

**Canadian Manuscript Report for Fisheries and Aquatic
Sciences 2731**

2005

**Application of the NWT Winter Water Withdrawal
Protocol with Bathymetric Profiles of Select Small Lakes
in the Mackenzie Delta Region**

By

Peter A. Cott¹, Darwin M. A. Monita², Andrew R. Majewski³, Bruce W.
Hanna¹ and Kelly J. Bourassa^{1,4}.

¹Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2

²Aquatics Environmental Services Inc.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6T6

³Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N6

and

⁴*present address* – Golder Associates Limited,
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, X1A 2P1

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2005.
Cat. No. Fs 97-42731E ISSN 1488-5387

Correct citation for this publication:

Cott P.A., Monita, D.M.A., Majewski A.R., Hanna B.W., and. Bourassa K.J. 2005.
Application of the NWT Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol with Bathymetric
Profiles of Select Small Lakes in the Mackenzie Delta Region. Can. Manuscr.
Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2731: vii +73 p.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	VI
RÉSUMÉ	VII
INTRODUCTION.....	1
<i>Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Bathymetry of 55 lakes on the Mackenzie Delta and surrounding area.....</i>	<i>3</i>
MATERIALS AND METHODS	4
<i>Location and Site Description.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Selection of Lakes.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Bathymetric System Overview.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Lake Access / Survey Vessel.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Echosounder & Transducer.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Position</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Protocol Surveying</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Post - Processing.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Chart Production.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Water Volume Estimates</i>	<i>6</i>
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	7
<i>Benefits</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Next Steps.....</i>	<i>12</i>
CONCLUSIONS	12
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13
REFERENCES.....	13

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 Figure 1. Minimum transect requirements, as outlined in the <i>DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT</i> , for the bathymetric survey of a lake less than 1 km at its longest axis.....	3
2 Location of bathymetric surveys conducted on 55 lakes in the Mackenzie Delta during 2001, 2002, and 2003.....	4
3 Figure 3. Scenario A1: Minimal sampling effort consisting of one vertical transect.....	8
4 Figure 4. Scenario A2: Minimal sampling effort consisting of one horizontal transect.....	8
5 Figure 5. Scenario B: Limited sampling effort consisting of both a vertical and a horizontal transect.....	9
6 Figure 6. Scenario C: Sampling effort that is acceptable to the <i>DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT</i> , providing enough resolution to adequately assess fish overwintering habitat while offering a conservative water volume estimate for withdrawal volume calculations.....	9
7 Figure 7. Scenario D: Depicts the effects of increasing the number of vertical transects conducted during a bathymetric survey (i.e. decreasing spacing to 200m), providing a higher level of resolution than depicted in Scenarios A1 – C.....	10
8 Figure 8. Scenario E: Depicts the gain in resolution, and correspondingly increased water volume estimate, achieved by decreasing the spacing of vertical transects to 100m, conducting 3 horizontal transects, incorporating shoreline tracking, and surveying bays and interesting features.....	10
9 Water volume estimates calculated for Lake 55 (see Appendix 2) using bathymetric survey scenarios (Figures 3 – 8) that differ in sampling effort.....	11

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Maximum expected ice thicknesses and corresponding minimum water depths required for 5% water withdrawal in three distinct regions of the NWT as outlined in the <i>DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT</i>	3

LIST OF APPENDICIES

<u>Appendix</u>		<u>Page</u>
A	<i>DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the Northwest Territories</i>	15
B	Bathymetric images of 55 lakes in the Mackenzie Delta and surrounding area.....	19

ABSTRACT

Cott P.A., Monita, D.M.A., Majewski A.R., Hanna B.W., and Bourassa K.J. 2005.
Application of the NWT Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol with Bathymetric
Profiles of Select Small Lakes in the Mackenzie Delta Region. Can. Manuscr.
Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2731: vii +73 p.

Large volumes of water are required by industry in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to conduct activities such as hydrocarbon exploration and winter road construction. Fish living in small lakes are particularly sensitive in late winter due to limited oxygen supplies. These oxygen supplies can be further reduced to harmful levels through winter water withdrawals. In order to better assess the fish overwintering habitat potential of small lakes, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area (DFO) requires industrial water users to submit volume estimates of potential water sources. These estimates are to be derived from bathymetric surveys conducted using the minimum standards outlined in the *DFO's Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT*. This report demonstrates the application of the protocol using an example of how the level of effort expended on bathymetric surveys directly affects the accuracy of the resulting lake volume estimates. Also presented are bathymetric data from 55 small lakes in the Mackenzie Delta and adjacent tundra areas, providing insight into the diversity of lake basin shapes in the area.

Key Words; Northwest Territories, NWT, bathymetry, bathymetric profiles, Mackenzie Delta, tundra lakes, oil and gas, seismic, winter road, water withdrawal

RÉSUMÉ

Cott P.A., Monita, D.M.A., Majewski A.R., Hanna B.W., and Bourassa K.J. 2005.
Application of the NWT Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol with Bathymetric
Profiles of Select Small Lakes in the Mackenzie Delta Region. Can. Manuscr.
Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2731: vii +73 p.

Dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (T. N.-O.), les divers consommateurs d'eau dans le secteur industriel requièrent de grands volumes d'eau pour mener leurs activités, comme la prospection de gisements d'hydrocarbures et la construction de chemins d'hiver. Les poissons retrouvés dans les petits lacs sont particulièrement vulnérables à la fin de l'hiver à cause des faibles concentrations d'oxygène dans l'eau. Le prélèvement d'eau en hiver peut réduire davantage ces concentrations jusqu'à des niveaux dangereux. Afin de pouvoir mieux évaluer le potentiel des petits lacs comme habitat d'hivernage du poisson, le ministère des Pêches et des Océans – Secteur de l'Arctique de l'Ouest (MPO) exige que les consommateurs d'eau dans le secteur industriel présentent des estimations des volumes des sources d'eau potentielles. Ces estimations doivent reposer sur des levés bathymétriques effectués en regard des normes minimales établies dans le Protocole de prélèvement de l'eau en hiver dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, produit par le MPO. Nous appliquons le protocole en utilisant un exemple qui montre comment le niveau d'effort déployé lors des levés bathymétriques influe directement sur la précision des estimations résultantes du volume d'eau dans un lac. Sont aussi présentées des données bathymétriques sur 55 petits lacs du delta du Mackenzie et de régions avoisinantes de la toundra pour donner un aperçu de la diversité des formes de lac dans la région.

Mots clés: Territoires du Nord-Ouest, T. N.-O., bathymétrie, profils bathymétriques, delta du Mackenzie, lacs de la toundra, pétrole et gaz, sismique, chemin d'hiver, prélèvement d'eau

INTRODUCTION

In the Northwest Territories (NWT) large volumes of water are required by industry to undertake various activities such as winter road construction, exploratory drilling, ice crossing construction, hydrostatic testing of pipelines and camp use. Due to the remoteness and the limited extent of permanent roads in the NWT, projects are usually conducted during the winter when travel over frozen lakes, rivers and land is possible. Water is normally withdrawn from lakes or rivers adjacent to the access route or development being constructed.

In small shallow lakes, without any sources of water recharge during the winter, the available oxygen is fixed at the point of ice cover. Over the course of the ice covered season, available oxygen is slowly depleted in lakes through respiration and biological oxygen demand from decomposing organic material. Withdrawing water from small lakes during ice covered conditions can further exacerbate the effects of critical factors to fish such as; limited dissolved oxygen (Gaboury and Patalas 1984), shrinking winter habitat resulting in higher fish densities (Bégout Anras et al. 1999; Gaboury and Patalas 1984; Paller 1997), freezing littoral habitat killing benthos and macrophytes (Tarver 1980; Rørslett 1989; Hellsen et al. 1996; Rørslett and Johansen 1996; Paller 1997; Turner et al. 2004) and freezing of incubating eggs in littoral areas (Jansen 2000). The aforementioned factors can lead to physiological stress and winterkill (Wetzel 2001).

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area (DFO) recognized that industrial winter water withdrawal from small lakes has the potential to cause negative impacts to over-wintering fish and fish habitat and implemented a winter water withdrawal protocol to address these concerns.

The purpose of this report is to demonstrate a practical application of DFO's *Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT* and to present bathymetric data on 55 small lakes in the Mackenzie Delta and adjacent tundra areas to be accessible for fisheries managers, industry and the general public.

Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol

In the past, water source information that was required to obtain water licences or land use permits was insufficient for DFO to assess potential impacts to fish and fish habitat, or to allow for adequate mitigation measures to be determined or developed. Accordingly, DFO, in conjunction with other regulators and representatives from the oil and gas industry, developed the *DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal for Oil & Gas Activities in the Northwest Territories*. As a pilot initiative, this protocol was distributed to the oil and gas industry in August of 2002. The protocol was revised in January 2005 and renamed DFO's *Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT* (hereafter referred to as the protocol; Appendix A) as it now applies to all industrial water users within the NWT, not just the oil and gas industry. The revised document follows the same general format as the previous protocol but with added clarity and instruction. Also, the revision includes input from the Natural Resource Industry Association, a multi-industry group including organizations such as the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Mining

Association of Canada, and the Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Transportation.

The intent of the protocol is to provide a standardized tool to assist industry in avoiding possible impacts to fish from winter water withdrawals while obtaining the water they require, as well as ensuring consistency among water users. The information outlined in the protocol, that is now required from industrial water users in project proposals, allows DFO to more effectively assess and recommend mitigation against potential impacts to fish and fish habitat.

The protocol outlines various water withdrawal limits for lakes depending on physical lake characteristics such as maximum depth and maximum expected ice cover. These limits were adapted from recommendations outlined in the Berger Inquiry (1977), regulators experiences on the Alaskan North Slope (W. Morris, Alaska Department of Natural Resources *pers. comm.* 2002) and through the use of the precautionary principle (DFO 2002). DFO designates a lake as providing overwintering fish habitat if the maximum water depth is greater than the maximum expected ice thickness, rather than relying on fish capture methods which can be unreliable at proving the absence of fish. Water withdrawal thresholds corresponding to the maximum expected ice thickness are outlined below.

1. If less than 100 m³ is to be used from a given water body per ice covered season, the protocol does not apply, regardless of maximum expected ice cover.
2. If the maximum water depth is less than the maximum expected ice thickness, no threshold on water use is applied.
3. If the maximum water depth provides less than 1.5 m of free water beneath the maximum ice cover, no water withdrawal is allowed as fish in these waterbodies are considered to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of water withdrawal.
4. If the maximum water depth provides 1.5 m or greater of free water under the maximum expected ice thickness, withdrawals are not to exceed 5% of the available free water volume per ice covered season. This volume is calculated using the appropriate maximum expected ice thickness.

It is recognized that maximum expected ice thickness varies throughout the NWT; therefore, ice thickness data from lakes throughout the NWT and corresponding acceptable minimum water depths for a 5% withdrawal, were compiled using long term data from Environment Canada: Water Survey of Canada and Canadian Ice Services (Table 1).

Table 1. Maximum expected ice thicknesses and corresponding minimum water depths required for 5% water withdrawal in three distinct regions of the NWT as outlined in the *DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT*.

Area	Maximum Expected Ice Thickness (m)	Minimum Waterbody depth Required for 5% Water Withdrawal (m)
Above the Tree Line	2.0	≥3.5
Below the Tree Line - North of Fort Simpson	1.5	≥3.0
Deh Cho –South of Fort Simpson	1.0	≥2.5

Accurate volumes are required to determine the threshold volumes outlined in the protocol, therefore DFO requires industrial water users to conduct bathymetric surveys on waterbodies proposed to be used as winter water withdrawal sources. A minimum standard for the bathymetric survey of lakes that are less than 1 km in length at the longest axis is outlined in Figure 1. The protocol requires additional transects be included in bathymetric surveys of lakes that are greater than 1 km in length, as outlined in the protocol (Appendix A).

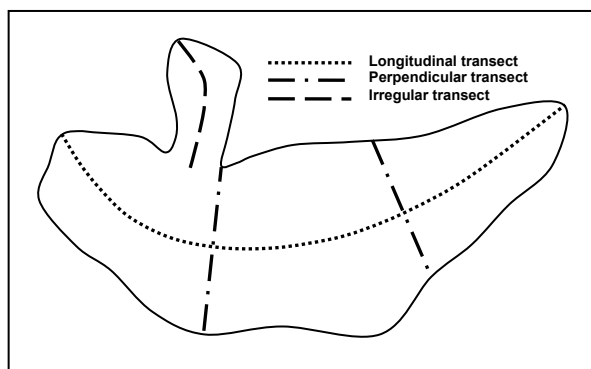


Figure 1. Minimum transect requirements, as outlined in the *DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT*, for the bathymetric survey of a lake less than 1 km at its longest axis.

Based on the bathymetric survey, an estimation of the total available water volume under maximum expected ice cover can be calculated, as well as the maximum depth of the lake to determine if over-wintering habitat is present.

Bathymetry of 55 lakes on the Mackenzie Delta and surrounding area

Bathymetry of 55 lakes in the Mackenzie Delta area of the NWT is presented in this report. These lakes were surveyed in 2001 and 2003. Each lake was sampled with an effort beyond the minimum requirements outlined in the protocol and therefore represents a high standard of resolution.

These bathymetric profiles provide insight into the diversity of basin shape of lakes in the Mackenzie Delta and adjacent tundra areas. It has been generally assumed that within the study region, the majority of lakes have pan shaped bathymetry and thus lakes of similar size (determined from maps or aerial reconnaissance) would have similar volumes. The data presented in this report serves to illustrate the wide variability of morphology of lakes within the region. This report also demonstrates the application of the protocol by using bathymetric data to demonstrate the potential effects that changes in sampling effort during bathymetric surveys can have on lake volume estimates. The potentially critical impacts of winter water withdrawal from shallow waterbodies on fish and fish over-wintering habitat in the NWT are also discussed.

It should be recognized that the methodologies (e.g. data analysis techniques) used to collect and generate the bathymetric images contained within this report only represent potential methods of obtaining the information specified in the protocol. Other methodologies may be used to achieve the same end result while conforming to the recommendations outlined within the protocol.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Location and Site Description

Bathymetric profiles were conducted on lakes in the Mackenzie Delta region, NWT. The lakes are located throughout the Mackenzie Delta and tundra east of the Mackenzie River, north of Inuvik and south of Tuktoyaktuk (7594500 mN to 7713000mN, 467500mE to 587000mE; Figure 2).

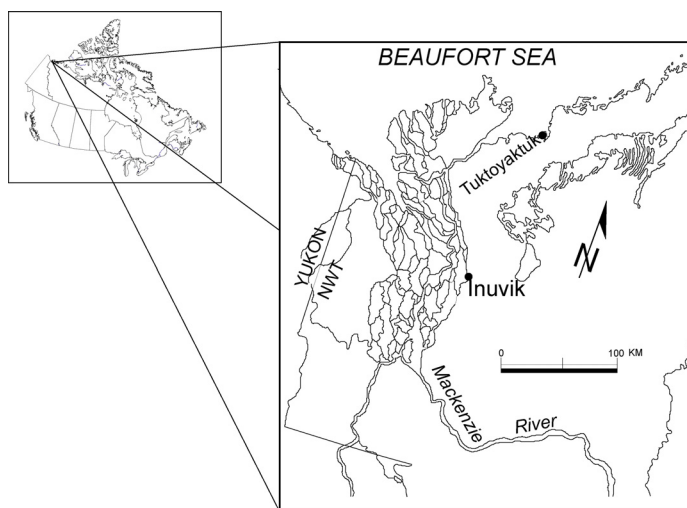


Figure 2. Location of bathymetric surveys conducted on 55 lakes in the Mackenzie Delta during 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Selection of Lakes

A total of 55 lakes were surveyed in the region; including six lakes in 2001; two lakes in 2002, and 47 lakes in 2003. The majority of these lakes were selected for their connection to oil and gas related activities. However, two lakes near Tuktoyaktuk, Kudlak Lake (Lake 25), and 3rd Lake (Lake 26) were surveyed to provide community planners with information on their potential to serve as water supply reservoirs. The bathymetric profiles of these lakes were used to attain estimates on the potential available water volume, and to select locations for intake sites.

Bathymetric System Overview

All lakes were surveyed using a single beam bathymetry system consisting of a transducer, echosounder, mobile computer, specialized hydrographic software, a global positioning system (GPS) unit, and a mobile power source.

Lake Access/Survey Vessel

The selection of survey vessels was based primarily on the ability to access the lakes. Most lakes were surveyed using an inflatable Zodiac[™] boat that could be transported via floatplane or helicopter. Larger lakes that were accessible from the Mackenzie River or its channels were surveyed from a shallow draft jet boat. The complete bathymetric system was installed on each vessel and the exact position of the GPS antenna relative to the transducer, as well as the depth of the transducer in the water column, was established. These offsets were then incorporated into the hydrographic surveying software so that no post-processing of the sounding information for these parameters was required.

Echosounder & Transducer

A hydrographic survey quality echosounder and transducer were used to generate and process the acoustic information. A high frequency channel (200 kHz) was used for lakebed surface detection. The depth measurements were computed using the hardware manufacturer's proprietary software, then streamed to a hydrographic software package that combined the depth measurement with a position generated from a portable GPS unit at that time. Bar checks were conducted daily and calibrations made to ensure accuracy.

Position

Positional information was provided by a single frequency GPS receiver which streamed non-differentially corrected horizontal positional data. Although the elevation of the water surface varies during the season, all vertical elevations were measured relative to the water surface at the time of the survey.

Surveying Protocol

At the time when the bathymetric surveying was initiated, there was no standard protocol for bathymetric surveying. Nine lakes (lakes 1, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively) were surveyed prior to the development of the protocol, however they were sampled with the rigor required by the protocol and therefore are included within the report.

The protocol required at least one longitudinal transect be conducted from shore to the furthest opposite shore. For lakes less than 1 km in length (lake length = length of longest longitudinal transect), two evenly spaced transects, perpendicular to the longitudinal transect, were required. For lakes greater than 1 km in length, the perpendicular transects needed to be spaced at a minimum of 500 m intervals. Irregularities in the shoreline such as long, narrow bays or fingers were accounted for with extra transects.

Post-Processing

Data post-processing was conducted with hydrographic surveying software especially designed for this purpose. Post-processing of the soundings was conducted to remove any errant or erroneous data points usually associated with electronic noise or reflections off other particles in the water column which are not a part of the lake bottom.

Chart Production

During single beam bathymetric surveying, only depths along transects are recorded and the depth of the lake between these data points must be interpolated. The model chosen for the production of images of the bottom bathymetry of each of the lakes presented in this report was the Kriging model (Deutsch and Journel 1992). This model incorporates a geostatistical gridding method that is widely used in many fields for the interpolation of irregularly spaced data such as those generated from single beam bathymetric surveys.

Water Volume Estimates

The interpolated model of the lake was used to develop the grid files from which the imagery was produced. The grid files were also the basis for the generation of lake volume estimations. The trapezoidal rule was the chosen method of volume determination (Press *et al.* 1988) for each cell in the grid and the cumulative total of all cells equaled the total volume of the lake. Volume under ice was calculated after 'lowering' the surface corresponding to desired ice thickness then remodeling the lake.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bathymetric images for the 55 surveyed lakes can be found in Appendix B. Accompanying the images are volume estimates correlating to varying expected ice thicknesses. Lakes < 1.5 m in maximum depth are not delineated as these lakes were not a category outlined in the protocol during the survey period for the bathymetric images contained within this report. Lakes range from a maximum depth of 1.9 m (Lake 28) to 28 m (Lake 53) and from a maximum length of approximately 0.5 km (Lake 54) to approximately 6.5 km (Lake 21). Lake size does not necessarily equate to lake depth, with a third of the lakes ≥ 1 km being ≤ 3.5 m in maximum depth (e.g. Lake 25 being 5.5 km long and only 2.5 m deep) and almost half of lakes < 1 km having maximum depth > 3.5 m (e.g. Lake 40 being only 0.9 km long yet almost 20 m deep). The bathymetric information compiled clearly indicates that lake depth cannot be assumed from lake surface area. Given the inherent variability of natural lakes, it is essential that bathymetry is gathered with rigor in order to adequately estimate volume.

Benefits

Obtaining accurate bathymetry of potential water source lakes will allow fisheries managers to more adequately assess the fish habitat in these waterbodies. A greater level of protection can be offered to over-wintering fish by identifying lakes that are vulnerable to water withdrawal and either avoiding them or stipulating withdrawal limits to minimize adverse effects. Also, accurate bathymetry enables the identification of non-fish bearing lakes (i.e. lakes likely to freeze to the bottom).

Inadequate sampling effort can result in inaccurate water volumes estimates. Accurate volume estimates are essential in order to ensure that the 5% threshold is adhered to, thereby protecting overwintering fish populations. The better the resolution in the bathymetric data, the easier it is to assess key habitat components such as adequate depth to provide overwintering habitat. Accurate lake volume estimates are also of great benefit from an industrial operations standpoint, as can be seen when comparing bathymetric images of various levels of effort on the same lake. Lake 55 was arbitrarily chosen for this demonstration with sampling effort ranging from one vertical transect (scenario A1; Figure 3), one horizontal transect (scenario A2; Figure 4), one vertical and one horizontal transect (scenario B; Figure 5), three vertical and one horizontal transects (the minimum level of effort recommended in the protocol; scenario C; Figure 6), six vertical and one horizontal transects (scenario D; Figure 7), fourteen vertical and three horizontal transects, plus infilling of bays (scenario E; Figure 8).

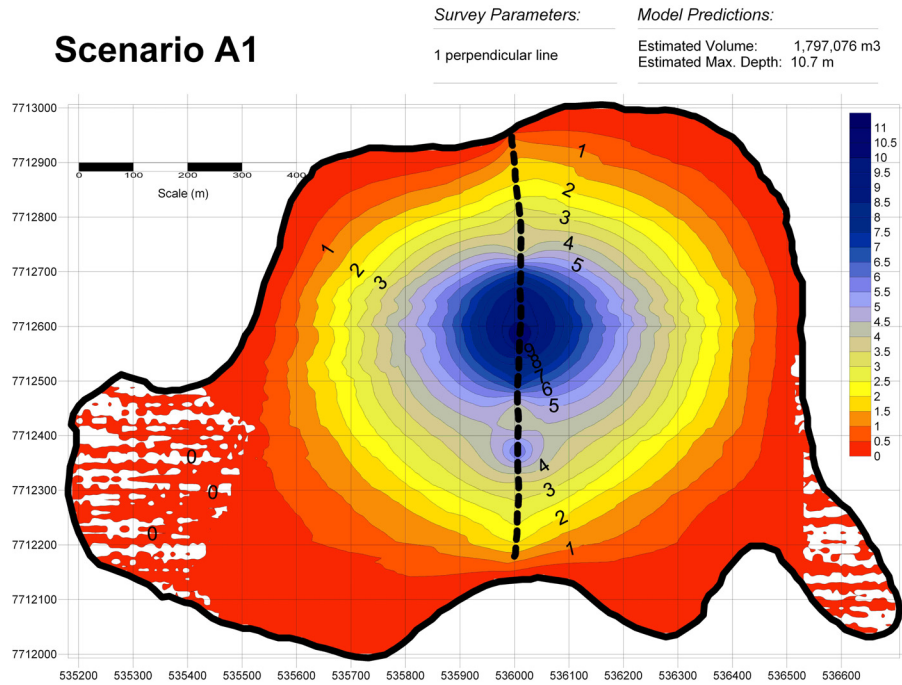


Figure 3. Scenario A1: Minimal sampling effort consisting of one vertical transect.

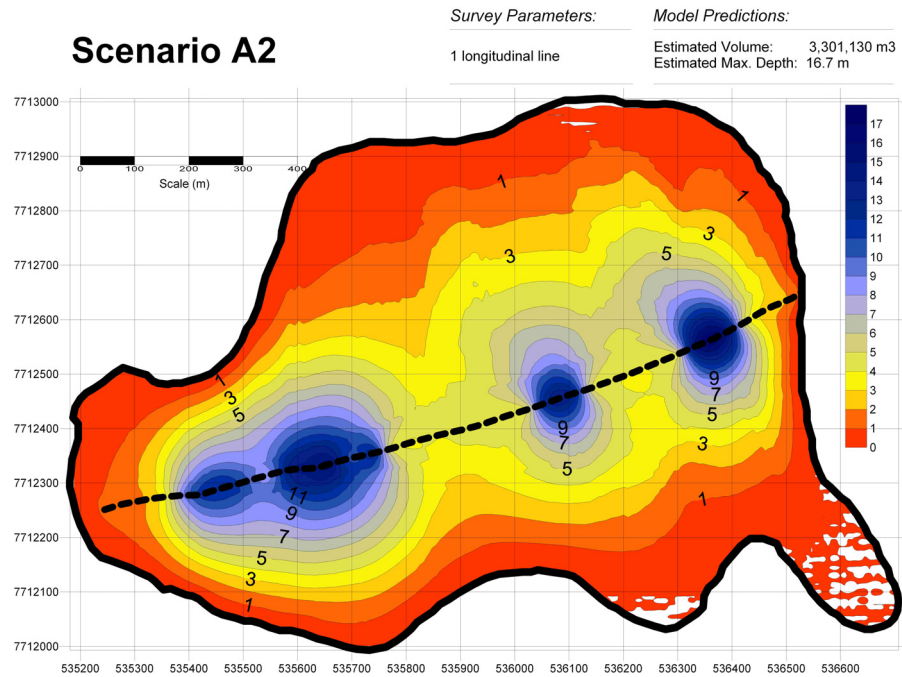


Figure 4. Scenario A2: Minimal sampling effort consisting of one horizontal transect.

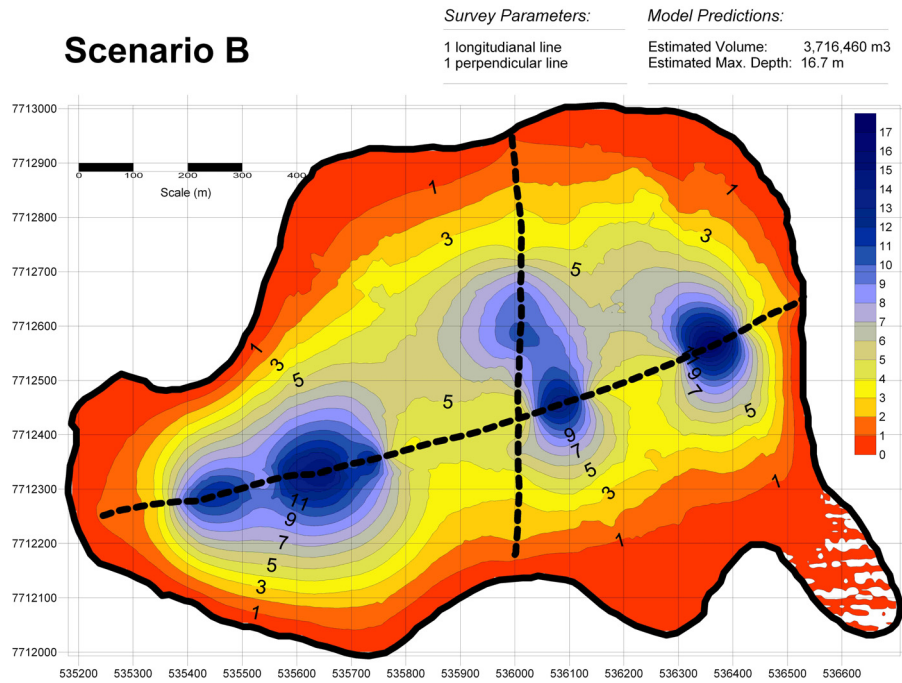


Figure 5. Scenario B: Limited sampling effort consisting of both a vertical and a horizontal transect.

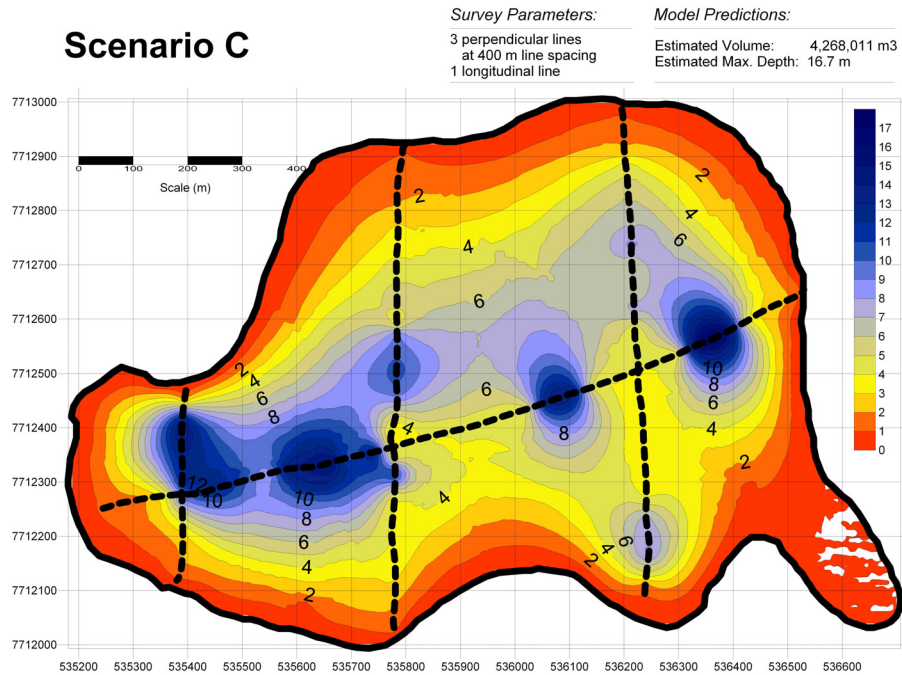


Figure 6. Scenario C: Sampling effort that is acceptable to the *DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT*, providing enough resolution to adequately assess fish overwintering habitat while offering a conservative water volume estimate for withdrawal volume calculations.

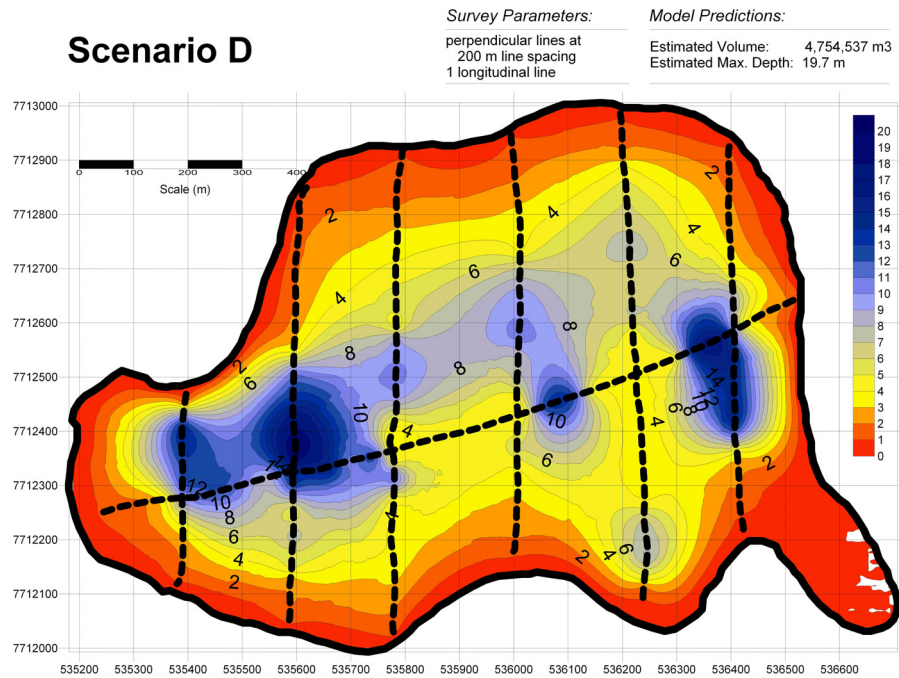


Figure 7. Scenario D: Depicts the effects of increasing the number of vertical transects conducted during a bathymetric survey (i.e. decreasing spacing to 200m), providing a higher level of resolution than depicted in Scenarios A1 – C.

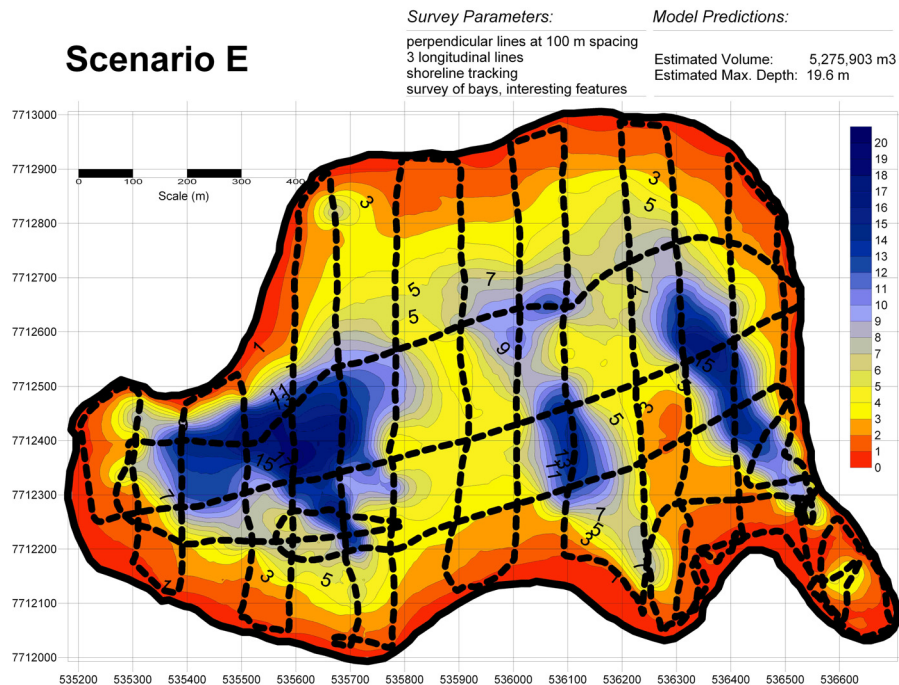


Figure 8. Scenario E: Depicts the gain in resolution, and correspondingly increased water volume estimate, achieved by decreasing the spacing of vertical transects to 100m, conducting 3 horizontal transects, incorporating shoreline tracking, and surveying bays and interesting features.

The estimated water volume was determined to be 1,797,076 m³ in scenario A1 and by incrementally adding both horizontal (longitudinal along the longest axis) and vertical transects (perpendicular to the longitudinal transects) the volume estimate increased to 5,275,903 m³ in Scenario E (Figure 8), nearly three times the original volume estimate. Figure 9 illustrates the incremental increase in estimated water volume corresponding to increases in sampling effort, demonstrating that the level of effort expended on the bathymetric survey is directly linked to the level of accuracy obtained regarding the actual volume contained in a given lake.

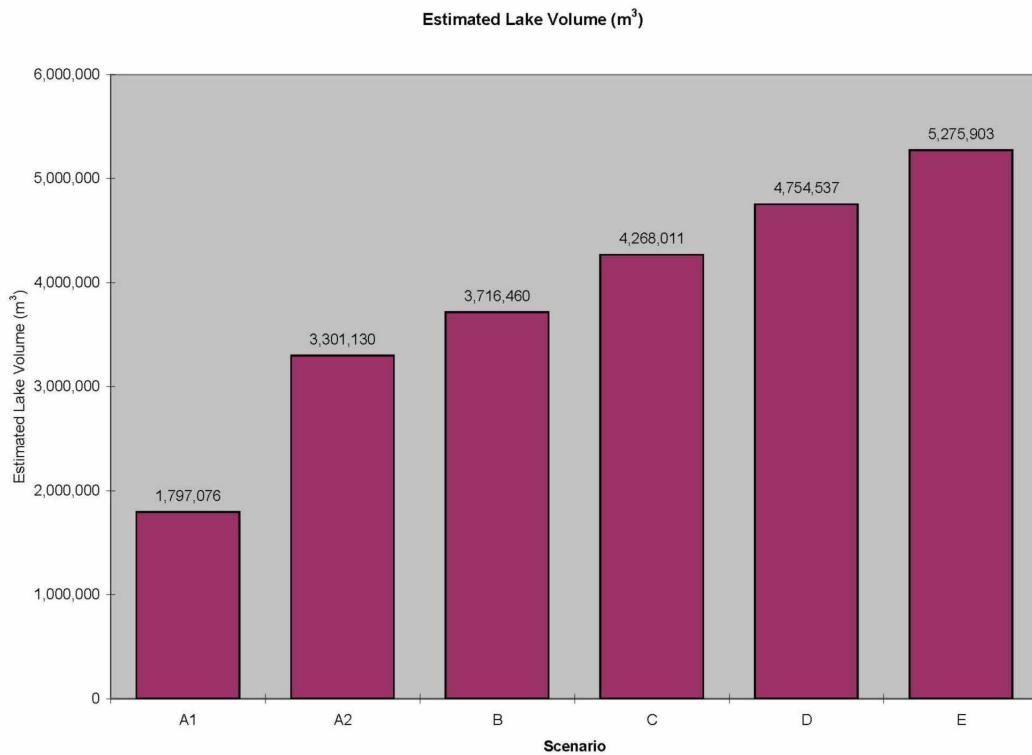


Figure 9. Water volume estimates calculated for Lake 55 (see Appendix 2) using bathymetric survey scenarios (Figures 3 – 8) that differ in sampling effort.

The larger the available volume in the lake is, the larger the volume available for withdrawal. If bathymetry is conducted in a way that provides little resolution, the overall volume will likely be under-estimated as deep areas of a lake may be missed altogether. Therefore, a lake may not appear to fall into a category that is suitable for water withdrawal under the protocol. Missing suitable water sources can cause increased costs due to project delays and increased water hauling distances. Since most of the cost associated with conducting bathymetric surveys in the NWT is mobilizing personnel and equipment to site, the additional cost of running extra transects is minimal while the corresponding benefits, including improving public perception, is substantial.

Accurate bathymetry can also assist in determining the likely extent of ground-fast ice. Knowing the extent of ground-fast ice can help in determining the safest winter ice-road routing. For seismic exploration, knowing the extent of ground-fast ice can identify areas where vibroseis units can be used safely and effectively from a data acquisition standpoint, possibly precluding the need for explosive infilling which can be expensive and harmful to fish (Cott and Hanna 2004). By understanding the basin morphology in small lakes, over-wintering habitat such as deep holes can be avoided.

Guidelines outlining a minimal acceptable sampling effort (i.e. the protocol) is a valuable tool for industry as it eliminates the guesswork associated with compiling project related environmental information while ensuring consistency between users. It also provides standardized information to DFO regulators that allows for more effective impact assessments, facilitating project review and reducing review time.

Next Steps

A database is being developed to act as a repository for incoming bathymetric information such as the images presented in Appendix B. This database will assist in coordinating water use within projects and between water users. Industry will benefit by having suitable water sources already identified which can be selected from. This will help to avoid duplication of effort thereby reducing costs and time.

A study has been implemented by DFO to investigate the effects of winter water withdrawal on fish in small northern lakes. Chemical parameters and fish population characteristics will be investigated on two small lakes where 10% and 20% of their under ice volume will be withdrawn respectively. These indices will be compared to the two lake's pre-treatment condition, as well as a reference lake. This study is modeled, in part, after the Lake 226 water withdrawal experiment conducted at the Experimental Lakes Area in Northwestern Ontario, where withdrawals of 30% and 45% were shown to have significant effects on fish populations (Jansen 2000). The resulting information will help reinforce or refine recommendations outlined in the protocol.

DFO is working with Environment Canada and Noetix Research to study the feasibility of using RADAR satellite imagery to assess the extent of bottom-fast ice. Lakes that are completely bottom fast during late winter do not have fish over-wintering habitat potential. This technique may enable water users to identify water sources that can be used without any impact to fish or fish habitat and enable fisheries managers to determine lakes that are not fish bearing during the winter.

DFO is open to considering other techniques that may have the potential to assess water volume in small northern lakes, for example the use of multispectral imagery (Steve Solomon, Natural Resources Canada, *pers. comm.* 2005).

CONCLUSIONS

With the economy of the NWT continuing to expand with developments such as the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, new diamond mines, and associated winter road construction, the demand for water in the winter season is going to increase. The effective determination of sensitive over-wintering fish habitat, combined with the

responsible and coordinated withdrawal of water, using precautionary threshold limits will help ensure the protection of northern fisheries resources while allowing industrial development to proceed. Although this report demonstrates the application of the protocol to lakes within Mackenzie Delta and adjacent tundra, the findings are potentially applicable to industrial activities that require water withdrawal in northern regions throughout the world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following people and companies for their assistance in compiling the information contained within this report; Harley Henton and Heather Desmarais with Aquatics Environmental Services Inc., Chevron Canada Resource, Devon Canada Corporation, EnCana Corporation, Petro-Canada, Dennis Berry with the Government of Northwest Territories Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk; Dale McGowan for the production of Figure 2; Julie Dahl with DFO and Steve Solomon with Natural Resources Canada for their helpful peer review of this document. Our apologies to anyone who has been overlooked.

REFERENCES

- Bégout Anras, M.L., Cooley, P.M., Bodaly, R.A., Anras, L. and Fudge, R.J.P. 1999. Movement and habitat use by lake whitefish during spawning in a boreal lake: Integrating acoustic telemetry and geographic information systems. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* **128**: 939-952.
- Berger, J. 1977. Northern Frontier, Northern Homeland - Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry - Vol. 2. Chapter 15. Water withdrawal. Minister of Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa. P. 277.
- Cott, P. and Hanna, B. 2004. Monitoring Explosive-based Winter Seismic Exploration In Waterbodies, NWT 2000-2002. Pages 473-490. *In: Proceedings of the Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Effects Monitoring Workshop: Approaches and Technologies*, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, May 26 - 30, 2003. Armsworthy, S.L., P.J. Cranford, and K. Lee (Eds.), Battelle Press. 601 p + index.
- Deutsch, C. V. and A. G. Journel. (1992) GSLIB: Geostatistical Software Library and User's Guide, New York, Oxford University Press.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans. 2002. Canada's Oceans Strategy. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Oceans Directorate. Ottawa. vi + 30 p.
- Gaboury, M.N. and Patalas, J.W. 1984. Influence of water level drawdown on the fish populations of Cross Lake, Manitoba. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* **41**: 118-125.

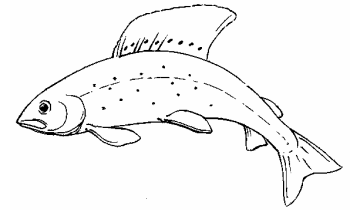
- Hellsen, S., Marttunen, M., Palomaki, R., Riihimaki, J. and Alasaarela, E. 1996. Towards an ecologically based regulation practice in Finnish hydroelectric lakes. *Reg. Rivers: Res. And Manage.* **12**: 535-545.
- Jansen, W. 2000. Experimental drawdown of Lake 226 in the Experimental Lakes Area, Ontario: implications for fish habitat management in lakes and reservoirs with fluctuating water levels. Prepared for Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Central and Arctic Region. Winnipeg. March 11, 2000. 29 p + appendices.
- Paller, M.H. 1997. Recovery of a reservoir fish community from drawdown related impacts. *N. A. J. of fish. Manage.* **17**: 726-733.
- Press, W. H., Flannery, B.P., Teukolsky, S.A. and W.T. Vetterling. 1988. *Numerical Recipes in C.*, Cambridge University Press.
- Rørslett, B. 1989. An integrated approach to hydropower impact assessment. *Hydrobiologia.* **175**: 65-82.
- Rørslett, B. and Johansen, S.W. 1996. Remedial measures connected with aquatic macrophytes in Norwegian regulated rivers and reservoirs. *Reg. Rivers: Res. And Manage.* **12**: 509-522.
- Tarver, D.P. 1980. Water fluctuation and the aquatic flora of Lake Miccosukee. *J. Aquat. Plant Manage.* **18**: 19-23.
- Turner, M.A., Huebert, D.B., Findlay, D.L., Hendzel, L.L., Jansen, W.A., Bodaly, R.A., Armstrong, L.M. and Kasian, S.E.M. 2004. Divergent impacts of experimental lake-level drawdown on planktonic and benthic plant communities in a boreal forest lake. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* *In press*.
- Wetzel, R.G. 2001. *Limnology. Lakes and rivers ecosystems.* 3rd Ed. Academic Press. San Diego, California. 1006 pp.

APPENDIX A

DFO PROTOCOL FOR WINTER WATER WITHDRAWAL IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans



DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal In the Northwest Territories

Rationale

In the Northwest Territories, winter activities such as access road construction, exploratory drilling and camp operations often require large amounts of water. Excessive amounts of water withdrawn from ice covered waterbodies or watercourses can lead to oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat. The potential for such negative impacts to over-wintering fish and fish habitat has made winter water withdrawal a critical issue for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in the Northwest Territories. To address the issue of water withdrawal, and to provide standardized guidance to water users, including volume limits for certain water source types, DFO has developed this protocol in conjunction with industry and other regulators.

This protocol pertains to works and activities where a total water volume greater than or equal to (\geq) 100m³ is required from any given waterbody or watercourse during one ice-covered period.

This protocol will **not** apply to the following:

- Winter water withdrawal from the Mackenzie River;
- Any other waterbody or watercourse that is exempted by DFO (i.e. Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, Gordon Lake, and others as and when determined by DFO), and;
- Any waterbody (not including watercourses) from which less than 100m³ is to be withdrawn over the course of one ice-covered period.

Water Withdrawal from Waterbodies:

For the purposes of this protocol, a **waterbody** is defined as any water-filled basin that is potential fish habitat. A waterbody is defined by the ordinary high water mark of the basin, and excludes connecting **watercourses** (see definition in **Water Withdrawal from Watercourses** below). In order to establish a winter water withdrawal limit for a given waterbody, the following criteria must be adhered to:

1. In one ice-covered season, total water withdrawal from a single waterbody is not to exceed 5% of the available water volume calculated using the appropriate maximum expected ice thickness provided in Table 1.
2. **In cases where there are multiple users withdrawing water from a single waterbody, the total combined withdrawal volume is not to exceed 5% of the available water volume calculated using the appropriate maximum expected ice thickness provided in Table 1. Therefore, consistent and coordinated water source identification is essential.**
3. **Only waterbodies with maximum depths that are ≥ 1.5 m deeper than their corresponding maximum expected ice thickness should be considered for water withdrawal (Table 1). Waterbodies with less than 1.5m of free water beneath the maximum ice are considered to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of water withdrawal.**
4. **Any waterbody with a maximum expected ice thickness (Table 1) that is greater than, or equal to, its maximum depth (as determined from a bathymetric survey) is exempt from the 5% maximum withdrawal limit.**

To further mitigate the impacts of water withdrawal, water is to be removed from deep areas of waterbodies (>2m below the ice surface) wherever feasible, to avoid the removal of oxygenated surface waters that are critical to over-wintering fish. The littoral zone should be

avoided as a water withdrawal location. Water intakes should also be properly screened with fine mesh of 2.54 mm (1/10") and have moderate intake velocities to prevent the entrainment of fish. Please refer to the *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline* (DFO, 1995) which is available upon request, or at the following internet address: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/223669.pdf.

In order to determine the maximum water withdrawal volume from an ice-covered waterbody and thereby conform to this protocol, the following information must be provided to DFO for review and concurrence, prior to program commencement.

Water Source Identification

1. Proposed primary and secondary access routes for all project activities, with proposed water source and crossing locations clearly identified on a map, with geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude and/or UTM's) included.
2. Documented watercourse connectivity (permanently flowing and/or seasonal) between the proposed water source and any other waterbody or watercourse.
3. Aerial photos or satellite imagery of the water sources if available.
4. Estimated total water withdrawal requirement for work or activity and estimated total water withdrawal per water source (in m³).

Bathymetric Survey Results

1. **For all waterbodies:** One longitudinal transect, connecting the two farthest shorelines, is to be conducted regardless of waterbody size. **Note: a longitudinal transect may be straight or curved in order to accommodate the shape of a lake (see Figure 1).**
2. **For waterbodies equal to or less than 1km in length:** a minimum of one longitudinal transect and two perpendicular transects are to be conducted. Perpendicular transects should be evenly spaced on the longest longitudinal transect, dissecting the lake into thirds (Figure 1).
3. **For lakes greater than 1km in length:** a minimum of one longitudinal transect is to be conducted. Perpendicular transects (min. of 2) should be evenly spaced on the longest longitudinal transect at maximum intervals of 500m.
4. Additional transects should be run as required to include irregularities in waterbody shape such as fingers or bays (Figure 1).
5. All longitudinal and perpendicular transects are to be conducted using an accurate, continuous depth sounding methodology, such as open water echo sounding, that provides a continuous depth recording from one shore to the farthest opposing shore (Figure 1). Any alternative technology should be reviewed by DFO prior to implementing for bathymetric surveys.

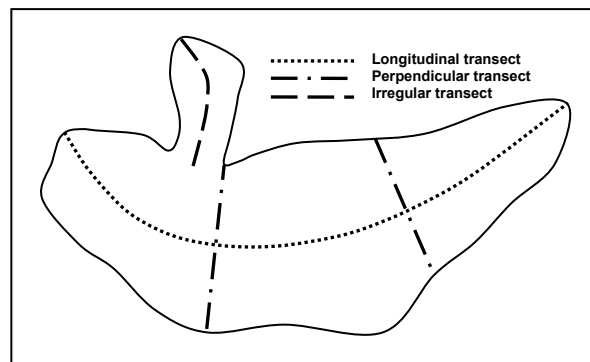


Figure 1. Minimum transect layout for a lake that is less than 1 km in length, with an irregularity.

Volume Calculations

1. Document the methods used to calculate surface area. If aerial photos or satellite imagery were used, provide the date (day/month/year) taken, as surface area may change depending on the time of year. If maps were used, provide the year that they were surveyed.
2. Detail the methods used to determine the total volume of free water, incorporating the relevant bathymetric information.

3. Calculate the available water volume under the ice using the appropriate maximum expected ice thickness, i.e. $Total\ Volume_{lake} - Ice\ Volume_{max\ thickness} = Available\ Water\ Volume$ (see Table 1 for maximum ice thickness).
4. For programs where ice-chipping is used, the total ice volume to be removed from the waterbody should be converted to total liquid volume and incorporated into the estimate of total water withdrawal requirement per water source.

Table 1. Maximum expected ice thickness, and corresponding water depth requirements, for different regions in the Northwest Territories.

Area	Maximum Expected Ice Thickness (m)	Minimum Waterbody depth Required for 5% Water Withdrawal (m)
Above the Tree Line	2.0	≥3.5
Below the Tree Line - North of Fort Simpson	1.5	≥3.0
Deh Cho –South of Fort Simpson	1.0	≥2.5

Water Withdrawal from Watercourses:

For the purposes of this protocol, a **watercourse** is defined as a channel through which water flows and is potential fish habitat. A watercourse is defined by the ordinary high water mark of the channel, and excludes connecting waterbodies or watercourses. In order to establish a winter water withdrawal limit for a given watercourse, the following criteria must be adhered to:

1. **Total water withdrawal for all activities is not to exceed 5% of the instantaneous flow rate of a single watercourse at the time of withdrawal.**
2. **In cases where there are multiple users withdrawing water from a single watercourse, the total combined withdrawal rate is not to exceed 5% of the instantaneous flow rate at the time of withdrawal. Therefore, consistent and coordinated water source identification is essential.**

To further mitigate the impacts from water withdrawal, water intakes should be properly screened with fine mesh of **2.54 mm (1/10")** and have moderate intake velocities to prevent the entrainment of fish. Please refer to the *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline* (DFO, 1995) which is available upon request, or at the following internet address: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/223669.pdf.

In order to determine the maximum water withdrawal rate from an ice-covered watercourse and thereby conform to this protocol, the following information must be provided to DFO for review and concurrence, prior to program commencement. DFO will only consider watercourses to be used as water sources if no suitable alternatives exist.

Water Source Identification

1. Proposed primary and secondary access routes for all project activities, with proposed water crossings and water source locations clearly identified on a map, with geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude and/or UTM's) included.
2. Aerial photos or satellite imagery of the water sources if available.
3. Estimated total water withdrawal requirement for work or activity, and estimated total water withdrawal per water source (in m³).

Stream Survey Requirements

1. **Location and date of survey (day, month, and year).**
2. **Photos of the stream location where withdrawal is to occur.**
3. **An accurate measurement of flow rate (to be confirmed immediately prior to water withdrawal commencing).**
4. **Stream survey should include; profile (minimum of ten evenly spaced points), depth, width, and flow rate.**
5. **Survey effort should reflect channel width: <2m wide, three vertical stations; 2-10m, 10 vertical stations; >10m, 20 vertical stations.**

- 6. Pump specifications (type, model, horsepower, and max discharge rate).**
- 7. Information on substrate type, in-water vegetation, riparian vegetation, and bank description is also requested.**

A brief project summary report documenting and confirming total water volume used per water source, withdrawal rates, flow rates per source and corresponding dates should be submitted to DFO within 60 days of project completion. Information should be provided in the following format (this information would also be useful as part of the project description):

Lake ID	number and/or name
Coordinates	latitude and longitude and/or UTM coordinates
Surface area	in m ²
Total Lake Volume	in m ³
Under Ice Volume	in m ³ (based on max ice thickness for region)
Max expected ice thickness value used	in m
Calculated 5% Withdrawal volume	in m ³
Total required water volume extracted	in m ³
Photograph of waterbody	
Bathymetric Map(s) of waterbody	

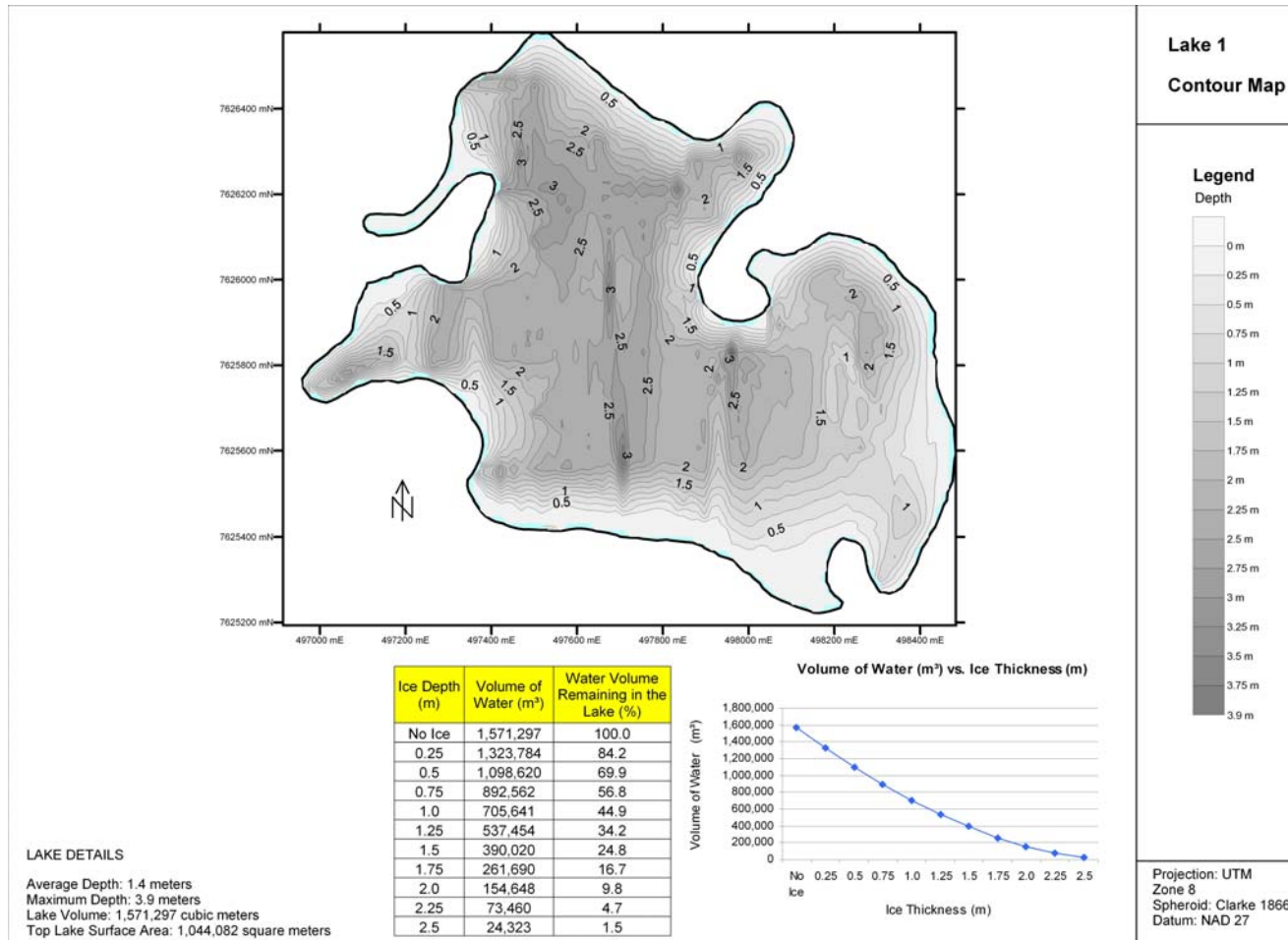
Any requests deviating from the above must be submitted to DFO and will be addressed on a site-specific basis.

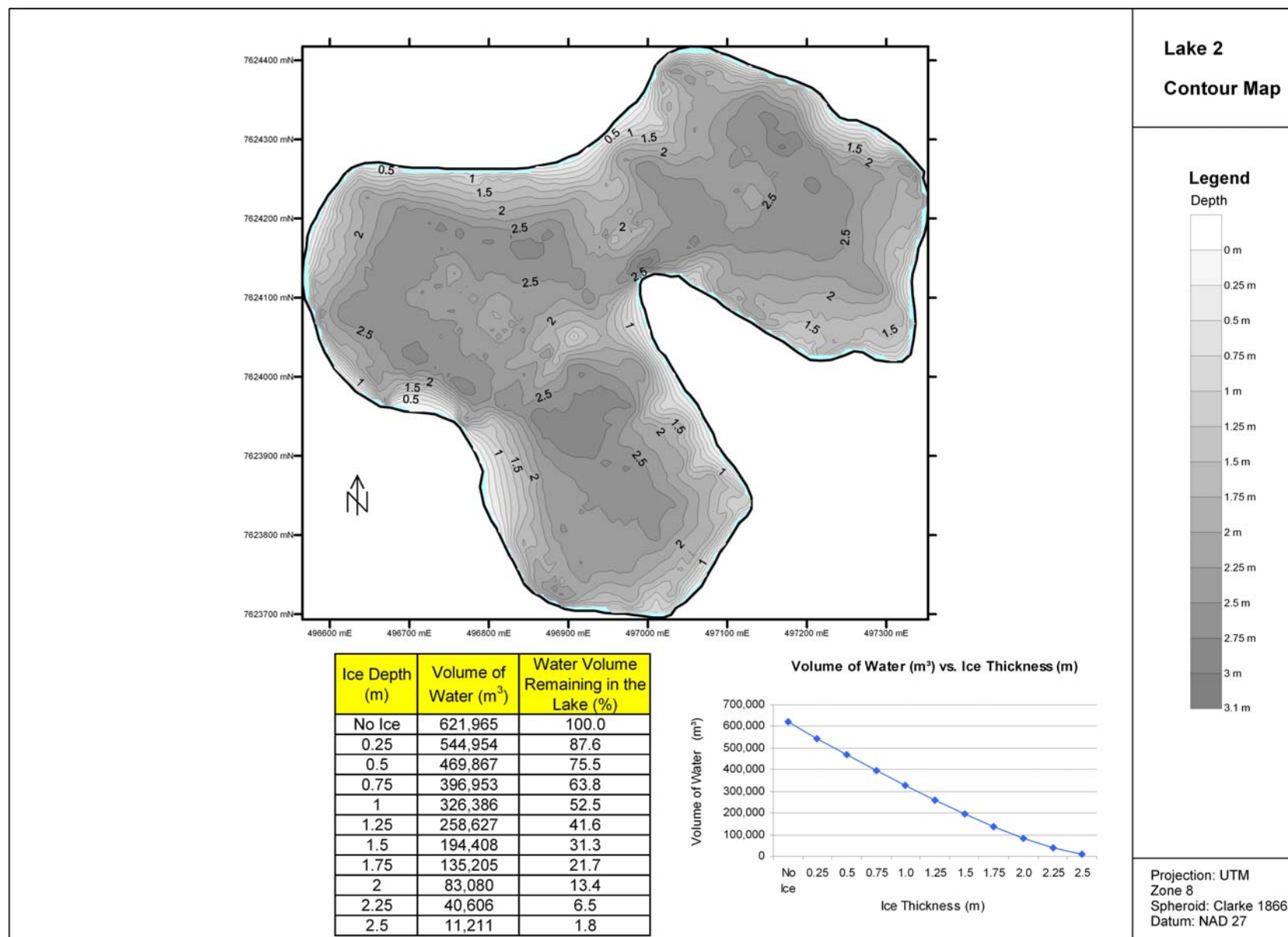
Please note that adherence to this protocol does not release the proponent of the responsibility for obtaining any permits, licenses or authorizations that may be required.

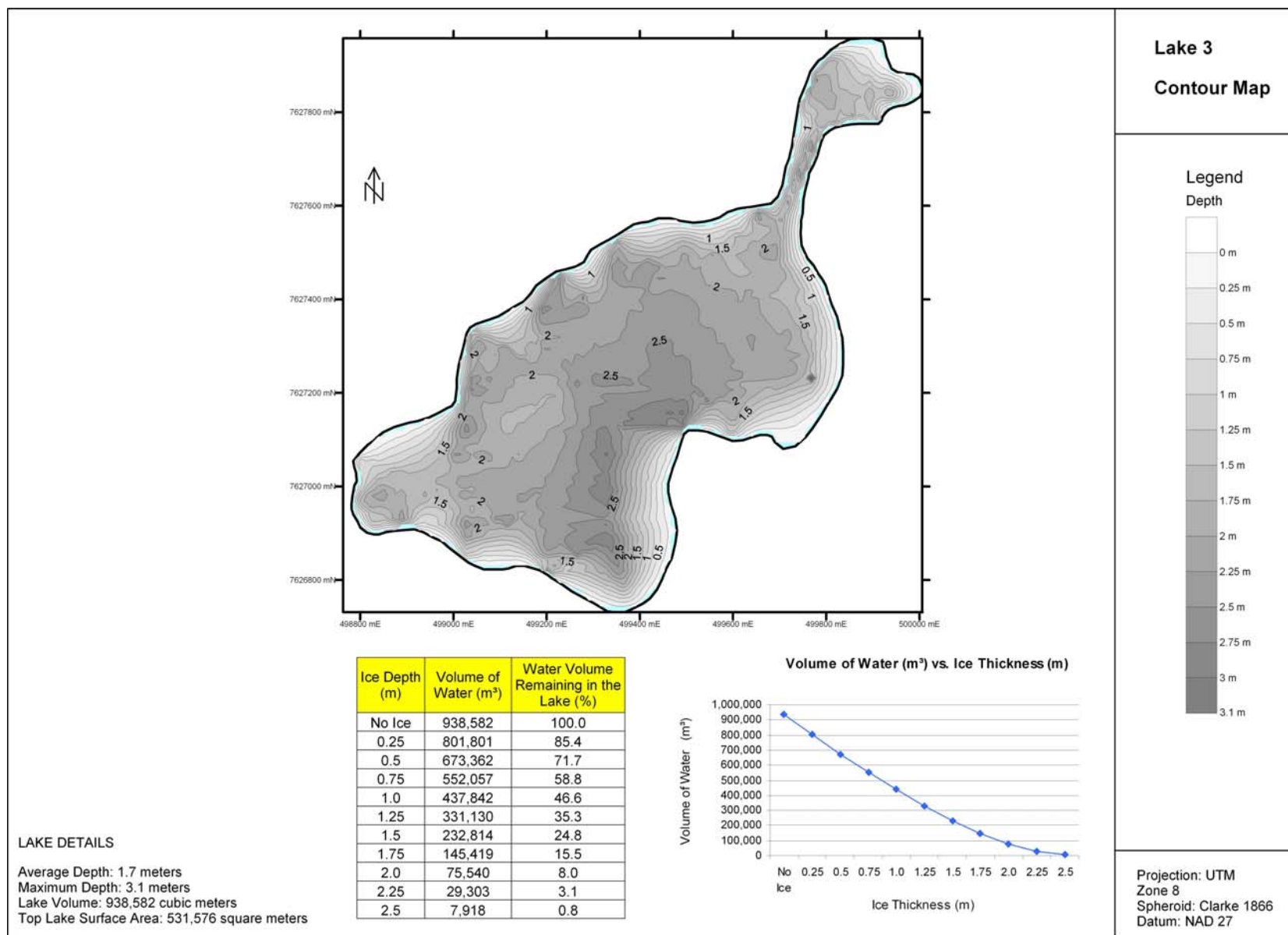
For more information contact DFO at (867) 669-4900.

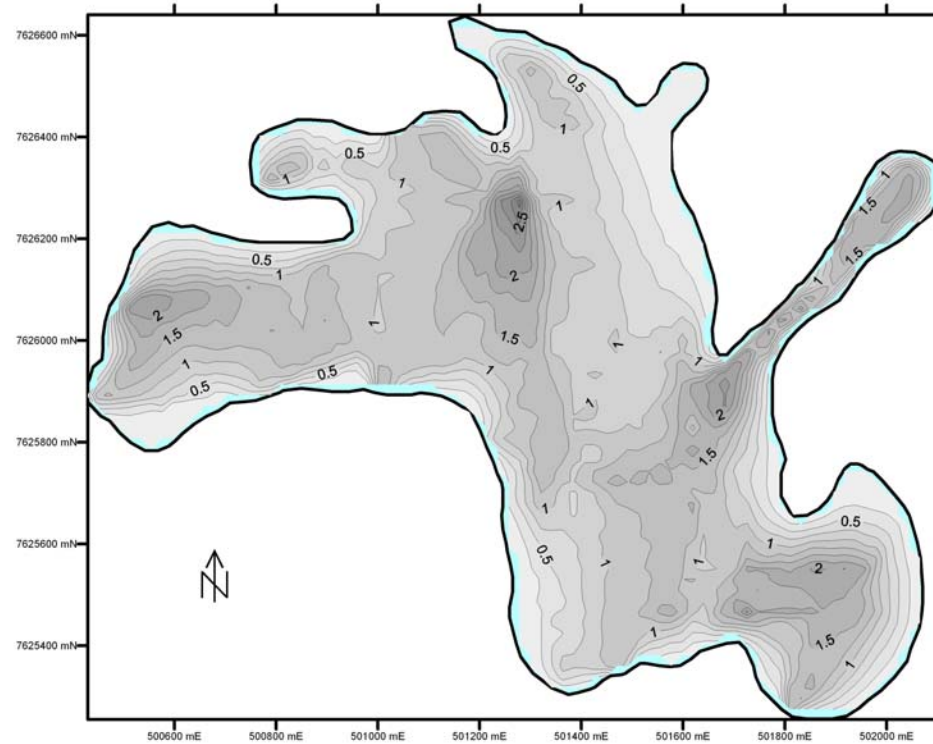
APPENDIX B

BATHYMETRIC IMAGES ON 55 LAKES IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA AND SURROUNDING AREA.



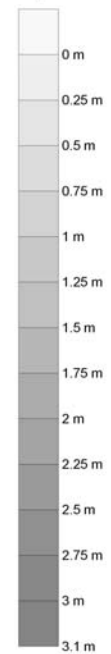






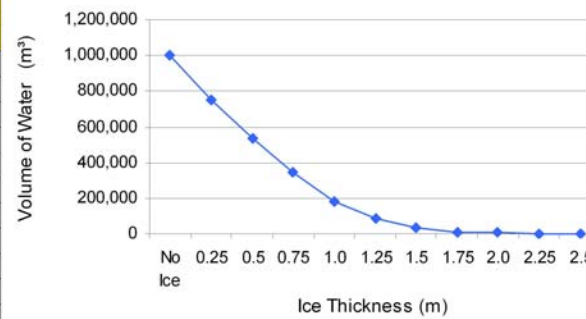
Lake 4
Contour Map

Legend
Depth

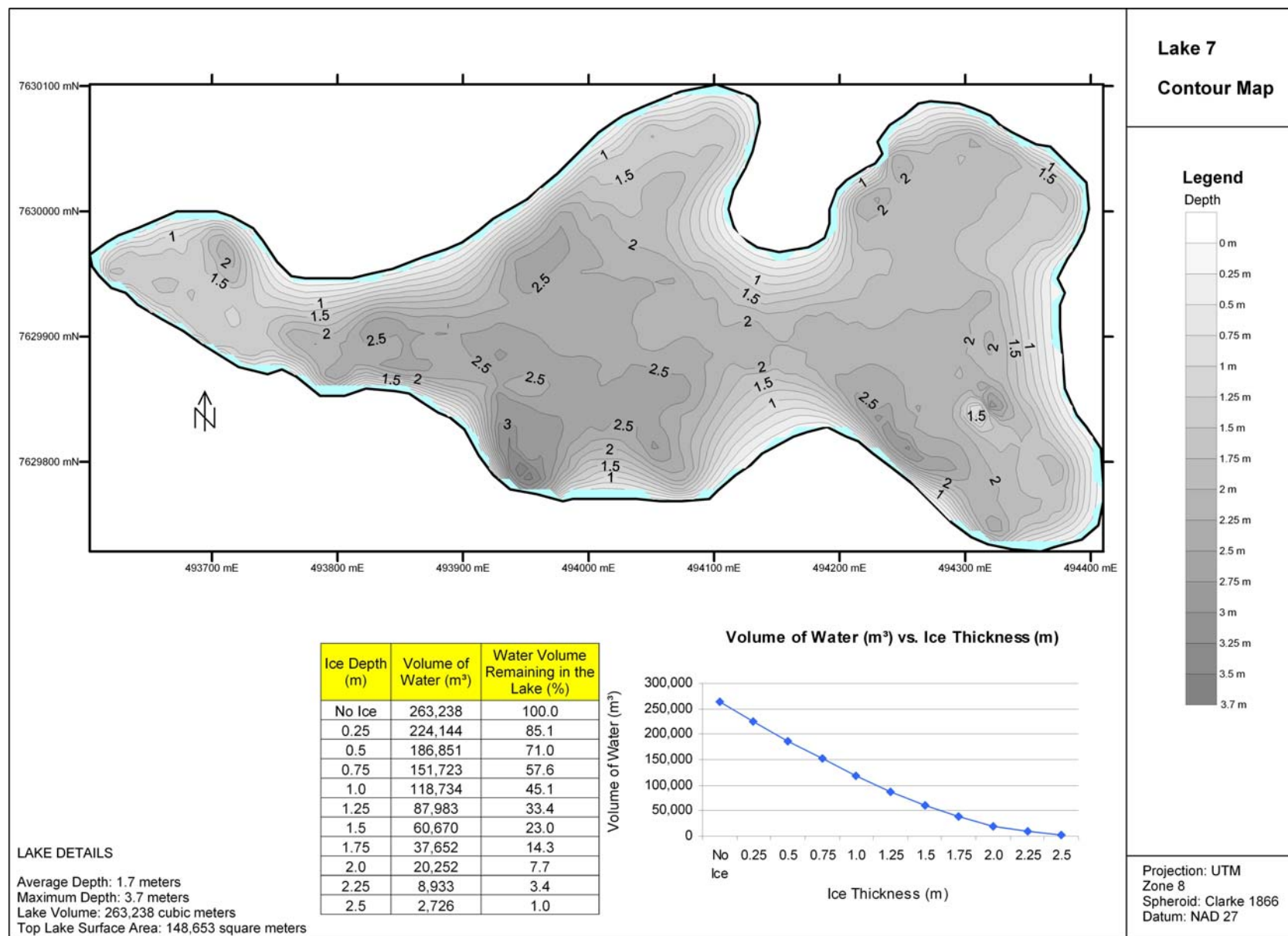


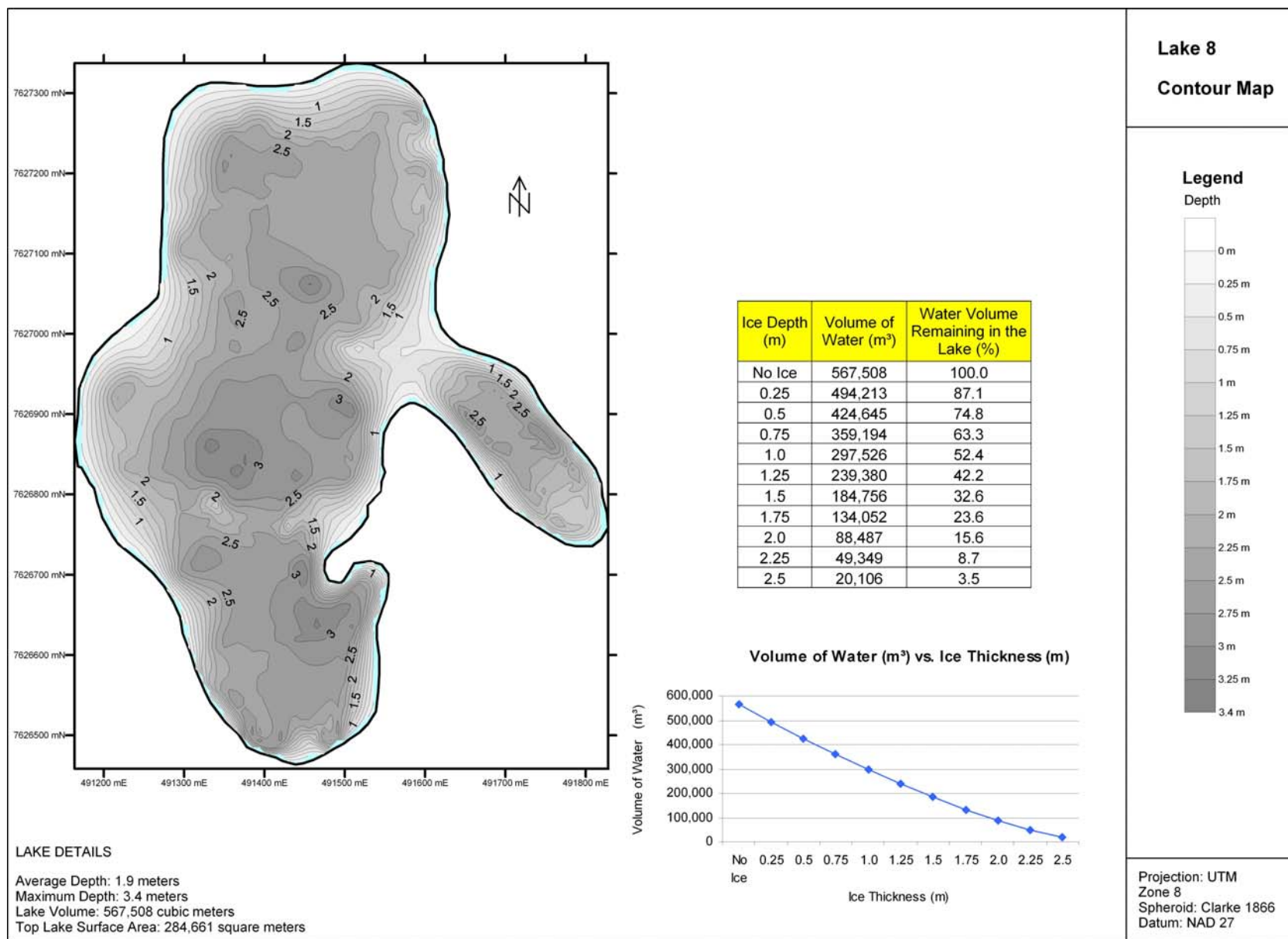
Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m ³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	1,000,637	100.0
0.25	752,914	75.2
0.5	534,101	53.4
0.75	342,422	34.2
1.0	185,261	18.5
1.25	85,305	8.5
1.5	35,334	3.5
1.75	12,689	1.3
2.0	4,340	0.4
2.25	1,468	0.1
2.5	465	0.0

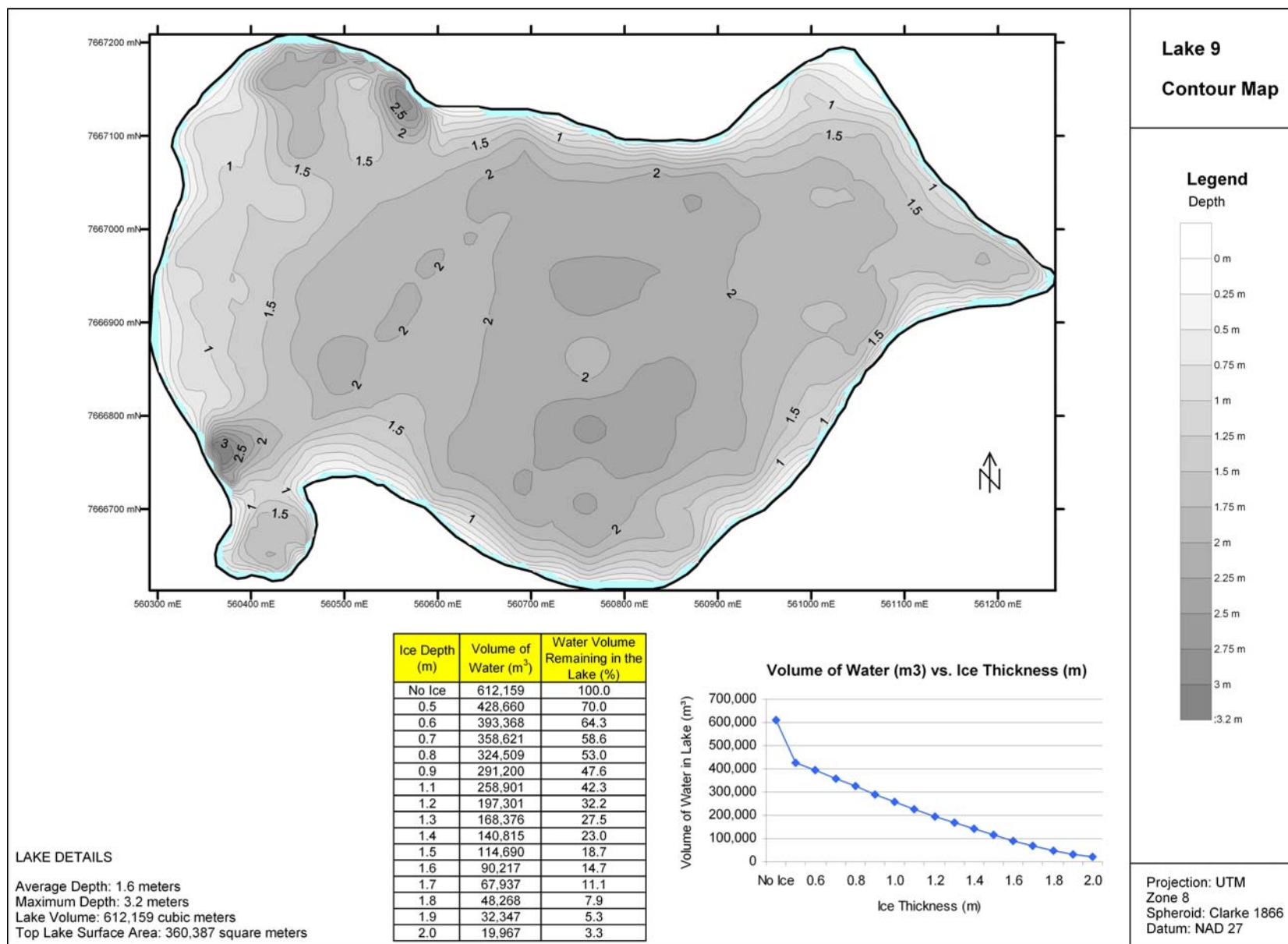
Volume of Water (m³) vs. Ice Thickness (m)

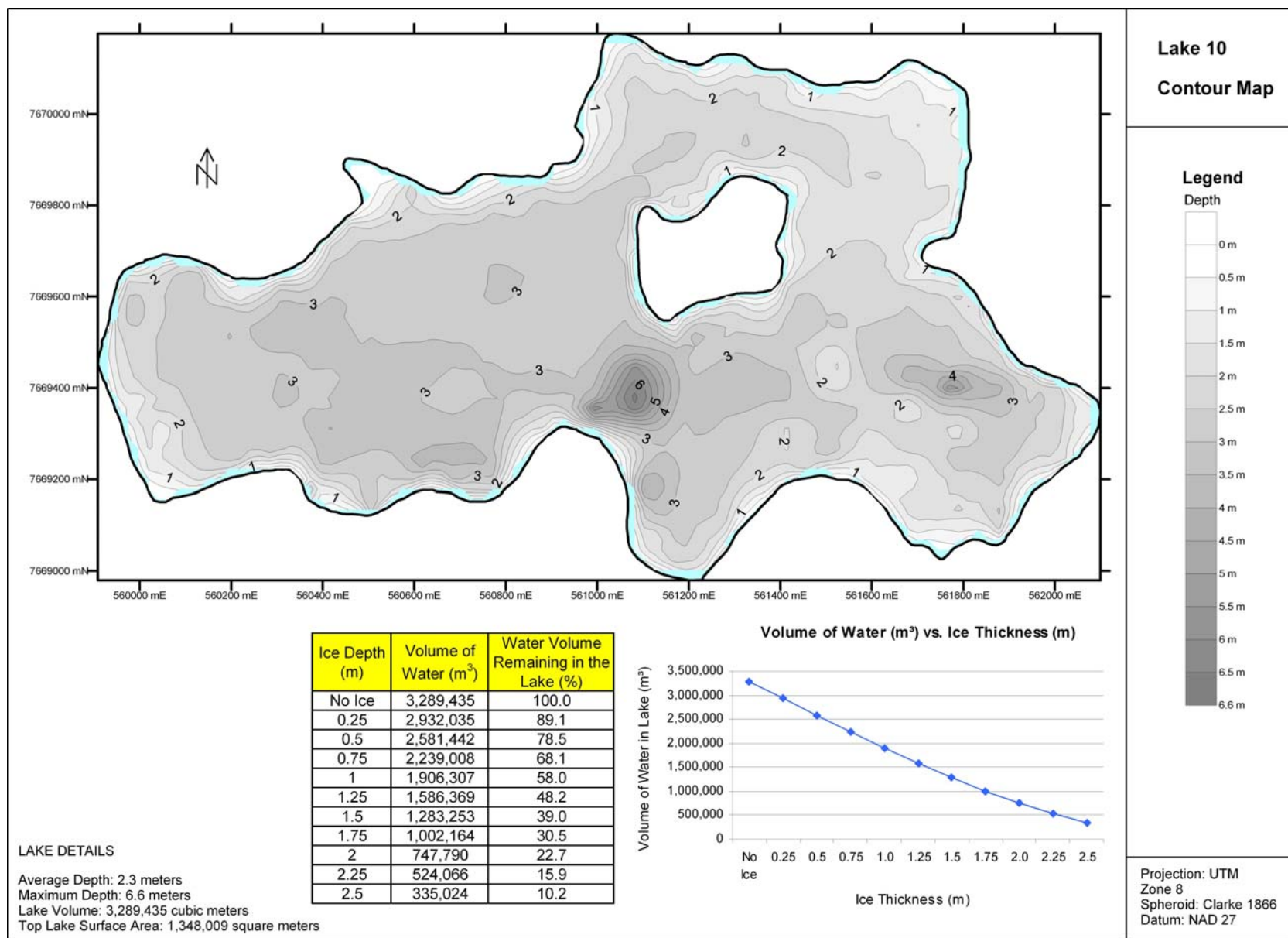


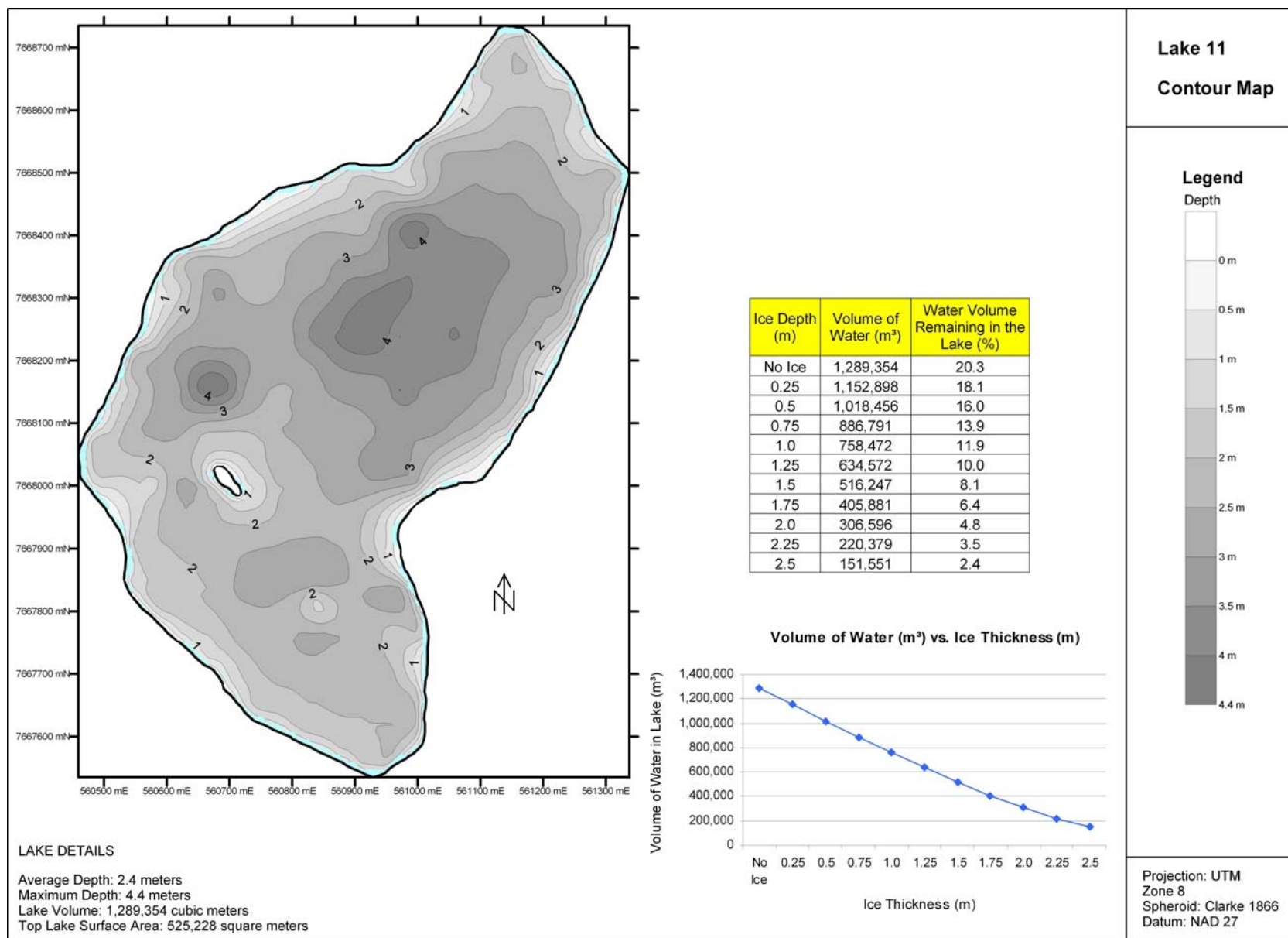
Projection: UTM
Zone 8
Spheroid: Clarke 1866
Datum: NAD 27

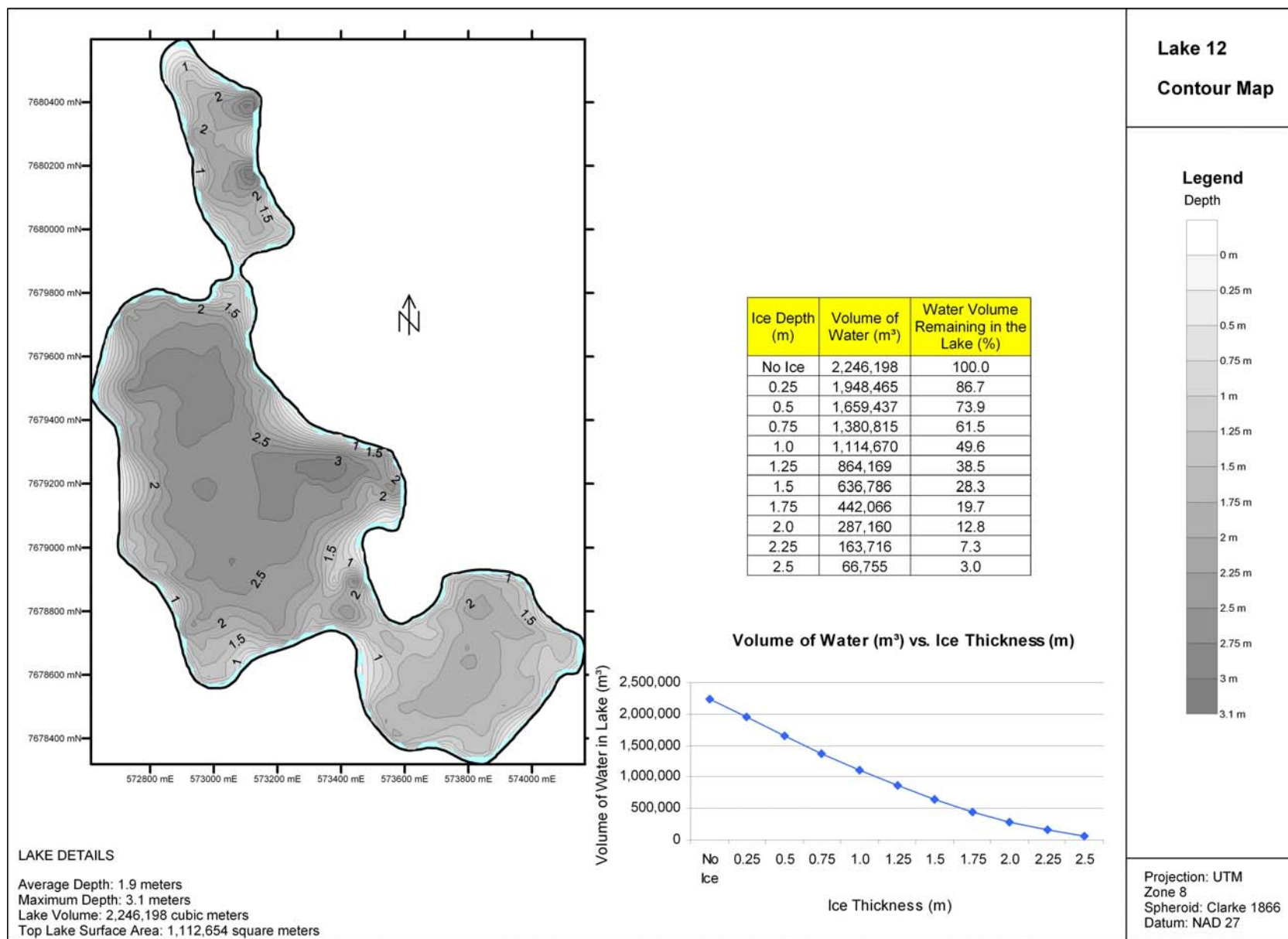


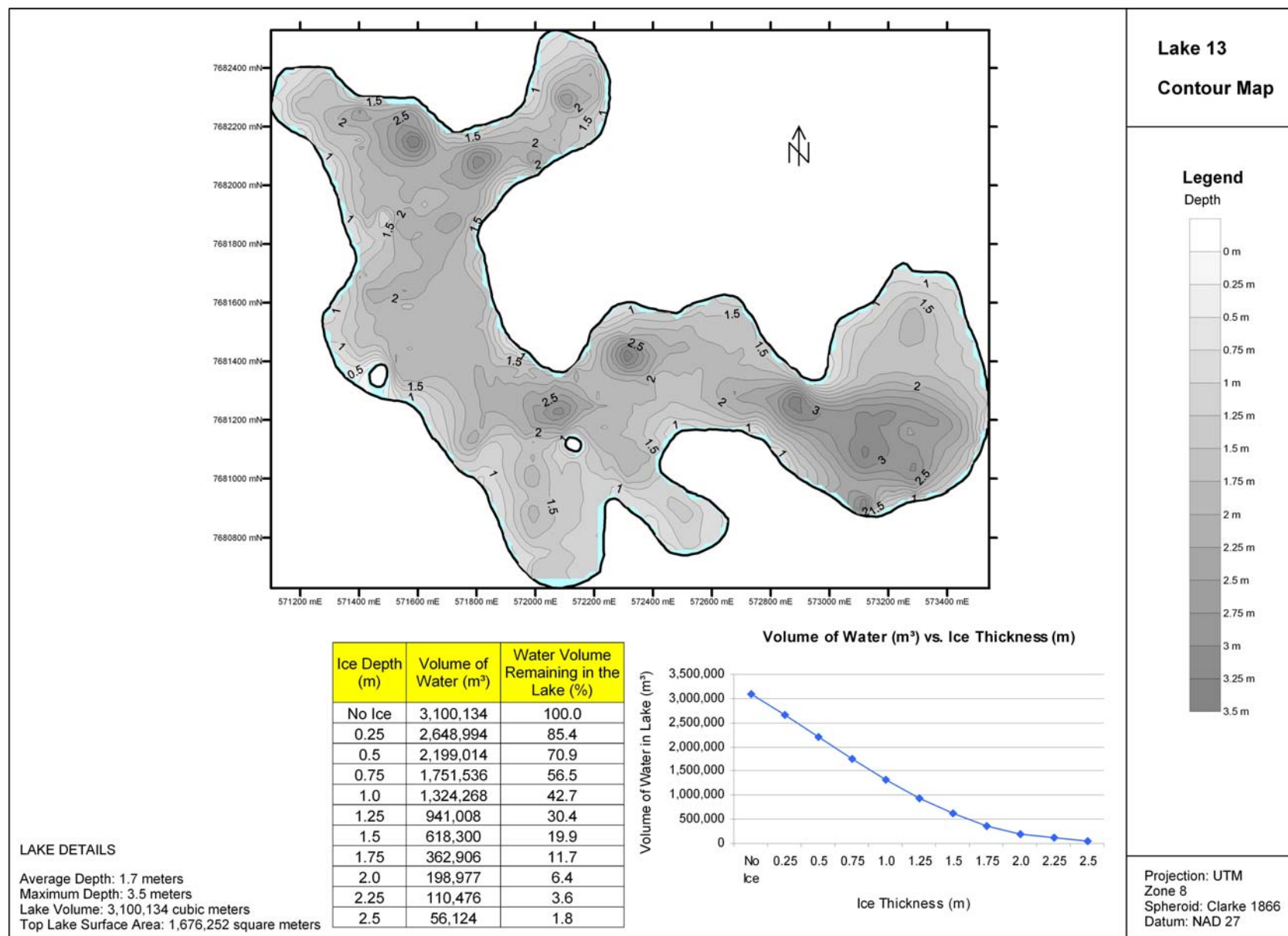




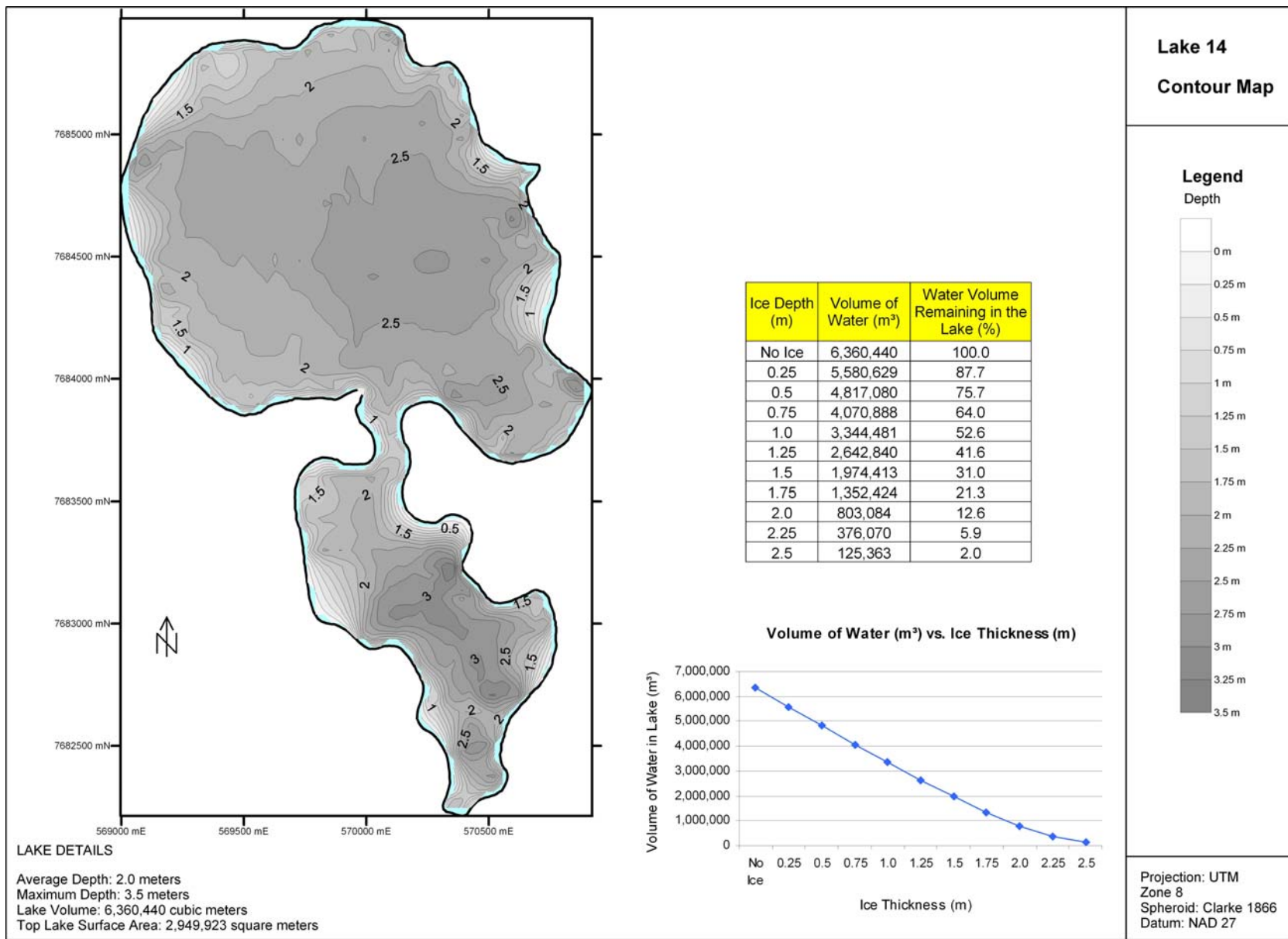


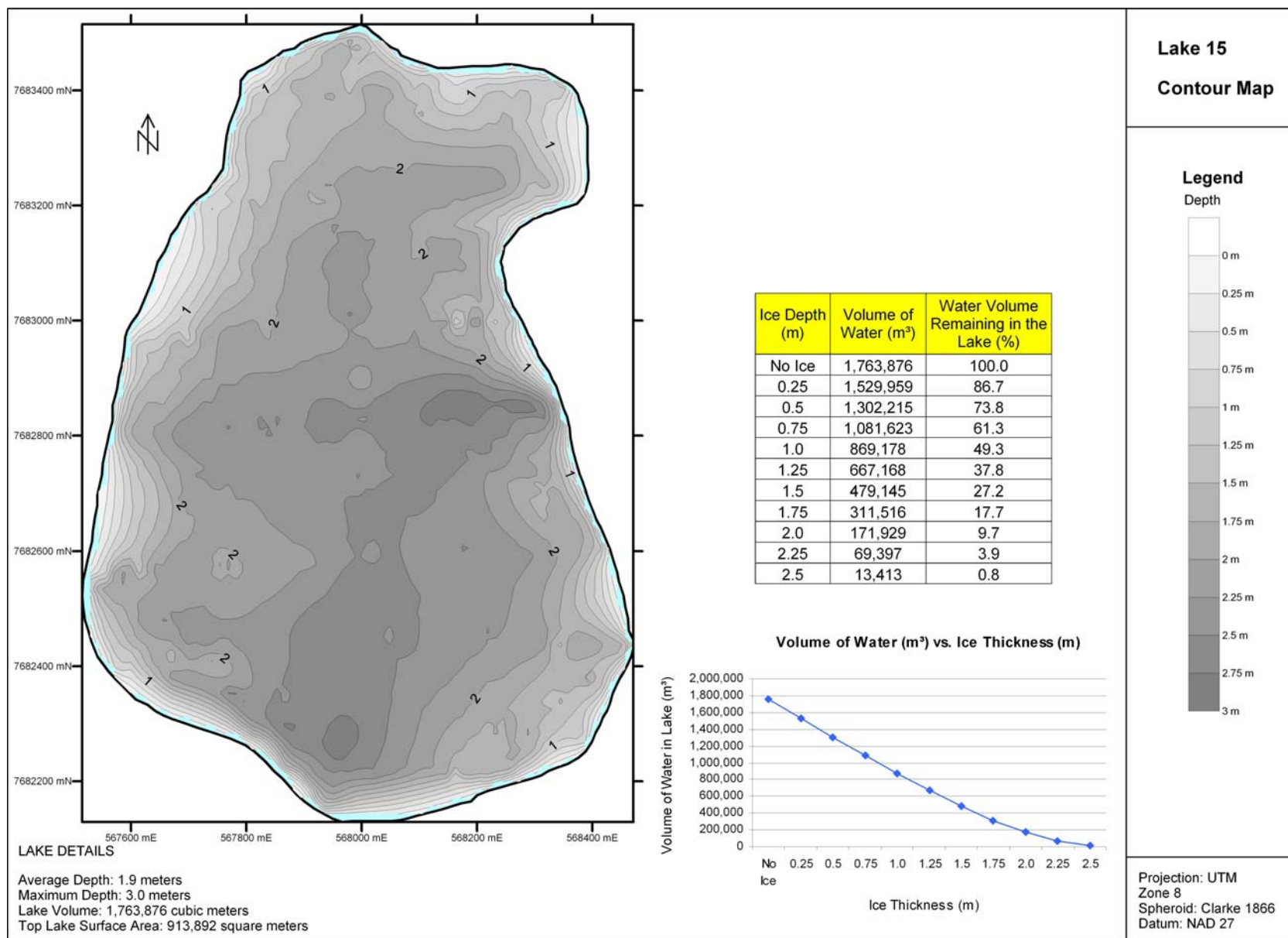






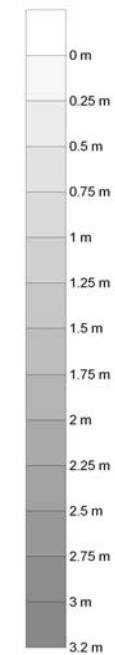
Projection: UTM
Zone 8
Spheroid: Clarke 1866
Datum: NAD 27



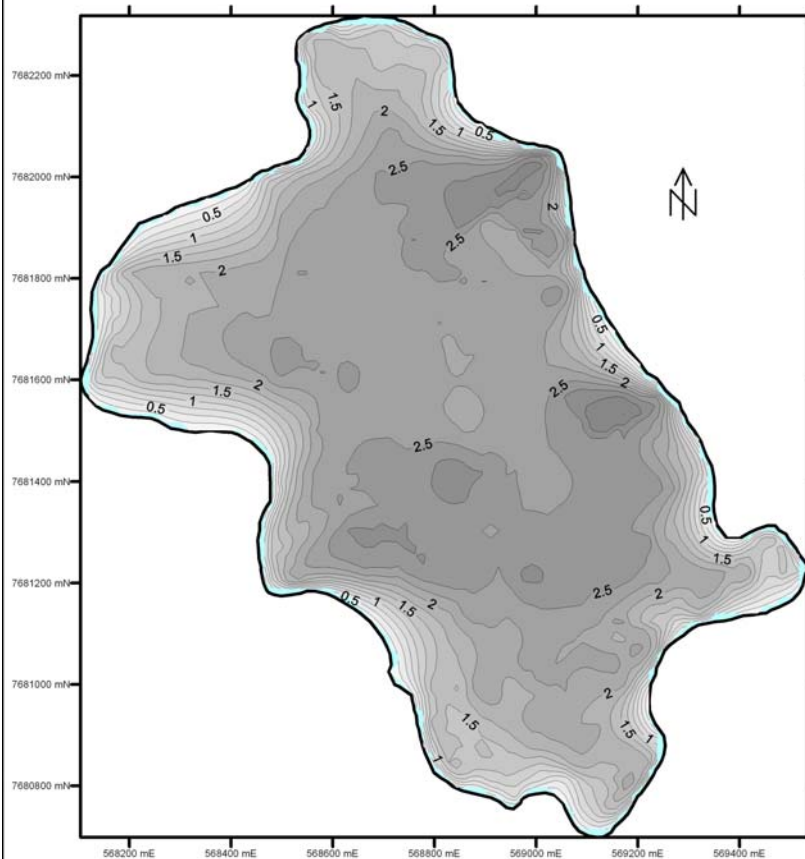


Lake 16 Contour Map

Legend Depth



Projection: UTM
Zone 8
Spheroid: Clarke 1866
Datum: NAD 27

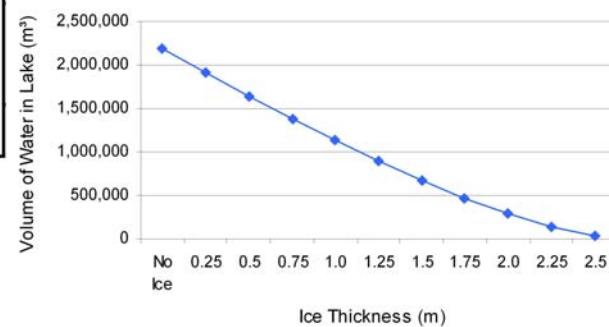


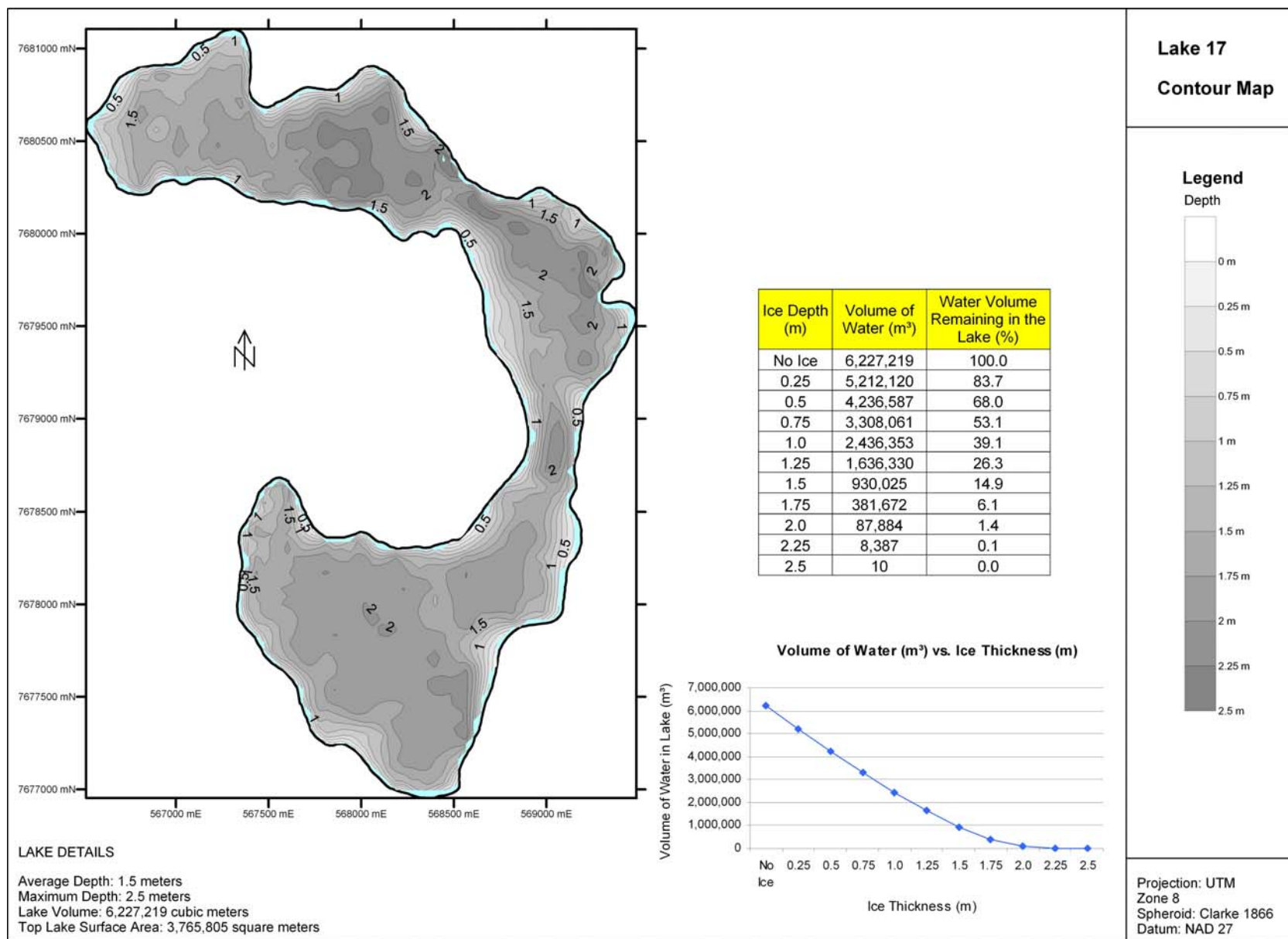
LAKE DETAILS

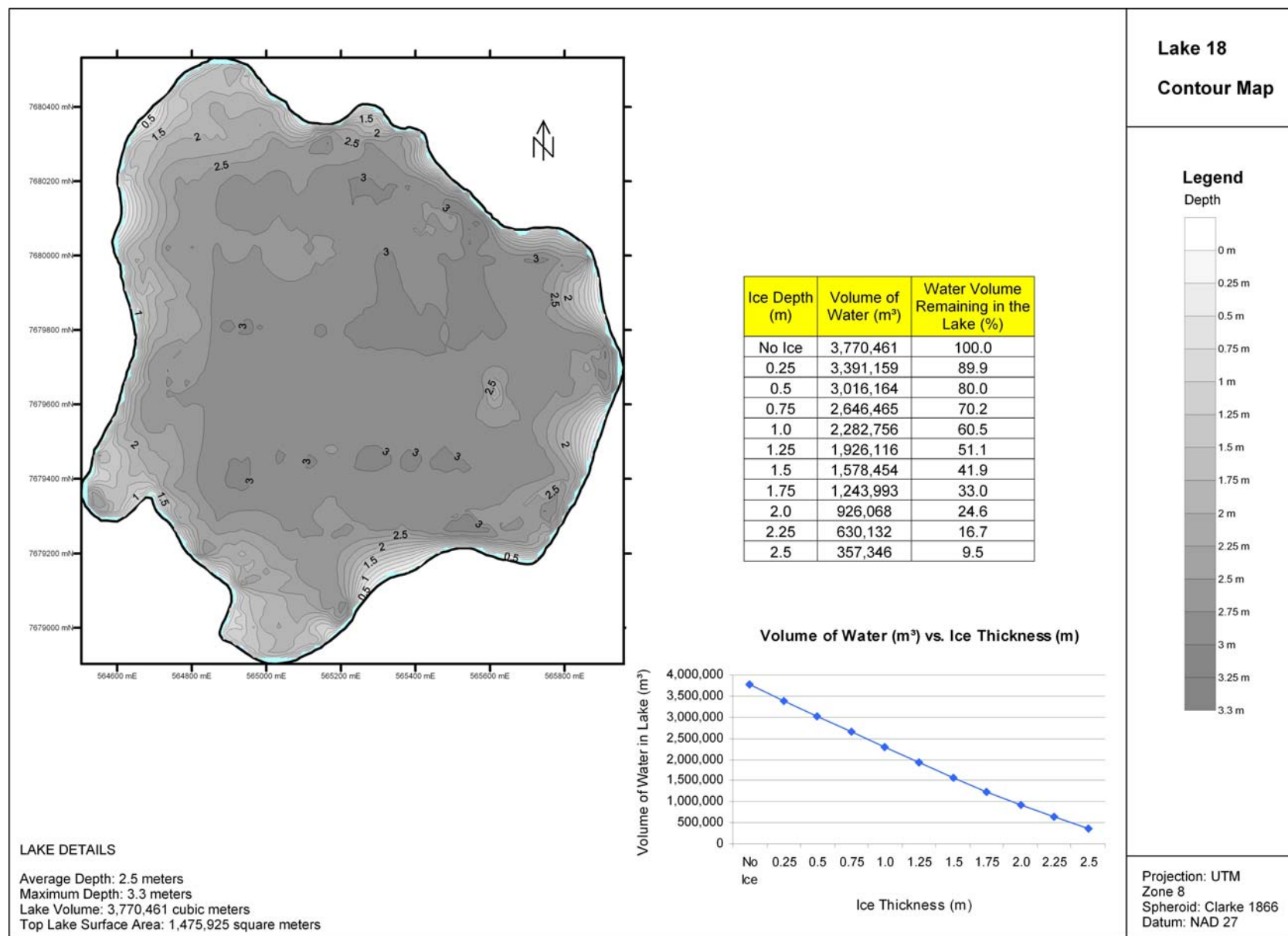
Average Depth: 2.0 meters
Maximum Depth: 3.2 meters
Lake Volume: 2,188,830 cubic meters
Top Lake Surface Area: 1,076,391 square meters

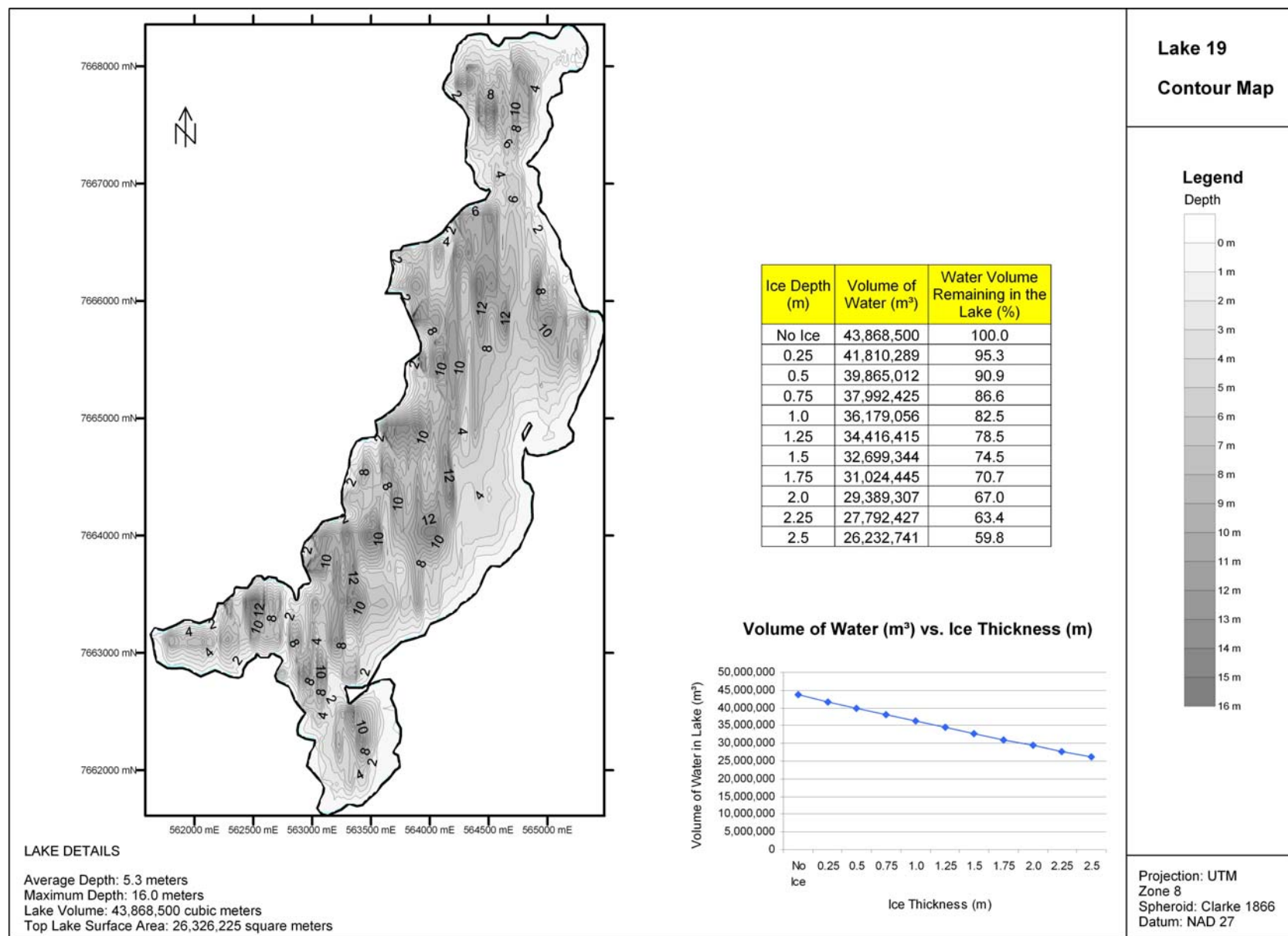
Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	2,188,830	100.0
0.25	1,911,901	87.3
0.5	1,643,094	75.1
0.75	1,382,990	63.2
1.0	1,132,658	51.7
1.25	893,867	40.8
1.5	670,182	30.6
1.75	466,563	21.3
2.0	285,801	13.1
2.25	134,059	6.1
2.5	35,726	1.6

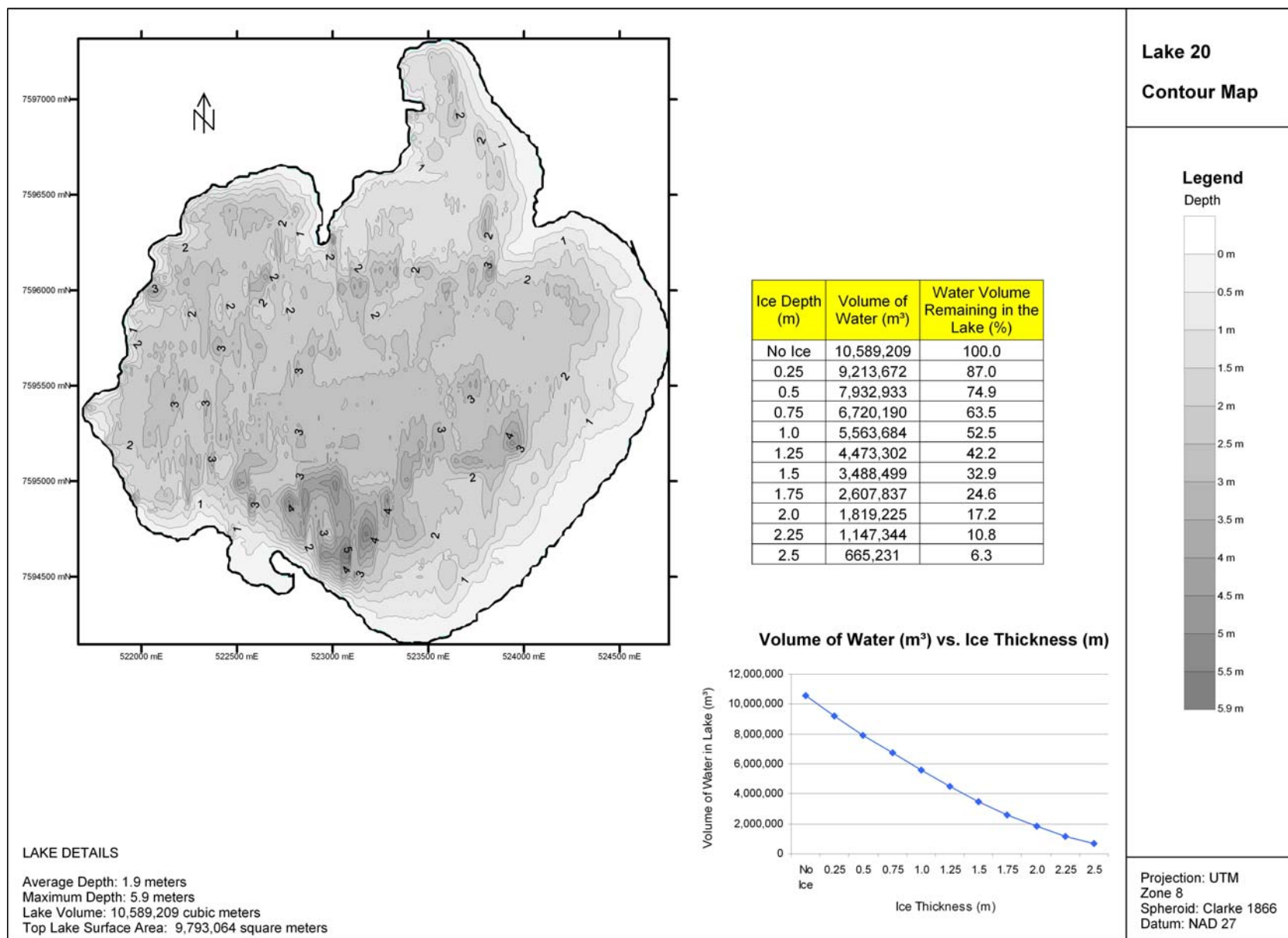
Volume of Water (m³) vs. Ice Thickness (m)

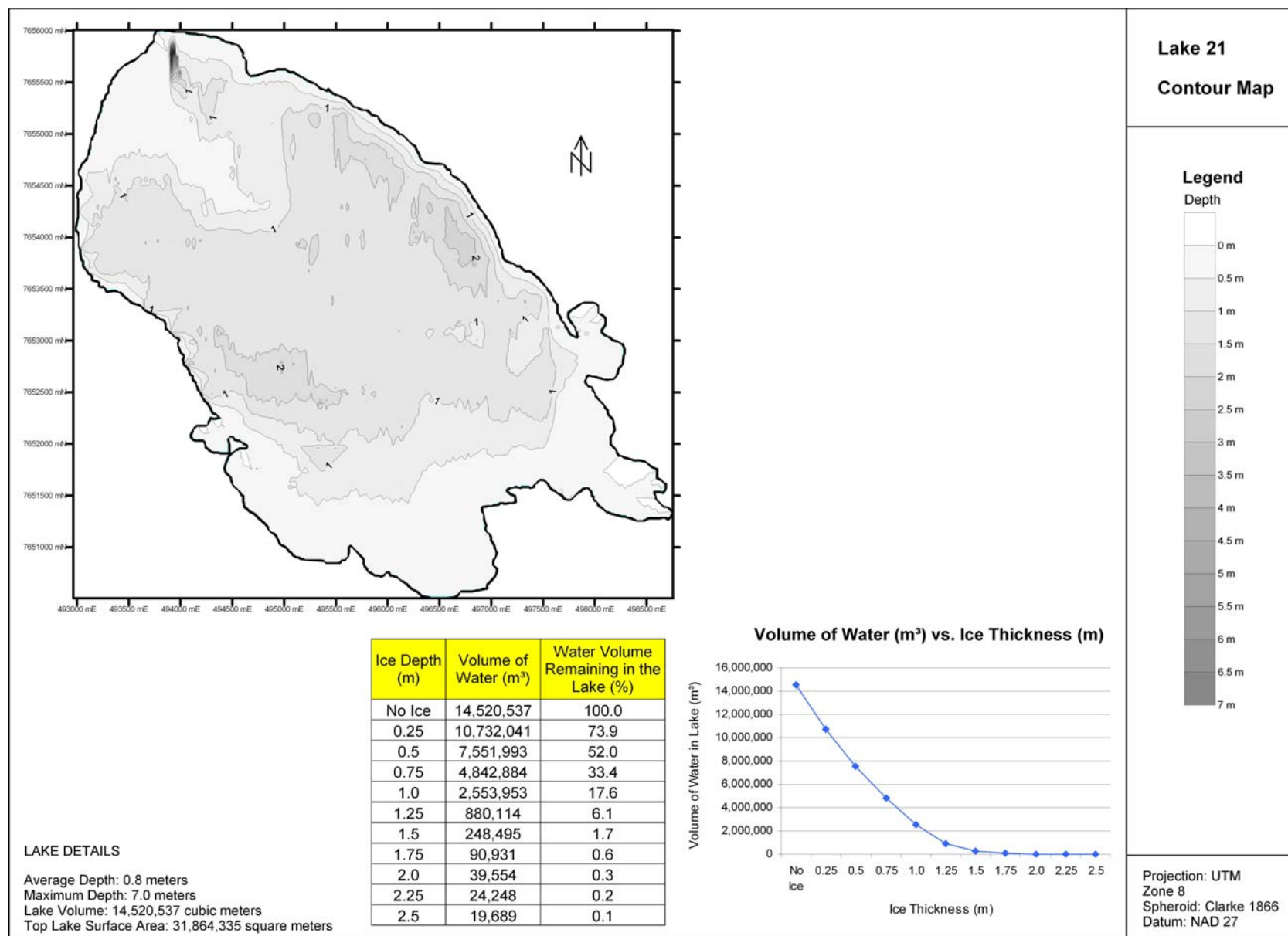


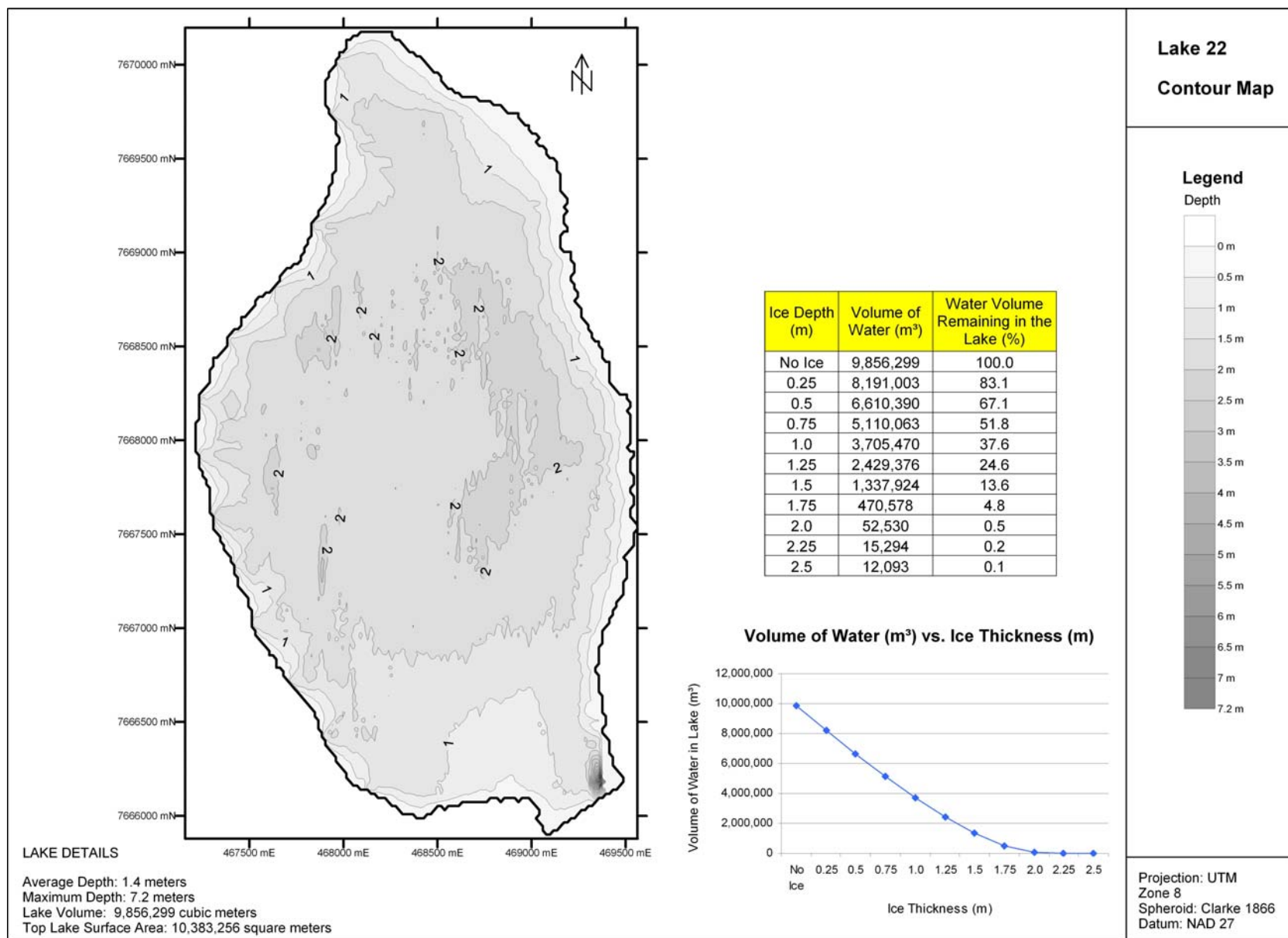


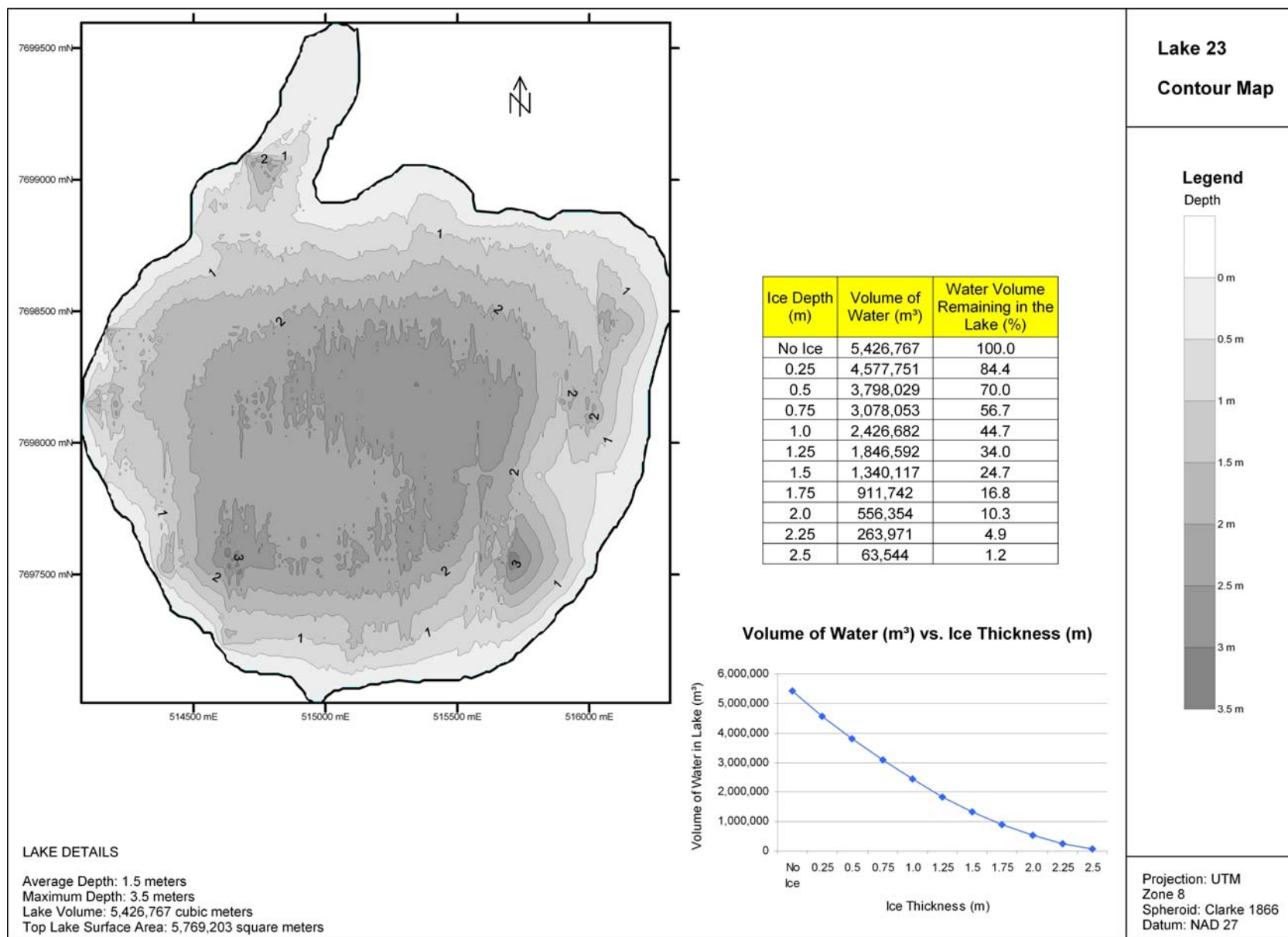


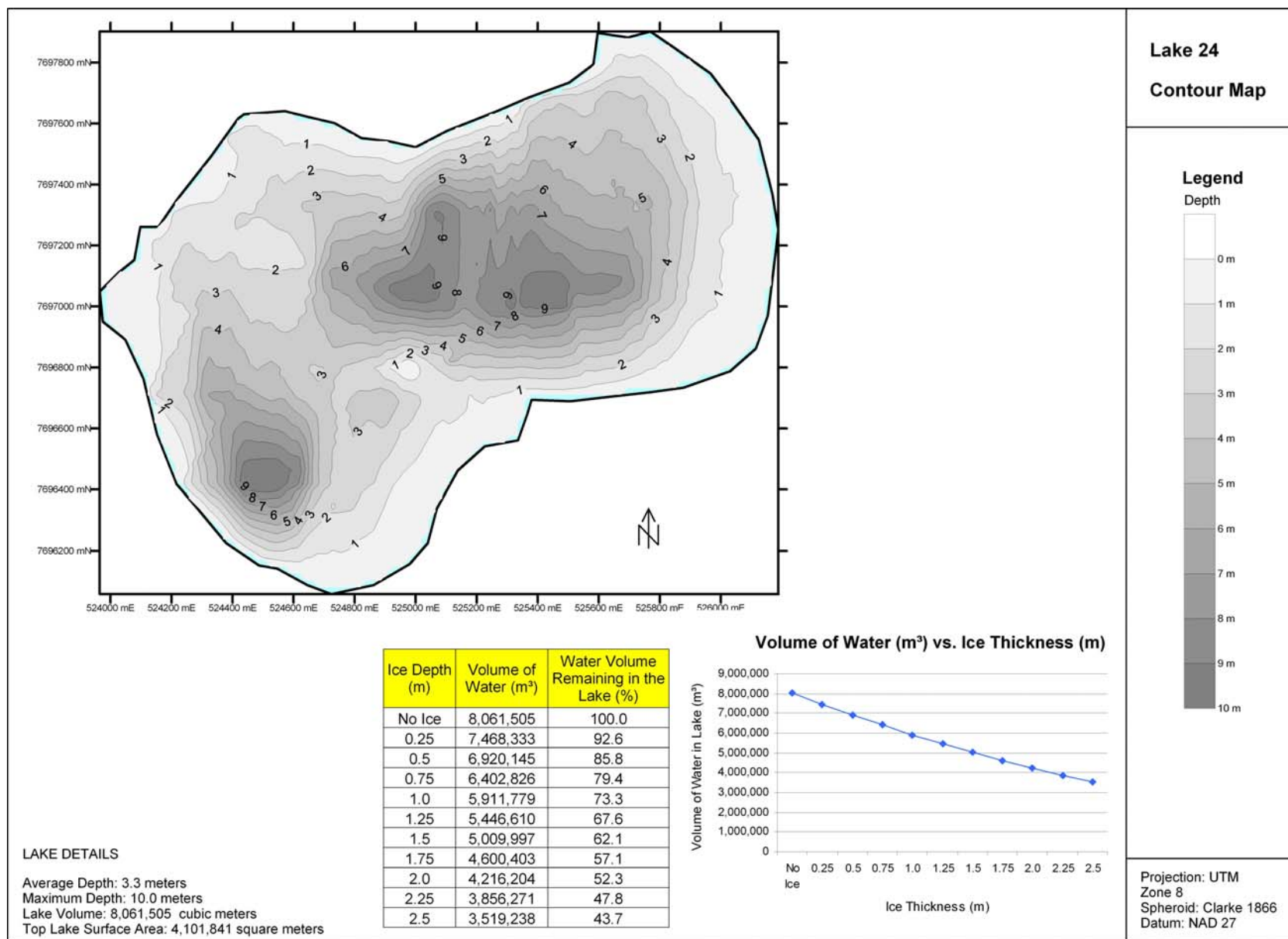


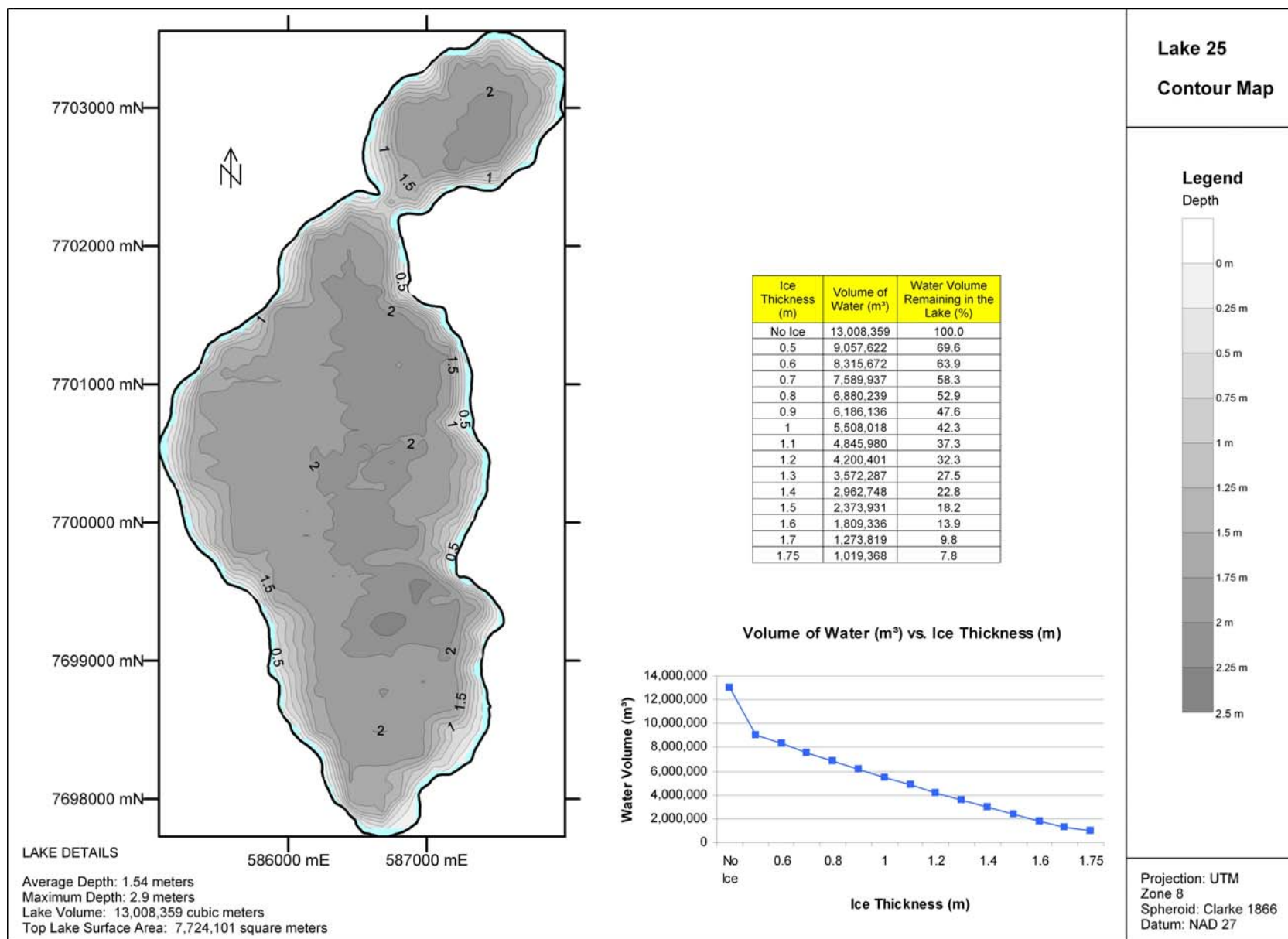


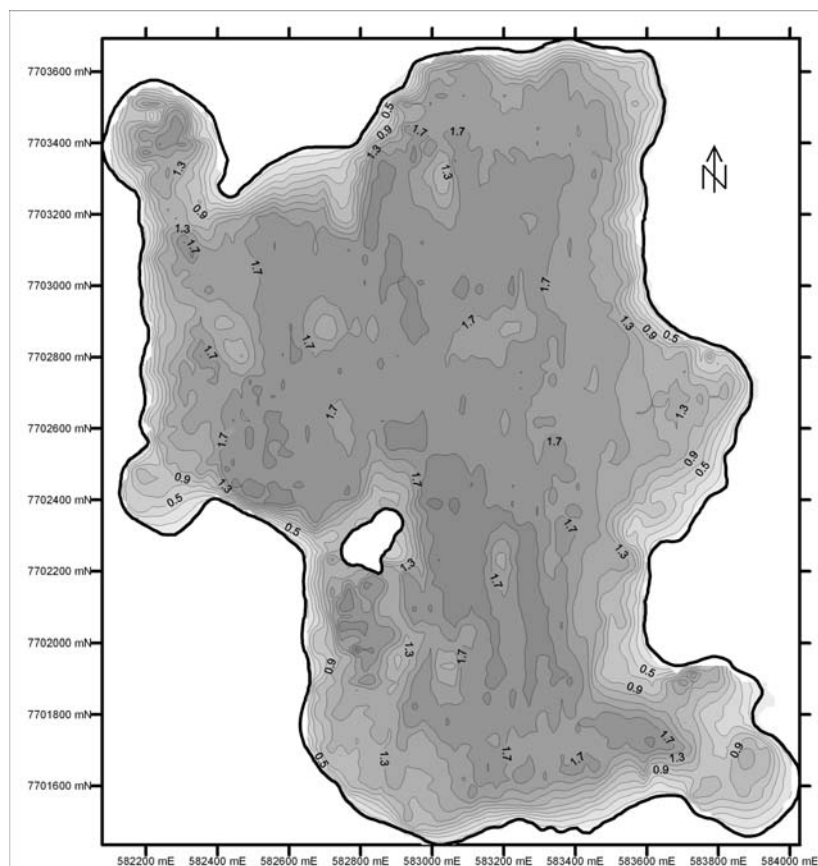










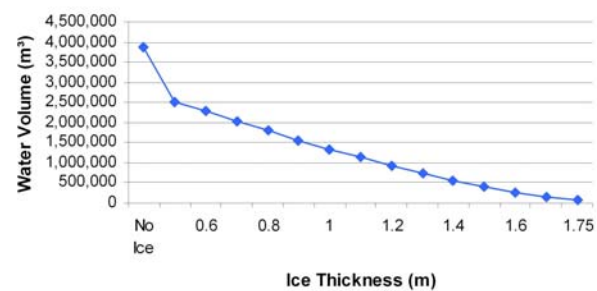


LAKE DETAILS

Average Depth: 1.4 meters
 Maximum Depth: 2.2 meters
 Lake Volume: 3,854,968 cubic meters
 Top Lake Surface Area: 2,753,584 square meters

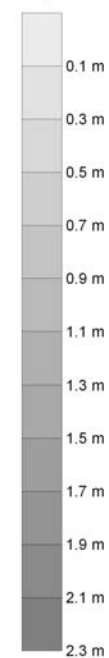
Ice Thickness (m)	Volume of Water (m ³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	3,854,968	100.0
0.5	2,521,922	65.4
0.6	2,272,597	59.0
0.7	2,029,417	52.6
0.8	1,792,973	46.5
0.9	1,564,148	40.6
1	1,343,508	34.9
1.1	1,130,973	29.3
1.2	927,676	24.1
1.3	734,875	19.1
1.4	555,556	14.4
1.5	391,383	10.2
1.6	247,206	6.4
1.7	130,896	3.4
1.75	85,103	2.2

Volume of Water (m³) vs. Ice Thickness (m)

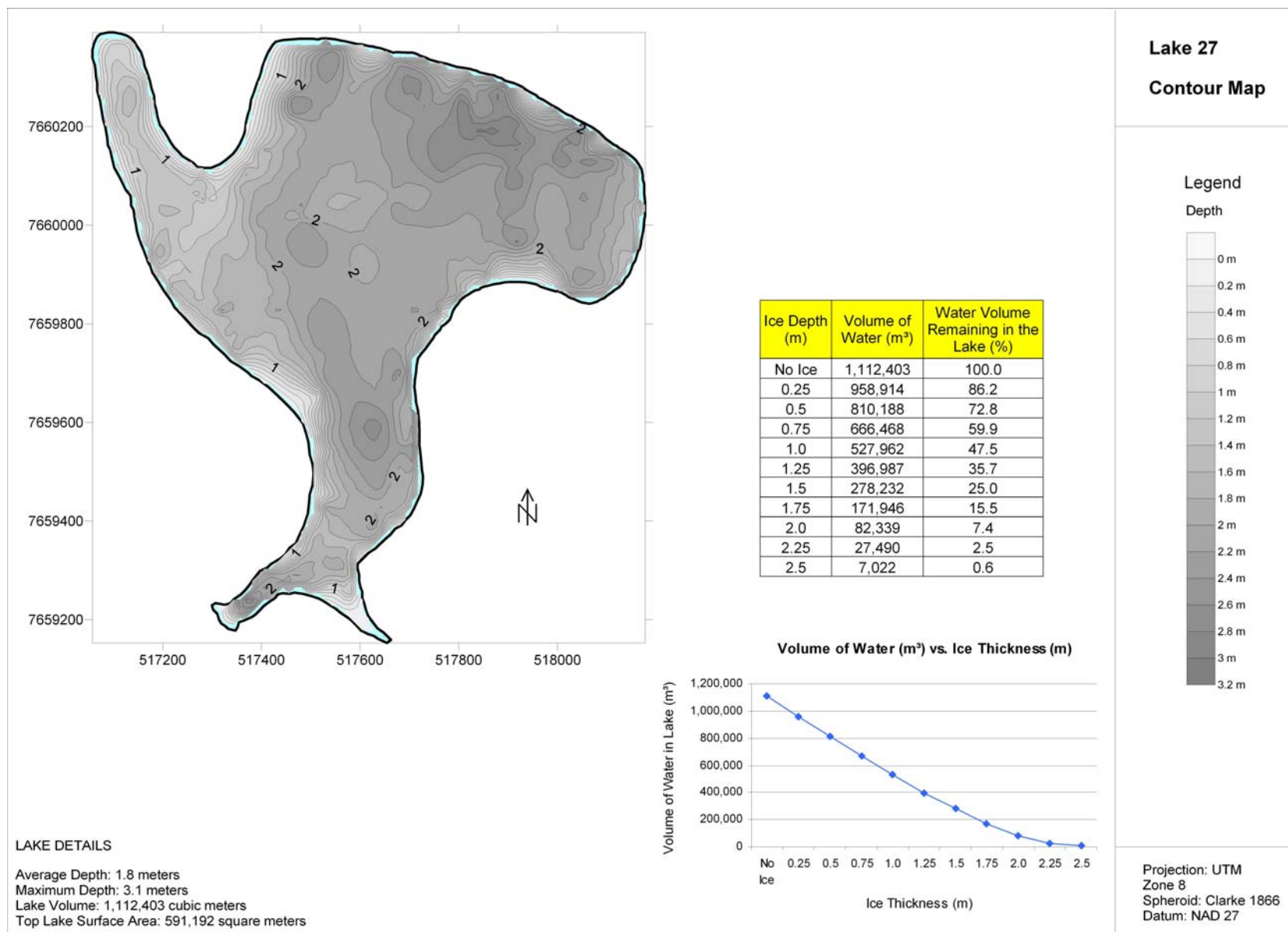


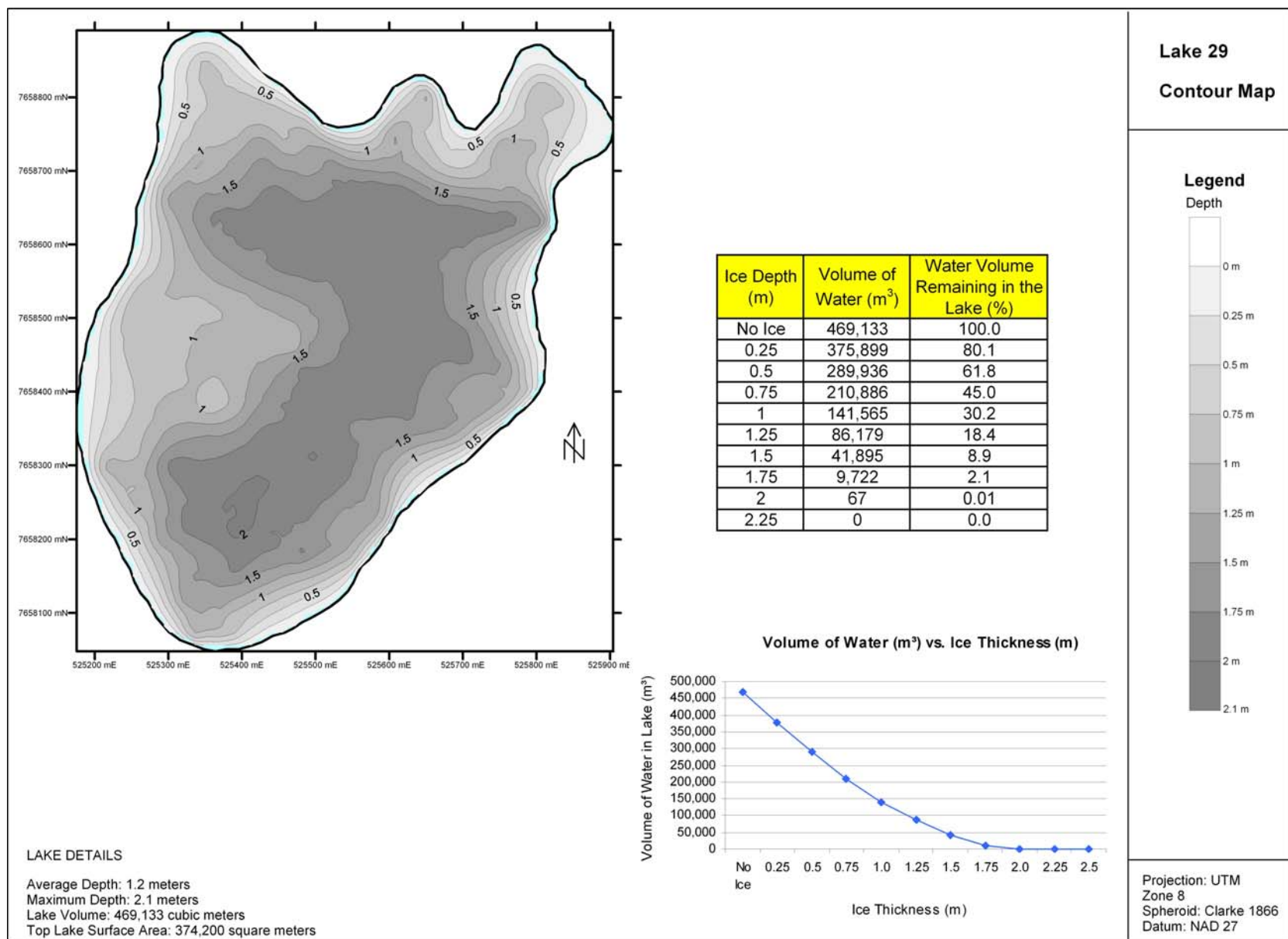
Lake 26 Contour Map

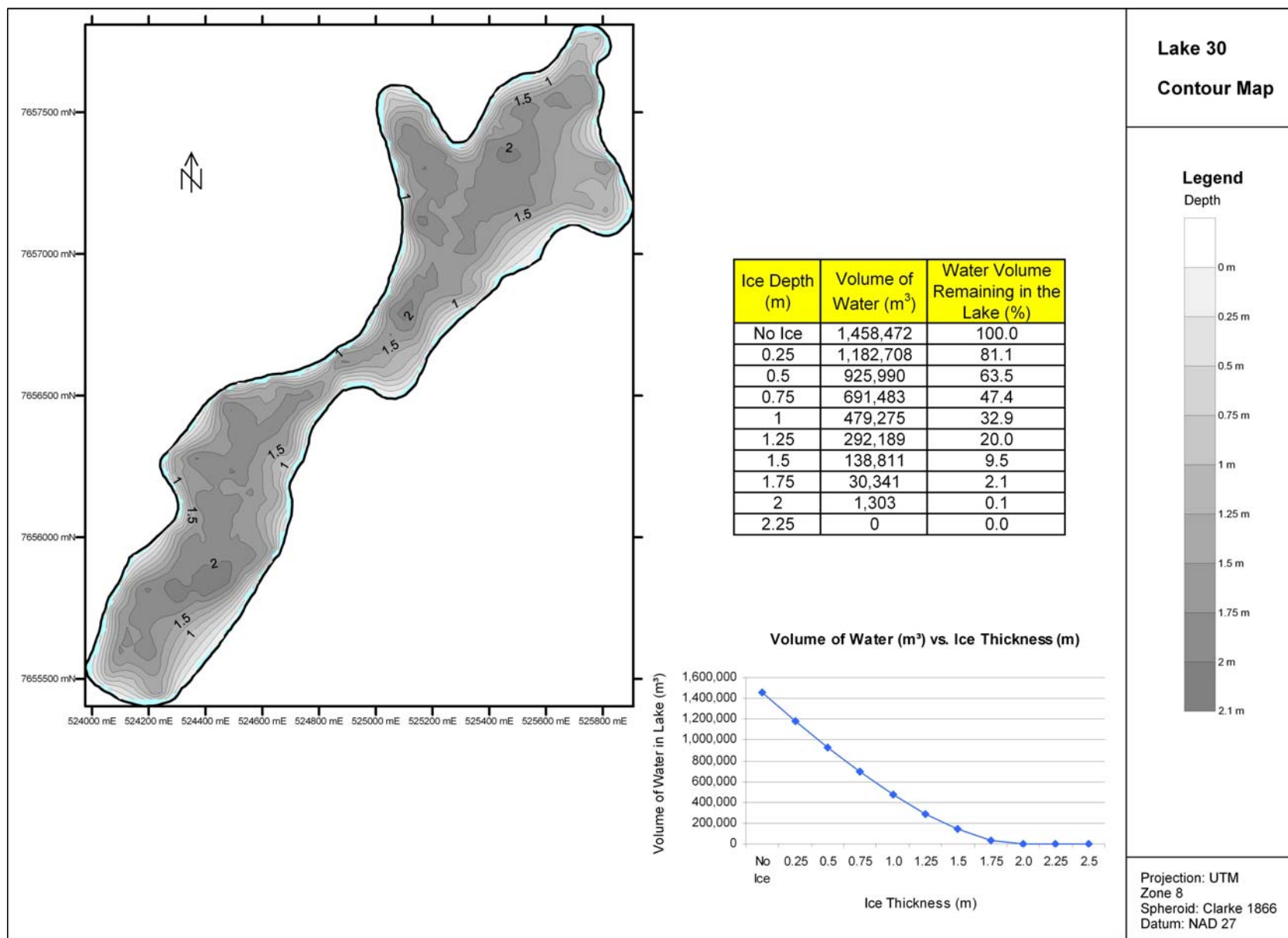
Legend Depth

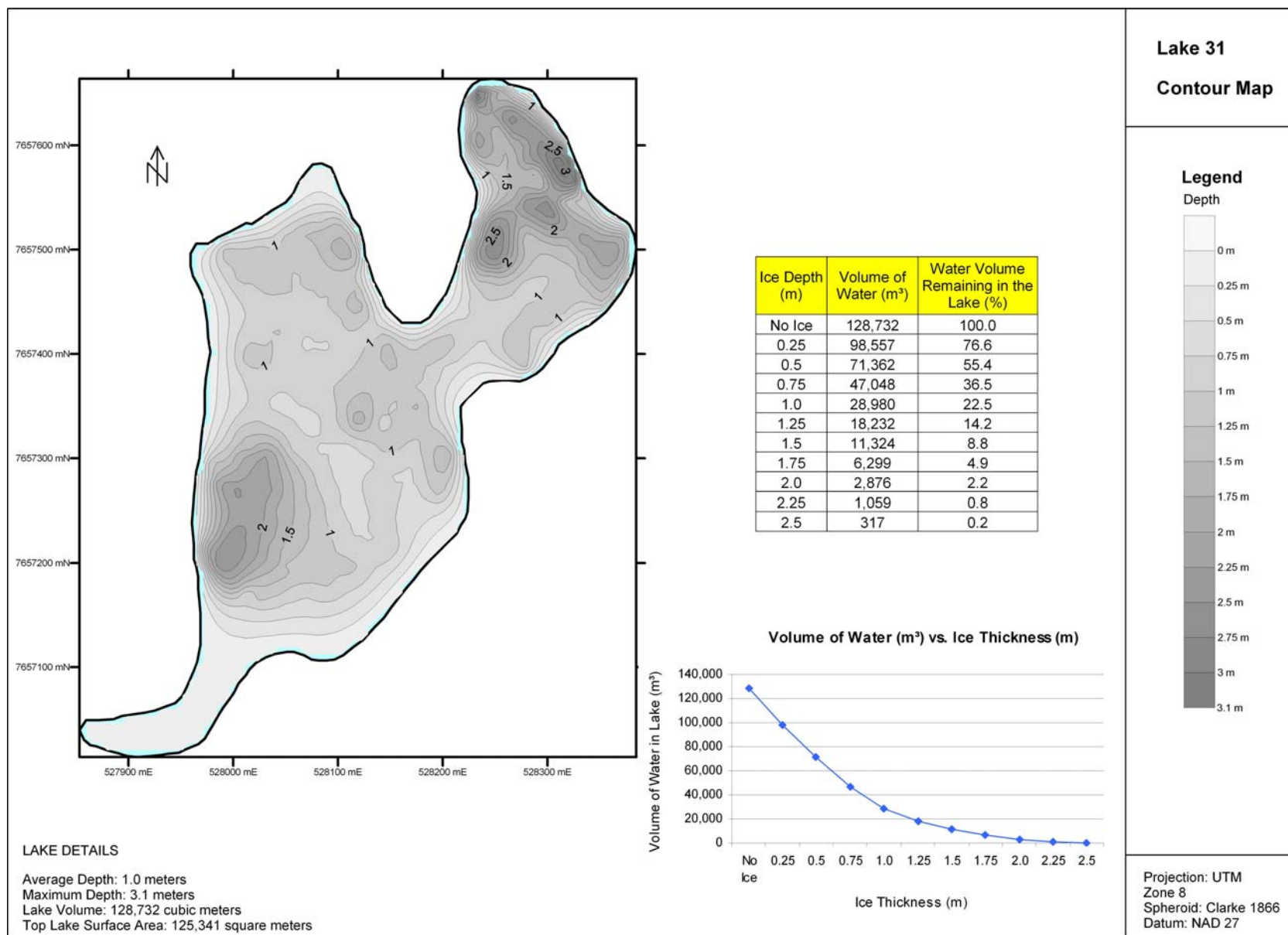


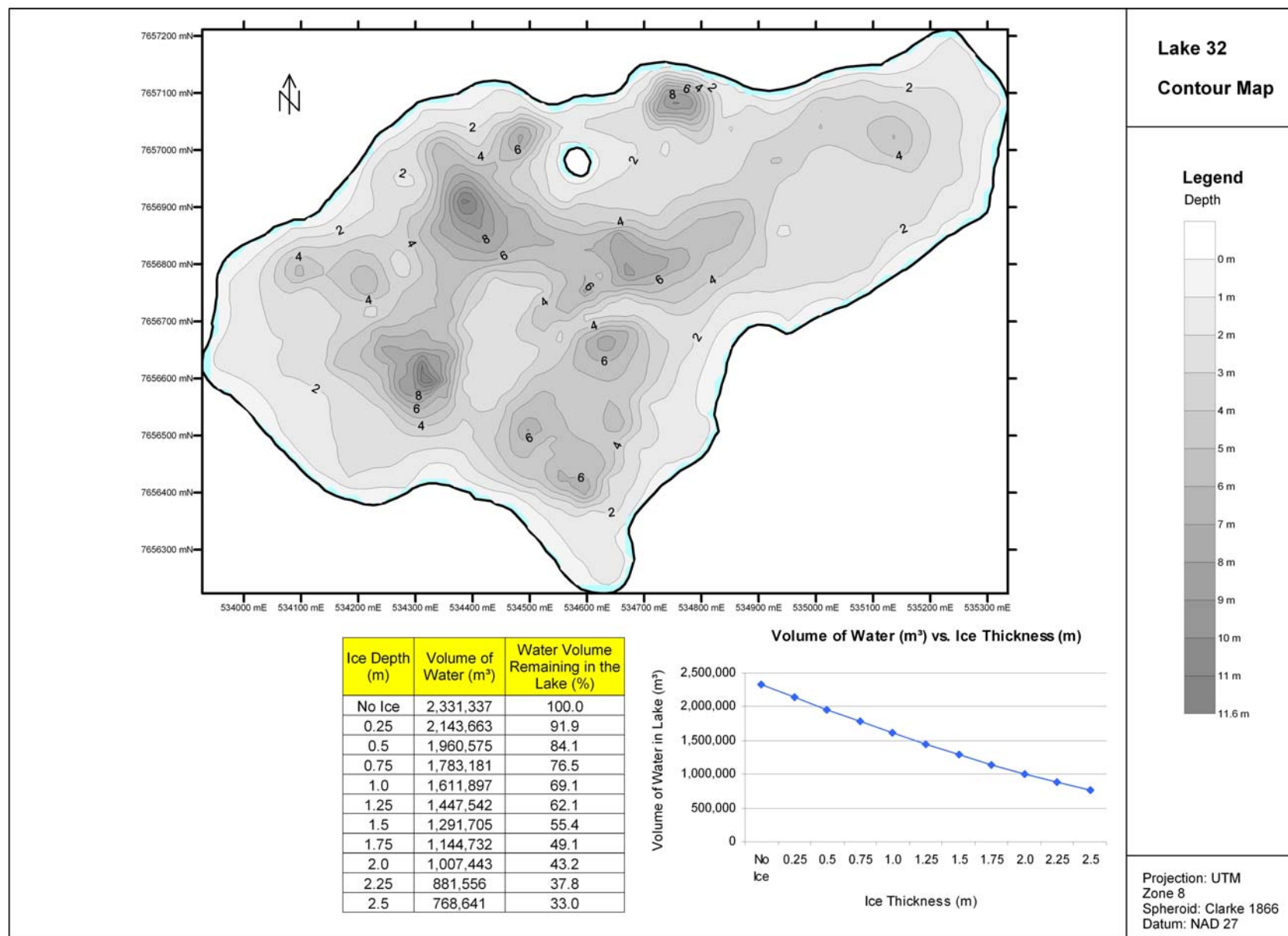
Projection: UTM
 Zone 8
 Spheroid: Clarke 1866
 Datum: NAD 27

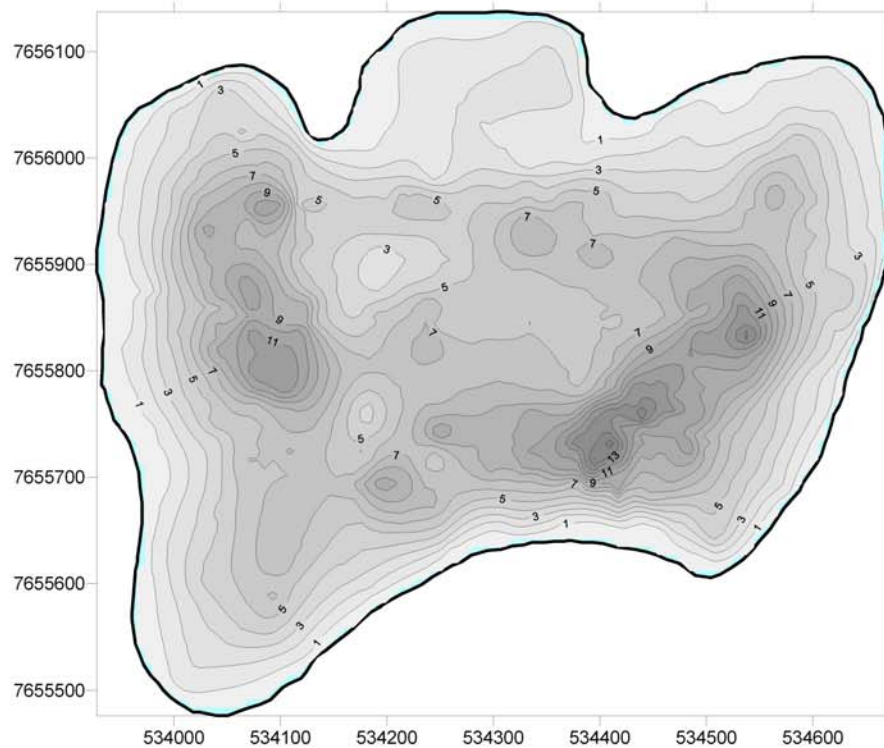






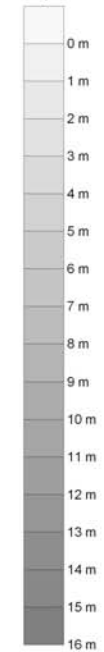




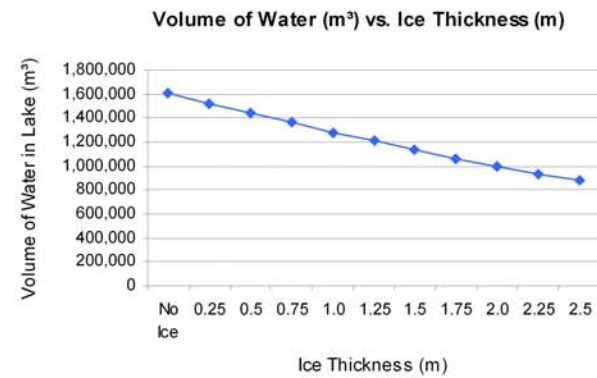


Lake 33
Contour Map

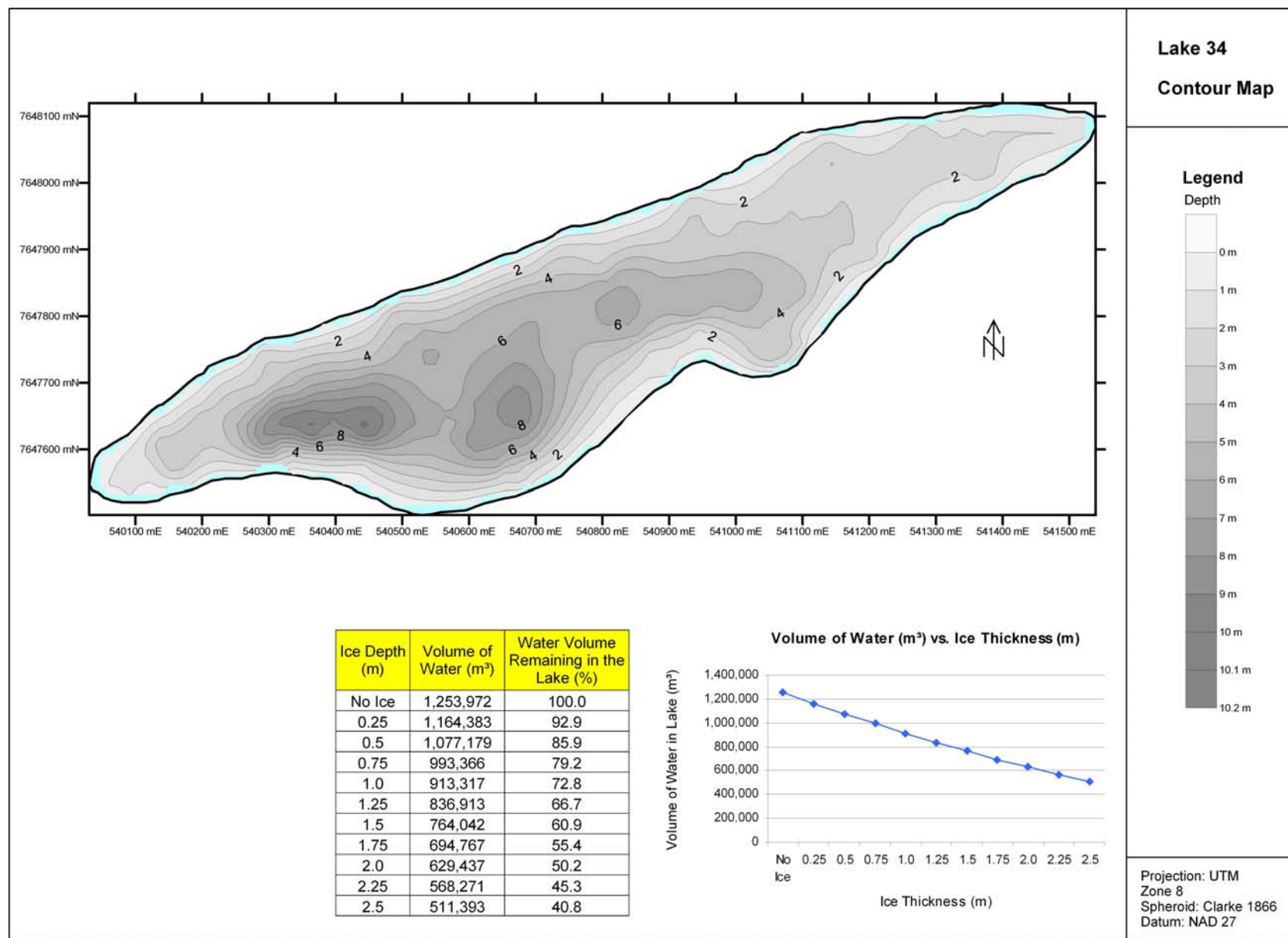
Legend
Depth

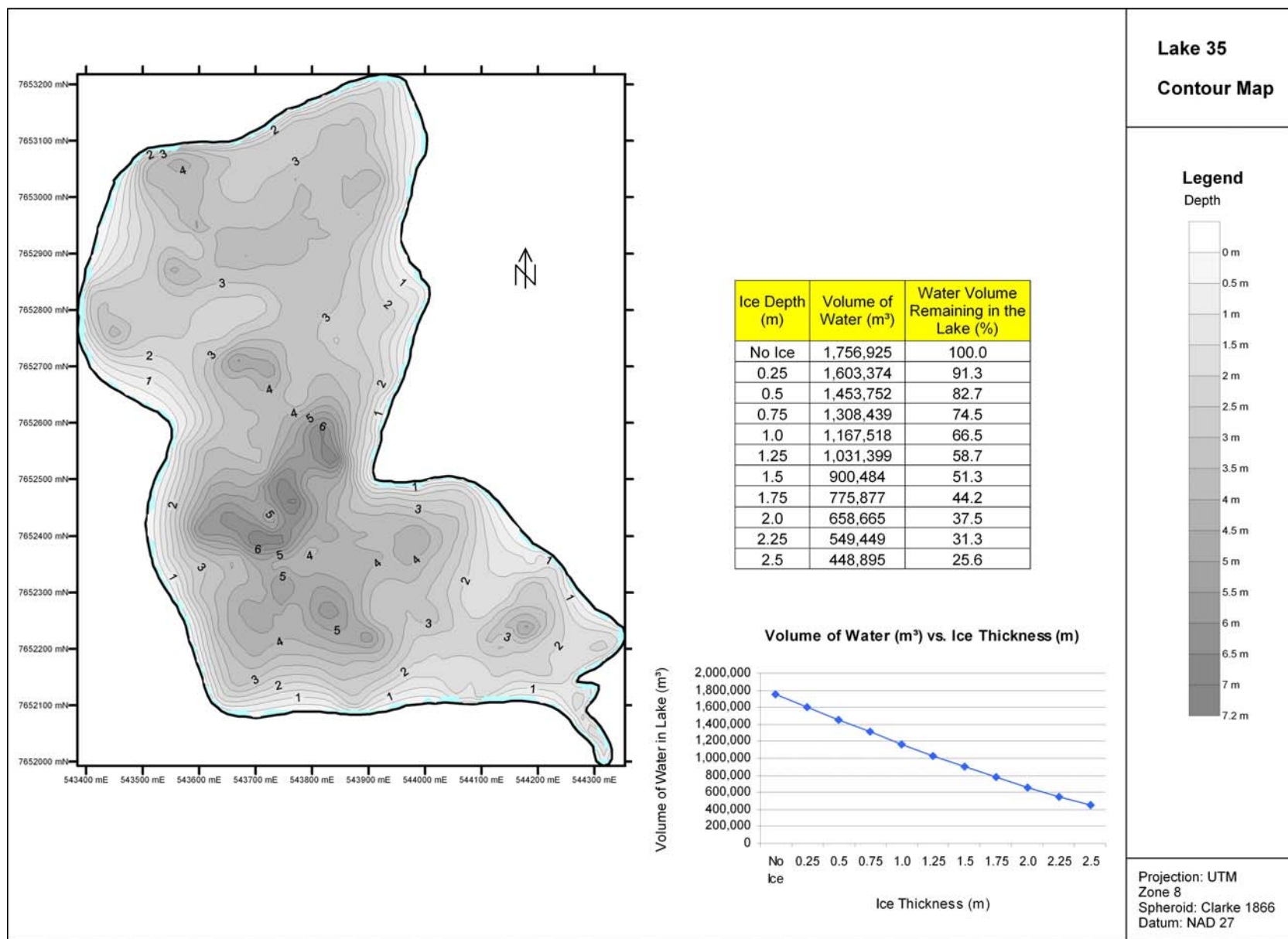


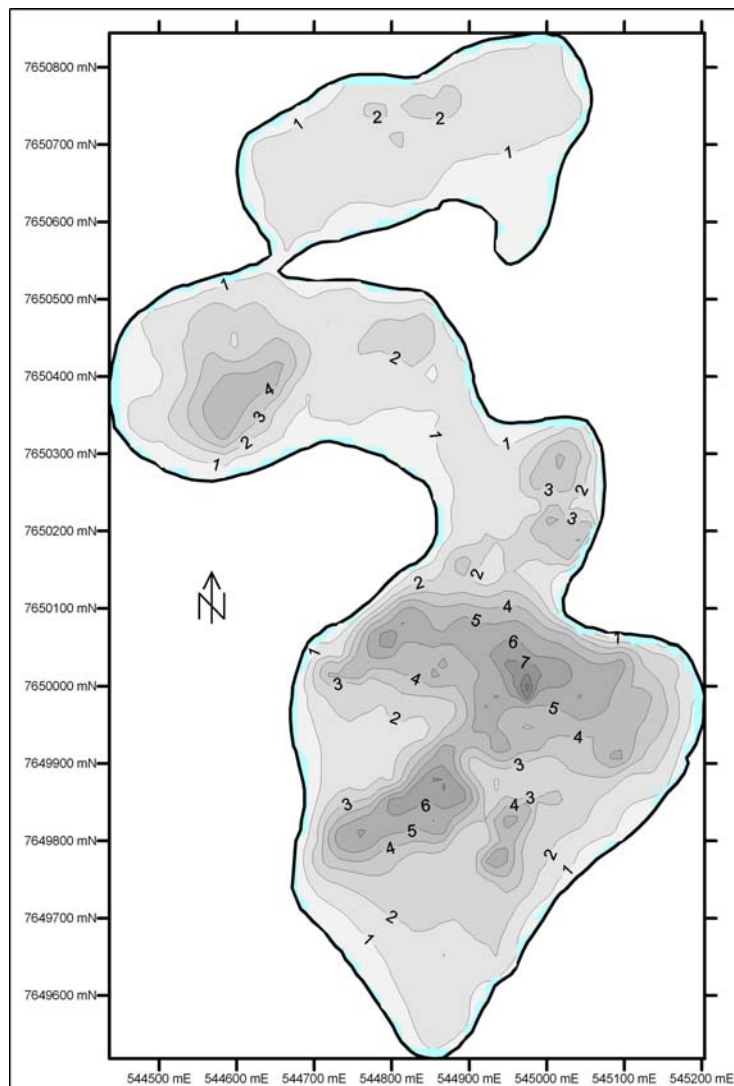
Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	1,608,010	100.0
0.25	1,522,677	94.7
0.5	1,439,943	89.5
0.75	1,359,779	84.6
1.0	1,282,121	79.7
1.25	1,207,040	75.1
1.5	1,134,657	70.6
1.75	1,065,137	66.2
2.0	998,681	62.1
2.25	935,343	58.2
2.5	874,475	54.4



Projection: UTM
Zone 8
Spheroid: Clarke 1866
Datum: NAD 27





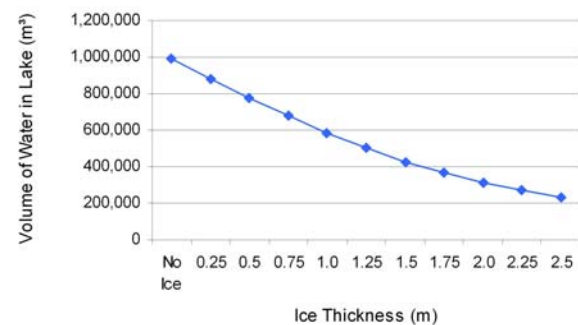


LAKE DETAILS

Average Depth: 2.2 meters
 Maximum Depth: 9.4 meters
 Lake Volume: 993,729 cubic meters
 Top Lake Surface Area: 417,487 square meters

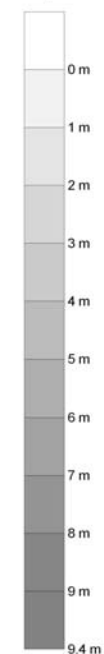
Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	993,728	100.0
0.25	883,228	88.9
0.5	778,130	78.3
0.75	678,885	68.3
1.0	585,832	59.0
1.25	500,537	50.4
1.5	426,425	42.9
1.75	365,103	36.7
2.0	313,767	31.6
2.25	269,222	27.1
2.5	230,652	23.2

Volume of Water (m³) vs. Ice Thickness (m)

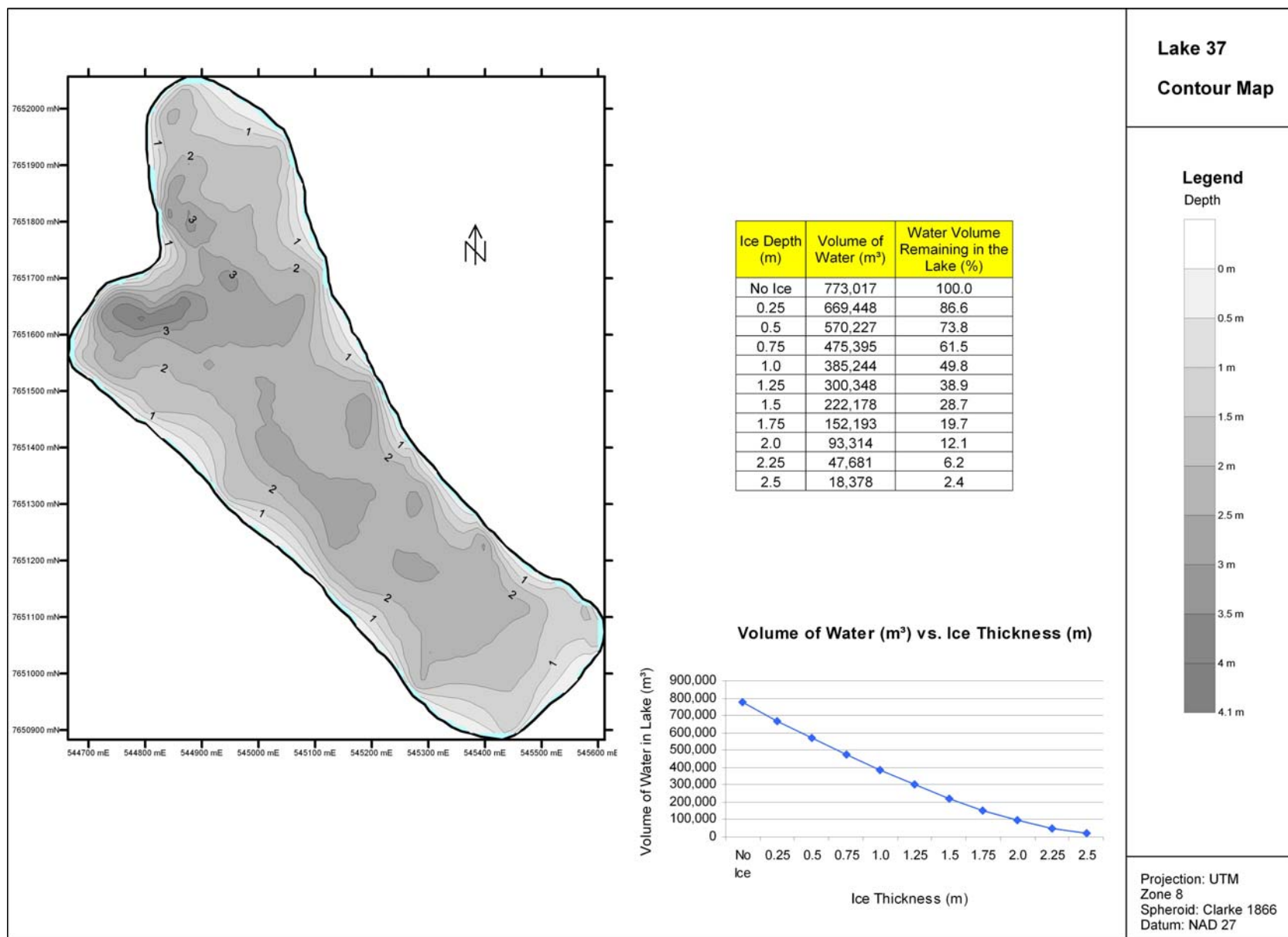


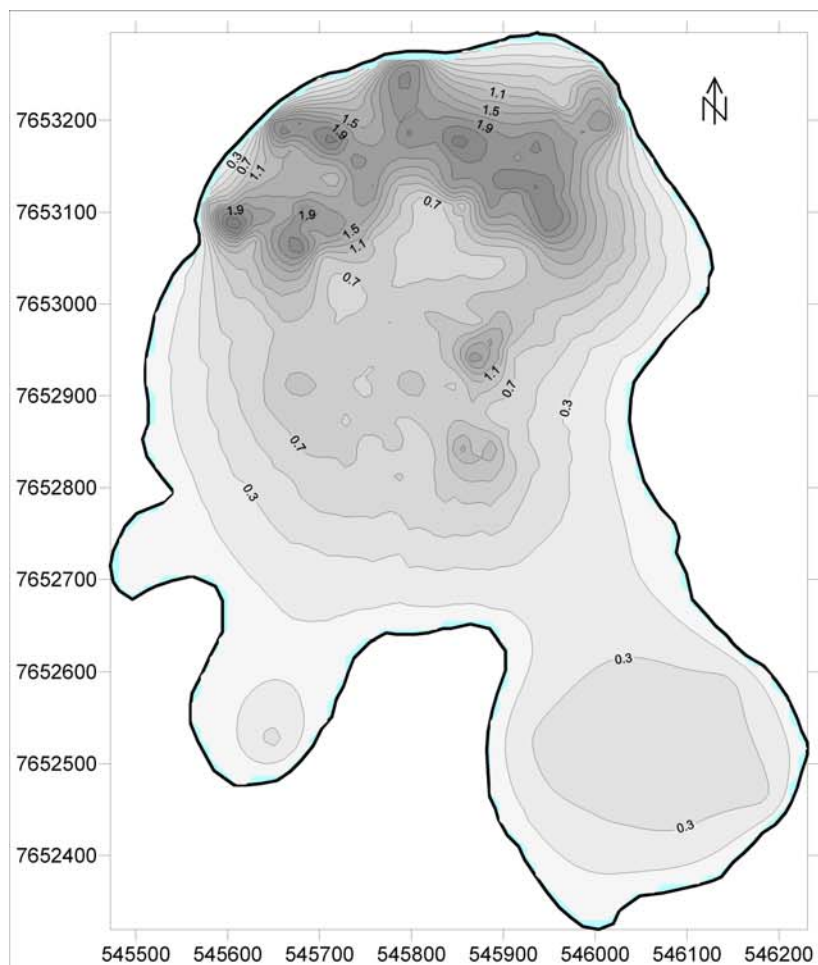
Lake 36 Contour Map

Legend Depth



Projection: UTM
 Zone 8
 Spheroid: Clarke 1866
 Datum: NAD 27



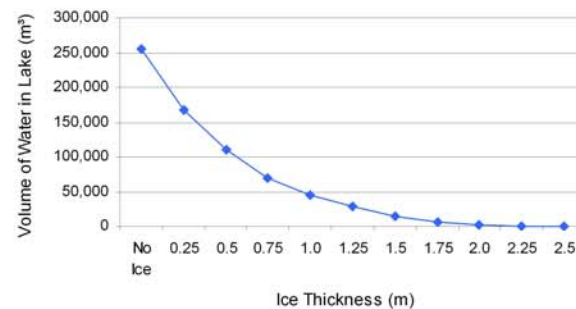


LAKE DETAILS

Average Depth: 0.5 meters
 Maximum Depth: 2.5 meters
 Lake Volume: 230,302 cubic meters
 Top Lake Surface Area: 418,355 square meters

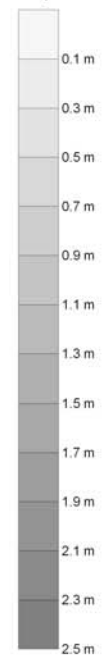
Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m ³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	254,603	100.0
0.25	168,150	66.0
0.5	110,389	43.4
0.75	70,097	27.5
1.0	45,527	17.9
1.25	28,347	11.1
1.5	15,210	6.0
1.75	6,022	2.4
2.0	1,291	0.5
2.25	56	0.0
2.5	0	0.0

Volume of Water (m³) vs. Ice Thickness (m)

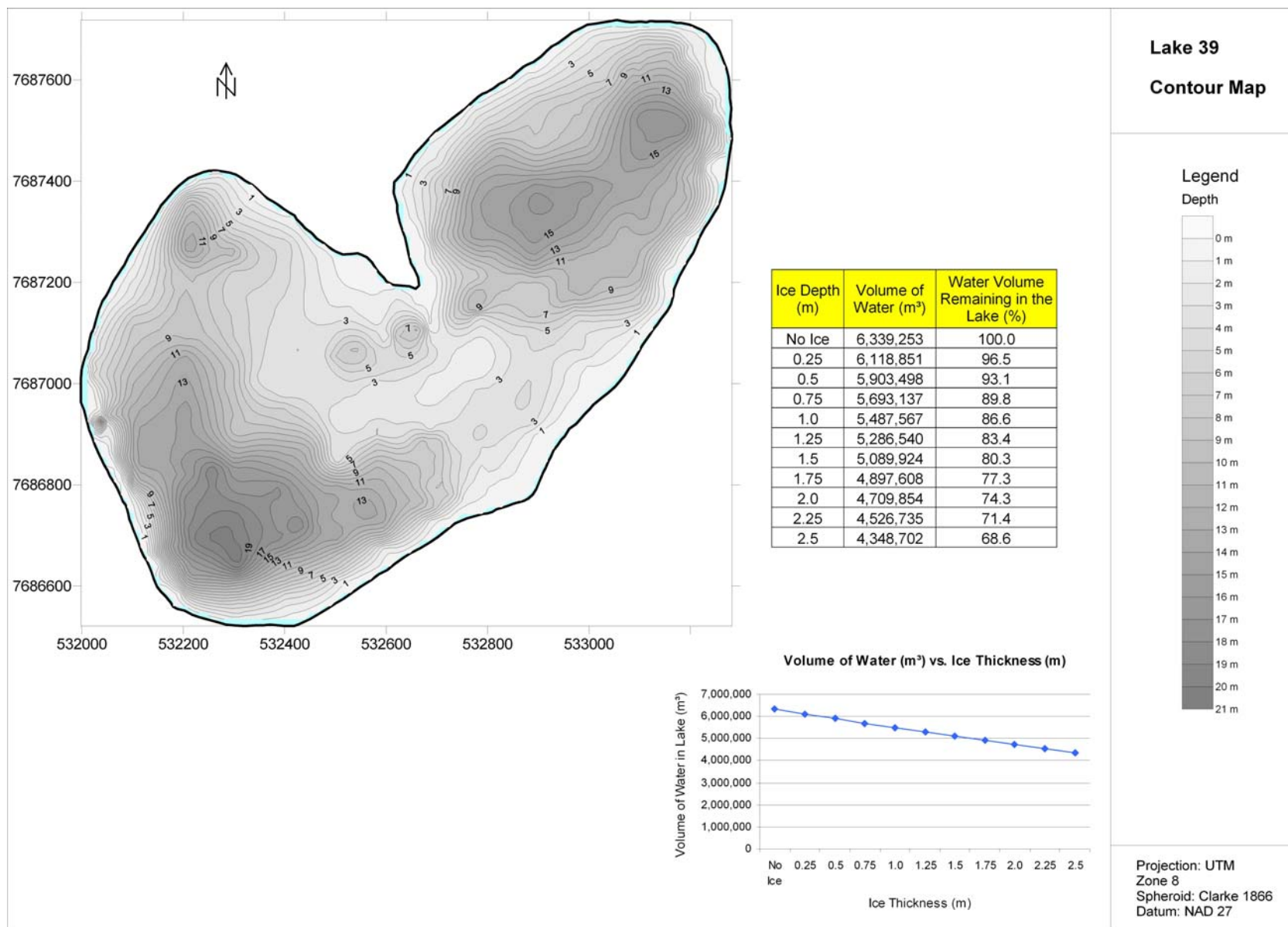


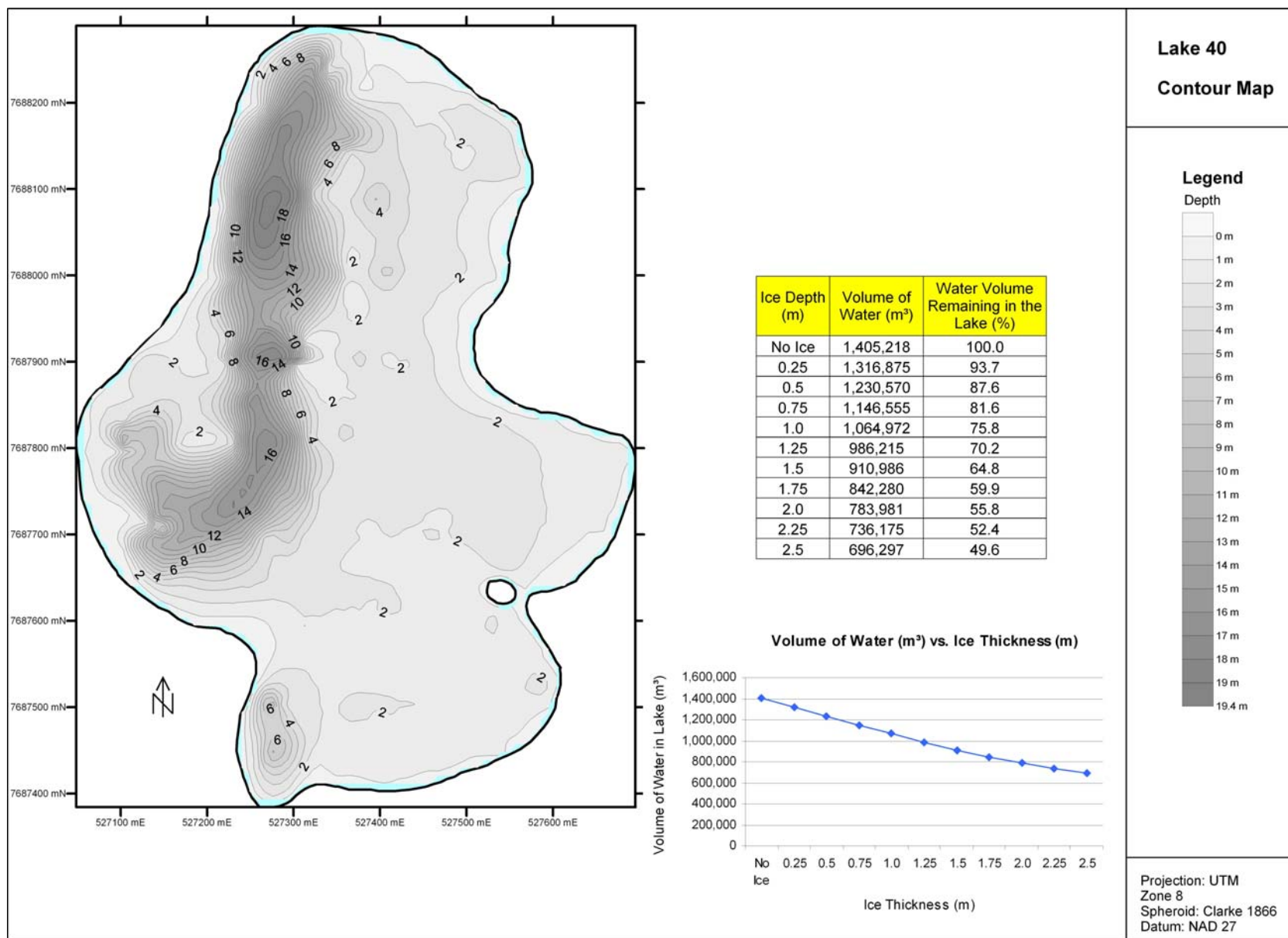
Lake 38 Contour Map

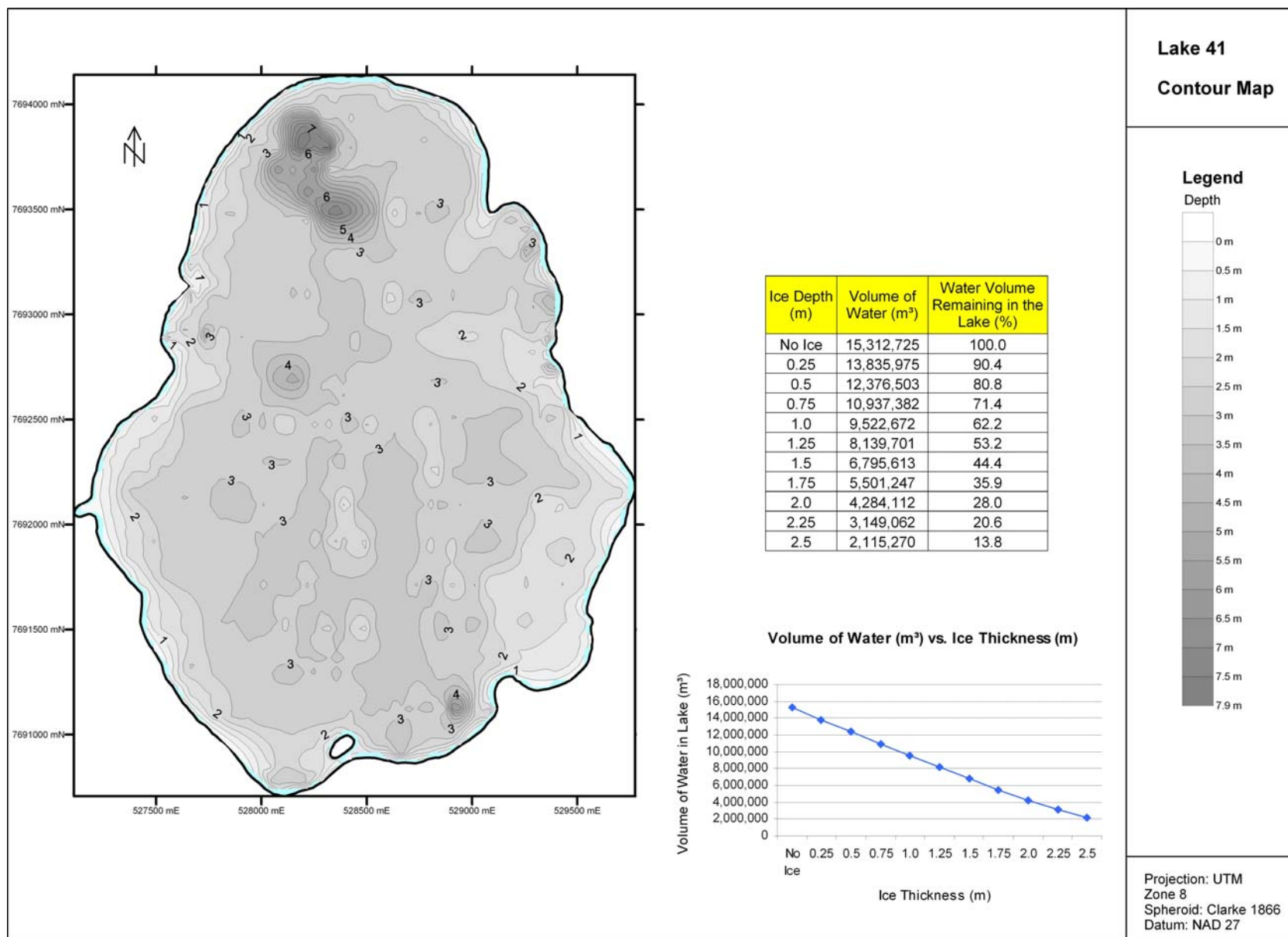
Legend Depth

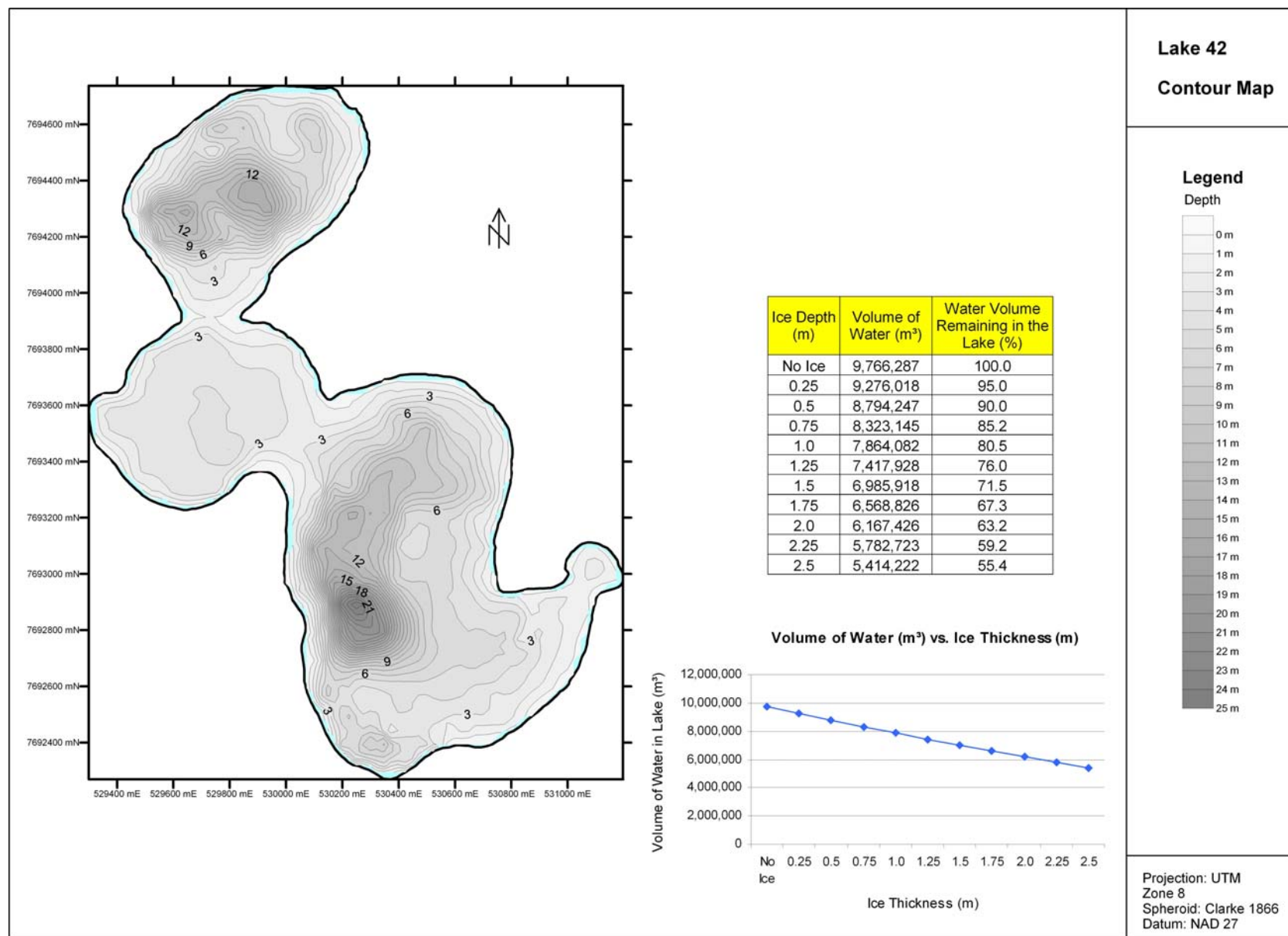


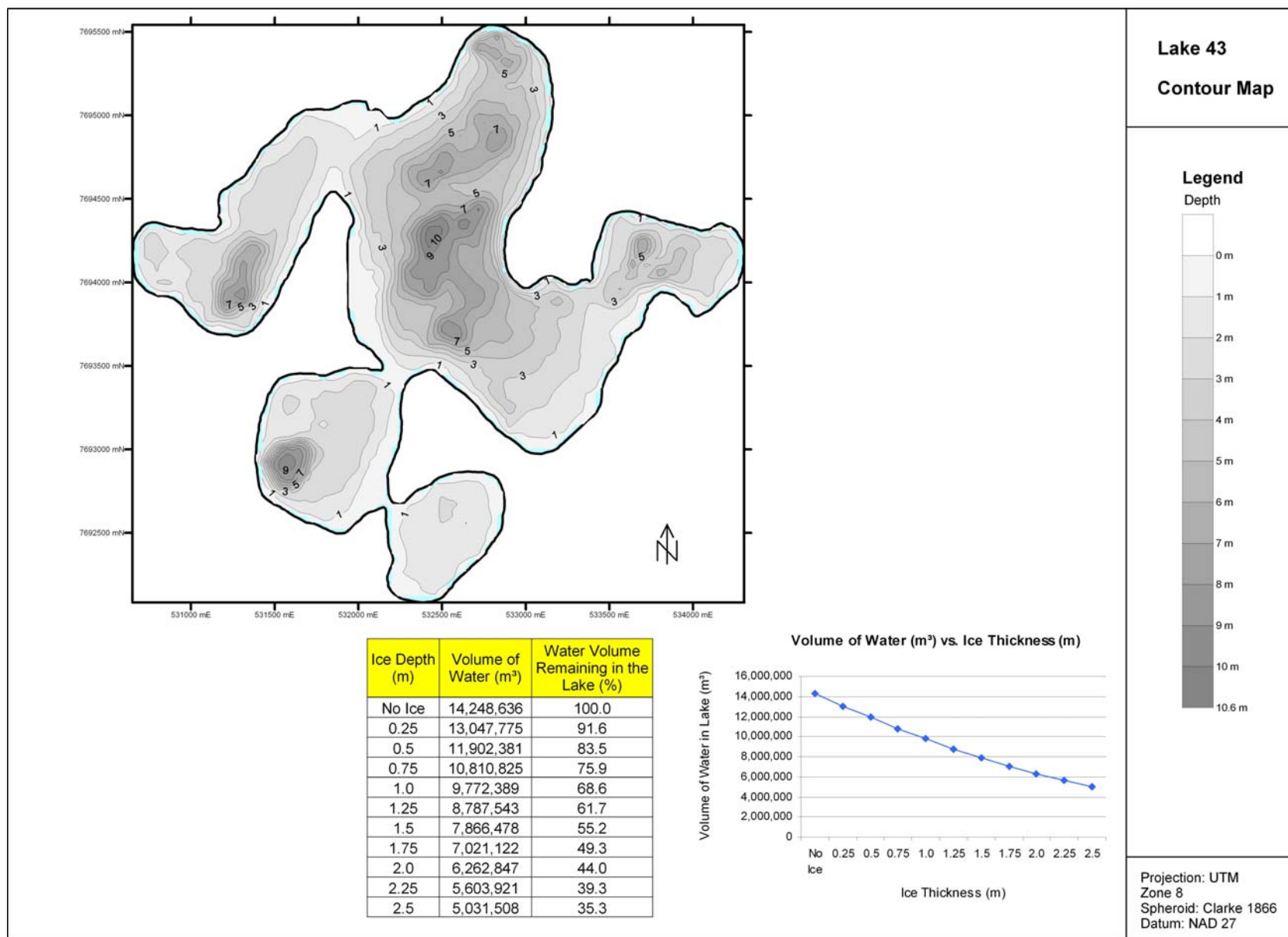
Projection: UTM
 Zone 8
 Spheroid: Clarke 1866
 Datum: NAD 27

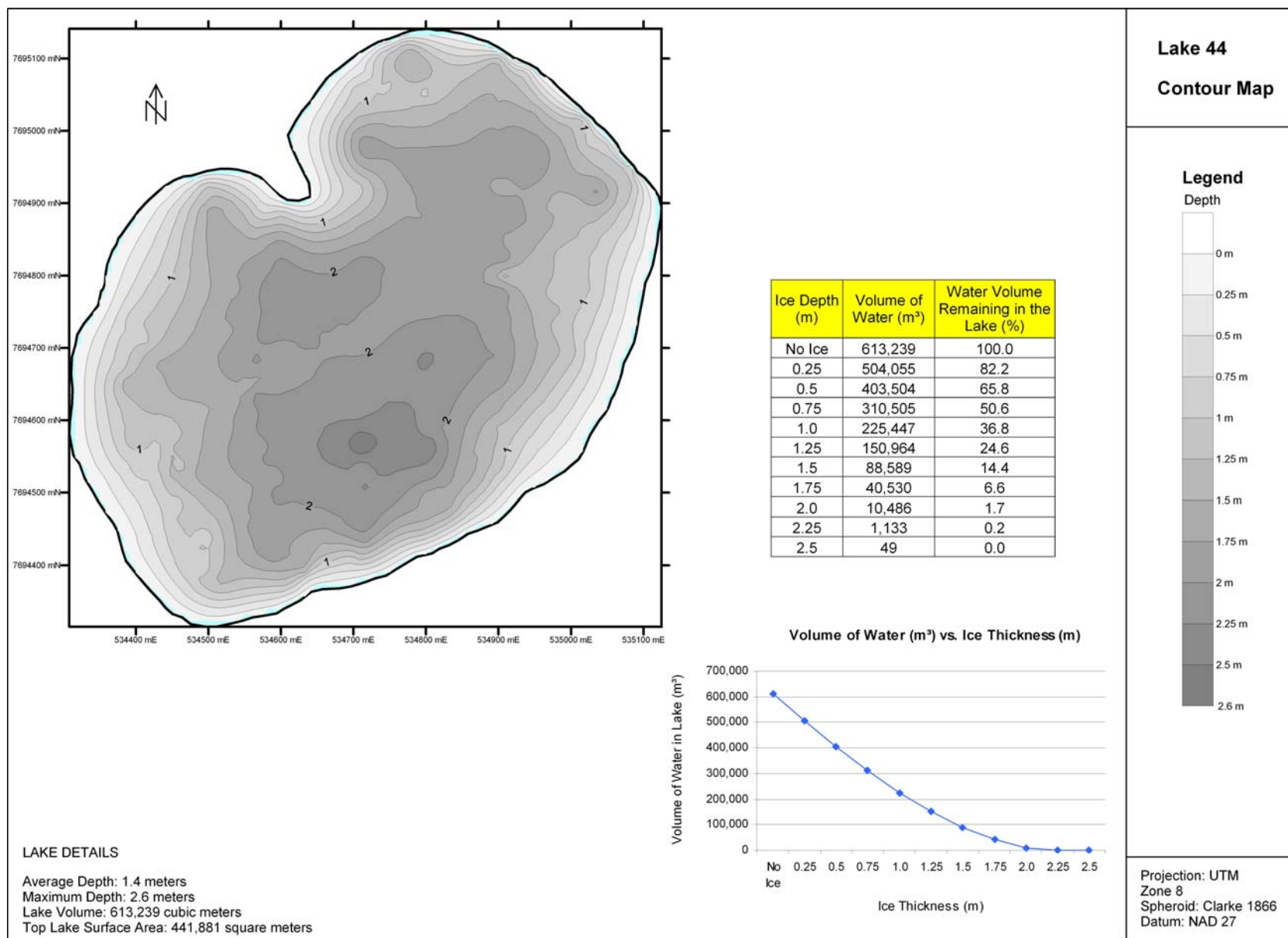


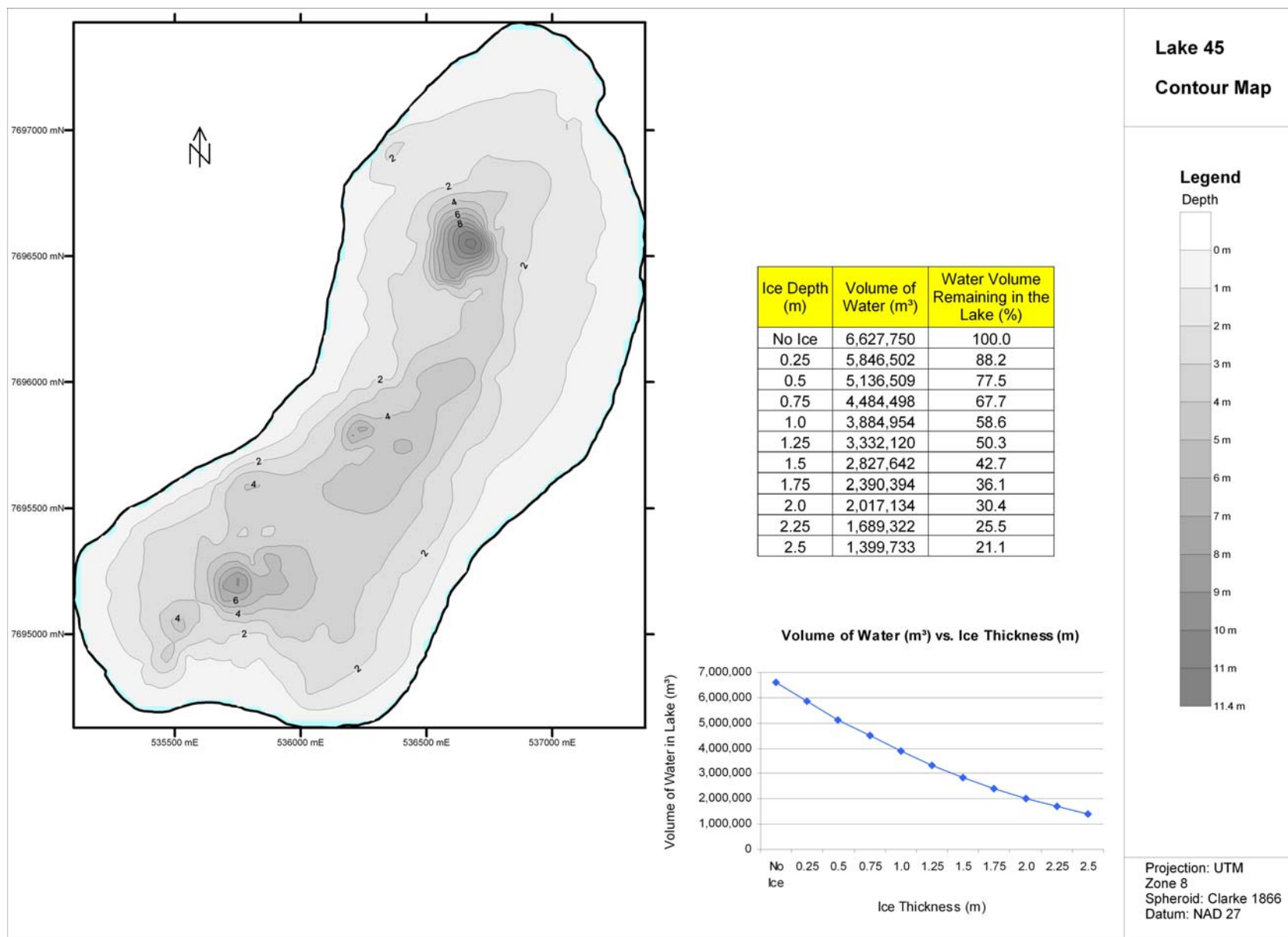


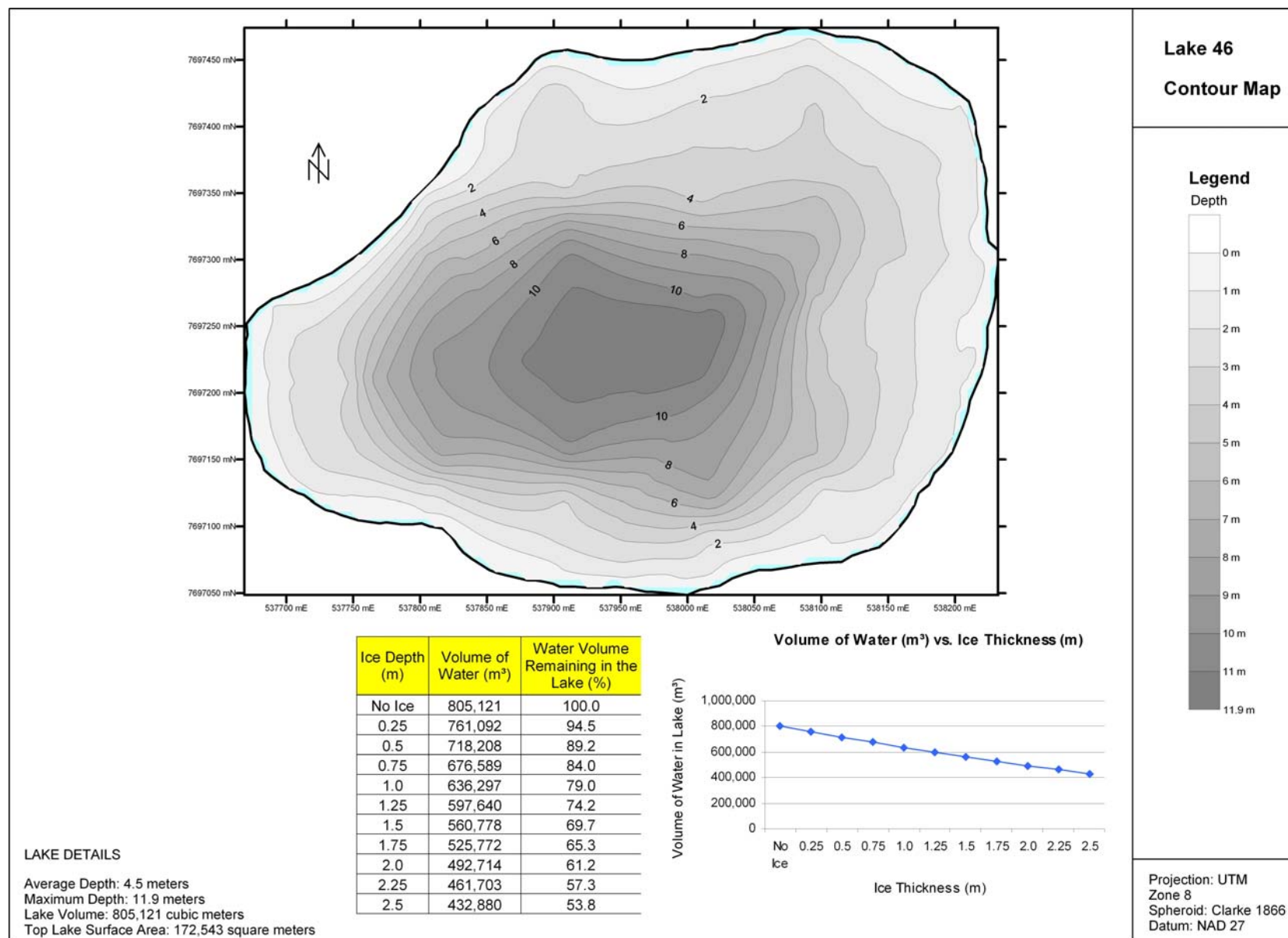


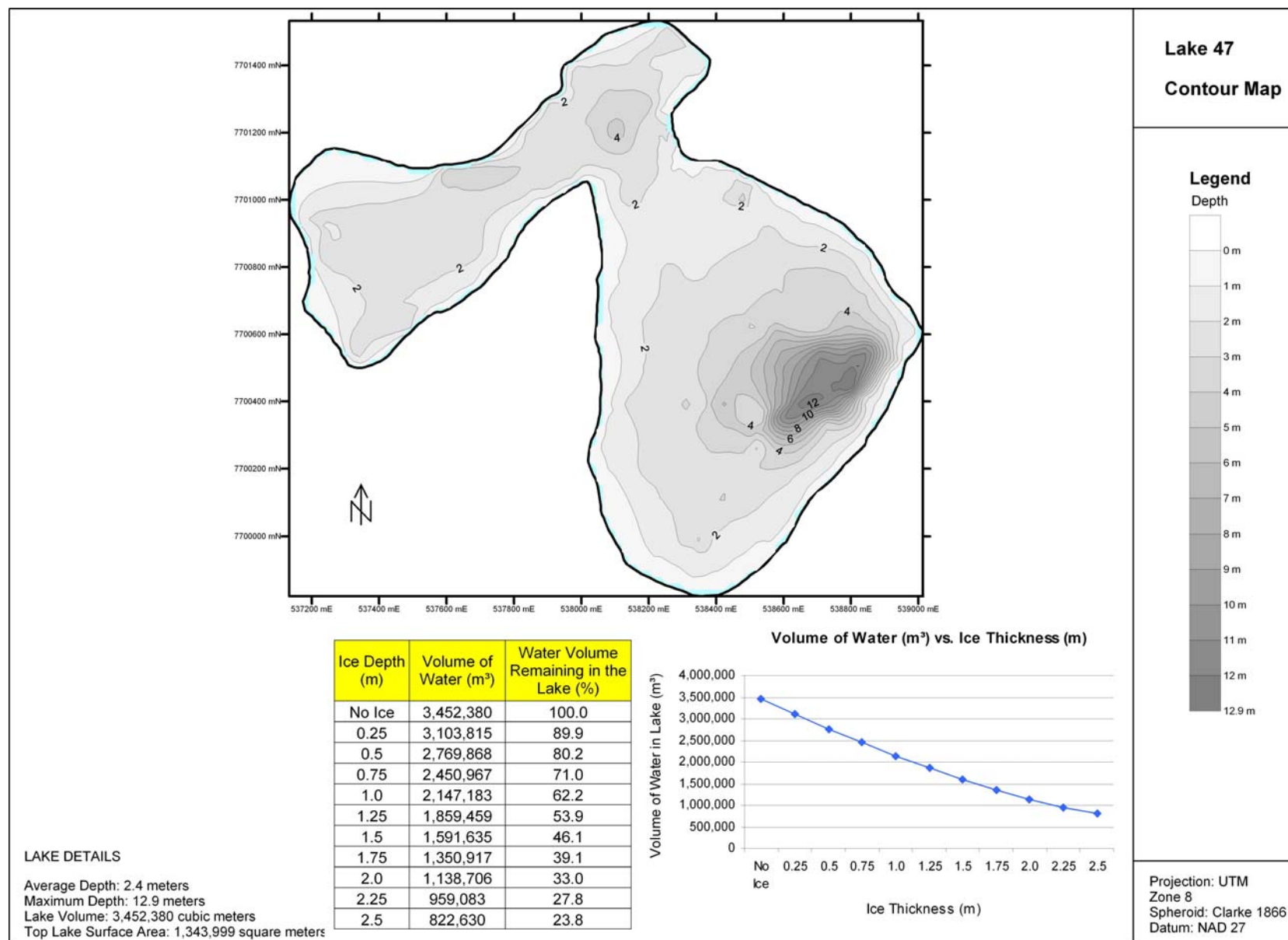


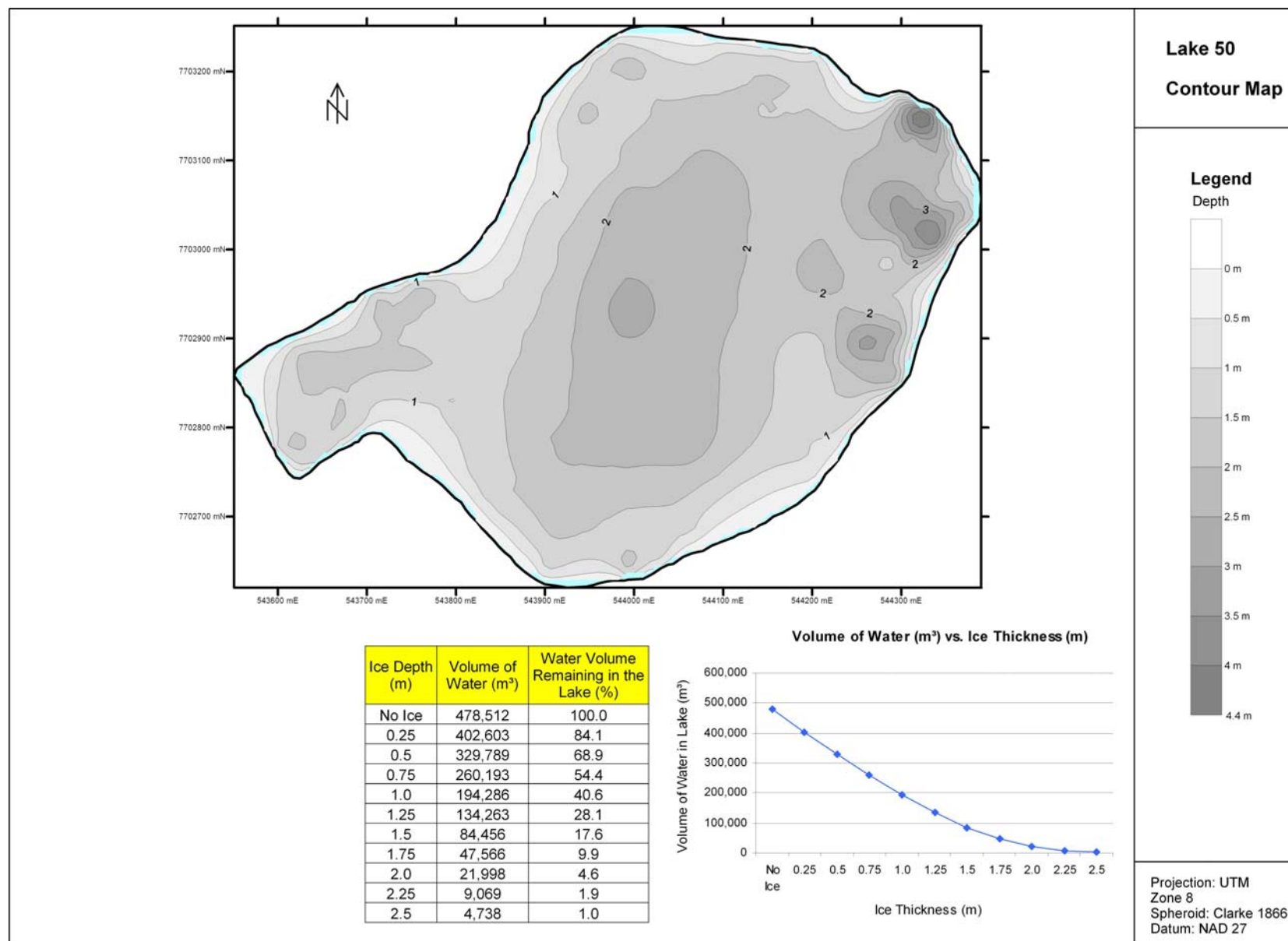


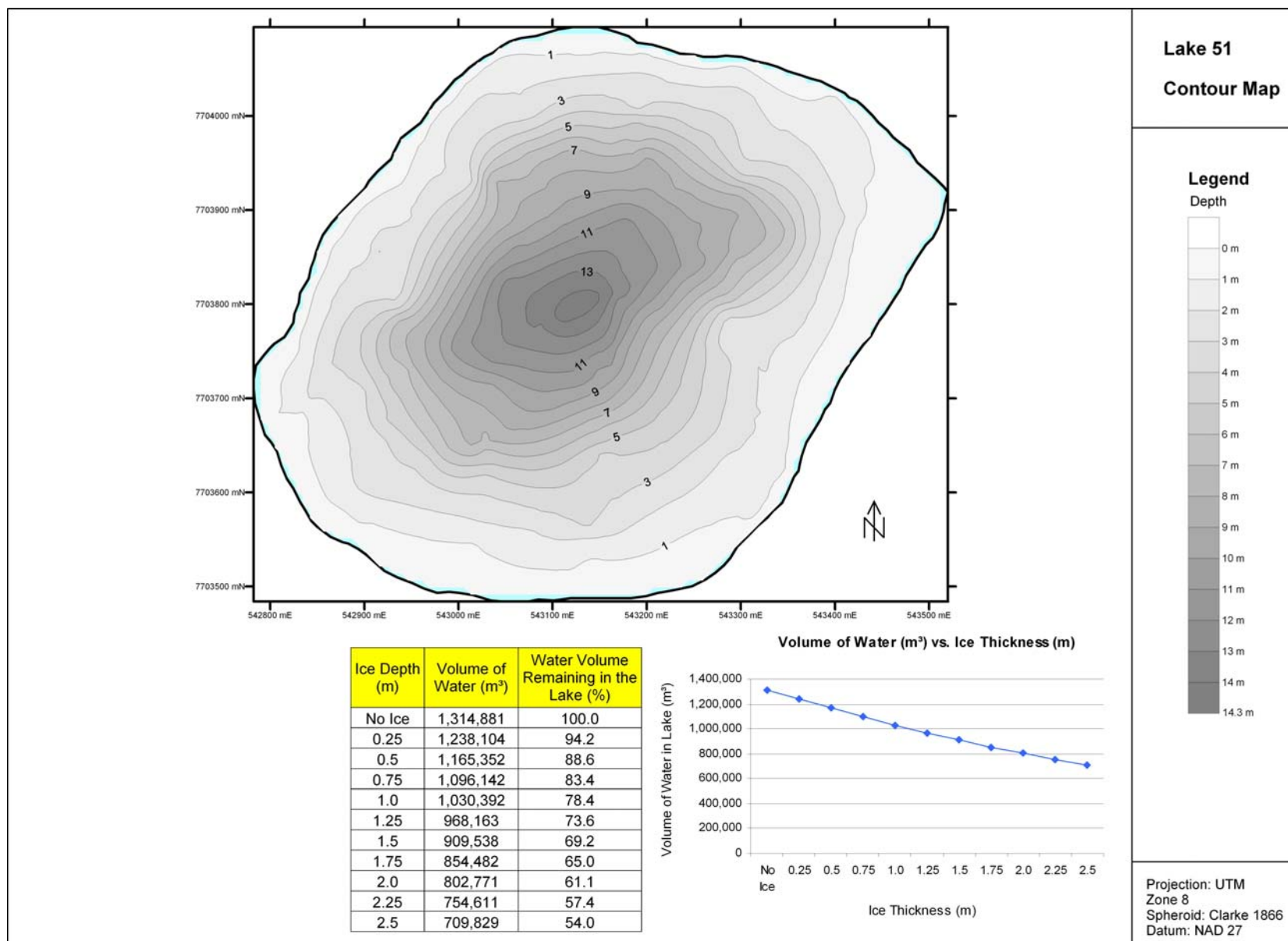


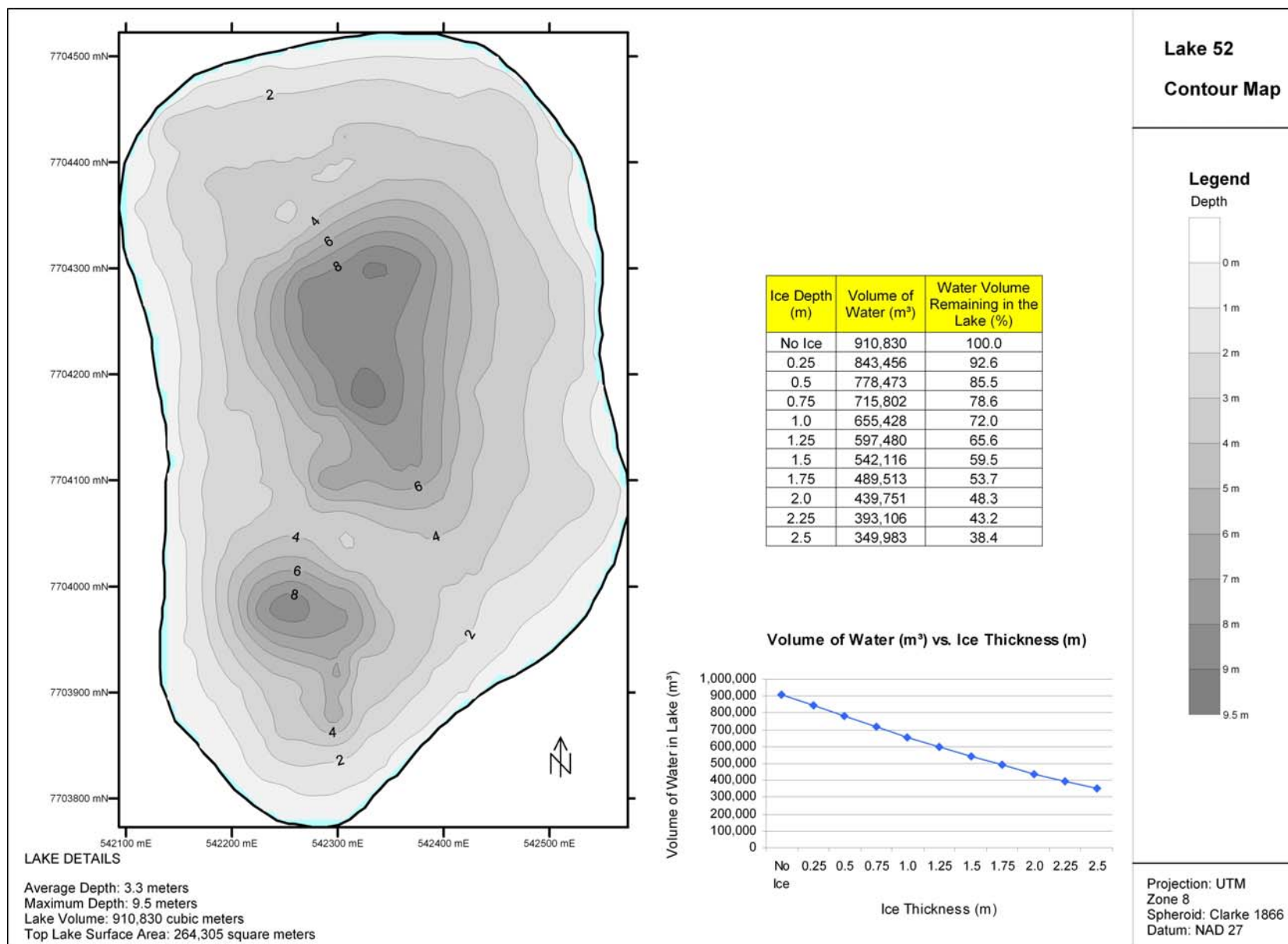


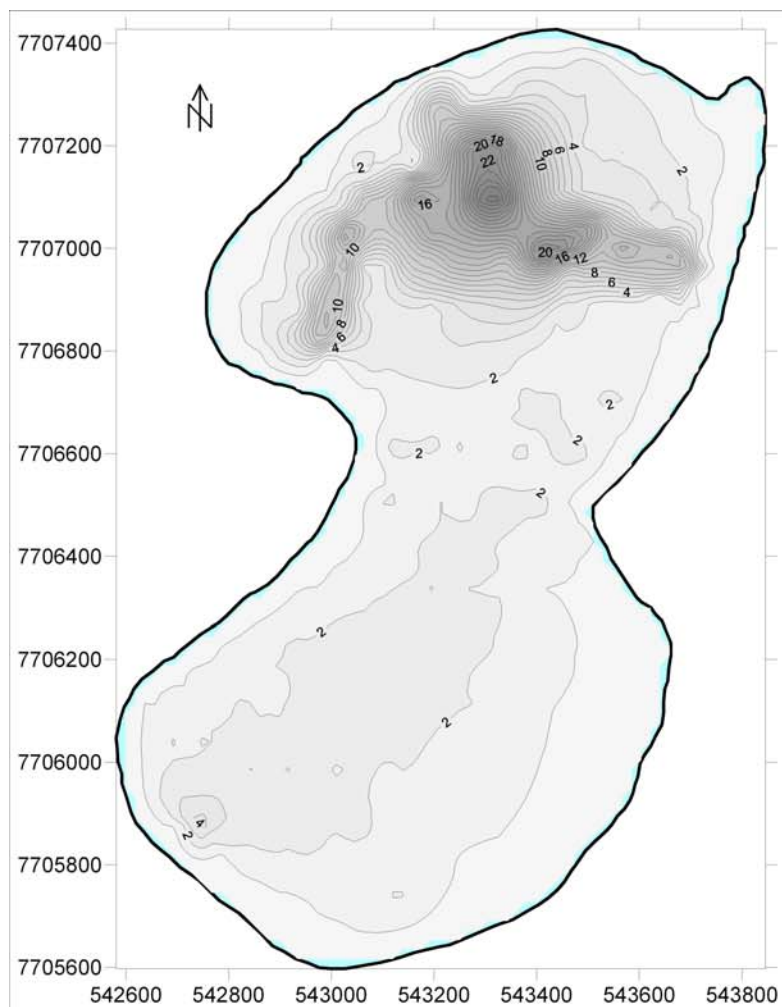




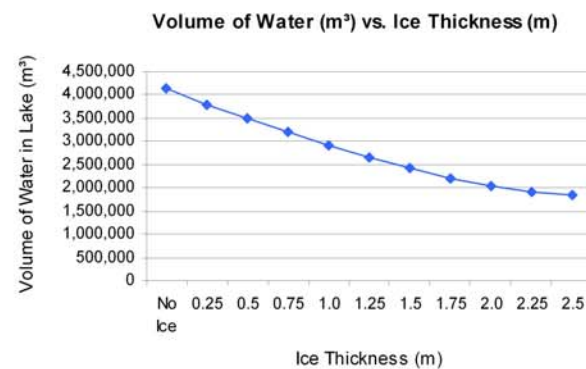






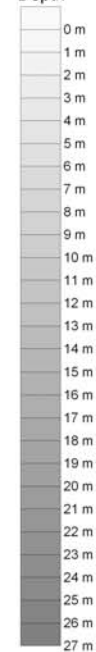


Ice Depth (m)	Volume of Water (m ³)	Water Volume Remaining in the Lake (%)
No Ice	4,144,687	100.0
0.25	3,802,208	91.7
0.5	3,487,251	84.1
0.75	3,194,317	77.1
1.0	2,920,429	70.5
1.25	2,664,305	64.3
1.5	2,426,813	58.6
1.75	2,214,095	53.4
2.0	2,042,567	49.3
2.25	1,921,889	46.4
2.5	1,831,830	44.2



Lake 53 Contour Map

Legend Depth



Projection: UTM
Zone 8
Spheroid: Clarke 1866
Datum: NAD 27

