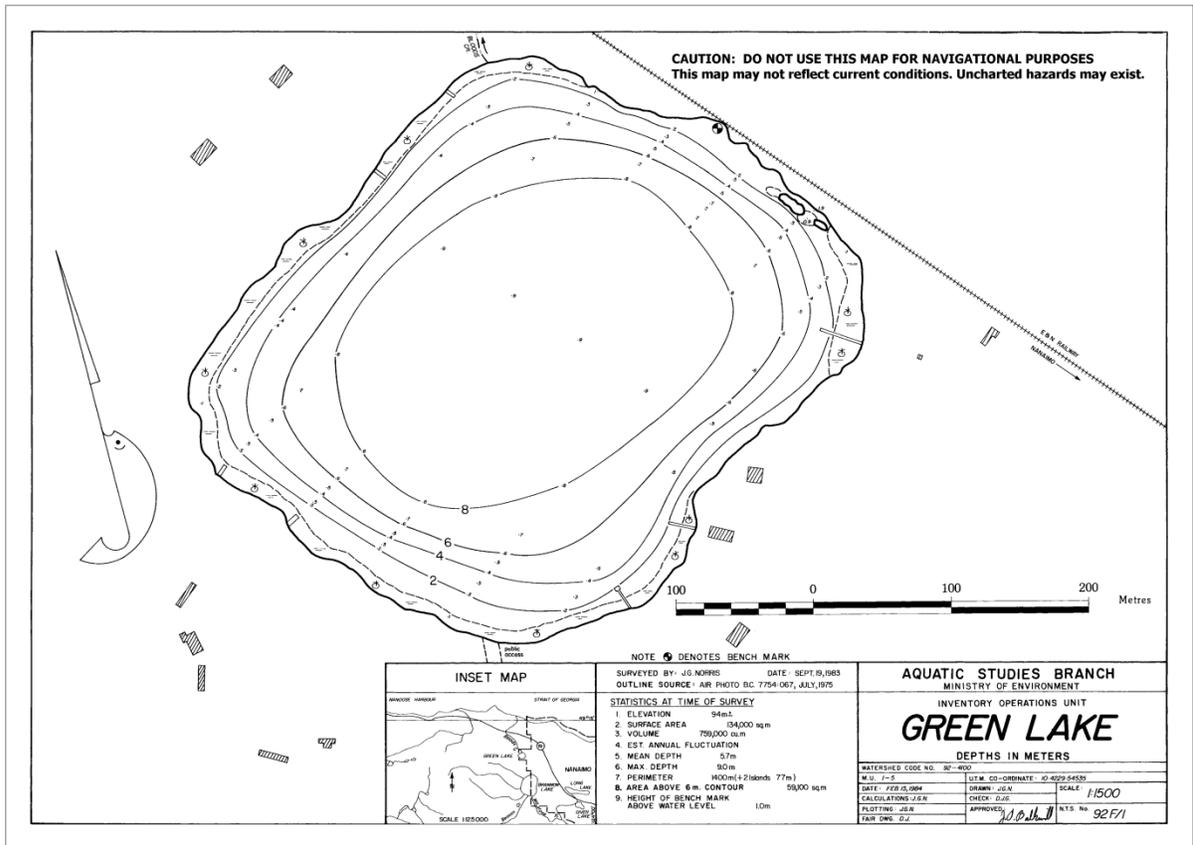


Muddling Along Oct 15 Green Lake



How to get there: take Metral Drive (runs from Aulds Road to Rutherford Road parallel to the old Island Highway on the west side. Turn west on Doumont Road and turn right after passing under the Parkway and the E&N at the first road after the E&N overpass. (Jenkins Road). Follow Jenkins road to near the end and turn into the launch area on the right.

Green Lake is one of my favourite lakes to fish in Nanaimo. It is small enough that you can easily reach all parts in a small boat or pontoon boat. There are a few waterfront houses around the lake but it is far enough from the highway that you have some sense of being “away from it all”! As you can see from the bathymetric chart above, there is not much in the way of structure within the lake with the centre of the lake being a relatively flat 8 to 9 metres (26 to 30 feet). The most productive areas to fish are the drop offs between the shore weeds and the deeper water. Trolling along those areas in the 15 to 20 foot range is a good way to fish. My preference is to locate some fish, then anchor and cast to them. I find I get a much better hookup of fish when I have my hands on the rod instead of in a rod holder.

The lake is stocked with catchables (9-12 inch Fraser Valley stock) 3 or 4 times a year in early spring and fall. Some of these fish carry over and can grow to 15 or 16 inches if they survive the kill fishery. In the early spring, they are good eating but become “muddy” through the summer and into the fall. There are also smallmouth Bass in the lake, but I have never targeted them, just catching an occasional small one when fishing for trout near the weed beds.

Productive areas for me have been:

- The area a 100 metres or so centred on the launch area. Often best close to times when the new catchables have been released.
- The opposite corner in the area where a raft is tethered.
- The opposite end of the lake close to the E&N trestle. (I think there is an outlet or inlet there).

Some suggestions for gear and flies:

- 4 to 6 wt rod with floating line, sink tip line or full sink line. The type of line will depend on the time of year. If you don't see fish moving near the surface, chances are a sinking line will be needed to find fish.
- If fish showing on surface and insects emerging, use a small dry fly (#12 to 16) but try to match the hatch. Tom Thumb is good all round fly to imitate many emerging insects.
- On sinking lines, use chironomids (especially Andrew's emerger in this lake!), dragon and damsel nymphs, leeches or micro-leeches in blacks, olives and browns with or without bead heads (red bead on black micro-leech seems to be productive for me) and don't forget the old stand by's . . . Doc Spratley, Halfback and Careys. Keep the flies small.



Looking at the southeast shore of Green Lake. Anchored in 20 ft of water.