



# TECH BULLETIN

## ALBERTA CANADA

# TOUCHWOOD LAKE

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

By Corey Bullock

*Touchwood Lake is located some 265 km northeast of Edmonton, about 45 km away from the town of Lac La Biche. To get to the lake, take secondary road 868 north for 15 km until you see a sign indicating the road to Touchwood Lake. Then drive east on that road for another 30 km until you reach the Touchwood Lake Forest Recreation Area.*

*Touchwood Lake is a clear mesotrophic body of water that is moderately fertile. It has distinctive deep weed edges along with two separate basins. The north*

**PIKE TO 20 LBS  
WALLEYE TO 10**

*basin has a maximum depth of 140 feet while the south reaches depths of 95 feet. The south end of the north basin has steep slopes while the south basin has more gradual slopes.*

*Touchwood has a diverse population of fish, including walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish, cisco, burbot, longnose suckers, white suckers and spot tail shiners.*

### SPRING

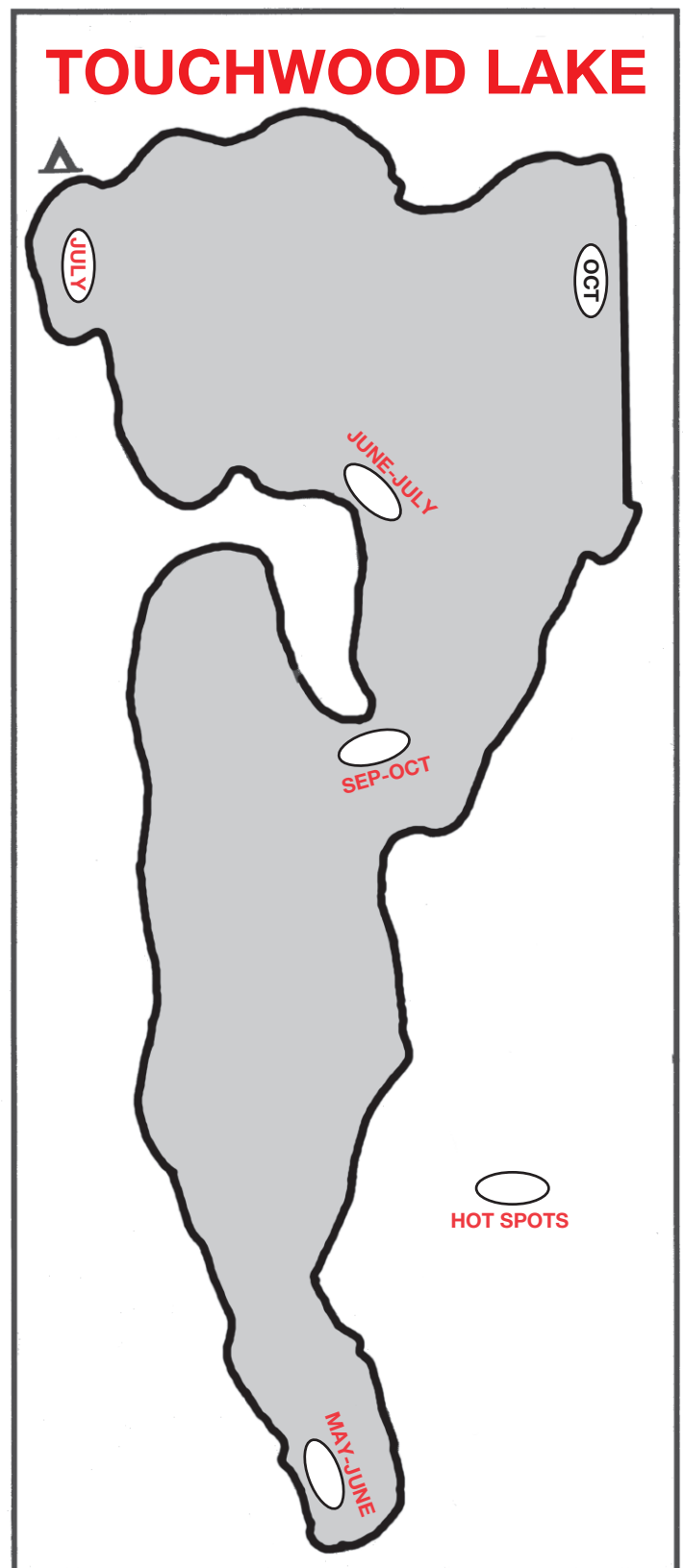
Being quite northerly, the spring fishing season doesn't start until May and you are generally faced with post spawn fishing for walleye and northern pike. Early in the season, I prefer to fish in early weed growth which usually is found in shallow water, 8 feet or less. Long line trolling **Power Minnows™** in a perch pattern is best for locating scattered shallow water walleye.

For northern pike, fish the extreme southern end of the lake fan-casting **Johnny Rattlers™** on the surface and subsurface **Javelins™**, especially in **White/Red Head** or **Fire Tiger** finishes, to isolated coontail beds.

### SUMMER

This season walleye will congregate on distinctive weed edges and main lake points. Luhr Jensen's **Jeweled Bead Spinner™**/nightcrawler combos, weighted with 1/2- or 3/8-oz. walking sinkers work well along the weed edges. Try trolling a **Metallic Perch Power Dive® Minnow** at the base of dropoffs in 25 to 30 feet of water. During this time of year, the larger pike (up to 20 lbs.) tend to suspend at 30 to 40 foot level in water depths of 90 to 120 feet while feeding on cisco. The best way to

locate and catch them is to monitor your sonar looking for schools of cisco. Troll through them using Power Dive Minnows in **Slave Master** finish or use **Rock Walkers®** in **Silver/Blue Top/Orange Belly** or **Silver/Black Top/Orange Belly** on a low-stretch, low-diameter line so you get maximum depth.



## FALL

Walleye will be located on the steepest dropoffs leading to the main lake basins. Vertical jigging with **Crippled Herring®** or **Ripple Tails™** often score big fish at this time of year. Once again, pike will move into shallow depths following spawning cisco and lake whitefish. Fan casting or long-line trolling with Javelins or **Fingerling Hi-Catch™** lures (1-oz. in **Silver/Blue Back** or **Silver/Black Back**) will often produce large numbers of trophy fish and are most effective on the large shallow flat at the northeast end of the lake.

## WINTER

Early ice fishing locations will generally be the same as in late fall. The fish are usually found along dropoffs and shallow flats relating to any viable weed growth. Aggressively jig **Sugar Shads®** and Ripple Tails to locate pike and walleye. A less aggressive method for neutral fish is to use a 1/2- or 3/4-oz. Chrome **Cast Champ®** or a Metallic Perch Crippled Herring tipped with a minnow head.

## 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



## 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..

## 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.

## RECOMMENDED TOUCHWOOD LAKE LURES

