snags. Be careful not to allow your fingers or hands to become entangled in the wire. *Improper*

*handling can result in serious injury.*

### LAKE TROUT

Trolling a downrigger with a cannon ball weight of 8 to 10 pounds will allow you to put your lure at the exact depth (as indicated on your fish locator) which is holding fish. Your line will release from the downrigger when the fish strikes, allowing you to fight only the fish. Downrigger techniques widely used for



lake trout (Mackinaw) include trolling plugs or dodger/flasher combinations trailed by a plug, fly or artificial squid.

Distances behind your cannon ball vary all the way from 10 to 150 feet. When trolling a flasher or dodger off a downrigger, run the lure 18 to 24 inches behind the dodger and the dodger 10 to 12 feet behind the cannon ball. To keep line from tangling and ensure proper lure action, be sure your boat is at trolling speed before letting out line or lowering your downrigger ball. Proper trolling speed is obtained when the dodger exhibits a regular side-to-side swaying action. Large lake trolls, such as a **Dave Davis** No. 1 or No. 77 in **50/50 Nickel/Brass**.

Steel line can be substituted for a downrigger if you prefer. A ball bearing swivel can be used to prevent line twist and is handy if you wish to use a leader. You'll need to ensure that the swivel does not affect the lure action so use at least a four-foot leader section between the swivel and lure.

The best lake trout presentation is to bounce your lure off bottom structure at a consistent depth. Watch your locator or graph carefully for fish during each pass and keep working a particular depth or area when charting fish. Lake trout usually will bite if you spend enough time trolling through a specific group of fish.

The following trolling lures are very effective for lakereels: Luhr Jensen K14, K15 or K16 Kwikfish; No. 4 or No. 5 J-Plugs and No. 3 3/8 or 4 1/2 **Power Minnow** lures. Using a **Jensen Dodger** or Les Davis **Herding Dodger** ahead of these lures adds to their effectiveness. **Coyote** rotating plastic flashers used with a trailing **B-2 Squid** or 1-oz. **Crippled Herring** also have proved successful.

Lake trout color preferences follow a pattern by season beginning in spring with fluorescent colors becoming progressively darker until late fall when lighter colors become effective again. Top year-round colors include: **White, Blue, Silver, Chartreuse, Green, Black, Rainbow** and **Glow**. Be sure to keep your hooks sticky sharp.

To most effectively use jigging lures such as Crippled Herring or **Deep Stingers**, use your locator to find schools of lakereels which generally are from 60 to 120 feet deep. A medium action graphite rod and reel filled with 6- to 10-pound line will help in detecting the often very soft strikes from even these large fish.

Tie your main line to a swivel, and then use a 36-inch leader to your jig. This will keep line twist to a minimum and allow the lure to work freely.

Drop your lure to the bottom and adjust

the line to where the rod tip is just above the surface. Raise the rod tip and then allow the lure to fall back to or near the bottom. Pay close attention as most hits will occur on the drop. If lakereels are suspended, adjust your line to where the lure will stop just above or within the school.

Be sure to vary your jigging stroke as sometimes lake trout react to a long stroke and at other times they may prefer only a stroke of a few inches. Pause for a second or two between strokes for best results. Jigs from 1/2-oz. to 1-oz. in the colors previously listed are excellent producers of lake trout down to 60 feet. Use 1 1/2-oz. to 4-oz. models for fish 60 to 120 feet deep.

## KOKANEE

Kokanee are plankton feeders with bad tempers and you'll have to aggravate them into striking. Kokanee generally will school from 20 to 90 feet deep. Again, the use of a locator is a must. Troll or jig where the schools are found. Downriggers can be used for "kokes" with lures trailing 10 to 150 feet behind the cannon ball. Use 6- to 10-lb. test line and use a swivel with a leader of 4- to 6-lb. test.

Lead core line is also a good way to get a kokanee lure down. Strip back the dacron covering and trim the lead center line away. Then, using a leader material testing at least 4 pounds lighter than your main line, work back the covering over the leader and finish with two overhand knots.

Recommended leader length for premium presentation is exactly 18 feet. A snap swivel can be tied on for attaching lake trolls with lures or for an additional lighter leader-to-lure connection. Lead core line of 14- to 18-lb. test is recommended, which will yield approximately 6 feet of depth per color. Start trolling, then put out 6 to 7 colors of line, depending upon the depth of the fish, and

vary your speed. This same gear will work well for rainbow trout.

Top kokanee lures are: No. 1 and No. 2 **Needlefish** (in **Silver/Red Head, Pearl Bikini, Pearl/Red Head, Glo/Flo Green Stripe, Rainbow, Chartreuse Fishscale, Lime Green Fishscale** or **Pearl Fishscale** colors), the **Kokanee King** in any color, and the **Super Duper** in **Red Head, Silver Prism-Lite, Glo** or **Fishscale** colors.

Lake trolls such as the **Ford Fender**, **Beer Can** or **Dave Davis** No 1 and the **Abe & Al Flasher** also work well using the suggested lures or trailed by a night crawler. The top lake troll color is a **50/50 Nickel/Brass** combination. Position your bait or lure 18" to 24" behind the troll or flasher for best results.

## ACCOMMODATIONS/FACILITIES

**MARINAS:** Buckboard Marina, 25 miles south of Green River, Wyoming (just off highway 530) is a full-service facility with a store, boat slips, an on-site mechanic and a forest service campground: 307-875-6927. Cedar Springs Marina, located one mile north of the dam, provides all facilities including rental boats and a campground nearby: 801-784-3483. Lucerne Valley Marina, eight miles N.E. of Manila, has excellent facilities with a 260-space park service campground: 801-784-3483.

Other boat ramps are: **In Wyoming** — Firehole Canyon, Upper Marsh Creek, Squaw Hollow, Anvil Draw and Swim Beach. **In Utah** — Mustang Ridge, Antelope Flat, and Sheep Creek Bay. All have concrete ramps and many have camping.

Accommodations are limited at "The Gorge" and reservations are essential. In Manila, Niki's Inn is a very fine motel with excellent food. For reservations, call 801-784-3117.

At Dutch John, Flaming Gorge Lodge has excellent food and motel accommodations. The lodge also is headquarters for the blue ribbon trout fishing on the Green River below the dam. For reservations, call 801-889-3795 or write P.O. Box 337, Dutch John, Utah 84023.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Be sure to pick up a fishing regulations booklet for each state and study it for up-to-date rules.

ALSO, please observe all boating safety regulations and practice catch-and-release whenever possible. Please don't litter... take a picture instead of a fish.

