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“What - Where - How”

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Marin County Watershed Lakes

Bon Tempe Lake

What: Trout - Panfish - Bass

The trout are planted by California Department of Fish & Game stocking programs, and there seem to be some holdover fish. Panfish are found in Bon Tempe, Alpine and Kent. Bass live in Phoenix, Bon Tempe, Alpine and Kent. The fishing ranges from easy to challenging.

Where: Marin County Watershed

The five lakes of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) Watershed include Phoenix, Lagunitas, Bon Tempe, Alpine and Kent Lakes. There is no wading or water contact allowed, and no watercraft of any kind can be used. There is an extensive network of trails throughout the watershed. You can hike, bike or drive to the lakes. There is an day-use access fee charged at Sky Oaks Ranger Station if you drive.

Bon Tempe is the second lake from the “top” - below Lagunitas, and has the most access points. There is a disabled access on the east side (furthest from the dam) of the lake. There is parking below the dam (take the first right onto a dirt road after entering the watershed and then turn left into the parking lot, then walk up to the lake) and on the “back side” (continue on the paved road over the hill and you will see parking areas off of the roadway.) You can also access the lake from the Lagunitas Parking lot where the paved road ends.

How:

Trout: The most popular way to fish Bon Tempe is with either lures or bait. Most anglers use a Kastmaster, Panther Martin, Lil Cleo or similar lure. Power Bait floated up from the bottom on a sliding sinker is a sure-fire method if you don't want to actively cast. You can also find success using a fly (try it behind a clear bubble with spinning gear), but since the fish are planted, they do not tend to respond to hatches. Wooly Buggers, Leech patterns and minnow imitations work best. Light to moderate tackle recommended - 2 -10# test line depending upon your confidence level, and 1/8 - 1/4 oz lures are the most popular.

Panfish: 1/64 or 1/32 oz “Gitzits” or “mini-jigs” work best tied directly to your line. Ultralight gear makes for the most fun - 1 - 4# test line on 5' or shorter rods. You can also sink red worms beneath a bobber - this is a great way to introduce young children to fishing.

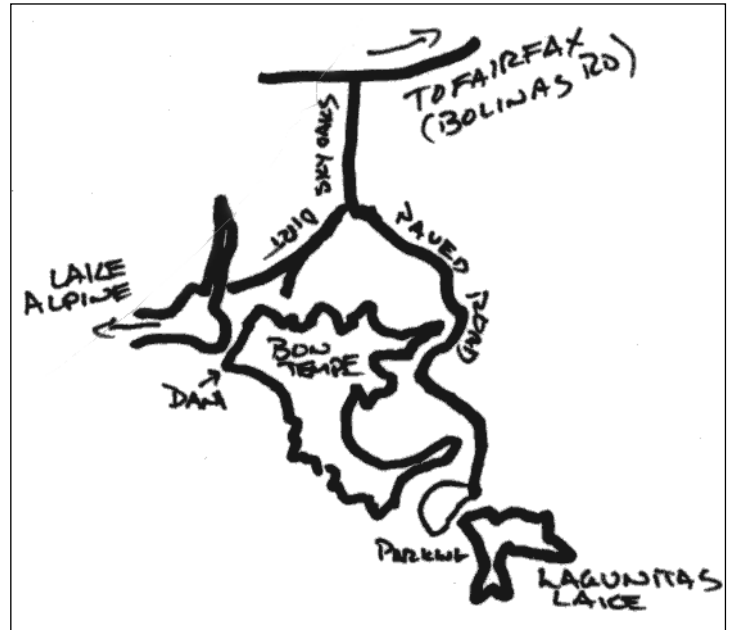
Bass: Soft Plastics, such as the “Senko” worms, small swimbaits and Rat-L-Traps to imitate baitfish, and spinner baits let you cover the most water. Bass follow a fairly consistent seasonal pattern, moving up into the shallows in early spring to nest and spawn, during which time they are notoriously difficult to catch. They begin feeding strongly after that and continue to do so through the summer and fall.

Locals Tip - from mid summer on, get a crawdad trap and you'll generally find good success - particularly in the backside coves. Also, some of the best fishing and smallest crowds can be found in the fall and winter months, when the trout are stocked more regularly and less people are fishing for them.

Other Resources -

MMWD Stocking Information Phone Number: 415-945-1194

Delorme Map: Northern California Atlas Page 103



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