



FAWCETT LAKE

Fawcett Lake can be an angler's dream. There are so many opportunities, the question will be how to keep up with them all.

Ray Kohlruss from **Reel Angling Adventures**, says that Fawcett is a big lake, and the best locations will depend on such things as weather and time of day. It also depends on the species you target.

When going after perch, Kohlruss suggests a Marmish hook tipped with maggots, meal-

worms or minnows. Head down between 15 and 30 feet, and try to stay near the steep drop-offs.

The rocks around the islands are also good locations, as the rocks will act as cover. Try the east end of the lake near the boat launch, too, for a good starting point.

If walleye are more your thing, Kohlruss emphasises that smaller is better. "With walleye, less is more," he says. Try small pink ladies, jigs tipped with minnows, or small perch hooks with maggots.

"Pike will go after

just about anything," says Kohlruss, but a starting point is a small jig head and minnow. Head about 100 feet out from the boat launch, down up to 30 feet deep. The pike in Fawcett Lake are in about the 6 lb range, though some as big as 25 lbs have been known to come out.

Burbot are an excellent ice-fishing target. Kohlruss says that in warmer weather they're more river fish than lake fish. In winter, however, they are feeding heavily in the lakes and are growing more than they do in warmer weather. They

spawn in February, he says, and that is the perfect time to head out for a day of ice fishing.

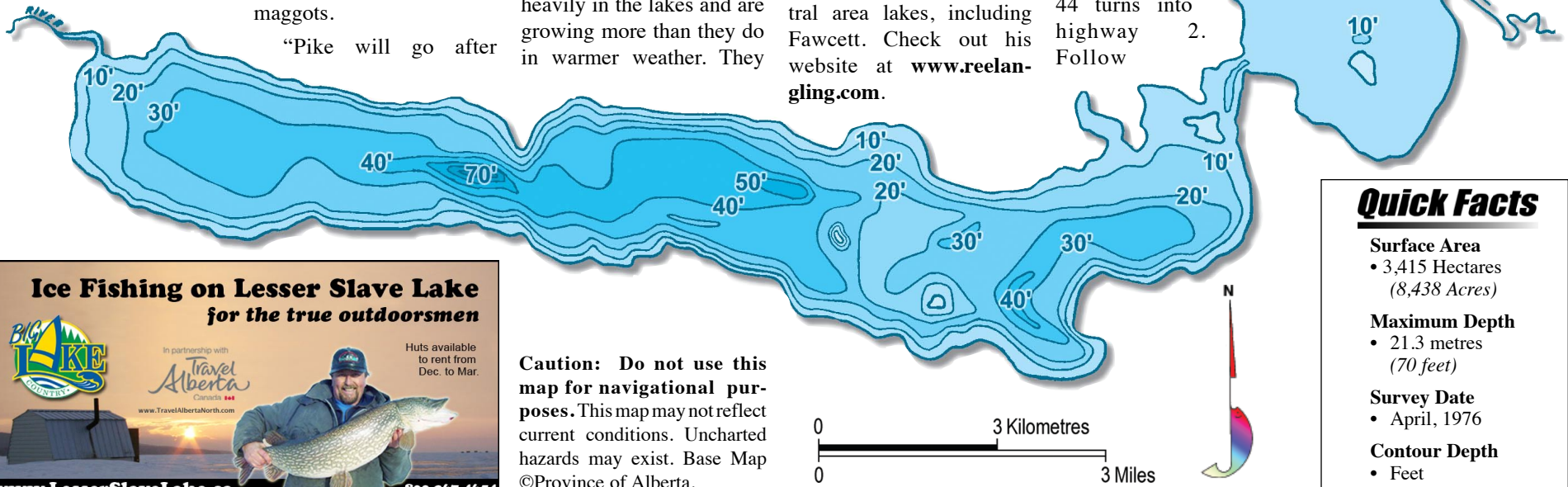
Please make sure you consult the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations before heading out. Fawcett Lake has several different regulations in place, and there is a closure in effect on the northeast side for part of the spring.

A guided trip is also a great idea. Ray Kohlruss of **Reel Angling Adventures**, guides in many north-central area lakes, including Fawcett. Check out his website at www.reelangling.com.

LAKE ACCESS

Fawcett Lake is roughly a two and a half hour drive north of Edmonton. Take Highway 2 north to Clyde corner, head west on highway 18 to Westlock then head north again on highway 44. Take the "Smith" turn off, which is highway 2A. This is just on top of the hill after you pass the Athabasca turn off where 44 turns into highway 2. Follow

2A through the town of Smith and across the Athabasca river and follow the signs to either the west or east end of Fawcett Lake.



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