



TECH BULLETIN

ALBERTA CANADA

WABAMUN LAKE

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



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Wabamun (the Cree indian word meaning "mirror") on its more serene days is certainly a mirror-flat surface. However, on its gusty days, Wabamun can provide some of the best sailing in the local area. It is also one of Alberta's top trophy northern

... Once Called "White Whale Lake" Because of the Large Whitefish Available!

pike lakes and hosts some of the best angling for lake whitefish during the winter months.

Being situated only 60 km. to the

west of Edmonton, it is easily accessible to many anglers as well as other water sport enthusiasts. There are access points at the summer village of Kapasiwin and the Provincial Park on Moonlight Bay at its east shore. From here, the lake stretches west for 19 kilometers. The main access points along its north shore are through the village of Wabamun and at Seba Beach on the west end of the lake.

The lake was once called White Whale Lake because of the large lake whitefish caught from it. This still holds true for the fishery today, (although less than whale size by today's standards) as local anglers consider them large and plentiful.

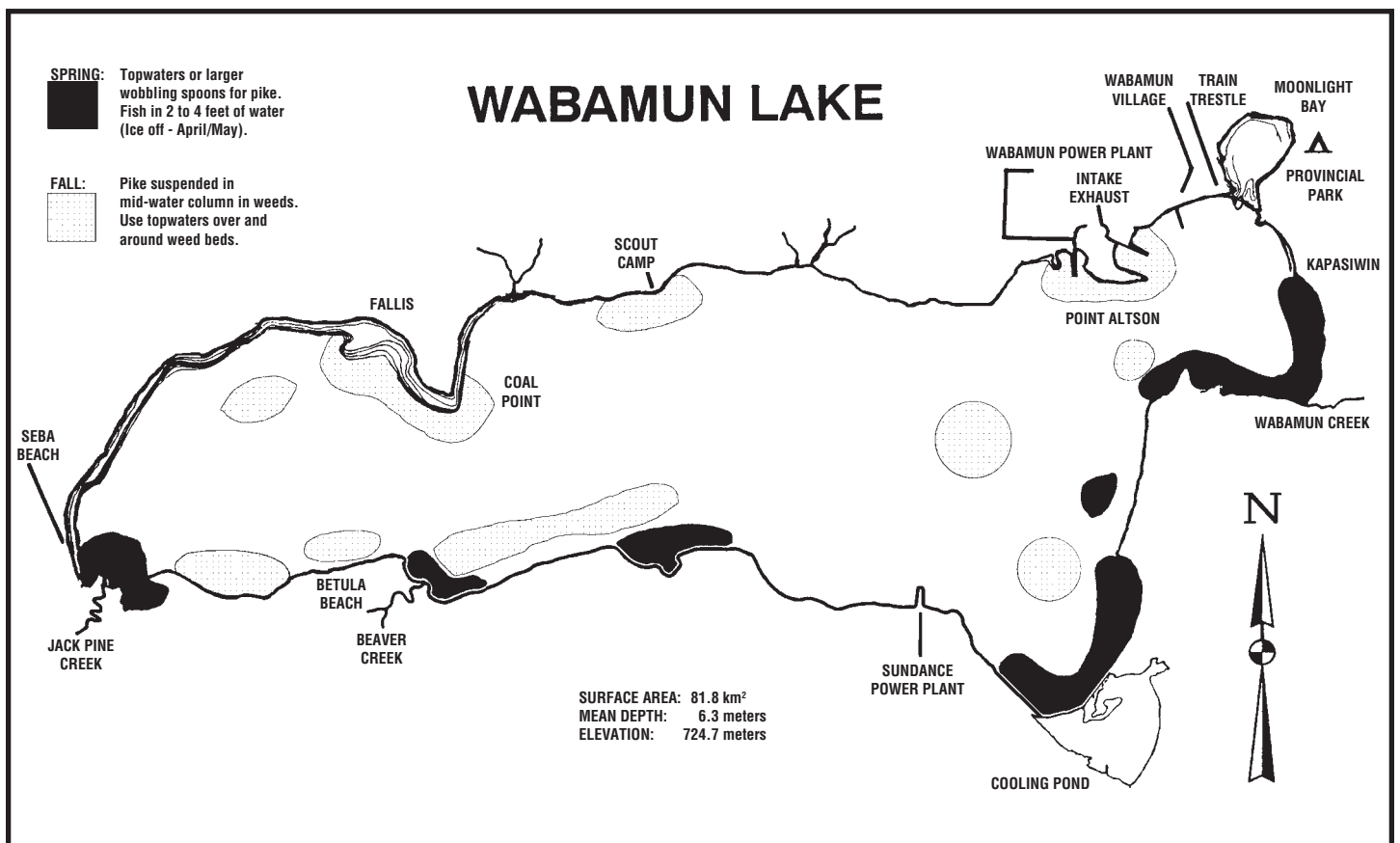
During the turn of the century, the railways passed along Wabamun village which was little more than a whistle stop. It was a popular summer resort area and on weekends, as excursion trains passed through on their way to Jasper, Edmontonians were dropped off so they could en-

joy the lake's beautiful beaches, sailing, water sports and the village's peacefulness.

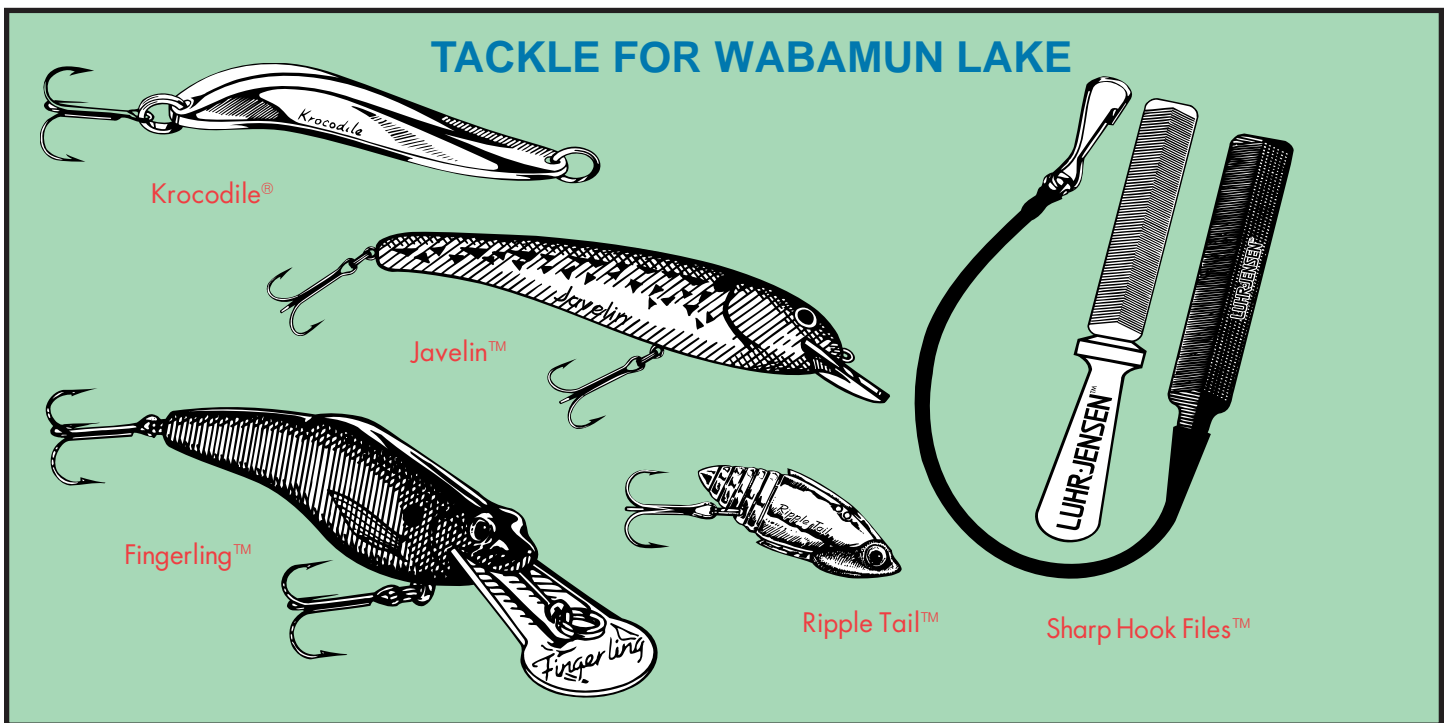
Wabamun Lake is an eutrophic lake that is large but shallow. It is 19 kilometers long and 6.5 wide and lies east-west. The summer's prevailing winds make it both a sailboater's dream come true, and a fisherman's nightmare.

The lake basin does reach 10 meters in depth, but on the other hand, more than 30% of the lake is 5 meters or less deep. This high percentage of shallow water gives the northern pike many opportune areas to ambush and maraud their prey which consists of whitefish, ciscoe, yellow perch, spot-tail, shiners, lake suckers and burbot.

Many 10- to 30-lb. trophy pike are taken throughout the year on rod and reel or by bowfishing. The lake has proved itself time and time again as a trophy-class pike lake. Fishing with rod and reel using bait fishing techniques in the Wabamun Canal



TACKLE FOR WABAMUN LAKE



has commonly been the most successful method for pike, though trolling with large spoons along the shoreline has also been productive. However, more exciting and effective methods exist.

When cranking down a **Javelin™** crankbait a foot below the surface, you'll find pike speeding their way to a kill.

Another method, and still a very successful one is casting and quickly retrieving a **Krocodile®** spoon. The aforementioned systems can all be presented on a stout 7-foot triggerstick-type rod, a bait casting reel and 14- to 20-lb. test line with 20-lb. steel leaders. Naturally the time of year is the key to success and on Wabamun, pike fishing begins in April and goes until fall.

The Wabamun Lake power plant near the village of Wabamun has a warm water discharge that keeps the water open year-round in the canal and into the main lake body between the village and the intake canal.

This area always draws anglers for northern pike as well as attracting many fish because of the warmer water. Other excellent pike locations are Moonlight Bay (the east shoreline during spring), the point at Fallis and the shoreline south and east of Seba Beach.

In the fall, use your electric motor to move between the weed beds in these same areas and cast **Ripple Tails™** in *Chrome* or *Fire Tiger* patterns, working the entire water column. Fall time offers great pike fishing and often these fish will be suspended in the weedbeds. Large **Fingerling Hi-Catch™** and **Javelin™** lures also work very well in the areas.

LAKE TROLLING TIPS

Here are some techniques you can use to make trolling easier, more fun and more productive.

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 slowly -- 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.

PROPER CATCH AND RELEASE

1. Play the fish in quickly so it is not too tired.
2. Handle the fish as little as possible and never let it flop on a hard or

dirty surface.

3. Use hemostats or needle-nose pliers to back the hook out the way it went in. Barbless hooks make the process easier.

4. Never release a fish until it is fully revived and acts strong. A tired fish can tumble and get lodged in rocks or moss and suffocate. Carefully work the fish back and forth to pump water through its gills. You will know when it's ready to leave.

5. When taking a picture of your catch, leave it in the water until the camera is ready and then gently cradle the fish in both hands as you lift it out of the water. Never put your fingers in its gills or squeeze it too hard. Keep the fish out of the water only long enough to take the picture.

6. Be gentle and release the fish carefully. **NEVER THROW a fish back into the water.**

SHARP HOOKS PAY!

Another of the easiest, yet most important, 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 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.

