

Vancouver Island Featured Fisheries

Unsure of where to find good fishing? Looking for someplace new?

We can help! Each year a different sample of regional waters will be profiled here.

In addition, be sure to visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/recreation/fishing for more great fishing in Provincial Parks.

Other great Family Fishing opportunities may be found at www.bcfamilyfishing.com.

See also www.gofishbc.com/fishstocking.htm for a complete list of stocked lakes.

1 Colliery Dam – Located within a regional park in the city of Nanaimo, Colliery Dam illustrates that you don't need to go too far from the city to find great fishing. The park is a wonderful retreat any time of the year. In addition to great rainbow trout fishing opportunities, there are terrific hiking trails, swimming beaches and scenic views. A part of Chase River watershed, the park is located at the junction of Highway 19 and Nanaimo Lakes Road.

2 Elk and Beaver Lakes – Within Elk/Beaver Regional Park, these lakes are popular recreation spots for families. Elk Lake is stocked with cutthroat trout fry and catchable rainbow trout ("catchables" are fish reared in the hatchery for two years and are bigger and more fun to angle than smaller stocked fish). A variety of other species including perch and bass may also be caught, providing fishers with plenty of action and fun. There are two boat launches on Elk Lake and a fishing pier on the northwest end that is wheelchair-accessible and perfect for anglers unable to get into more challenging areas. Located 12 km north of Victoria along Highway 17, both Beaver and Elk Lakes are



Photo: Daddeda Stemler/Victoria Times Colonist

Leslie Freeborn and Norman Dixon head out in Dixon's 1948 Newfoundland fishing boat hoping for a bite at Elk Lake.

accessible by BC Transit buses. Visit www.crd.bc.ca/parks for details.

3 Lowry Lake – Hidden in the rush beds or shaded under the overhanging willow boughs of Lowry Lake lurk kokanee and stocked cutthroat trout. Fishing from a small boat is best for this lake as the waterfront is quite steep. Visiting anglers may make use of one of the Forest Service recreation sites for camping and also the car-top boat launch. From Port Alberni access is via Highway 4, Great Central Lake Road, Ash River Road and then the road to Thunder Mountain (Branch 8). A truck or 4WD is not necessary. Consider visiting nearby Robertson Creek Hatchery (located off of Great Central Lake Road) to see the rearing of coho, chinook, and steelhead.

4 Spider Lake – The warm water of Spider Lake is noted for its excellent canoeing, kayaking and swimming and the park is an idyllic spot for a quiet family outing. Spider Lake (16 km west of Qualicum Beach) is stocked with catchable rainbow trout and smallmouth bass are also present, providing year-round fishing opportunities. Small car-top boats, canoes and kayaks may be launched from the beach next to a small parking lot located within the provincial park, or boats may also be launched from a steep-banked causeway outside of the park.

5 Spectacle Lake – An accessible spring-fed lake located 30 km north of Victoria on Malahat Drive (Hwy 1), Spectacle Lake is great for fishing, swimming and, in the winter, skating. This provincial park offers the only brook trout fishing on Vancouver Island and is also stocked with cutthroat trout. Park amenities include over 2 km of easy walking trails, many of which are wheelchair accessible, and a boat launch for canoes, kayaks, and car-top boats.

Advertising



Photo: Scott Blewett

Salmon fishing can be hot in Island rivers.

3 See preceding page for map locations