

LAC SEUL
SOUTHEAST SECTION

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SOUTHEAST SECTION



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

LAC SEUL

District of Kenora

Unorganized Territory

PHYSICAL DATA

LATITUDE	50° 20'	LONGITUDE	92° 30'
SURFACE AREA	348,266 acres	VOLUME	10,803,372 acre feet
HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL	1172 feet	PERIMETER	2974 miles
MAXIMUM DEPTH	155 feet	MEAN DEPTH	31 feet

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

On a map of 1632 Lac Seul appeared as Lake Chongas Keton. "Shankos" in the Ojibwa language means mink. "Keton" may be a derivation of word(s) meaning repeatedly, property or old. According to rumour, the lake received its present name from a French-trapper who was forced to spend an entire winter alone on the lake around 1750. He named it, appropriately enough for his purpose: "Lac Seul" which translated from French to English means Lake Alone.

Lac Seul has been an important waterway for more than two centuries. Furs and trade goods were transported to and from the local posts as early as 1777. During the gold rush at Red Lake (1928-27), and for nearly 40 years after, Lac Seul served as the only link with the outside. Tons of supplies and equipment were shipped over the lake from the C.N.R. station at Hudson by canoe, motor launch, barge and dog team. At one time the float plane base at Hudson on Lost Lake (actually part of Lac Seul) was considered second only to Chicago as the busiest airbase on the continent. Many of the place names that appear on Lac Seul today stem from this period. In 1931 Hudson also became the jumping off spot for servicing the gold camps at Pickle Lake. In 1928-29 a dam, built on the outlet at Ear Falls for hydro electric power, raised water levels in the lake some 18 feet. The water route up Lac Seul was in use until 1954.

LAKE CHARACTERISTICS

Lac Seul is Ontario's second largest inland body of water. It measures a map distance of about 75 miles from the outlet at Ear Falls to near Sioux Lookout. It drains an area of 10,200 square miles including more than 7500 smaller lakes. Thermal stratification was evident at the time of the survey in McIntyre Bay and Shanty Narrows basins. August water temperatures ranged from 68° F at the surface to 49° F at 140 feet. The dissolved oxygen content varied slightly from 7.0 to 8.0 parts per million in most basins. A mean pH value of 7.0 indicated a neutral characteristic in relation to the hydrogen ion composition in the water. An average total dissolved solids concentration of 80.5 parts per million was determined from conductivity readings. Clarity in this brownish coloured water varied considerably as indicated by the disappearance of the secchi disc from view, 1.9 to 7.5 feet below the surface.

FISH SPECIES PRESENT

Yellow pickerel, northern pike, sauger, yellow perch, lake whitefish, emerald shiner, chub, burbot, rock bass, white sucker, shorthead darters, logperch, brook stickleback and trout perch. Lake trout and maskinonge are inhabiting species, but rarely caught.

FISHING

Lac Seul is noted for its excellent angling for northern pike and yellow pickerel. Spring and fall angling for yellow pickerel is best in the shallower waters such as the many narrows (especially where there's current), around islands and adjacent rocky shorelines. During the summer yellow pickerel are usually scattered and should be fished a little deeper. Live bait fish are preferred, but experienced anglers can catch them on jugs, flatfish, rapalas and a variety of artificial lures. Northerns are taken throughout the open water period on a variety of lures, particularly in weedy bays. Lac Seul produces yellow pickerel up to 12 pounds and northern pike to 35 pounds.

ACCESS AND FACILITIES

Lac Seul is accessible on the west side by motor vehicle via several secondary roads off highway No. 105 north from highway No. 17 between Perreault Falls and Ear Falls. It is accessible at Hudson where there's boat launching and marina services. Access to Deception Bay at mileage 11, off the Marchington Lake road, north of Sioux Lookout is maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Access is also available at Pelican Falls via tractor and trailer (over a short portage) operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources for parties who wish to fish out of Sioux Lookout. There are several tourist outfitters located on Lac Seul, mostly in the Ear Falls area. Accommodation and supplies are available at Sioux Lookout, Hudson, Dryden, Vermilion Bay and Ear Falls. Limited supplies are available at the Hudson Bay Post on Lac Seul. Radio-telephone control with the Hudson Bay Company at Hudson is maintained from the Lac Seul Post. Emergency services may be available from some of the commercial fishing camps established on Lac Seul.

SURVEY DATES
JUNE 1, 1968 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1969

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS VALID AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1969
CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

COPIES OF THIS MAP ARE AVAILABLE AT LOCAL MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICES.

This map is intended for fisheries management purposes only. It should not be used as a guide in navigation because no effort has been made to show the various shoals and hazards which might occur between points of sounding.

