



ANGLERS, SALMON and BEARS in the BABINE RIVER CORRIDOR PARK



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Canada

Welcome to Babine River Corridor Provincial Park. Grizzly and black bears are part of the natural environment in British Columbia and live and fish in the habitat found along this river. As an angler you are likely to encounter them. Be alert and watch for bear sign!



Garbage and food odours can attract bears and they can easily become conditioned to people and human food. Once they have reached this point there is a greater risk of negative encounters with people which may cause bears to be destroyed. **To help reduce the effects of bear/human conflicts, BC Parks, Department of Federal Fisheries and Oceans and the Upper Skeena Sports Fishery Advisory Board ask you to do your part by following these few simple guidelines while fishing salmon on the Babine River:**

- Most bears will avoid you if they know you are there. Try not to surprise bears. Make your presence known by talking or singing loudly. Remember that stream noise reduces the bear's ability to hear you and strong wind may reduce their ability to smell you. Adjust your noise level accordingly.
- Leave your fishing spot if a bear is in the river nearby and give them plenty of space. If approached by a bear, reel in and leave the area. Cut your line if playing a fish. You may return to your spot when it is safe to do so.
- Take care to minimize spreading fish odours that can attract bears. For example, be careful to not get the smell of fish on your clothes or in your boat.

- Bleed and clean fish immediately after capture in the water so that blood is not left on the shoreline. Puncture the air bladder and throw the guts into deep or fast flowing water. Do not bury fish waste since bears can smell it and easily dig it up. Seal fish in an airtight bag and then in a container such as a cooler that is kept in a secure place, such as the trunk of a vehicle. Stop fishing once you have your limit.
- Keep children close to you and in sight. Do not leave children unattended and do not get them to take your fish back to the vehicle for you.
- Store items, such as food and back packs in your vehicle and not on the rivers edge.
- Practice courtesy and respect towards other anglers and share the opportunities. Enjoy your angling experience but always be aware of your surroundings.

Also, please be aware of these park specific rules:

- **Do not leave fish lying onshore or even underwater in a holding pool. Upon catching and cleaning a fish, it must be removed from the river and immediately stored in a vehicle.**
- **It is recommended that you do not bring pets to the river. If you do, however, all pets must be on a leash and under control at all times.**
- **During the peak salmon fishing season in August, please refrain from fishing from 1 hour before sunset until 1 hour after sunrise to provide an undisturbed period for the bears to utilize the river corridor.**



Don't forget to check the appropriate fishing regulations for up to date rules and licensing requirements. The BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis is also an additional source of information for angling ethics, transporting and exporting fish, releasing fish the gentle way, and a further reference for angling safely in bear country.

You may see a Conservation Officer, Federal Fisheries Officer, or Park Ranger on patrol along the river. Please comply with their requests and consult them if you have any concerns or questions.