

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME 102-70-058
 DIVISION OF SPORT FISH
LAKE SURVEY SUMMARY 102-70-10580-0030

USGS MAP REF. Craing D-3 T _____ R _____ S _____ LAKE Thorne
 LAT. 55° 46' 4" N LONG. 132° 46' 12" W

LOC. Ketchikan Dist., Prince of Wales Is. Thorne River Drain SURF. ELEV. 190 ft.

1. SURF. ACRES 275 MAX. DEPTH est. 20 ft. AVG. DEPTH 10 ACRE FT. 2,750
 SHOAL AREA 15 % WATER COLOR Dark muskeg stain SECCHI READING _____
 AQUATIC VEGETATION Abundant nuphar, valisnaria, potamogeton, ceratophyllum

2. FISH SPECIES: NATIVE Cutthroat, dolly varden, stickleback, INTRODUCED None on record
Cott., Rb SH RS SS

3. FISHING HISTORY Very meagre - not even any rumors

4. INVERTEBRATES Scuds, snails, insects and larvae

5. INLETS Thorne River enters NW end of lake DISCHARGE Summer normal 4 cfs
3 small Tributaries around the lake DISCHARGE Summer normal 2 cfs

BARRIERS Low flows and steep grade where they come down off the hills DISCHARGE _____ cfs

6. OUTLETS Thorne River DISCHARGE Summer normal 8 cfs
 DISCHARGE _____ cfs

BARRIERS Periodic blocks by beaver dams

7. SPAWNING AREAS Adequate in inlets

8. WATERSHED TYPE Forested, muskeg and some steep slopes DRAINAGE AREA 13,901 ACRES

9. ACCESSIBILITY By plane 54 miles from Ketchikan

10. ACCESS STATUS Tongass National Forest

11. USE SITE None FACILITIES None

12. OTHER USE Scenic, waterfowl nesting

13. POLLUTION None

14. REMARKS A lake which appears to be quite shallow and it's about the top of the Thorne River watershed. A short portage gets a canoe through to Hatchery Creek in the Sweetwater Lake drainage.

The is too far from town to encourage a great amount of fishing pressure.

BY Robert T. Baade

DATE 1967 (Edited 1970 RTB)

Thorne Lake

Thorne Lake, 55° 41' N lat. 132° 46' W long., is located on the east coast of Prince of Wales Island at the head of Thorne Bay (Figure 13). Thorne Lake is approximately 1.8 km (1.1 miles) long and 0.8 km (0.5 mile) wide. The maximum depth has been recorded at 6.4 meters (21 feet). Thorne Lake lies at an elevation of 58 meters (190 feet).

Access to Thorne Lake is via fixed wing aircraft, helicopter, or by canoe from the upper Thorne River lakes. Thorne Lake is 91 km (57 miles) northwest from Ketchikan. No developed trails exist at present anywhere in the upper Thorne River area.

Thorne Lake was visited on May 15 and 16, 1984. Two floating gillnets were set. One was set on the west side near the inlet and the other was set off the south end of the small island in the southeast end of the lake (Figures 14 and 15). The nets were fished overnight for 17 hours each. A total of 52 cutthroat, 1 coho salmon smolt, and 1 sockeye salmon smolt were captured. No Dolly Varden or sculpins were captured, even though it is likely that they do occur in the system. The age-length relationships of the cutthroat sampled are presented in Table 11. The cutthroat trout in Thorne Lake averaged 248 mm (9.8 inches) for those sampled.

The cutthroat sampled from Thorne Lake were examined for sexual maturity. It was found that the cutthroat were comprised of 28% mature fish and 72% immature fish (Table 12). This percent maturity is about what has been observed in the other cutthroat lakes.

Thorne Lake is fed by Thorne River which enters the lake on the northwest end. This stream is quite large and offers excellent spawning and rearing areas for the various fish species.

The outlet (Thorne River) of Thorne Lake is wide, shallow, and rocky for some distance below the lake. Thorne River enters the next of a series of small lakes approximately 0.4 km (0.25 mile) below Thorne Lake. No barriers to fish migration exist on the Thorne River below Thorne Lake.

The shoreline around Thorne Lake is mostly wooded with alder, cedar, and hemlock. There are several areas where the understory consists of grass and/or open meadow. These areas offer excellent camp sites.

Thorne Lake is a pleasant lake and has many desirable features for sport fishermen. The inlet and outlet are both rather large and offer excellent stream fishing possibilities. The trout population is most likely influenced by sea-run trout leaving and returning. There appears to be a year round resident population of cutthroat that would provide angling. Fishing will improve once the sockeye salmon begin to enter the area in July. Thorne Lake is one of a chain of lakes that offer access for canoe trips from the Sweetwater's system to Thorne Bay. At present, Thorne Lake is in old growth forest and has a wilderness setting.