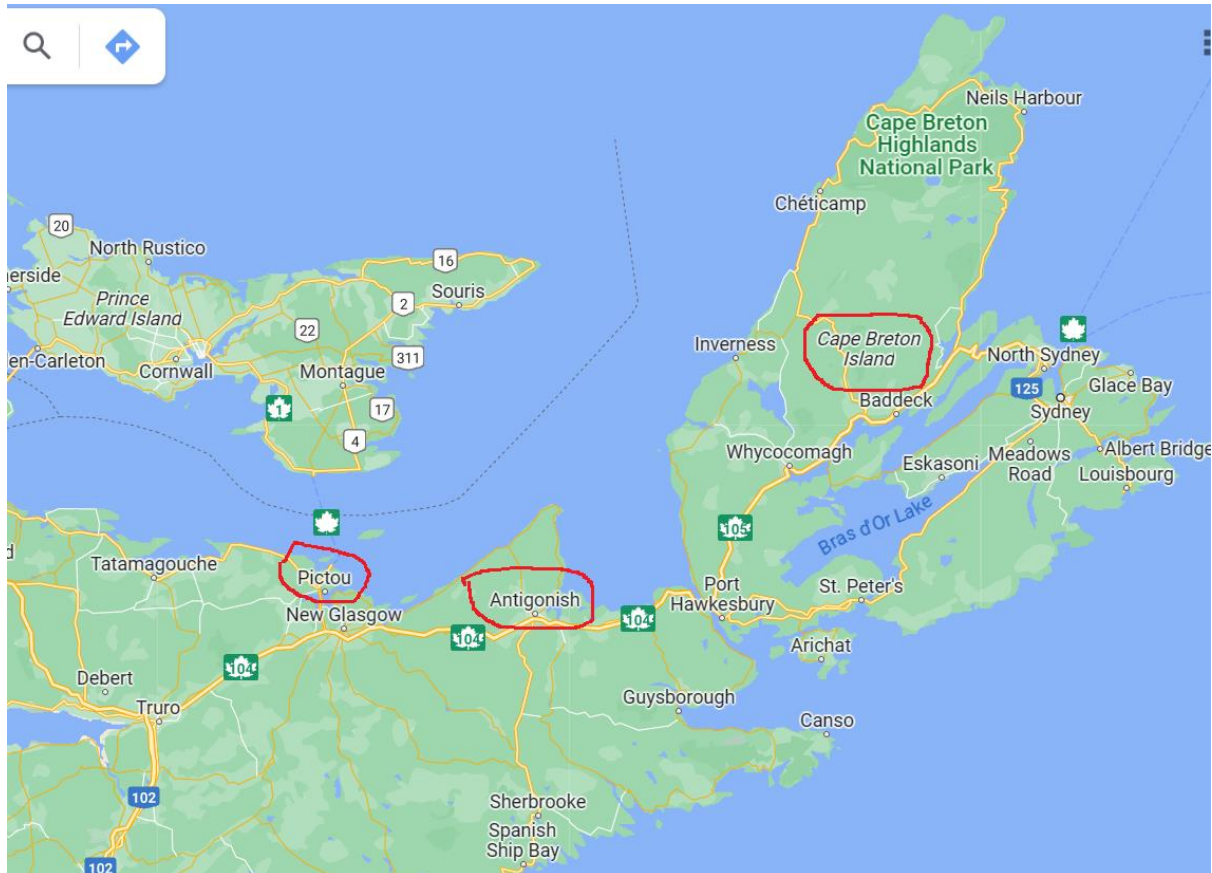


Roger's Report on Nova Scotia

Unlike Labrador and Newfoundland, foreigners don't need to be accompanied by a guide to fish non-tidal rivers and lakes in Nova Scotia. This means that the only cost is an Atlantic salmon fishing license \$137 CAD annual, \$56 CAD 7 days and \$26 CAD 1 day. If you are going to fish for other species, you should also have a general fishing license which costs \$31 CAD annual or \$12 CAD 1 day.

The Atlantic Salmon seasons starts June 1 and runs until October 31. The main fishing areas are in the Gulf Shore area around Pictou and Antigonish and Cape Breton Island. The rivers in the Gulf Shore area are relatively small and can be fished comfortably with a single handed rod.



The most famous river on Cape Breton Island (and Nova Scotia as a whole) is the Margaree River. This is a large river and 2 handed rods give the best coverage. I was there for around 10 days in September and again in October. According to the locals the river was 'very low' for most of the time although by summer standards in the Canberra region (perhaps not recently) it still had plenty of water.



In general, Atlantic Salmon fishing is greatly affected by rainfall. In dry spells the fishing can be slow but picks up sharply after rain. For most of the time I was on the Margaree river, it was dry and I only saw a couple of fish caught. You could see groups of salmon in the river but it was very hard to get them to react to a fly. I did manage to catch a couple of decent sized Brook trout around 3 to 4 lbs. According to the locals, fish of this size are probably sea run fish and you can sometimes see them mixed in with the Atlantic Salmon. We did get some solid rain a few days before I left on my second stay and I managed to hook a good sized salmon which unfortunately broke off.



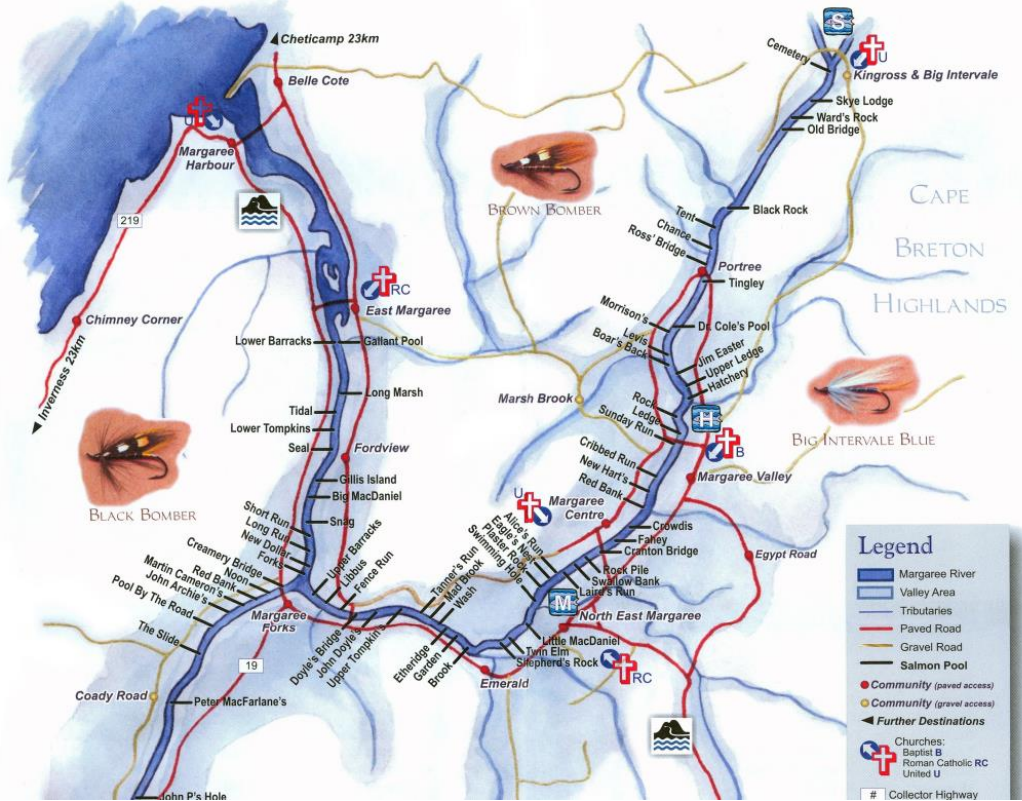
The Margaree River is a beautiful river and is very popular with local and overseas anglers. You often have to share a pool with a few other anglers, but there is a rotation system in place whereby anglers fish down the pool then go back up to the top and start again. I'm told that it doesn't matter where you are in the rotation as a strike can happen at anytime. Most of the pools are named and there are parking areas on the road near each pool with a sign giving the name of the pool and a track down to the pool.



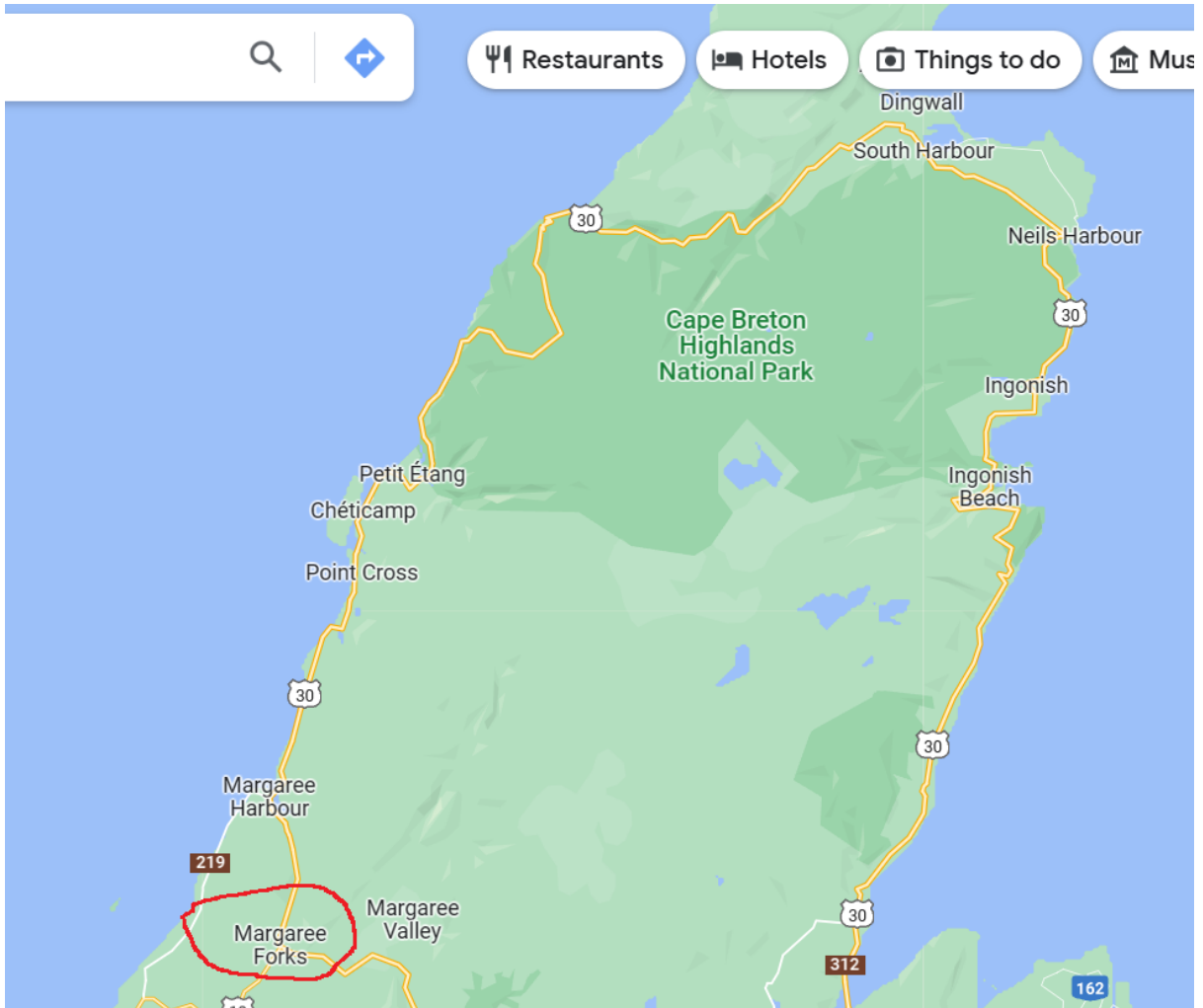
Margaree Salmon Association

Margaree Fishing Pools

A Canadian Heritage River



I stayed in a camp site at Margaree Forks which was ideally located close to the river with pools upstream and downstream. There were glamping tents available at the campsite but I stayed in my own tent. I didn't see a lot of other accommodation in the area but it is not far from Margaree Harbour which is probably better served. Margaree Forks is also on the Cabot trail which is a scenic road that goes up the east (Atlantic) coast, across the highlands, and back down the west coast. It is quite spectacular particularly in the Autumn.





The other notable river in Cape Breton Island is the Middle River which is quite a bit smaller than the Margaree but can apparently fish very well after rain.



All in all, Cape Breton Island is a nice place to stay and fish for a couple of weeks. I was told the fishing had been very good the previous June and July before the dry spell but it can probably be good any time if there is rain.