Notice to Anglers

Re: Upper Babine River, Nilkitkwa Lake and northern Babine Lake sport fishing boundaries.

Due to the complexity of the fish stocks and fisheries in the upper Babine watershed, multiple sport fishing boundaries are required in this area to adequately manage these stocks and anglers. Public inquiries regarding Babine sport fishing regulation boundaries in the Nilkitkwa Lake and Rainbow Alley area of the watershed have identified the need for an additional description of the boundaries as they apply to sport fishing regulations.

To fully understand the angling regulations that apply to each boundary it is important to consult the following regulatory documents before fishing:


Additional questions with regard to these boundaries can be forwarded to:

Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Smithers, BC
Jeff Lough (250) 847-7337

Questions regarding salmon management and regulations can be forwarded to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Smithers, BC
(250) 847-2312
Upper Babine River near the Babine Lake outlet

This section of the watershed has three sport fishing boundaries that anglers need to be aware of.
1. The Babine River fly fishing only upper boundary located at the Fort Babine Bridge.
2. A 400 meter radius, no fishing for Sockeye, boundary sign.
3. The boundary between Babine Lake and the section of the Babine River often referred to as “Rainbow Alley”. It is important to note this boundary as the regional trout and Dolly Varden/Bull Trout harvest quota, and hook type regulations, are different in lakes than in the streams.
Babine River / Nilkitkwa Lake - Smokehouse Island boundary

1. This section of the upper Babine has a single river/lake boundary located at downstream end of Smokehouse Island. This designates the boundary between Babine River and Nilkitkwa Lake. It is important to note this boundary as the regional trout and Dolly Varden/Bull Trout harvest quota, and hook type regulations, are different in lakes than in the streams. Note that no signs are located at this boundary.
Nilkitkwa Lake at the Babine River outlet.

This section of the river has a single boundary that is applicable to four separate regulations:

1. The boundary between the Unclassified Water of Nilkitkwa Lake and the Class 1 Water of the Babine River. Downstream of this boundary all Babine River Classified Waters regulations apply.
2. Downstream of this boundary anglers require a Steelhead Stamp when fishing these waters during the period September 1 to Oct. 31.
3. The boundary between Nilkitkwa Lake and Babine River. Please note that regional trout and Dolly Varden/Bull Trout harvest quota, and hook type regulations, are different in lakes than in the streams.
4. This boundary also designates the upper limit of the Skeena tributaries seasonal angling closure boundary (January 1 to June 15) for Babine R.
Babine River boundaries in proximity to the adult fish counting fence.

This portion of the watershed has three boundaries:
1. The lower boundary for the fly fishing only section (located upstream of the adult fish counting fence).
2. The closed all year (no fishing) section located on both sides of the adult fish counting fence.
3. A seasonal fly fishing only zone (June 16 – Sept 30) located between the signs 80m downstream of the adult fish counting fence and signs at Nichyeskwa Cr. confluence.
**Babine River at Nilkitkwa River confluence**

This boundary identifies the lower boundary for the Canadian resident-only section of the Babine River (Saturdays and Sundays from September 1 to October 31).

△ Sport fishing boundary sign