



TECH BULLETIN

OREGON

SILTCOOS LAKE

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

Siltcoos Lake (the Native Americans called it Tsiltcoos) is one of the finest fishing spots on the Oregon coast, offering perch, catfish, trout, crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass. Silver (coho) salmon, chinook salmon, sea run cutthroat trout and steelhead also are available.

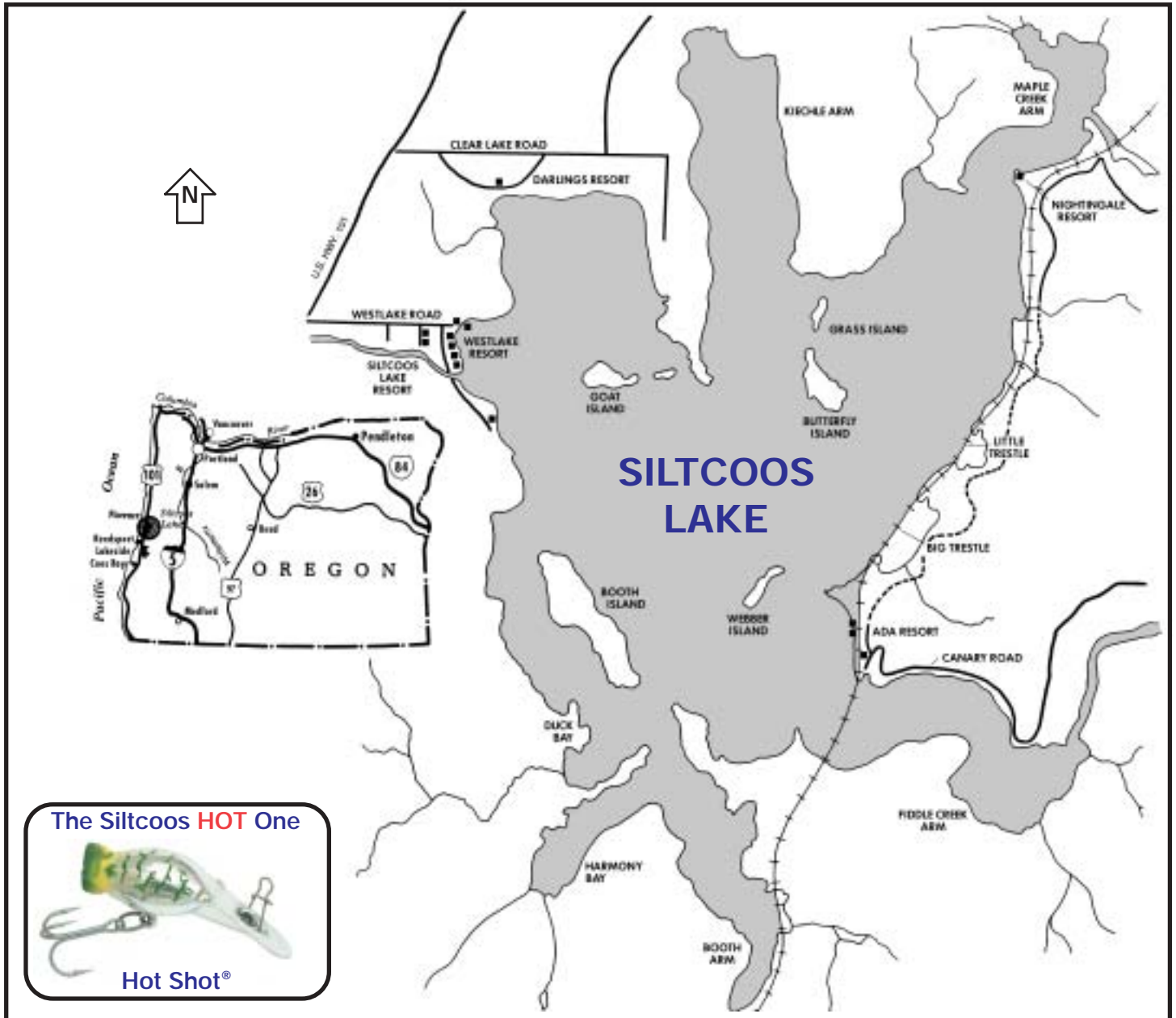
Siltcoos is located six miles south of Florence and encompasses 3,164 acres with a shoreline of nearly 30 miles. Its maximum depth is 22 feet, with an average of 12 feet in the summer, dropping to eight feet in winter. Water clarity varies, but can be "gin-clear" down to six feet. Public access areas are the Tye Forest Service Campground, Westlake City Boat Ramp, the Nightingale Fishing Camp, Ada Resort, Fish Mill Lodge/RV Park, Darlings Resort and Ada County Park.

Remember that conditions and regulations are subject to change, so be sure to check them out before you fish. Following are some tips on what to use and how to catch Siltcoos' wide variety of gamefish.

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Colorful sea-run cutthroat trout can be found up both the Fiddle Creek and Maple Creek arms of Siltcoos Lake in the fall and early winter. A proven attractor is the **Doc Shelton™** lake troll in **Hammered 50/50 Brass/Nickel**. Try trailing a small lure or a nightcrawler about 18 inches behind it, using 6-lb. Berkley® Trilene® XL leader and a #4 Faultless Bait-Holder Hook. Productive lures to use include Luhr Jensen's **Needlefish®** in **Nickel** or **Brass**, and **Bang-Tail®** spinners in finishes having red or orange on the body. Try **Kwikfish®** in K3, K4 or K5 sizes with bright colors on bright days and dark colors on dark days. Size 70 and 60 **Hot Shots®** trolled 18-inches in back of the Doc Shelton will work well too.

Use a Luhr-Jensen wire trolling spreader with a 4-in. dropper line and two cannon ball split shot pinched on the dropper just tight enough to stay on, yet loose enough to slip. This will allow the lead to slide off, saving the troll and spreader setup, should the weight get hung up on the bottom. Try 24-inches of Berkley® Trilene® 10-lb. test leader between the spreader and the troll.



LURES FOR SILTCOOS



RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbows seem to bite best in the spring months of April and May, and October and November later in the year. Try fishing between Ada Point and the Nightingale Fish Camp as well as off the south tip of Booth's Island as far up as the Fiddle Creek Arm.

Use a **Ford Fender**® lake troll in **Brass**, **Hammered Brass** or **50/50 Brass/Nickel**, hammered or plain. The Model T is the most effective model. Small spoons such as the No. 1 Needlefish or **Midge Wobbler**™ are very effective when run 14-inches behind the troll.

BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE AND PERCH

The best time of year to fish for panfish is from May through September. For bluegills, try a bobber and worms in the shallows.

Crappie fishing also is best during those same months with red and yellow jigs the preferred lures. For extra effectiveness, Berkley Power Wigglers and Crappie Nibblers will increase your catch. Small spoons such as **Super Dupers**® or 1/6-oz. **Crippled Herring**® also are worth a try, as are Bang-Tails in various colors.

The best area is up the Booth Arm, near pilings and downed trees. The docks at both the Nightingale Fish Camp and Ada Resort sometimes produce very good catches of both crappie and bluegill as does the area along the railroad trestle pilings.

Perch are found throughout the lake with the best places off Jensen's Point, between Butterfly Island and the Big Trestle. Double anchor your boat and fish with a small piece of night crawler 12 to 18 inches off the bottom in 15 to 20 feet of water.

CATFISH

Catfish up to 3 1/2-lbs. are found in 15 to 22 feet of water off the Big Trestle, Butterfly Island and Jensen Point. Night fishing is the preferred method. Recommended baits are Berkley fish blood flavor catfish bait, or nightcrawlers. Anchor both the bow and stern of your boat with 75 feet of rope for each anchor.

A good lantern makes it a lot easier to see what you're doing and a trout net is handy as you'll sometimes hook into large rainbow trout as well as a catfish.

COHO

This versatile lake even has coho salmon that are available during October and November. Try trolling with #30 Hot Shots in **Fluorescent Red**, **Frog**, **Silver** and **Blue Pirate**® or **Metallic Green**. Tie the Hot Shot snap connector directly to the line. The best place to troll is in front of the Ada Resort Marina.

BASS

Siltcoos also is one of the premier bass lakes in the Northwest, with the entire body of water offering good opportunities. The best fishing time is from April through September.

Some of the top places to find bass are around Butterfly Island, Weber Island, Booth Arm, Fiddler Creek Arm, Maple Creek Arm and also the east side of the lake.

Try using crankbaits such as a 1/4-oz. **Hot Lips Express**® or a 1/8- or 1/4-oz. **Speed Trap**™ in **Baby Bass** or **Perch** finish. Also good are 7-inch Berkley Power Worms in purple or blue fleck, rigged with a Texas hookup.

For some real excitement, especially on summer evenings, try bassin' with top water plugs such as a 1/2-oz. **Bass-Oreno**® (**White/Red Head**) or 3/8-oz. **P.J. Pop**™.

KEEP 'EM SHARP

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 it parallel to the hook point and with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal on at least two sides to make the point sticky-sharp with a knife-like cutting edge. Keep the file clean and dry and occasionally spray it with a noncorrosive lubricant such as WD-40 to prevent rust. Files are available in 5 1/2" (L) x 3/4" (W) or 4 1/4" x 5/8".

RECOMMENDED ROD/REEL/LINE

CUTTHROAT TROUT

REEL: Spinning (Size UL, 1 and 2 Abu Garcia® Cardinal)
ROD: 6' Berkley® Lightning Rod Professional
(Buzz Ramsey Series, #LPS602L)
LINE: 6# Berkley Trilene® (#XLBP6-15)

RAINBOW TROUT

REEL: Spinning (Size UL, 1 and 2 Abu Garcia Cardinal)
ROD: 6' Berkley Lightning Rod Professional
(Buzz Ramsey Series, #LPS602L)
LINE: 6# Berkley Trilene (#XLBP6-15)

CATFISH

REEL: Spinning (Mitchell® 300X)
ROD: 6' Berkley's new Cherrywood Series
LINE: 6# Berkley Trilene (#XTBP210-81,
Solar Green or XTBP210-22 Dark Green)

COHO

REEL: Baitcasting (Abu Garcia® 5500-C3 or 5501-C3)
ROD: 6' 8" Berkley Air Rod MH Casting
(Berkley Air IM7 - Buzz Ramsey series)
LINE: 10# Berkley Trilene (Sensation)

BASS/CRANKBAIT

REEL: Baitcasting (Abu Garcia 4600-C3 or 4601-C3)
ROD: 6' 6" Berkley Lightning Rod Professional
(Ken Cook Series, #LPC661M)
LINE: 12-lb Berkley Trilene (Sensation)

BASS/WORM

REEL: Baitcasting (Abu Garcia 4600-C3 or 4601-C3)
ROD: 7' Berkley Lightning Rod Professional
(Ken Cook Series, #LPC701M)
LINE: 12-lb Berkley Trilene (Sensation)