

# Okay Lake -Revisited

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On the 5th May '07, Mike Orr and I decided to fish Okay lake as the week before a fellow had told me about all the rainbows, up to 17 inches, he had caught, just the week end before. Mike had his pontoon boat and I had my punt so off we went. Because Okay lies in the North West Bay private logging area we had to sign in at the gate. The gate keeper, at that time, gave us a very poorly photo copied map as well as direction to the lake. Unfortunately he gave us the WRONG spur road number and as the map was basically unreadable we ended up a mountain where we could see Okay Lake, but it was two miles away.

Anyway after much back tracking we finally arrived at the lake. From the launch there was about 50 yards of small bushes and bull rushes (Photo1)



**Photo 1** *OK Lake*

we had to push / paddle though before we hit the fishable water. As my source reported that LEACHES were THE FLY, I started off with a leach on a sinking line. After about 45 minutes

and a couple of colour changes with only one half hearted tug, I noticed some risers in one corner of the lake. Thinking that a hatch was starting I put on a chironomid with a small twist-on strike indicator. After a couple of casts with no luck my strike indicator flew off my leader, at which point the trout started to attack the indicator. Fortunately about two weeks prior, at one of our demonstrated fly tying sessions, we had tied Kinkhammers and the demonstrator had said "if a hatch is happening and you don't know what it is, try a Klinkhammer. So off goes the sinking line and on goes the floating line with a Klinkhammer and immediately I am rewarded with a strike. That certainly was THE FLY! They weren't huge, ranging from 12 to 14 inches (photo 2). I quickly lost count after about a dozen fish to the boat.



Photo 2.

Mike, inspite of my offer of a Klinkhammer, stuck with his tried and true and only hit 3 fish for the day. We had the lake to ourselves except for an Osprey who caught more fish than Mike.



**Photo 3. Fishless Klinkhammerless Mike**

Okay lake is quite shallow and warms early. It and a number of other lakes, Boomerang, Round, Kidney, and Cottle, are located in the N. W. Bay logging area. As it's a private logging area, it's only open to the public on weekends and you must sign in at the gate.. The N. W. Bay turn off is a left at the stop light at the top of the Nanoose hill, before "Big Boy's Toys".

About a km. past the gate house the road splits. **TAKE the left, Br. 142**, as the right will take you to Rhododendron Lake. After about 12 to 13 km and before Boomerang, **spur road 123** should be on your **right**, take it and go about another 3 to 4 kms. to Okay lake. Normally it should take about 20 minutes, not the two hours that Mike and I took.

In '07 the spur road was in rough shape. Since then they have re-logged that area and the last time in I could have taken a car. The maps have also drastically improved so be sure to ask for one at the gate.

cheers

Basher