

Hell Hole Reservoir Tactics

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Lake: Hell Hole (Mackinaw, Rainbow, German Brown, Kokanee)

Month: July

Areas: See map below.

Water temperature & likely depth(s) fish will be at: 65-68 degrees, on the surface, perhaps as deep as 30 feet.

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

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

Dodgers, side-kicks, wiggle fins, e-chips, flashers: Slim Willies with a night crawler; Wildthing dodger gold with night crawler. Apply a scent to the dodger.

Lures/colors: Night-crawlers.

Scents/bait: Night crawlers.

Leadcore, Side-planers, downriggers: Side-planers. There are Brown Trout here if you troll close to shore. Down riggers can be productive if fish are not on the surface.

Tactics: With an electric trolling motor put your line behind the boat 100+ feet, more if you are using an outboard motor.

Peak times: First light and dusk.

Fish finder: Start the day setting it to read water depth to 40 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 0.9-1.2 mph.

Amenities: Dangerous lake. Bears & rattlesnakes. Best Crystal Basin Kokanee Lake 2010.

Directions: Hwy 50 East. At Riverton take the Crystal Basin road to the left. Above Union Valley Reservoir, after crossing over the S. Fork of the American River look for the sign & turn right to Loon Lake. Look for the sign to the Launch Ramp. If you go over the dam you've missed it. The last 7 miles of road will take you 45 minutes, take it slow, lots of 1' pot holes.

