

NOTE: the DRUC assumes NO responsibility, direct or implied, for the safety of diving at this site using this information.€ The information in this report presents general information on conditions and certain known hazards, but conditions are variable and other hazards may exist from time to time.€ It is every diver's own/personal responsibility to ensure that the conditions are adequately safe with respect to his/her training and experience – THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Dive Report - Little Clear (Bissett Area)

Little Clear clearly makes it onto the DRUC Top 10 list of local dives sites worth visiting. Access is fairly good, the hazards are minimal, and the underwater conditions are excellent. The only limitation with this site is the shallow depth, but in consideration of all the other factors, I'd rank this site 8 of 10. If it was deeper, I'd score it higher.

Attractions

Clean/clear water, rocky shoreline, rock shoals, rock monuments, loon observing.

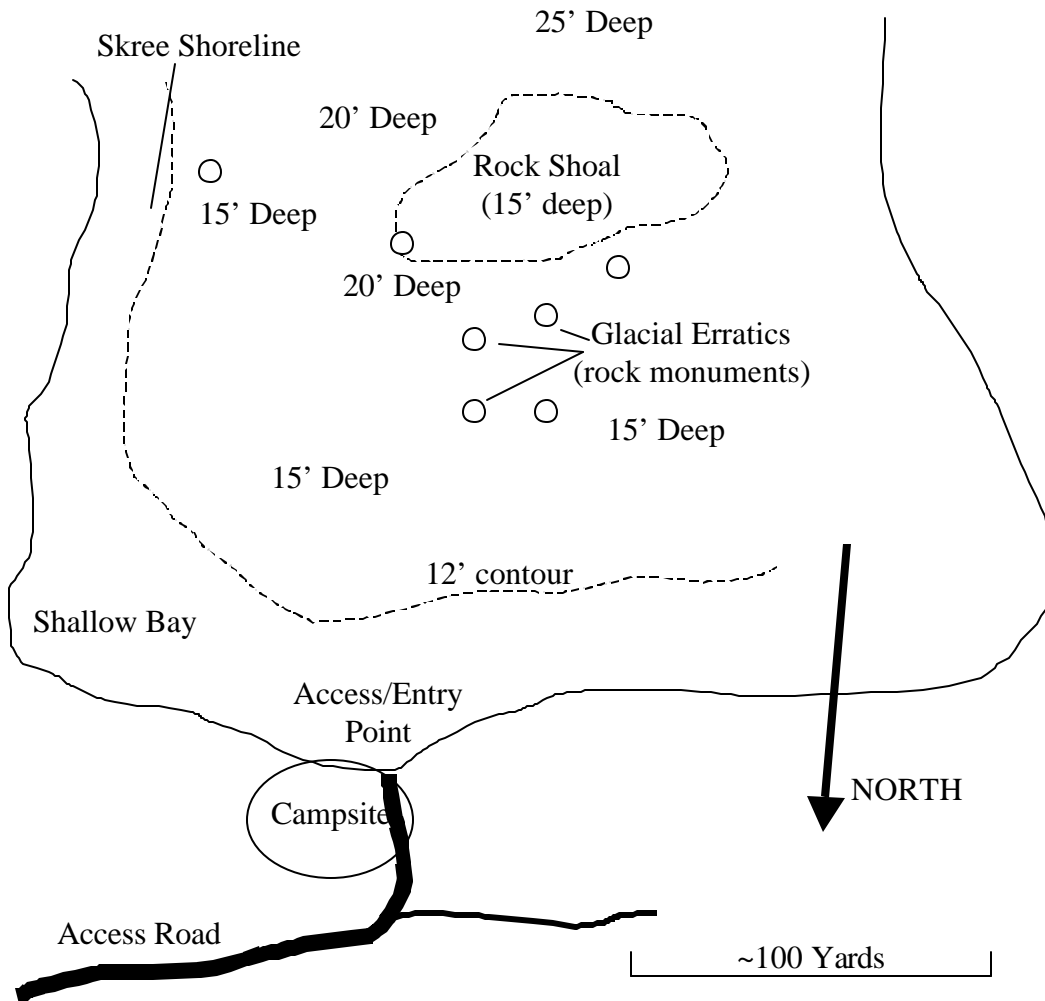
Site Overview

This lake is small but large enough that a boat is needed to access the far side of the lake where the deeper section is reported to be. The lake is about 1 km across. If you dive from shore at the vehicle access point (i.e., north end of lake), you'll encounter a large area with a flat sandy bottom with a skree-rock shoreline drop-off, a rocky shoal in the middle, and an area of glacial erratics (rock monuments) – see the sketch. This is a strange lake in the sense that everywhere we went, the bottom was firm and with minimal silt. Even the rocks and logs were essentially silt-free. The erratics are interesting in that they stand out from the flat sandy bottom, some the size of a refrigerator, and some the size of a car.

The VIS was between 20 and 25', under a cloudy sky, and our expectation is that it would be close to 30' under a sunny sky. The thermocline was at 22' and the VIS was similar under the thermocline (reduced slightly - ~15'). Surface water temp was ~70 deg F, and just below the thermocline, the temp was ~55 degr F.

The depth of the lake at the north end was between 12' and 20' - 12' at the base of the shoreline skree, then gradually dropping off to a max of 25' towards the middle of the lake. As mentioned, we discovered an interesting rock shoal in the middle of the north-end of the lake. There is now one low-grade inookshook somewhere on this shoal - hats off to anyone that finds it and fixes it up.

Marine life was, unfortunately, somewhat absent. The only aquatic creature available for close study was giant pollywogs. These sluggish creatures would allow you to pick them up and would sit in your hand. This lake is noted for excellent trout fishing (splake), but during the summer months these fish seek refuge in the deeper colder waters. There were no bass, perch or sunfish to be seen. We came close to having the opportunity to swim with loons, but although they swam half way across the lake to greet us, they turned away before coming into VIS range - *that* would have be interesting!! On shore, the mosquitoes were *intense*, shall we say.



Dive Site Sketch – Little Clear North-End

Access

50 minute travel time from Deep River to the shore of the lake (at reasonable highway speed). Access is simple - drive 30 minutes down Hwy 17 towards North Bay, then drive ~14 km down (south) the Bissett Creek Road, then drive ~ 3 km down a rough logging road (cart track really), making a left turn at the only intersection in this road. The road ends at the lake. The mosquitoes will greet you with open wings.

Truck or SUV is required for ground clearance (a car or van would not make it into the lake because of large boulders in several spots close to the lake).

Hazards

Minimal - while at the time we dealt with an electrical storm hazard (a non-issue as it turned out), the only inherent hazard is *exhaustion* - with the shallow depth, an 80 CF tank lasts about 80 minutes, and over this time you can swim a great distance from the

entry point. Care must be taken to turn around and start swimming back to the entry point half-way through the dive.

Recommendations

1. **Must do/must see:** suggest swimming west 50 yards, then south ~150/200 yards (which should take you past some of the erratics, then on to the shoal), then explore the shoal, then swim east to skree shoreline, then return to entry point along the skree (heading north).
2. Bring a compass – in order to maximize your enjoyment, underwater orienteering is an important aspect to this site. Wear a 7 mm suit with hood (cool water, long dive duration).
3. Wear pants and long sleeve shirts because the mosquitoes are absolutely ravenous. Excellent site for orienteering exercises. Bring a canoe to enjoy the surface scenery.
4. Dive the deep end (south end) using a car-topper boat for access (with motor – too far to row).