

LOOKING TO HOOK UP?

Freshwater or saltwater, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast is an angler's paradise.

The fishing here is famous. The **Chilko River** is one of North America's premier destinations for wild rainbow trout and Dolly Varden. Summer and fall, the **Dean River** attracts anglers from around the world for its steelhead and rainbow trout. Over one hundred fishing lakes are situated within an hour's drive of each other along **Highway 24, "The Fishing Highway"**. **Quesnel Lake** offers some of the finest trout fishing around. Saltwater fishing is at its best on the pristine waterways of **Hakai Pass**. Known worldwide for trophy salmon fishing, here you'll find some of the biggest salmon on the B.C. coast. Surrounded by calm, protected waters, **Shearwater** is home to all five species of salmon. The Chinook salmon here top 70 lbs, while coho reach up to 25 lbs. Halibut weight in at up to 200 lbs.

The **Chilko River's** crystal-clear waters are renowned for its wild rainbow trout and dolly varden. Also swimming in this waterway are bull trout, mountain whitefish and sockeye salmon. Stay at one of the area's guest ranches, fishing lodges, or B&B's. (The Chilko River is a 3.5 hr. drive southwest from Williams Lake. Head south at Tatla Lake from Hwy. 20)

Running wild until the beginning of the fall, the **Dean River's steelhead and rainbow trout** attract worldwide interest. The Lower Dean River's steelhead are some of the strongest of all steelhead stock – some reach 30 lbs. The best time to visit the Lower Dean is from June to September. The Upper Dean is known for its native rainbow trout. Chinook salmon enter this river in June and July. The Lower Dean River is accessible by air, and the Upper Dean is easily accessible by car. Visitors can stay at one of the West Chilcotin's many lodges, resorts or B&B's. (The Dean River is a 3-4 hr. drive west from Williams Lake, via Hwy. 20)

With over one hundred fishing lakes within an hour's drive from each other, "**The Fishing Highway**" is a popular stop for anglers. **Highway 24** is the home of the famous **Interlakes District**, comprised of four main destination lakes: Fawn, Sheridan, Bridge and Lac Des Roches. Rainbow, lake and brook trout, kokanee as well as burbot are all popular catches in this area. While you're there stay at a local resort or guest ranch. You can enjoy trail riding, hiking and even journey on horseback to fish the more secluded lakes. (Hwy. 24 runs between 93 Mile on Hwy. 97 and Little Fort on Hwy. 5).

With a depth of 610 m (2,000 ft.), **Quesnel Lake** is one of the deepest glacially formed lakes on earth. The area – surrounded by small lakes, rivers and creeks and set amidst the Cariboo Mountains - offers some of the finest trout fishing anywhere. The unique strain of rainbow trout found in Quesnel Lake can range up to 25 lbs; these are some of the

hardest fighting fish on any line. Bull and lake trout as well as kokanee swim these waters, too. The Quesnel Lake system is also host to one of the province's largest sockeye salmon runs. Visitors can stay in one of the area's resorts. (Quesnel Lake is a 90-minute drive northeast of Williams Lake).

The pristine waterways of Hakai Pass are known worldwide for trophy salmon fishing. Here you'll find some of the biggest catches on the B.C. Coast. Huge runs of Chinook, coho, sockeye, chum and pink salmon crowd through the Hakai Pass area. You can also drop a line for halibut, snapper and lingcod. The best time to visit is in July and August.

The wildlife viewing is just as good: Orca, humpback and grey whales, dolphins as well as eagles all make stops at Hakai Pass. You may even spot sea lions, seals, wolf and deer along the shore.

Hakai Pass runs through the Hakai Luxvbalis Conservancy Area, a group of small to mid-sized islands on the Central Coast. Access is by air or by boat. Lodges / resorts often fly guests in from Vancouver. B.C. Ferries' Discovery Coast Passage Route makes stops in the area and transportation can often be arranged from these points.

Shearwater has a reputation for attracting big fish. Surrounded by calm, protected waters, it is home to all five species of salmon. Chinook top 70 lbs. while coho reach up to 24 lbs. Abundant bottom fish in the area include lingcod, red snapper and rockfish. The wildlife viewing is abundant, ranging from whales and dolphins to bears and wolves. After a full day's fishing, you can unwind in one of the area's B&B's or resorts or climb aboard a luxury yacht. Tackle and boat rentals are within easy access, while guided fishing tours are also available. For an unforgettable escape, book a helicopter fly-fishing trip. The best time to visit is from June to mid-September. Shearwater is located on Denny Island along the Central Coast. Access is by air or by boat. Shearwater is also a stop on B.C. Ferries' Discovery Coast Passage Route.