Freshwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations exist to protect our fish stocks and maintain an ecological balance within our environment. Necessarily, the regulations change from time to time to reflect changes in the environment. It is the angler’s responsibility to read and understand the B.C. fishing regulations.

Understanding the British Columbia Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis is a four part process:

**STEP 1: READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS**

All anglers must abide by these regulations on all waters in B.C. and they will guide you on:

- Licencing requirements
- Definitions you should know
- Allowable fishing methods
- Rules on bait usage
- Quotas and size limits
- Protected species
- “No Fishing” areas
- Cleaning, transporting and exporting fish
- Reporting illegal guiding and angling violations
- Examining your licence, gear and catch
- Penalties for breaking fishing laws

**STEP 2: READ AND UNDERSTAND THE REGIONAL REGULATIONS**

This section will advise you on the regulations that apply specifically to each individual Regional restrictions such as:

- Daily catch limits
- Possession quotas
- Annual possession quotas

This section will also detail other general Regional restrictions such as:

- Spring Closures
- Species closures
- Catch and release periods
- Bait and tackle restrictions
- Special notices (such as for Steelhead fishing)

**STEP 3: LOOK UP THE LAKE OR STREAM THAT YOU PLAN TO FISH IN THE REGIONAL WATER SPECIFIC TABLES.**

If the stream or lake is not shown in these tables then no special regulations are in force and you will therefore follow the PROVINCIAL and REGIONAL REGULATIONS outlined in steps 1 and 2. If the stream or lake is shown in these tables then you must follow any EXCEPTIONS OR ADDITIONS shown in the table as well as the PROVINCIAL and REGIONAL REGULATIONS in steps 1 and 2 above.

**NOTE:** Exceptions to regional trout/char size limits or quotas do not apply to species of trout or char to be released.

While checking the tables, take care not to overlook regulations on Tributaries and Watersheds which may be subject to special regulations. Some waters are not listed specifically by name. If you do not know which “Watershed” the lake or stream that you are fishing in is a part of, consult the B.C. Recreational Atlas, 5th edition, or check with a Fish and Wildlife Office or DFO Office. In the Regulations watch for:

- * – An asterisk indicates that a regulation applies to all tributary streams that flow into the named body of water including tributaries of tributaries.
- “Watershed” – a regulation that applies to all of the lakes and streams whose water eventually flows into the named waterbody (e.g. The Fraser River Watershed).

**STEP 4: CHECK FOR ANY IN-SEASON CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS.**

Look at the Fisheries website or inquire at your local fishing tackle store and also watch for notices posted in the field. Remember that the regulations are there for all of us and help to keep our fish stocks and ecology in fine balance. Always follow the regulations and report those that disobey them. Enjoy your angling!

For More Information

Please contact any of the Fish and Wildlife Regional offices, the Conservation Officer Service offices, Provincial Hatcheries or the Fisheries and Oceans Canada offices.

Skeena Fish and Wildlife Regional Office
Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred Ave., Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
250-847-7303

Other Information Sources

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. (FFSBC) can provide you with information on all fish culture services, including lake and stream stocking and programs to restore fish species at risk. The Society also promotes sport fishing in B.C. For more information on freshwater sport fishing opportunities in B.C, contact the FFSBC at:

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C.
106–2975 Jutland Road, Victoria, BC V8T 5J9
Tel: 250-414-4200, Fax: 250-414-4211
Toll Free: 1-888-601-4200
Email: fish@gofishbc.com

Local sporting good or tackle store staff are often not only an excellent source of fishing information but also knowledgeable about local fishing regulations. These stores can be found in the yellow pages under Fishing-Tackle.

The Sport Fishing Institute of B.C. (SFI) can provide you with valuable information on fishing B.C’s tidal waters, including all-inclusive vacation packages to saltwater fishing resorts and information on charters and guided trips. Contact the SFI at:

Sport Fishing Institute of B.C.
203–4360 Agar Drive, Richmond, BC V7B 1A3
Tel: 604-270-3439, Fax: 604-270-3422
Email: sfi@integrate.ca

The B.C. Fishing Resort and Outfitters Association (BCFROA) can provide you with information on freshwater fishing in British Columbia, including direct access to outfitters, resorts, guides, vacation packages, and much more. For more information contact to BCFROA at:

B.C. Fishing Resort and Outfitters Association
PO Box 3301, Kamlalloo, BC V2C 6B9
Tel: 250-374-6836 Fax: 250-374-6640,
Toll Free: 1-866-374-6836
Email: bcfroa@telus.net
THE SKEENA REGION offers some of the best freshwater fishing in the province – a wide range of angling opportunities, abundant stocks and beautiful settings. Who could ask for anything more?

Whatever your level of angling expertise, and whatever your expectations, you’ll find the lakes highlighted in this guide offer something for just about everyone, every month of the year. As vast as this region is, our 10 featured lakes are concentrated between New Hazelton in the north and the Burns Lake area in the south, in the heart of B.C.’s Lakes District. All are accessed off Hwy 16 and well stocked with rainbow, cutthroat or brook trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C, FFSBC.

For a child just beginning and other newcomers to freshwater fishing, Region 6 is the perfect place to test the waters. More than half the lakes in this guide offer excellent opportunities for novice anglers. High catch rates and excellent facilities at Ross Lake near New Hazelton, Round and Tyhee lakes near Telkwa, and Dunalter Lake near Houston, are particularly well suited for family outings and angling success.

Many of the region’s wilderness waters offer up trophy trout to the seasoned, well-equipped angler. Regional biologists specifically manage several lakes in this guide as quality fisheries. For the advanced angler trophy-sized rainbow trout can be found in Duckbill and Duckwing lakes near Moricetown, and in Richmond Lake east of Burns Lake, where the rainbows can reach 3 kg (6.5 lb). Access into these lakes is more challenging, but the fishing is definitely worth the adventure of getting there. The Skeena region has the optimal mix of being far enough south for the fish to grow large, but far enough north that it is not overfished. The lakes are rich in insect life with prolific hatches of chironomids, damselflies and mayflies; the shoals contain an abundance of dragonfly nymphs, shrimp, caddis and leeches.

But there is more than just the spring through fall fishery. Some of the region’s best fishing experiences take place through the ice in the winter when the fish are as hungry as ever and in prime condition for the dinner table. Ice-fishing techniques are easy to learn and the thrill of a strike doesn’t cool when temperatures do, so it’s an excellent time to introduce novice anglers to the sport. Regardless of the season, local tackle shops are excellent sources of information on where the fish are biting and on what. Be it with fly, bait, lake troll or lure, we have every reason to believe your freshwater fishing trip in the Skeena will net you some wonderful fishing tales — and some very feisty and tasty fish.
Since stocking began more than four decades ago, Co-op Lake has been one of the most popular fishing spots in the Burns Lake area. It supports a year-round fishery for brook trout — through the ice from late November to early April, and by boat from spring to fall. The lake is annually stocked with 10,000 all-female sterile eastern brook trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. Co-op has been known to produce fish up to 3.6 kg (8 lb).

You’ll need a boat or watercraft of some description to fish this lake, as the shoreline is thickly bordered by marshland and willows. Brook trout prefer clean, cold water and cannot tolerate the higher temperatures that rainbows can. They are opportunistic feeders and eat a wide variety of organisms from insects to small fish. Brookies often feed in travelling schools so sometimes the action can be frantic; at other times the angler is left wondering “where did they all go?”

The launch/campsite is on the marshy west end of the lake, where the water is less than 4 m (13 ft) deep. To the south lies the deeper part of the lake, and it is here you’ll want to concentrate your fishing in the late spring and summer when the fish seek cooler water. Brookies also like structure, so if the weather is cool, particularly during the winter ice-fishing season, look for them around downed trees, weed beds, points and drop-offs. Angling is best in the spring and early summer when their flesh is still firm and they are most active, and again in winter through the ice.

Brook trout are attracted to small lures such as the Panther Martin, Mepps, Vibrax, Kamlooper and Krocodile, and will respond to a gang troll, wedding band or Apex Trout Killer tipped with worms, leeches, insects or Powerbait. The Mini Fat Rap from Rapala can be very deadly.

Even though brook trout will take a dry fly, subsurface flies generally work better. A dragonfly or damselfly nymph, or a black leech pattern trolled or retrieved near the lake bottom often brings success. The Werner Shrimp pattern is another good fly to try, along with muddlers, woolly buggers and Clouser minnows. A slow retrieve seems to be the most effective. The large plantings of willing brook trout, easy access and a chance to catch a trophy fish that tastes great make for a winning combination.

CAUTION: Do not use this map for navigational purposes. This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.

Co-op Lake

LOCATION: 24 km (15 mi) east of Burns Lake
SURFACE AREA: 34 ha (84 ac)
MAX. DEPTH: 10 m (34 ft)
MEAN DEPTH: 4 m (13 ft)
ELEVATION: 969 m (3,178 ft)

FACILITIES: A five-vehicle forest services campsite with a boat launch is located at the west end of the lake.

DIRECTIONS: Co-op Lake is located about 24 km (15 mi) east of Burns Lake off Hwy. 16. Turn left onto Augier Main Forest Service Rd. After 800 m (.5 mi), turn right onto an unmarked secondary road. Traffic on this road is radio controlled (frequency 158.97). Drive 100 m (110 yds) down this secondary road to the Co-op Lake sign. The 2WD access road to the lake is 300 m long (0.2 mi) and in good condition.

NEARBY LAKES: Richmond Lake is located east of Co-op and north off Hwy 16 on Priestly Rd.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Duckbill Lake is a sheltered, quiet little beauty, about a quarter the size of its big sister, Duckwing Lake. Its small size, 10 ha (25 ac), allows anglers to easily cover the surface with a canoe, pontoon boat or float tube.

The clear waters hold some very nice rainbows up to 60 cm (24 in) in length. Duckbill is stocked every second year with 1,000 yearling rainbow trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. The last release was in 2005.

Fly fishing is the most common way to fish the lake, but your spinning gear stands an equally good chance of a strike. A torpedo bobber with a fly can effectively work the surface for those with spinning gear. Tying adding a little weight if you are fishing deeper. A Mepps, Panther Martin, Vibrax or Gibbs spinner cast out, counted down and retrieved up the drop-off are other promising options. Vertical jiggling with spoons or jigs using a flavoured bait, such as one of the Berkley Powerbaits, will also work well.

Chironomids are the most prolific early insect hatch on Duckbill. Chironomids look like a mosquito but thankfully don’t have the biting parts. They can be from 2–25 mm in length and are mainly brown, green, black or red. The larvae live and hide in burrows in the mud-water interface, becoming available to the trout when they pupate and slowly rise to the surface.

Scuds, often called freshwater shrimp, are eaten by trout year-round. They are usually grey, green, brown, tan, olive or cream in colour.

Early summer caddisfly hatches can really turn the fish on. The newly emerged caddis adults run across the surface of the lake before flying away. Trout know this, and attack caddis with ferocity. Dragonflies are the full-meal deal for a trout. They can be huge. Damsels look like smaller, slimmer, more delicate dragons. Trout will feed exclusively on either of these when the hatch is on.

Mayflies are numerous on Duckbill, available year-round, and taken both as nymphs and adults. There are many varieties and colours in this species. Trout tend to be very particular when a hatch is on, and prefer the exact colour and size. Matching the hatch with the right fly can be the most frustrating part of the learning curve in lake fishing. It can also be the most rewarding.

There is some ice fishing on Duckbill but the overgrown road and snow load on the branches can make for a challenging trip. Jigs tipped with bait fished close to the steep shoreline are the best bet.

FACILITIES: None.

DIRECTIONS: Turn off Hwy 16 at Moricetown, north of Smithers, onto the Telkwa High Rd, drive for .5 km (.3 mi), then turn left onto the 2000 (also known as Causqua) Forest Service Rd. Travel for about 4 km (2.4 mi), then turn right onto a narrow, unnamed, unmaintained road. Travel up this road for 2 km (1.2 mi). The road is rough and fords a few small creeks. High clearance and 4wd required. After this point, the road becomes softer, and an ATV is recommended. Turn right at the fork in the road. Travel about 400 m (.2 mi) down this road to another fork. Turn right to Duckbill Lake or left to Duckwing Lake.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
ANGLERS IN SEARCH OF SOLITUDE AND LARGE RAINBOW TROUT should set their sights on the quality waters of Duckwing Lake. Access to Duckwing is challenging, involving a four-wheel drive, an overgrown road and a short hike.

Duckwing is managed as a quality fishery. The largest fish captured in a recent assessment was 61 cm (24 in) and the average size was 41 cm (16 in). Some local anglers tell even greater tales. FFSBC stocks Duckwing every alternate year with 2,000 yearling rainbow trout.

From the parking area, a five-minute walk takes you to the shore. The launch area often contains floating trees that you will have to work around. The lake is most often fished with pontoon or belly boats as not many anglers want to pack their boat, motor, gas and gear.

The centre of the lake is quite deep and the best method of fishing is the “count down” tactic. Whether using lures or flies, cast from along the shore outwards and “count down” your wait before retrieving. Increase your waiting time after each cast by five seconds until you encounter the bottom. Now cut back a couple of seconds and your next cast will be following the slope upwards. Experiment, until you find the depth the trout prefer.

Big fish don’t get big or old by biting the first offering, so catching these larger fish can be difficult. You will need to try different lures, flies, depths and retrieves to be successful. Catching big fish is akin to feeding children. It is much easier to please them with what they want, not what you want to give them. Chironomids are the fly of choice in the first part of the season. Always keep an eye open for chironomids swimming to the surface and try to match the size and colour with one in your fly box.

Trout are opportunistic feeders and can seldom resist a leech, damsel or dragon pattern. Make sure you include a few good shrimp, caddis and mayfly patterns, and especially from June on, you’ll need some dry flies. For those with spinning or spincasting gear, you are good to go with small lures such as the Panther Martin, Mepps, Vibrax, Kamlooper and Krocodile.

The overgrown road and snow load discourages access for ice fishing, but there are some nice fish to be caught during the winter. Jigs tipped with Powerbait, worms, maggots or krill/shrimp are the best choice.

FACILITIES: None.

DIRECTIONS: Turn off Hwy 16 at Moricetown, north of Smithers, onto the Telkwa High Rd and drive for .5 km (.3 mi) and turn left onto the 2000 (also known as Causqua) Forest Service Rd. Travel for about 4 km (2.4 mi) and turn right onto a narrow, unnamed, unmaintained road. Travel up this road for 2 km (1.2 mi). The road is rough and fords a few small creeks. High clearance and 4wd required. After this point the road becomes softer, and an ATV is recommended. Turn right at the fork in the road. Travel about 400 m (.2 mi) down this road to another fork. Turn left to Duckwing Lake, right to Duckbill Lake.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Dunalter Lake

Dunalter Lake is the perfect place to introduce novice anglers of any age to the basic techniques and rewards of lake fishing.

Dunalter is widely known as Irrigation Lake and classified as a man-made lake. The District of Houston acquired the 44 acres of Crown land surrounding the lake to develop a public park. It is now a well-used recreation playground for many activities including fishing.

Dunalter’s popularity as a year-round fishing lake began in the mid-1980s following a successful rehabilitation. The non-sport fish were removed, freshwater shrimp were brought in and the lake was initially stocked with rainbow trout, followed in subsequent years by cutthroat trout. Every year, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. releases 3,000 yearling cutthroat into Dunalter. In a recent biological assessment, the largest cutthroat captured at Dunalter was 42 cm (17 in); the average size was 31 cm (12 in).

The dock/launch in the day-use area is a good spot to fish from shore. Shore anglers can expect some action with little more than a No.4 hook tipped with cocktail shrimp or a worm, and a small to medium split shot about 2 m (6 ft) above the hook. Weed beds prevent shore fishing around the rest of the lake, so most anglers use cartop boats, canoes, pontoon or belly boats. Small spoons such as Triple Teasers, Dick Nites and Needlefish in silver, silver/red head, chartreuse or prism are proven producers. Since these spoons are very light, use a small to medium split shot about 2 m (6 ft) above the lures.

Flies are another preferred method for taking these fish and can be trolled with fly or spinning gear. If you are using spinning gear just add a little weight as described above. Great patterns for the cutthroat include the ’52 Buick, damsel and dragonfly imitations, mudder minnows and a beadhead micro leech in black and red. And don’t feel left out if you only have a spinning rod. Purchase a couple of torpedo bobbers and attach a leader about the same length as the rod to a fly. The torpedo bobber gives you the weight to cast a good distance. It is a very effective tactic when the fish are close to the surface.

Winter is a great season to introduce novice anglers to the basic techniques of fishing. Ice fishing techniques are easy to master and Dunalter enjoys an active winter fishery. Most ice anglers drill their holes fairly close to shore in 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) of water. Berkley Powerbaits in nuggets, maggots or worms — either by themselves or on a small jigging spoon — are tough to beat. Stop by a local tackle supplier for more winter fishing tips.

**FACILITIES:** Dock, swimming beach, day-use picnic area, change rooms. Electric motors only. There are two hiking and cross-country ski trails, a 1.5-km loop (.9 mi) on the west side of the lake and a 2-km trail (1.2 mi) on the east.

**DIRECTIONS:** Dunalter Lake is located 15 km (10 mi) west of Houston, off Hwy 16. Look for a blue picnic table sign and a blue Irrigation Lake sign. Turn west and drive for .3 km (.2 mi) on an excellent 2WD road to the lake.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
**Lu Lake**

An easy drive south of Houston on the Equity Mines Road brings you to the productive, rainbow-trout filled waters of Lu Lake. A grass border encircles the lake, which is swampy in a few spots, but generally provides good access for those casting lines from the shore.

The launch area is on the northeast side of the lake, and directly in front is the deepest part of the lake. The southern half of Lu is quite shallow, less than 3 m (10 ft) deep. Three tributary creeks empty into the deeper, north half of the lake, bringing cooler waters and feed. These can often be productive areas.

Lu Lake is stocked every second year with 2,000 yearling rainbow trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. Brook trout are also present, but in the future only rainbows will be stocked.

Trolling along the drop-off is a productive fishing method on Lu or any lake. Follow the contours so you can see bottom on one side of the boat only. As you make the gentle turns the inside lure/fly drops and the outside lure/fly speeds up. This way you can vary the depths you are trolling. Also try shutting off the motor to allow your offering to drop to the depths, then kick it into gear again. This method can be used with trolls and lures, as well as flies.

The majority of a trout’s diet consists of nymphs, including chironomids, caddis, mayflies, leeches, dragons, damsels, scuds and water boatman. Artificial flies imitate these insects best and can be fished with light spinning gear as well as fly gear. A little weight will get the fly to the right depth, and a torpedo bobber with a fly can effectively work the surface. Use as light a line as possible to do the job. A 4–6 lb test line is plenty strong.

Check for activity at the mouths of the creeks. Casting and retrieving lures such as: Mepps, Panther Martin and Krocodiles is also a proven method when using spinning or spincasting gear.

Flyfishers can try the following tips on choosing flies and how to fish them. Dragon and damsel nymphs should be retrieved with a strip, strip and pause method. Freshwater shrimp or scuds look spastic in the water, so make your retrieve erratic with strips, pauses and twitches of the rod tip. Mayflies swim to the surface with vigour, so a steady hand-twist retrieve is favoured. Most chironomids are fished with a “heave and leave” or an agonisingly slow hand-twist retrieve. Try to match your retrieve to the insect’s natural movement pattern.

Easy access makes Lu a popular ice-fishing destination. Powerbait, maggots or mealworms, krill or shrimp fished in 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) are the most proven method. The mouths of the creeks are always a good place to start as fish are attracted to these areas with higher levels of oxygen.

**FACILITIES:** A launch area on the northeast side of the lake.

**DIRECTIONS:** Lu Lake is located 34 km (21 mi) southeast of Houston on the Equity Mines Rd.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.

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**Translation Note:**

- **1 metre = 3.28 feet**
- **Note:** Do not use this map for navigational purposes. This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.
Richmond Lake

**Richmond Lake**, also known as Priestly Lake, is a picturesque fishing spot surrounded by forested hills of rolling countryside. Its deep, spring-fed, crystal-clear water, supports a quality fishery for large rainbow trout every season of the year.

The lake is stocked annually by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. with 3,000 yearling rainbow trout. These beautiful rainbows can reach 3 kg (6.5 lb). Richmond will be stocked with sterile, all-female blackwater rainbow trout in 2007.

The lake is quite deep — about 80 per cent is more than 9 m (30 ft) — which extends the fishing action through the warmer days of summer. It can be covered well with a small boat, canoe, pontoon or belly boat. Much of the lake’s foreshore is fairly steep, rocky and wooded which limits the areas one can fish from shore. Fished by boat, the shoals at the north and south end of the lake can be very productive.

Anglers report considerable success trolling with wedding bands tipped with worms; Apex Trout Killer, Kamlooper and Krocodile spoons; as well as Mepps, Panther Martin, Vibrax and Gibbs spinners cast out, counted down and retrieved up the dropoff. Vertical jigging with spoons or jigs using a scented bait, such as one of the Berkley Powerbaits, will also work well.

Fly anglers can’t go wrong in mooching along slowly with a Doc Spratley, or one of the leech patterns such as a black marabou leech or a beadhead micro leech. Several of the damsel nymphs, such as the ’52 Buick, a marabou damsel or a dragonfly nymph, are other good bets.

Butler’s Lake Dragon or Kaufmann’s Lake Dragon flies can also be super. Even though rainbows can be selective feeders, they often can’t pass up the full-meal deal the above flies provide.

Many times a lake has multiple hatches and the insect you see the most, is not what the fish are actually taking. This is particularly true in lakes like Richmond where the fish didn’t get big by gulping everything in front of them. Swallows skimming flies off the surface can clue you into insect hatches. Check the water for nymph cases. If nothing is showing, go deeper with your offerings.

Anglers also can enjoy a rewarding ice fishery on Richmond. Because of the lake’s depth, the best winter fishing is fairly close to shore in 1.5—3 m (5—10 ft) of water. Berkley Powerbaits in nuggets, maggots or worms — either by themselves or on a small jigging spoon — are tough to beat.

**FACILITIES:**
Small campsite, outhouse.

**DIRECTIONS:**
4WD required.
Follow Hwy 16 for about 31 km (19 mi) east of Burns Lake. Turn onto the Priestly Rd. At the Priestly Railroad Station, turn right onto a gravel road and travel 4 km (2.4 mi) to the lake. There is a fork in the road 1 km from the highway; keep left. After the railroad tracks at 1.7 km (1.1 mi), the road becomes soft and rutted. Follow a detour around a deep mud hole at 2.9 km (1.8 mi). Keep right at the fork at 3.3 km (2 mi). A stream crossing at 3.5 km (2.2 mi) is very difficult to pass; a winch is recommended.

There’s another fork in the road at 3.7 km (2.3 mi); keep right. Continue on to the campsite.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Ross Lake is an absolutely beautiful lake. It is unique in that it offers easy access, great facilities, a family atmosphere and good-sized rainbow and brook trout. There is something here for the novice, as well as the committed fly-fishing fanatic.

A favourite destination for area anglers and tourists, it also has an excellent picnic day-use area, a swimming beach, boat launch and nature trail. Wildlife viewing is superb along the perimeter Rainmaker Trail.

Ross Lake is stocked each year with 3,000 yearling rainbow trout and 3,000 fingerling brook trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. The fish experience rapid growth due to an abundance of food sources. The lake is perfectly suited to fish with a canoe, float tube or pontoon boat. It also has a few spots where anglers can fish from shore.

Ross Lake is the most popular ice-fishing spot in the area. A wide range of baits, lures and flies can be used to catch trout under the ice. Berkley’s Powerbait maggots or mealworms, krill and shrimp (even the canned, grocery-store variety) fished in 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) are good choices. The baits can be fished with or without an attractor spoon, jig or spinner. Hang the bait below a bobber at the appropriate depth, then wait for the fish to nibble. Try jigging your offering up and down occasionally to attract the fish.

The brook trout tend to inhabit different areas of the lake than the rainbows. Look for the brookies in the shoreline zone, close to cover, during the spring fishing season. As the water warms, they seek cooler temperatures and go deeper. Brook trout often swim in schools and action can be frantic, followed by a wait until they return or you find them again.

Wildlife viewing is superb along the perimeter Rainmaker Trail.

Some of the lake’s brookies have been caught weighing up to 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs).

Rainbows are the more willing biters in Ross. Rainbows are caught up to 65 cm (25 in). A bobber with a worm suspended just off the bottom can be quite successful. A torpedo bobber with a fly is an easy rig to cast, and enables you to cover a wide area for the cruising rainbows.

Vertical jigging in deeper water during the warm days of summer is very effective for both species. Small light spoons such as Triple Teasers, Dick Nites and Needlefish are always good producers. These lighter weight spoons need a split shot or small rubber-core weight attached 2 m (6 ft) above the lure.

**CAUTION:** Do not use this map for navigational purposes. This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.

**FACILITIES:**
- Boat launch, gravel swimming beach and day-use park with fire rings at Ross Lake Provincial Park.
- Electric motors only. Bring your own water. No overnight camping is allowed.

**DIRECTIONS:**
- From New Hazelton head east (towards Smithers) on Hwy 16 for 2 km (1.2 mi), then turn left on Ross Lake Rd. Drive for 4 km (2.4 mi) on a well-maintained gravel road to reach the lake.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Round Lake’s easy access and well-stocked waters make it an excellent place to introduce newcomers to freshwater fishing. With some basic gear and a few tips, novice anglers can successfully troll or still fish from a boat, spin a lure from the shore, or jig for dinner through a hole in the ice. Round Lake is also home to a lively roster of other recreational activities — swimming, hiking, biking, water skiing, cross-country skiing and skating among them.

Due to its popularity with anglers, Round Lake, also known as Lacroix Lake, is stocked with 3,000 yearling cutthroat trout each year by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. Round Lake anglers report catching cutthroat up to 50 cm (20 in). In a recent biological assessment the average cutthroat size was 28 cm (11 in). Northern pike minnow are also present and should not be overlooked when teaching children how to fish.

The simplest way to introduce novice anglers to lake fishing is by a technique known as still fishing. When still fishing from the shore, the angler casts out and waits for a bite. A commonly used bait is the good old worm, although at times, scented baits such as Berkley’s Powerbait will outfish the worm. Some still-fish anglers attach a float (bobber) to the line so the baited hook stays suspended in the water. The depth can be adjusted by simply sliding the float up or down the line. If the float is removed, the bait can be fished on or near the bottom of the lake. When “bottom fishing” additional weight should be added so the line can be tightened and the hook and bait remain anchored in one location.

Small spinners or spoons such as Mepps or Krocodiles in the 1/8 ounce size work well if you are casting and retrieving. If you are trolling try a Needlefish or Triple Teaser with a small split shot to weigh it down. While trolling vary the speed and depth and troll in lazy “S” curves to cover the most water in search of fish.

Fly anglers do well on chironomids, damsels, dragons, beadhead micro leeches, woolly buggers and minnow imitations. Round Lake has heavy weed growth and is best fished early in the season before the summer algae bloom. Fishing picks up again in the fall.

Easy access also makes Round Lake a popular ice-fishing destination. Jigs tipped with Berkley’s Powerbait — the ones smelling and looking like maggots or mealworms — are a tried-and-true method. Holes should be drilled far enough out to avoid the heavy weed growth close to shore. Try to position your hole in 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) of water.
Tyhee, or Tyee, Lake is an excellent all-around family camping and fishing destination in the Bulkley Valley. On the west shore is Tyhee Lake Provincial Park. It is also home to many nesting loons and their lonely, wavering call is special to all who love the outdoors. Please try to keep your boat wake away from their shoreline nesting areas. In May, Sandhill cranes come through the Bulkley Valley on their way to nesting grounds in Alaska, returning again in September.

Tyhee is stocked each year with 20,000 yearling rainbow trout by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. Cutthroat trout, giant pygmy whitefish, burbot and a number of non-sport fish, including chub and dace, are also present. The rainbows can exceed 3 kg (6.5 lb).

Numerous farms, private homes, a couple of B&Bs, private camps and a seaplane base border this large lake. Tyhee can get busy on summer weekends, so anglers should respectfully share their fishing space. The lake is heavily weeded around the shoreline so shore fishing is limited to the park area. In this area, young and novice anglers alike can have fun catching various non-game fish. Keep it simple; a hook and worm or Powerbait.

If fishing in a boat try using a gang troll, tipped with bait, trolling around the weed beds and lily pads. If that method doesn’t work you can try trolling a leech, a spoon or a Rapala minnow. Tyhee’s rainbows are opportunistic feeders and the bigger fish prefer bigger morsels — particularly small fish. Towards dusk, these larger fish can often be seen coming in to the shallows to feed. Fishing closer to the surface can be rewarding at this time of the day.

In the spring, the fish feed heavily on the lake’s prolific chironomid hatches. Chironomid fishing is not just for the advanced fly angler, as it is really nothing more than fishing with a bobber. The non-sport fish (chub and dace) are commonly seen in the shallows of the swimming area. They love chironomids just as much as the rainbows, and for most kids, it really doesn’t matter what they hook on the end of the line, as long as they catch something and have fun.

Tyhee is a popular fishing spot over the winter as well. Young anglers will pick up the basic techniques of ice-fishing in no time, and, with some good bait and a bit of luck, pull a fish up out of the hole for dinner. Jigs tipped with an artificial mealworm or maggot from the Berkley’s Powerbait line are a good starting point. Holes should be drilled far enough out to avoid the weed growth close to shore. Drop in to a local tackle supplier for more tips for your family fishing trip to Tyhee.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat launch and provincial campground with well over 50 sites including two double sites and four tent sites. The park has flush toilets, hot showers, a sani-station, playground, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, hiking trails and swimming beach. Campground fees are collected from May to September. The campground gate is locked when the snow begins to fall.

**Directions:** Tyhee Lake Provincial Park is located just east of Telkwa. Turn off Hwy 16 onto the Tyhee Lake Rd in Telkwa, drive to the top of the hill and turn right.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Vallee Lake, also known as Johnson Lake, sports a consistent track record of giving up fish for anglers. It is stocked with 2,000 yearling cutthroat trout each year by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. Rainbow trout in limited numbers are also present, along with a small population of non-sport fish. Stocking will be changed to sterile Fraser Valley rainbow trout in 2007. The largest cutthroat captured in a recent biological assessment was 42 cm (16 in); the average size was 30.5 cm (12 in).

Vallee's small surface area can be covered easily and thoroughly by trollers, spinning and fly fishers. Dense aquatic vegetation around the lake's perimeter virtually eliminates the possibility of fishing from shore. Trolling is popular using Apex Trout Killer, Triple Teaser and Needlefish spoons, in addition to wedding bands or the small Gibbs Willow Leaf trolls. For the troller and fly angler, leeches are perhaps the best searching pattern when exploring a new lake or fishing during non-hatch periods. Black, brown, olive green or maroon leeches, tied in many of the common commercial patterns found in tackle shops, are good choices at Vallee. One tried-and-true imitation is a No. 10 beadhead micro leech in black with a touch of red. Leech patterns work particularly well in the evenings, during the spring immediately after ice-off, and again in the late fall as fish prowl the shallows before winter. Yet even in the high heat of summer, a leech pattern worked slow and deep can provide steady action. Some fly anglers use a fairly slow hand-twist retrieve to imitate the leech's natural, undulating swimming motion.

A chironomid imitation on a floating line and a long leader can be very effective early in the season and again in the fall. In June, caddis, mayflies, damsels and dragons start to hatch and some great fishing can be had using an intermediate or full-sink line. A selection gold-ribbed hare's ear, sparkle caddis pupa, damsel and dragonfly nymphs, Doc Spratleys, '52 Buicks and some shrimp patterns will take care of most of your sub-surface opportunities. Be sure to have a few dries ready for top-water action, and include the world's best-selling dry fly, the Adams, among them. Tom Thumbs and elk-hair caddis, in a variety of colours and sizes, will complete the dry fly selection.

Ice fishing is a popular winter activity at Vallee. Most anglers use the smaller ice-fishing jigs tipped with a Berkley Powerbait grub or worm. The lake is very shallow around the edge, so make sure you have adequate depth — 1.5–3 m (5–10 ft) — before drilling the hole.

**FACILITIES:** An unmanaged area for camping and a boat launch are located at the lake's public access area at the southeast end of the lake.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Houston, drive northwest on Hwy 16 about 15 km (9 mi) towards Smithers. Turn left (south) on Barrett Hat Rd. After .8 km (.5 mi), turn right onto an unmarked secondary road. Access to the lake is 100 m (110 yds) down this passable, 2WD road.

Note: Always check current B.C. fishing regulations before fishing a new lake.
Good anglers respect their fishing environment and their quarry and realize that we all have an unspoken duty to protect them both. You can help yourself to become a better angler by understanding and following this important 9 point Code of Ethics.

1. SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Give your support to efforts and initiatives that protect our environment and the creatures that depend on it. Be a helper not a watcher.

2. CHOOSE TO CATCH AND RELEASE

Make it your choice to return some fish to the water to grow and reproduce. Never harvest more fish than you can use—even if the limit allows.

3. FIGHT POLLUTION

Making sure that you leave no trash and that you recycle properly is a good start, but also remove any trash (especially used line) that you find.

4. PROMOTE SAFE ANGLING AND BOATING

Enjoy your boating and fishing, don’t take risks and set an example by refusing to condone or go along with others that do.

5. FOLLOW FISHING AND BOATING REGULATIONS

Realize that the regulations are there for a reason and that it’s in everyone’s best interest that we all follow them properly.

6. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHER ANGLERS

Don’t crowd in on someone else’s fishing spot. Don’t make lots of noise or throw things into the water to disturb the fish. Treat other anglers with the courtesy and respect that you would expect from them.

7. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS

Trespassing to access a fishing location gives all anglers a bad name, only fish where you are allowed or have been given permission.

8. SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Help other anglers to improve their skills and enjoy their fishing—share your tips.

9. PROMOTE ETHICAL SPORT FISHING

Decide that you will follow this code of ethics and help others to understand and follow it too. Be a safe, knowledgeable and skillful angler.
Whether you plan to keep (harvest) your fish or return it to the water, make sure you know how to handle it properly.

CATCHING AND RELEASING

If you’re planning to catch and release, it’s vital that you don’t injure the fish by mishandling it. Careful handling and release will ensure the fish survives. When planning to release a fish follow these six points:

- Play and land the fish as quickly as possible. Keep the fish in water while you remove the hook, if you can’t, return the fish to the water as fast as possible.
- If you use a landing net, use a rubber or tightly woven nylon or cotton—it’s less damaging to the fish.
- If you have to handle the fish, gently use wet hands, trying not to squeeze.
- Use barbless hooks and be prepared to cut your leader if the hook is swallowed deeply, the hook will dissolve over time.
- Revive exhausted fish by holding them upright in the water until they swim away—never throw a fish back into the water.

HARVESTING YOUR CATCH

Remember that fish are living creatures and should always be treated humanely. Also remember that responsible anglers never harvest more fish than they need.
The Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. works with the Ministry of Environment to improve recreational fishing opportunities and to conserve wild fish in British Columbia. In 2005, we:

- Stocked 890 lakes with 7.3 million rainbow, kokanee, and brook char;
- Assessed more than 100 stocked lakes for fish performance and angling activity;
- Developed and assessed performance of sterile kokanee for future stocking programs;
- Collaborated with 25 partners to develop a provincial plan to increase angler participation; and,
- Raised and released 19,000 white sturgeon into the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers as part of our work with endangered species recovery.