

Thompson-Nicola Region Offers Family Fishing Opportunities



The small lakes of the Thompson-Nicola plateau offer family opportunities for quality fishing experiences. Blessed with an abundance of small, highly productive lakes, the rolling Kamloops countryside presents easily accessible fishing within a short distance from town.

A number of positive factors contribute to this fishery. Local waters are high in nutrients and provide fish with a long growing season. A warm sunny climate promotes growth of aquatic vegetation and the large numbers of insects and invertebrates needed by growing trout.

Recognizing the high potential productivity of these small lakes, many less than .8 km (.5 mile) in diameter, the Fish Culture Section of BC's Ministry of Fisheries initiated stocking operations many years ago. Seeded with initial releases of rainbow trout and brook trout (actually a member of the char family), the lakes continue to receive light annual stockings of young fish.

To complement the stocking program, a range of special management techniques have been implemented to provide quality fishing opportunities. Single barbless hooks and bait bans prevail on many lakes. Catch quotas and size limits also ensure quality angling experiences. Fish stocks receive further protection through closures during spawning periods. These and other measures have proven successful; fully 90% of the 1 million annual angler days in Region 3 are spent on small lakes. In addition, a resort and professional guiding industry continues to thrive, providing livelihoods for many residents.

This fishery seems designed with the family in mind. The best angling during the prime spring to early summer period occurs between the user-friendly hours of 10 a.m. -

4 p.m. The magic that fosters such civilized fishing is water temperature in these small lakes. Water between 10 and 16 degrees Celsius stimulates insect activity and hatches during midday for feeding trout and char.

Anglers fishing from small boats, canoes or float tubes have the best chances at catching fish. Rainbows and "brookies" inhale artificial offerings presented by fly fishing anglers, especially those patterns resembling the broad range of natural food: chironomids, mayflies, caddisflies, damselflies and leeches to name just a few. Spin casters find success using bright spinners or lures resembling natural food items. The many small lakes of the Thompson-Nicola region offer sporting fun for the whole family as well as many quality experiences for the serious angler. Culture Section of BC's Ministry of Fisheries initiated stocking operations many years ago. Seeded with initial releases of rainbow trout and brook trout (actually a member of the char family), the lakes continue to receive light annual stockings of young fish.

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