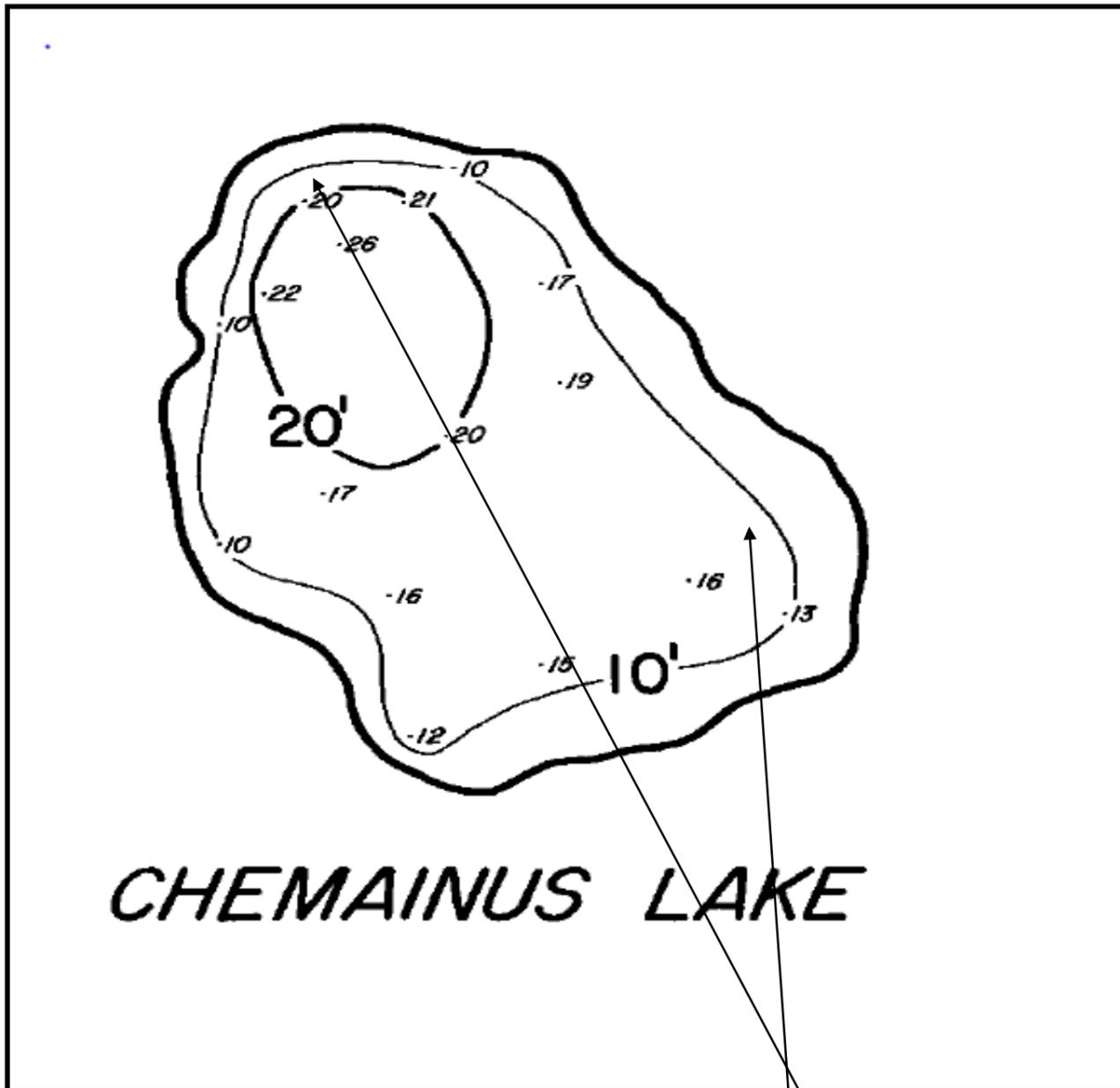


Muddling Along December 3, 2016 Chemainus Lake



A favourite spot is on the edge of the drop off on the northwest end of the lake.

The area in front of the dock and near the mouth of the outlet stream can be productive.

Chemainus Lake may be reached by heading south from Ladysmith and turning right on River Road just north of the traffic light on MacMillan Bloedel forest service road. The lake is only a few hundred metres from Island Highway. Turn right on the gravel road at the stop sign and proceed to the launch area. There is a concrete dock for shore fishing and a put in for small watercraft. This is not a good launch for a boat on a trailer!



From the bathymetric and aerial view above, you can see that Chemainus is a small, shallow lake with a deeper area near the north end and is surrounded by weedy shores and a forested area. This is a beautiful lake which can produce some surprisingly good fishing considering its proximity to “civilization”!

There are abundant insect species as well as leeches and terrestrials from the surrounding forest to provide a smorgasbord of food for the trout.

Stocked 3 or 4 times a year with catchable Fraser Valley rainbows plus small plantings of larger brood stock up to 4 or 5 pounds

(2.2 kg) plus home to resident cut-throat trout, Chemainus is an early lake to come on in the spring and produces well until higher temperatures develop in May or June. Fishing drops off in the summer months and picks up again in September for some good fall fishing until November. The fall plantings of catchables and brood stock provide some good fishing if you are willing to use sink lines and get down to the deeper running fish.



Spring fishing starts with a good chironomid hatch and fish can be taken in water from 10 to 20 feet with black with red or silver ribbed chironomid imitations in sizes 12 to 16. Andrew’s chironomid emerger is a favourite to use at this time of year. Leech patterns, wooly buggers and a variety of surface flies will work at times . . . Look for the hatches and match them! Pumpkin heads in sizes 8 to 12 are consistent producers as well.

Andrew’s Chirono Emerger

See website (IWFF1.ca) for recipe.

