

River Fishing in the Bella Coola Valley

Valley River Fishing

Come experience the real BC's fishing adventure and see what your next outing reels in for you. Both the Atnarko and Bella Coola river systems are easily accessible from Hwy 20 and offer everyone from the experienced fisherman to the new angler an opportunity to catch something be it Cutthroat, Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden or one of the five species of wild Pacific Salmon. There are many side streams in the valley waiting for the fishing enthusiast to cast their line.

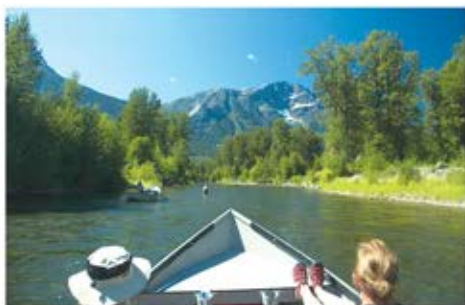


Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

Salmon Fishing

The most sought after is the salmon. Beginning in the early spring with the arrival of -- what else -- the Springs. Also known as Tye, Chinook or King, these fish are the first to arrive, making their way up the Bella Coola River to the Atnarko River in Tweedsmuir Park. A sport fisherman's dream, the Spring can

grow to weigh over 100lbs/45kg with the world record standing at 126lb/57kg.

By mid July, the Pinks (Humpies) are arriving. In August the Coho (Silvers) and the Chum (Dog) salmon are in full spawn. The feisty Sockeye are the last to arrive, beginning in late August.

Some of the best fishing holes in the valley are well-guarded secrets but access is fairly easy and spotting them is not too difficult. Just watch for a group of cars parked along the side of the road. There's usually a trail meandering off from there.

Don't want to fish alone? No problem. There are guided drifts available. Stop in at the Bella Coola Information Center for more about these trips or check out tours at www.bellacoola.ca.



Photo courtesy BCVT



Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

While motorized crafts are permitted in the Bella Coola River and certain parts of the Atnarko, fishing from a motor boat is prohibited. The Nuxalk River Guardians forbid motors on the river to prevent damage to spawning beds, and visitors are urged to respect their wishes.

- Visitors are advised that the steelhead present in the rivers of the Bella Coola Valley are protected. Any fish accidentally caught must be released unharmed.
- Cutthroat trout fishing is usually best between March and May.
- Freshwater and saltwater fishing require licenses that can be purchased locally.

River Fishing is sponsored by:



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