



GENERAL REGULATIONS - NORTHWESTERN

Inclusive waters: The Northwestern Area consists of all waters draining into and including the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, Kotzebue Sound, and Norton Sound south of Point Hope and north of Point Romanof.

Fishing is open year-round for all species unless otherwise noted below or in special regulations.

Check for emergency orders online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR prior to fishing.

KING SALMON

- 20 inches or longer: 1 per day, 1 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession.

OTHER SALMON

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

ARCTIC GRAYLING

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

SHEEFISH

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

ARCTIC CHAR, DOLLY VARDEN, & LAKE TROUT

- **All lakes:**
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession, in combination.
- **In all flowing waters and salt water:**
 - 10 per day, 10 in possession, only 2 of which may be 20 inches or longer and only 2 may be lake trout.

NORTHERN PIKE

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

BURBOT

- 15 per day, 15 in possession, no size limit.

SHELLFISH

- See pages 35-36.

HALIBUT

Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty. See page 7 for federal contact information.

- **Season: February 1-December 31.**
- **Unguided anglers:** 2 per day, 4 in possession.
- **Consult federal regulations for the following:**
 - Bag, possession and size limits, and other regulations for guided (charter) anglers.
- **Filleting requirements for fish cleaned at sea:**
 - No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached.

OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

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Dolly Varden from the Sinuk River.

METHODS AND MEANS - NORTHWESTERN

HOOK SIZE:

- Multiple hooks with a gap between point and shank larger than ½ inch may be used for taking fish other than salmon, except where noted.

USE OF SPEAR OR BOW AND ARROW:

- Suckers and burbot may be taken with spear or bow and arrow year-round.
- Northern pike or whitefish (excluding sheefish) may be speared by persons completely submerged year-round.
- **September 1-April 30:** Northern pike or whitefish (excluding sheefish) may be taken by spear or bow and arrow.



Popping colors on a Haul Road Arctic char.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS - NORTHWESTERN

CRIPPLE RIVER:

- Open to sport fishing year-round, except for chum salmon.
- **Closed to chum salmon fishing.** All chum salmon caught must be released immediately.

KOBUK RIVER DRAINAGE - upstream of the mouth of the Mauneluk River:

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- Sheefish: 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

NOME RIVER:

- Open to sport fishing year-round, except for Arctic grayling.
- **Closed to Arctic grayling fishing.** All Arctic grayling caught must be released immediately.

NORTHERN NORTON SOUND - all waters draining into Norton Sound from Cape Darby to Cape Prince of Wales (see map above):

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- Chum salmon: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Coho salmon: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Sockeye salmon: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Pink salmon: 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- Arctic grayling: 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

PENNY RIVER:

- **Closed to chum salmon fishing.** All chum salmon caught must be released immediately.

PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE:

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- Arctic grayling: 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.

SALMON LAKE - including its tributaries, and the outlet stream (Pilgrim River) 300 feet downstream from the lake outlet:

- Open to sport fishing year-round, except for salmon.
- **Closed year-round to all salmon fishing.** All salmon caught must be released immediately.

SELAWIK RIVER DRAINAGE - upstream of the mouth of the Tagagawik River:

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- Sheefish: 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

SNAKE RIVER:

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- Arctic grayling: 1 per day, 1 in possession, no size limit.

SOLOMON RIVER:

- Open to sport fishing year-round, except for Arctic grayling.
- **Closed to Arctic grayling fishing.** All Arctic grayling caught must be released immediately.

UNALAKLEET RIVER DRAINAGE:

- Open to sport fishing year-round.
- If you intend to release a salmon, you must **NOT** remove it from the water. A salmon that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked it.
- King salmon: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.
 - **There is an annual limit of 2 king salmon 20 inches or longer. If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest; see page 5.**
- Other salmon: 10 per day, 10 in possession, of which only 4 in combination may be chum, coho, or sockeye salmon. No size limit.
- Arctic grayling: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 15 inches or longer.



Beautiful Arctic grayling caught at golden hour.