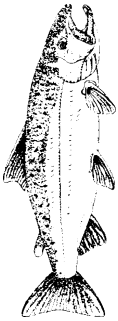


# Fishing in *northern Southeast Alaska*

Nearly all species of salmon, trout, and saltwater fishes common to the northwestern United States and Canada are also found in northern Southeast Alaska. Tackle used to catch a particular species of fish elsewhere will catch fish in northern Southeast. The following fishing tips are general in nature. For more information on a local area, contact the local Sport Fish Division office or a local tackle shop.



*Salmon*

King, coho, and pink salmon are normally taken in salt water by trolling or mooching.

Trolling involves actively pulling a herring, hoochie, plug, or fly through the water fast enough to provide suitable action of the bait or lure. Medium- to heavy-action trolling rods and reels, and spin rods in the 7- to 9-ft range capable of handling up to 8 ounces of lead are used in this fishery. A line of 15- to 40-pound test is usually used. Bait or lures are frequently used in combination with a

flasher or dodger. The same gear will take all three species of salmon; however, anglers targeting on king salmon will often troll slower and deeper than when fishing for coho or pink salmon.

Mooching is usually done from an anchored boat or when drifting or engaged in a very slow troll, primarily using the currents to work the bait. Mooching can be quite effective because it is easier to fish a wider range of depths. Herring is the preferred bait for mooching. Buzzbombs and other jig-type lures will also take salmon in marine areas.

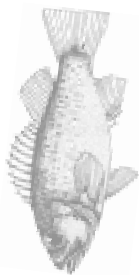
Few marine boat anglers target chum salmon, as they do not take standard baits as readily as other species of salmon, but chum salmon are caught, often being misidentified as a coho salmon. Special gear can be used to entice a chum to bite; one combination rumored to work is a blue flasher about 16 inches in front of a bare blue hook.

Coho and pink salmon can be taken along marine shorelines and in streams by spin casters with a variety of spinning lures. Cohos and

pinks can also be taken in salt and fresh water on a variety of flies.

Terminal freshwater and saltwater king salmon fisheries occur in several communities at enhancement sites. In these areas, kings are returning from releases of hatchery-reared smolts, in most instances released to provide additional harvest in the marine boat sport fisheries, as well as freshwater and marine shoreline fisheries. Local Division of Sport Fish offices can furnish the particulars on local terminal king salmon fisheries.

Mature king salmon in terminal areas can be taken on large lures (such as Pixees, Krocodiles, and buzz-bombs), and they will also take flies.



Bottomfish

Halibut, Pacific cod, and rockfish are usually taken in the period from May through September, although they're available all year long. These species tend to move into shallow water in warmer summer months and to overwinter in deeper waters, usually beyond reach of sport anglers. Most bottom fishing effort is targeted toward halibut.

Bottom fishing tackle consists of a powerful rod and a strong reel capable of holding at least 200 yards of 60-pound test or heavier line. Leader material should be either wire or monofilament in the 100-pound-test class. Shark hooks, flying gaffs, or harpoons are often used to land halibut. At least one of these items is necessary to land really large halibut.

Both halibut and cod are taken on bait and jigs. Anglers who fish for rockfish normally use smaller baits or jigs. The usual bait is herring or other fish, but chrome or colored, weighted jigs are also used.

(Anglers should be aware that the only parts of a *sport-caught fish*—fish for which there is a bag limit—that may be used for bait are the head, fins, and viscera.)

A depth finder is a necessity for dependable bottom fishing. The best bottom fishing is usually found on underwater ledges, reefs, or in channels, where depths can range from 5 to 40 fathoms.