



TECH BULLETIN

QUEBEC / VERMONT

LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG

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

By Randolph Gehring

Lake Memphremagog is situated in southeastern Quebec and straddles the Quebec-Vermont border. The lake is approximately 30 miles long with 25 of those miles being in Quebec. There are a number of access ramps around the lake and most charge a nominal fee for launching and parking for the day, about \$10 Canadian. In the town of Magog, there is also a high pressure water wash you can use to clean your boat's hull of unwanted Zebra Mussels. The launch ramp is on the Magog River which is buoyed and naturally leads to Lake Memphremagog. If you prefer to travel to the other end of the lake which is in Newport, Vermont, there is no charge for launching your boat, and some public parking is available as well. In addition, the price of gasoline is significantly cheaper. There are a number of motels with bed and breakfast, both in Magog and in Newport.

In order to take advantage of both Canadian and Ameri-

can waters, it is suggested that both Quebec and Vermont fishing permits be purchased. Although this is not absolutely necessary, fishing is excellent on both sides of the border with most of the prime trout water on the Canadian side. There is Customs on the water and when returning or entering Canada, it is obligatory that you stop and call by telephone (installed on the Customs' docks). If you are a Canadian citizen and wish to go into American waters, you can pick up a Canadian border boat landing permit at the American Customs' office. With this permit, one does not have to check in with American Customs.

Fishing Lake Memphremagog can be very rewarding, with quite a number of fish species available. Depending on which you are after, you can wet your line for lake trout (*charr*), speckled, rainbow or brown trout, walleye, chain pickerel, smallmouth and largemouth bass, perch, panfish and, of course, beautiful landlocked salmon (*ouananiche*).

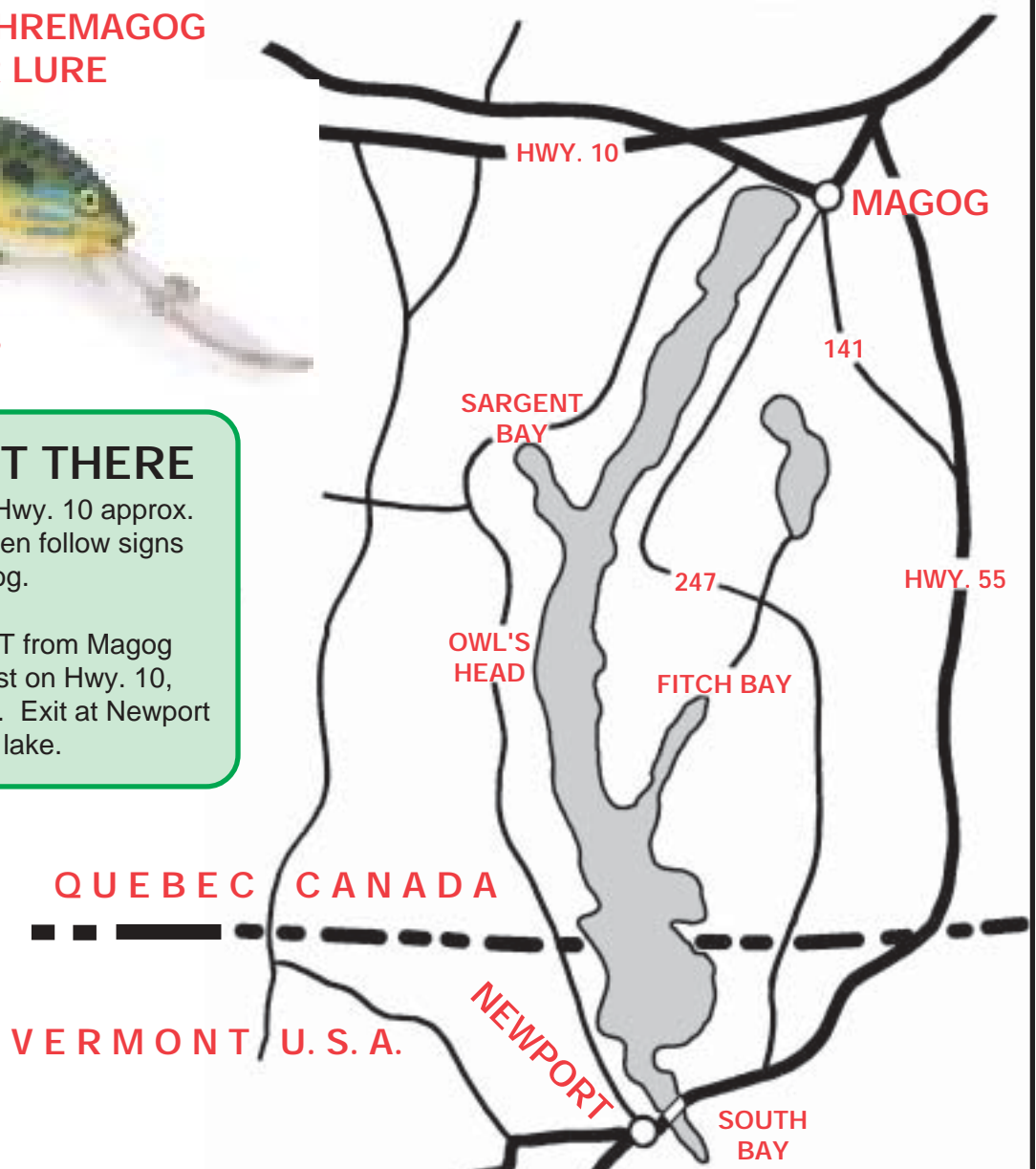
LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG KILLER LURE



Hot Lips Express®

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Montreal take Hwy. 10 approx. 1 3/4 hrs to Magog. Then follow signs to Lake Memphremagog.
- To get to Newport, VT from Magog (approx. 1 hour) go east on Hwy. 10, then south on Hwy. 55. Exit at Newport and follow signs to the lake.



EARLY SPRING SEASON

Early in the season, the trout and landlocked salmon are primarily caught trolling **Krocodile**® spoons and flatlining flies and crankbaits such as 1/4-oz. **Hot Lips Express**®, **Speed Trap**™ and **Power Minnow**™, along bluffs that practically surround the lake. Trolling lead core line off the bottom with a spoon or casting them can also be productive.

These techniques may seem contradictory, but at this time of year, there are fish at all levels of the lake. Walleye can be caught with worms and weight-forward spinners such as the **Jeweled Bead**™ **Walleye Spinner** or "bottom walker"-nightcrawler rigs. There is not an overabundance of walleye, but the ones caught usually average 5 lbs. or more. Pickerel can be picked up with lipless crankbaits and spinner baits. If you REALLY want to have fun, smallmouth bass are my preferred choice. The whole month of June is exceptional. Fishing pressure is at a minimum with the popularity of trout taking dominance. Bass will be bass, so look for them to be in and around obvious shore-related cover or bottom structure.

The **Nip-i-Diddee**® topwater prop bait, soft plastic baits such as tube lures, grubs, worms jig-and-pig and spinnerbaits also work well. To be frank, bass fishing is easy and 40 to 50 fish a day is not uncommon. Do not be surprised if you hook into a laker or a landlocked salmon. For largemouth, the bays are where you want to be. Fitch Bay, Sargent Bay and South Bay hold the majority of the largemouth.

MIDSUMMER SEASON

From mid-July to mid-August, fishing gets a bit tougher. The trout go deeper and the salmon are in and around the thermocline. Look for them on your sonar unit and fish the appropriate depth. Bass have a steady diet of smelt, crayfish and or perch. The main concentration of trout is just below Owl's Head Mountain, a lovely ski resort. This area has a couple of bars nearby (no, not the ones for boozing!), one being rock and the other sand. Look for the fish around these key areas. The salmon are suspended below schools of smelt and will only come up for a quick meal. Downriggers come in very handy in order to get down to the fish. The bass can be caught on offshore structure such as sunken islands, rock piles and long tapering shoals. The bass are very fat and often spit up semi-digested smelt, crawfish and perch, so artificial lures should match these types of forage in shape and/or color.

LATE SUMMER SEASON

From mid-August until the end of September, trout fishing basically remains the same. However, the bass fishing takes on a whole new outlook. The fish (smallmouth) start staging and schools of one hundred fish are something to look forward to. Sometimes only two or three fish can be taken from a school since they are very spooky. Weed beds are to be taken into consideration since lots of bass hide in them. There are some expansive weed beds that have some key locations within them. Spinner baits or single spinners such as a **Black/Yellow Dot Shyster**® are highly effective for covering water and locating these areas. Once again, offshore structure can also be productive.

LATE FALL SEASON

From October to freeze-up, big schools of fish remain, but you must go deeper. 20 to 30 feet is often a good depth to probe. Remember you're fishing for smallmouth. Jigging spoons such as the **Crippled Herring**® are good, otherwise heavy jigs that get to the bottom, or blade baits should do the trick.

ICE FISHING

When the lake is frozen over is the time primarily lake trout are taken, once again, mostly off sunken islands or rock



piles. With temperatures dropping well below 0 degrees centigrade, you must dress very warmly. Layering is the best way to go. You also need a good pair of waterproof winter boots.

CHARTS DON'T TELL ALL

A hydrographic navigational chart (#1361) of the lake is available through many chart dealers, but it is by no means reliable. Most of the dangerous spots are well indicated, but not the good offshore spots. It takes time and effort to find these good fishing holes, but it is well worth it. It's an unfortunate fact that the hydrographic chart does not do the lake any justice.

There are a few other things you should keep in mind such as the slot limits for lake trout, length limit for salmon and that there is also a 55 m.p.h. speed limit on the water. In order to be in complete compliance with the law, it is suggested that you read your fishing regulation hand book. That will be given to you when you purchase your fishing permit.

LOCH MEMPHREMAGOG MONSTER

Another item of interest is that legend has it there is a large serpent-like monster lurking in the depths of the lake. The locals call it "**Memphre the Monster**". It is believed that it lives in one of the many underwater caverns. The Indians also had a name for it calling it "**Anaconda**".

Lake Memphremagog is one of Quebec's best lakes for multi-species fishing. I still have a soft spot in by heart for the smallmouth bass, and expect years and years of excellent fishing from this lake.

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.

CHECK RULES & REGS

Because rules, regulations and conditions can change from time to time, it is recommend that you check them all out before heading out

Be sure to remember catch and release is the way to go.