

BEAR RIVER MERCANTILE - BOWRON LAKE BC

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Info Sheet #6 – Fishing around the Bowron Lake Chain

The enclosed information was compiled to help visitors to Bowron Lake Provincial Park better understand the fishing conditions present in the Park waters. It is a generalization derived from years of watching the lake conditions.

The success of lake fishing is greatly influenced by the temperatures and the depth of the water. When the ice first comes off the lakes, the fish are lively & hungry and can be found topside actively feeding. This feeding frenzy can last from a few weeks to a few months and coincides with



SOCKEYE SALMON SPAWN IN SEVERAL OF THE LOCAL LAKES

major hatches of insect life and other abundant food sources. During the late summer months, the fish will become sluggish and warmer water will force them deeper down. At this time they can be usually be found in the mid to bottom layers of the deeper lakes such as Indianpoint Lake, Isaac Lake, Bowron Lake or at the cool churning waters near the mouth of a major river. If it is a colder summer and the water temps stay cool, the fish can stay active and can be found anywhere within the top 30 ft.

of water or around feeder streams and river mouths. In late July to mid Sept. Salmon can be found spawning through Bowron Lake and into Spectacle Lake. The Salmon are protected in the Bowron so you cannot fish them, but they usually have trout and dolly's following them to feast on their eggs.

Most all of the lakes traditionally contain Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout (Dolly Varden), Lake Char, Mountain Whitefish, Suckers, Kokanee, Sockeye Salmon, Spring Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Peamouth Chub, and Northern Pikeminnows (formerly called Sqawfish).

Kibbee Lake - Shallow slough fed lake; sand and gravel bottom; Max depth 24.7 meters (81.03 ft); Mean depth 8.1 m (26.57 ft); surface area 124.65 hectares (308.02 acres); has Kokanee, Whitefish, Suckers, Rainbow Trout, Northern Pikeminnow, and Peamouth Chub. Most people pass this lake by because they are anxious to get moving, but it is worth putting a line in.

Indianpoint Lake – Medium depth mountain stream fed lake; Max depth 31.1 m (102.03 ft); mean depth 13.2 m (43.30 ft); surface area 139.62 ha (345.01 ac); cooler water temps; bottom is sand, gravel and silt; Rainbow, Dolly Varden, Northern Pikeminnow, Peamouth Chub. The best fishing on this lake seems to be in the bay near the outlet of Indianpoint Creek (west end of the lake).

Isaac Lake and River - Largest lake, very deep; Max depth 174.3 m (571.85 ft); Mean depth 60 m (196.85 ft); Surface area 3273.62 ha (8089.3 ac); colder Lake, fed by mountain streams; Kokanee, Mt. Whitefish, Lake Char and Bull Trout / Dolly Varden, Rainbow trout; Isaac is traditionally the best fishing lake on the chain, deeper willow leafs and down riggers can be used here, and there are lots of clear, food rich, feeder streams all along the length of the lake.

McLeary Lake - Shallowest Lake on the Bowron circuit; Max depth 7 m (22.96 ft); Mean depth 1.6 m (5.25 ft); surface area 58.28 ha (144.01 ac); can get very warm, lots of weeds; mainly Rainbow Trout & Suckers; McLeary can prove to be surprising.

Lanezi Lake – Very deep lake, very silty, fed by Cariboo River glacial water; Max Depth 171.9 m (563.97 ft); Mean depth 93.2 m (305.77 ft); Surface area 1437.49 ha (3552.1 ac); usually an unproductive lake with steep sides, sandy bottom and few organisms; can find Bull Trout/ Dolly, Rainbow Trout, Peamouth Chub, Mountain Whitefish, Suckers and Lake Char. Lots of glacial silt usually means less fish, so this lake can be variable depending on the amount of silt present.



NORTHER PİKEMINNOW (FORMERLY SQUAW FISH)

Sandy Lake - Shallow lake; Max Depth 6.4 m (20.99 ft); Mean depth 2.7 m (8.86 ft); surface area 1005.27 ha (2484.1 ac); silt bottom, unproductive, not many fish.

Hunter Lake - South of Sandy Lake, this lake requires walking a rough trail to reach it; Max Depth 10.7 m (35.10 ft); Mean depth 4 m (13.12 ft); surface area 30.88 ha (76.31 ac); mainly Rainbow trout and Peamouth Chub.

Unna Lake - Deep glacial kettle lake, very clear, sandy bottom; Max Depth 22.9 m (75.13 ft); mean depth 5.9 m (19.36 ft); surface area 42.09 ha (104.01ac); Peamouth Chub, Suckers, Mountain Whitefish, Kokanee. So clear that you can see the fish swimming below.

Babcock Lake – Deep; fed by a clear fast creek with a gravel bed; has sand, gravel and muddy bottom; shallow; Max Depth 32.9m (107.94 ft); Mean depth 9.5 (31.17 ft); Surface area 166.25 ha (410.81 ac); Mountain Whitefish, Bull Trout/Dolly Varden, Rainbow Trout, Peamouth Chub.



RAINBOW TROUT

Skoi Lake – Small, shallow lake; Max Depth 11.6 m (38.06 ft); Mean depth 4 m (13.12 ft); Surface area 17.69 ha (43.71 ac); spring fed, no inlet, muddy and silty bottom, Kokanee.

Spectacle Lake/Swan Lake – Fairly shallow muddy bottom with lots of weed beds and not many fresh water inlets. Max Depth 28.95 m (95 ft); Mean depth 9.63 m (31.6 ft); surface area 470.24 ha (1162 ac); Rainbow Trout, Northern Pikeminnow, Kokanee, Peamouth Chub, Mountain Whitefish, Suckers, Sockeye and other Salmon can be found. We were surprised by the number of schools spotted around the weed beds.

Bowron Lake – Deep lake with some shallow shores; Max depth 63.4 m (208.00 ft); Mean depth 16.2 m (53.15 ft); Surface area 1011.75 ha (2500.1 ac); contains Bull Trout / Dolly Varden, Lake Char, Rainbow Trout, Suckers, Mountain Whitefish, Kokanee, Sockeye and other Salmon species, Peamouth Chub and Northern Pikeminnow. Bowron is the most fished lake on the circuit and it can get very choppy.

When fishing the lakes use normal trout or char fishing gear. Large spoons with some weight to them will help you reach the deeper depths. All colors are good for spring and summer fishing; reds, yellows and oranges work best in the fall. If going deep, use silver or gold flashers to attract the fish. Common lures - Kamloops Spoon, Red and Whites, Ruby Eyes, Crocodiles/Alligators, Black Fury, Mepps, Beaded lures that look like fish eggs.

Fly-fishing is good along feeder creeks and river mouths. Common flies; Mosquito, May fly, Tom Thumb, Spratley's, Dragonfly Nymph, Stone fly, Red Cary or Cary Specials, Leach patterns.

Fishing gear, flies and lures can be bought at Bear River Mercantile. As far as where the best spots to fish are, it is best to check-in at the store so we can show you where the deep pools and feeder streams are.



PEAMOUTH CHUB



KOKANEE

The Fishing Regulations of Bowron Lake Provincial Park (Summary)

Bowron Lake Park Waters (Kibbee Lake to Spectacle Lake) **(Region 5-16)**

- Trout/Char daily and possession quota is 1 (this means you can only catch one a day and/or only have one in your possession per license)
- Of these trout you cannot keep any under 30 cm or over 50 cm
- Trout and Char are categorized together here and comprise of Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden /Bull Trout (basically same fish), & Lake Trout.
- Kokanee - 5, but none from streams
- Gear Restrictions for all fish - single barbless hooks only and no bait of any sort allowed

Bowron Lake has different Regulations **(still Region 5-16)**

- You are allowed 2 Trout/Char daily and in possession
- Of these trout only 1 is allowed to be over 50 cm,
 - - Only 1 can be a Dolly Varden /Bull Trout
 - - Only 1 can be a Lake Trout
- Kokanee - 5, but none from streams
- No bait ban, treble hooks and barbs are allowed

The Rivers & Streams inside the Park Boundary have all the same restrictions as above, except that you are only allowed single barbless hooks in all B.C. streams. Also all rivers inside the park boundaries are subject to spring closure (no fishing) from April 1st to June 30th, this includes Isaac River, Cariboo River and Lower Bowron River.

Bowron River outside the Park Boundary (Region 7- 7 Zone A)

- You are allowed 2 Trout/Char daily and in possession
- No Rainbow trout under 30 cm,
- You must release all Bull Trout (Dolly Varden)

- Exempt from Spring Closure
- No Kokanee allowed
- Bait ban, Single barbless hooks only

Any up – dates on B.C.'s fishing regulations can be found at:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/>

The Fisheries Branch has a great website where you can get pictures of many B.C. fish, plus all kinds of fishy information:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw

You should purchase a current fishing license before your arrival at Bowron Lake. More information on purchasing an e-License can be found at:

<http://www.fishing.gov.bc.ca/>

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