

LAKE BERRYESSA TACTICS

Date: June 2, 2011

Prepared by: Guy Brown

Lake: Berryessa (Rainbow, King Salmon, Kokanee)

Month: June 2011

Areas: See map below.

Water temperature & likely depth(s) fish will be at: 65-70 degrees, 25-60 feet.

Rod, reel, main line (e.g. # test, lead core, etc.): Medium, medium light action, 6-7 feet, 8 lb. mono.

Leader #/length: 4-8 lb., 6-8 inches long.

Dodgers, side-kicks, wiggle fins, e-chips, flashers: Watermelon or silver 4/0 dodger or side-kick dodger, Slim Willies with a night crawler; Wildthing dodger gold with night crawler. Apply a scent to the dodger.

Lures/colors: Glo-in-the dark Radical Glo Tubes/hootchies/lures, Uncle Larry's spinners, Apexes, pink, green, red, purple, blue, copper, night-crawlers (Rainbows & Kings).

Scents/bait: Garlic, Trophy Trout, Kokanee Special, Corn, Anise, Krill, Night crawlers, Shoepeg White Corn (for Kokanee).

Leadcore, Side-planers, downriggers, ball flashers: 5-8 colors of lead core or a down rigger will be needed to get down to the fish. Ball flashers.

Tactics: Rainbow: With an electric trolling motor put your line behind the boat 100 feet, more if you are using an 2/4-stroke motor. Kokanee/King: With an electric trolling motor put your line behind the boat 20-60 feet depending on how deep the fish are, more if you are using a 2/4-stroke motor.

Peak times: First light and dusk.

Fish finder: Set it to read water depth 20-70 feet.

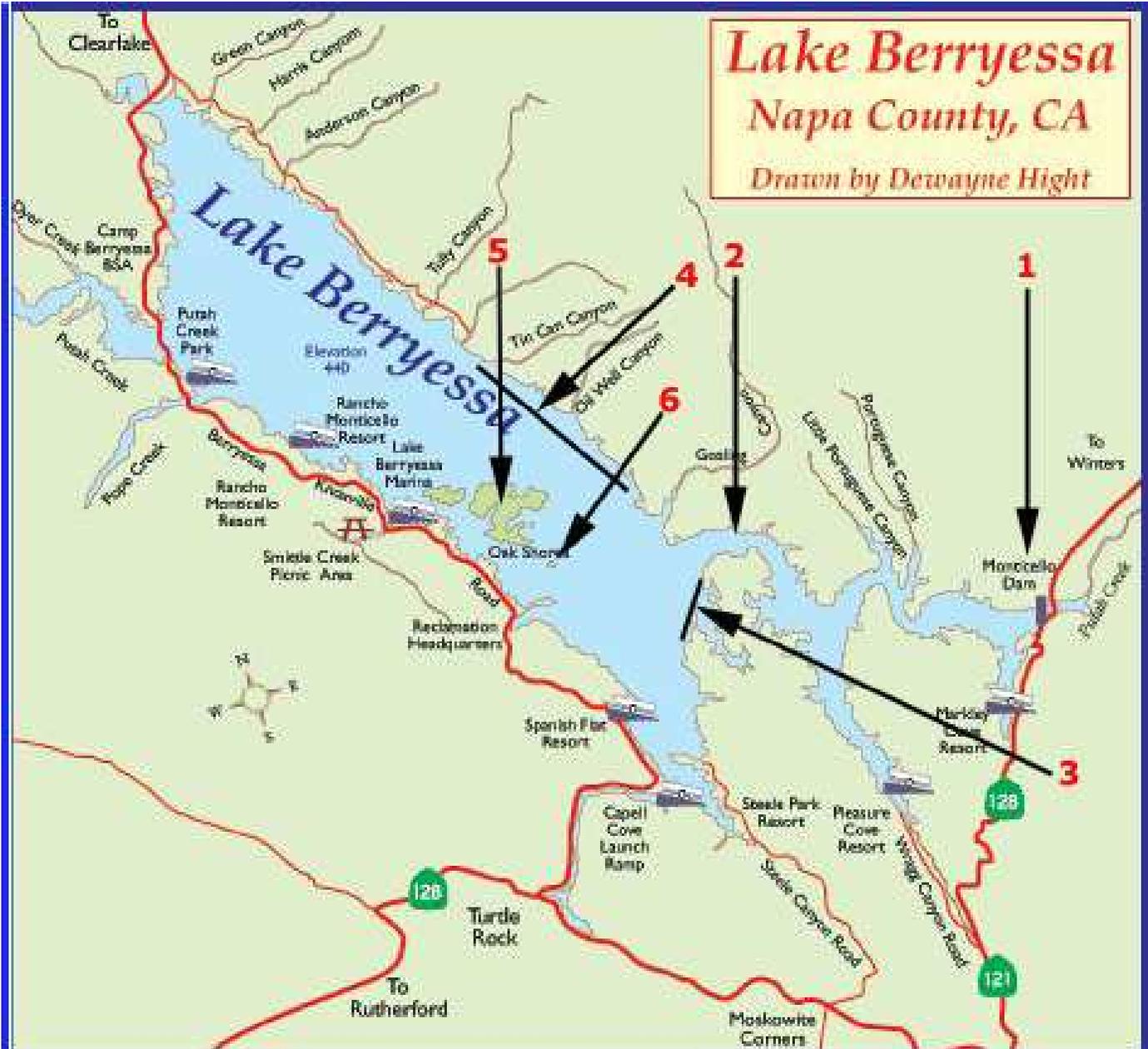
GPS: If you have one mark hits, hook-ups as soon as they occur and then stay in that area until the bite stops. Watch the direction of the marks it may tell you which direction the fish headed.

Boat handling: Troll at 0.9-1.6 mph for Kokanee, up to 2.6 mph for King Salmon and Rainbows.

Amenities: Store.

Directions: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/berryessa/facts.html> Hwy 80 West, Hwy 113 North, Rd 31/Covell Blvd West to Markley Cove Store (on your right), \$20 launch fee. Markley Cove Resort, 800-242-6287, 707-966-2134.

1. The Dam
2. The Narrows
3. Skiers Cove
4. The Ranch House
5. The Big Island
6. Goat Island



Fishing Notes

- **Winter**... Stick to the steep points and sheer walls. Plastic worms and jigs produce consistent action in 20 to 40 feet of water. Crankbait and rip baits can also be very effective.
- **Spring**... Time to go shallow! Throw topwater baits, spinnerbaits and brush hogs next to shallow cover in the backs of coves. Head up Pope or Putah creeks for big smallies after a warm rain.
- **Summer**... Fish early and late. Things get pretty crowded during the day. Toss buzzbaits and Zara Spooks along the east shore at first light. Once the sun is up, go deep with 4 to 6 inch worms fished on a drop-shot rig.
- **Fall**... Fall is prime time for cranking! Tie on a Rat-L-Trap or shallow diving crankbait and target main body flats in 5 to 15 feet of water. Also try a swimbait or Zara Spook if you're looking for a big bite.