

Guide to sport fishing opportunities in the Ketchikan, Alaska area

In Southeast Alaska, our most popular recreation is sport fishing. Opportunities abound in the Ketchikan area for even the most discriminating anglers.

The Ketchikan management area includes the islands of Revillagigedo, Gravina, Annette, and Duke—as well as the U.S. mainland to the east, from the middle of Cleveland Peninsula south to Portland Canal. Prince of Wales Island lies to the west, separated from the Ketchikan area by lower Clarence Strait.

Forested mountains as high as 4,000 feet and vast areas of open muskeg are the prevailing landscape. Evergreens dominate the forest—Sitka spruce, western hemlock, western redcedar and Alaska-cedar. Coastal areas are rocky and rugged, and small islands dot the waterways. The outer islands form a protective barrier for inside waters against the open ocean.

Scattered throughout the area are dozens of small streams and lakes. Larger river systems, from 30 to 50 miles long, extend from British Columbia into Alaska: the Unuk and Chickamin rivers flow into East Behm Canal, and the Salmon River empties into Portland Canal near Hyder, Alaska.



Land Ownership. . .

Most of the area lies within the Tongass National Forest boundary and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service—Ketchikan and Misty Fiords ranger districts. Remaining lands are owned by state and local governments and the private sector. The Annette Island Reserve and the Cape Fox Corporation are the largest private landowners in the area.

Sport fishing on Annette Island is restricted to Island residents only. No saltwater fishing is allowed within 3,000 feet of the island. Visitors to the area should check locally about current status of rules governing this area.

Public access along some waterways is limited because of privately owned lands. Be sure to get permission from landowners before crossing private property.

Population and Economy . . .

Ketchikan has a population of about 13,000. Metlakatla has 1,370 residents and Hyder has 83 (as of 2004). Area

population trends and economic patterns have historically been influenced by logging and commercial fishing. Recent trends point to growth in the mining and tourism industries.

Climate . . .

The area climate is moist and mild: temperatures average 29–39°F in winter and 51–65°F in summer. Rainfall averages 162 inches a year, including 32 inches of snow.

Our weather is unpredictable—rain gear and rubber boots are needed year-round. You will need cold-weather gear from November through March.

Roads . . .

Local road systems are limited and of varying width, surface condition and maintenance. In Ketchikan, paved road extends 16 miles north to Settlers Cove and 16 miles south along the South Tongass Highway to Beaver Falls Creek, covering about 32 miles of coastline on Revillagigedo Island. A paved road turns to gravel and then runs about 10 miles up the Ward Cove drainage to Harriet Hunt Lake. There are private gravel roads in the White River and Whipple Creek drainages.

There are also 90 miles or so of logging spurs outside of Ketchikan, but they vary in width and surface condition and are not maintained in winter. Anyone who plans to use these roads should check

locally for permission and current road conditions.

About 15 miles south of Ketchikan lies the community of Metlakatla, on the Annette Island Reserve. The Metlakatla road system consists of gravel roads extending 10 miles south and 2 miles north of town.


The community of Hyder, on the mainland about 80 air miles east from Ketchikan, connects to the Alaska Highway via the Cassiar Highway


through British Columbia (287 miles from Prince Rupert). Hyder can be reached from Ketchikan by small aircraft (Stewart airport only) or floatplane.


Two miles of paved road to the east connect Hyder to Stewart, B.C., and 2 miles of gravel road to the north connect to a 25-mile-long gravel mining access road up the Salmon River. These roads are of varying condition; travelers should check locally for current road conditions.

Alaska State Park facilities

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, operates three public facilities in the Ketchikan area:

 Settlers Cove State Park, located at the end of the Ketchikan road system (Mile 18 N. Tongass Highway), with 12 campsites and water and toilet facilities.

 Totem Bight (Mile 10 N. Tongass Hwy.), pictured at right, which has no campsites but does provide trails and public toilets.

 Refuge Cove (Mile 8.7 N. Tongass Hwy.), with 14 picnic sites with toilet facilities.



Totem Bight State Park

Authentic Native totems stand in their natural setting. The Totem Bight tribal house is to the left, as seen from the back. The front of this beautifully crafted tribal house is shown above in the inset photo.

Access to *Ketchikan* communities

The Ketchikan area is served by commercial jet, by smaller aircraft, and by the Alaska Marine Highway (state ferry). Daily jet service is provided by Alaska Airlines. Smaller commuter airlines provide daily floatplane or wheeled plane service to and from the neighboring Southeast Alaska communities.

Air charter companies

offering wheeled or floatplane service in the Ketchikan area are numerous. Call the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, (907) 225-3185, for their current list of air charter operators.

The Alaska Marine Highway System . . .

AMHS maintains year-round ferry service between Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Prince Rupert (British Columbia), and Bellingham, Washington. The state ferry is a dependable method of travel, regardless of weather. Autos, trucks, boats, and RVs can be transported on the ferry, but advance reservations are required. The system is very busy during summer and holidays, so make your reservations well in advance, especially for transport of

boats and vehicles. You can get ferry schedules and fares, find out about transporting your vehicle or boat, and make reservations at the Alaska Marine Highway office:

Alaska Marine Highway
Pouch R, 1591 Glacier Ave.
Juneau, AK 99811
(800) 642-0066 or (907) 465-3941
AMHS website: www.alaska.gov/ferry

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority . . .

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority system (IFA) maintains year-round ferry service between Ketchikan and Hollis (on Prince of Wales Island). You can get more information about the IFA by contacting:

Inter-Island Ferry Authority
P.O. Box 495
Craig, AK 99921
IFA website: www.interislandferry.com

(866) 308-4848 toll-free
(907) 826-4848 telephone
(907) 277-4829 (fax)
E-mail: ifa@interislandferry.com

Lodging and facilities in the *Ketchikan* area

A number of sport fishing lodges, hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments operate in the area. In addition to U.S. Forest Service cabins (map on page 15), some communities have public or private campgrounds and cabin rentals. Car and boat rentals are also available in Ketchikan and Hyder. For more information, contact one of these offices near your intended destination:

**Ketchikan Chamber
of Commerce**
P. O. Box 5957
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-3185

**Ketchikan Visitors
Bureau**
131 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-6166

**Metlakatla Indian
Community**
P. O. Box 8
Metlakatla, AK 99926
(907) 886-4441

Stewart/Hyder Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 306
Stewart, BC V0T1W0
(604) 636-9224

Services available in the *Ketchikan* management area

	Gas	Groc- eries	Float plane service	State ferry service	Boat ramp	Police	Medical services	Lodging	Fishing/ hunting license
<i>Ketchikan</i>	•	•	J	•	•(3)	•	H	•	•
<i>Metlakatla</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Hyder</i>	•	•	•		•		H*	•	•

J = scheduled jet service

***H** = hospitals available in Ketchikan and Stewart, B.C.

Ketchikan boat ramps: Bar Harbor
Knudson Cove
Mountain Point



U.S. Forest Service facilities

The Tongass National Forest

At 16.7 million acres, Alaska's Tongass National Forest is the largest National Forest in the U.S. It is also one of the most diverse—with active glaciers, coastal forests and rugged, snow-capped mountains of outstanding scenic beauty. National Forest lands in the Ketchikan vicinity are administered by the Misty Fiords National Monument and the Ketchikan Ranger District.

The Misty Fiords National Monument is part of 5.4 million acres of wilderness set aside by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which focused on providing sufficient protection for the scenic, natural, cultural and environmental values of public lands in Alaska.

The Ketchikan Ranger District, in contrast, is managed for multiple uses—offering a multitude of recreational opportunities, making timber available to support local economies, maintaining valuable fish and wildlife habitat, and providing for other uses of the forest desired by local and national interests.

Misty Fiords National Monument

The same wonderful sport fishing opportunities that exist in the Ketchikan Ranger District are also abundant in Misty Fiords National Monument. Stream and lake fishing is excellent for Dolly Varden char and cutthroat trout, as is saltwater fishing for salmon, halibut and cod.

Misty Fiords National Monument is farther away from the population center of Ketchikan, so you will encounter fewer people and have a greater chance for solitude. Manmade features such as roads, clearcuts, power lines and dams are nonexistent. The only facilities are USFS cabins, shelters, and a few trails. The most dramatic visual impacts are the extraordinary geological features—the steep walls of the fjords, the many waterfalls, and the large estuaries.

Most of Misty Fiords National Monument is also congressionally designated as Wilderness. This designation will help to keep the area undeveloped and continue to provide many hours of undisturbed sport fishing enjoyment in the future.

You can contribute to the pristine quality of the area by practicing “Leave No Trace” techniques when you fish, hike, and camp. Please pack out everything you take in and clean up after others who have been less considerate.

If you are using one of the cabins, please remember that chainsaws are not allowed and that firewood is already provided for your use.

Be aware that float plane and small cruise ship activity increases during June through August in the Punchbowl/Rudyard Bay area.

Cabin Facilities

In the Ketchikan area, the USFS manages 29 cabins and 9 shelters for public use (see map 2 and accompanying table on pages 14 and 15). The cabins house four to six persons; fees are \$25–40 a night. Most are located in remote areas, where access is limited to float plane, boat or trail. Sport fishing opportunities exist at most locations, and skiffs are provided at sites near lakes.

The Ketchikan Ranger District also maintains three campgrounds and two picnic areas (map 2) which are open seasonally in the Ketchikan area.

Two types of cabins are available in the Ketchikan area: A-frame and Pan Abode. The cabins can all sleep at least four people and as many as six. Each cabin includes tables, benches, plywood

bunks without mattresses, wood and/or oil heating/cooking stove, axe, broom, and outdoor sanitary facilities.

Be sure to check stove information on the cabin you desire. The Forest Service does not provide stove oil for cabin users, but you can buy oil in local communities. Rates of use vary from 5 to 10 gallons a week, depending on season and weather. At cabins that have wood stoves, wood is provided but must be split. (An axe is furnished at each cabin with a wood stove, but it is suggested that you bring a small axe or hatchet, just in case.) For all cabins, it is recommended that a gas cooking stove be included in your gear. The wood/oil stoves do not usually provide enough heat to cook by.

You must also bring your own bedding and cooking gear. Water can be obtained from nearby streams and lakes (but boil it before drinking!). Many rivers and streams are crystal clear and give the impression that the water is pure and safe to drink, but clarity is not an indication of the absence of bacteria or parasites! Whenever surface water is used for cooking or drinking it should also be purified by boiling for 5 minutes.

Boats are furnished at most cabins on lakes, but not at those on saltwater or river sites. Oars are included, but a small outboard motor within the 2–10 hp category may add to your enjoyment of these boats. **Remember** to bring a life preserver for each member of your party.

Cabin Reservations

Reservations are required and can be made up to 180 days in advance at www.reserveUSA.com. You can also purchase a map and find other information at this website, or you may contact a Forest Service office at:

Tongass National Forest
SE Alaska Discovery Center
50 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 228-6220

Ketchikan Ranger District and
Misty Fiords National Monument
3031 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-2148

Permits for the use of recreational cabins in the National Forest in Alaska are issued on an open-use (first come, first served) basis.

◆ *Mooring Buoys:*

A reservation for a USFS cabin does not include exclusive use of the buoy if there is one near the cabin. Buoy use is on a first-come, first-served basis; however, use and mooring of more than one vessel is permitted, provided the party there agrees. Here are suggested mooring guidelines:

1. Three vessels less than 21 feet.
2. Two vessels over 21 feet but under 30 feet.
3. No rafting of vessels over 30 feet.

Leaving a skiff or any personal property at a buoy, float or dock does not reserve a moorage site. Others may use the space if it's not occupied.

◆ *Margaret Creek Fish Ladder*

The Margaret Lake watershed lies about 26 miles NNW of Ketchikan on West Behm Canal and drains into Margarita Bay in Traitors Cove. The Margaret Creek fish ladder, built in 1989, furnishes passage over a waterfall for steelhead, coho, sockeye, and pink salmon, and access to 145 acres of lake habitat and 24 acres of stream habitat. Thousands of salmon continue their migration upstream from July through October via the Margaret Creek fish ladder—nearly 28,000 salmon passed through the fish ladder in 1995!

Black bears congregate in the Margaret Lake drainage to take advantage of the seasonal food supply when salmon stack up in the pool at the base of the fish ladder. At the peak of the pink salmon run in August, as many as ten bears at a time can be seen feeding on the fish. A viewing platform at the top of the falls provides an excellent opportunity to observe predator-prey interaction of bears and salmon in the wild. The trailhead leading to the viewing platform is on the road system, about one mile from the dock at Margarita Bay.



When you walk the trail, use extreme caution! Black bears also use this trail to get to the creek.

NOTICE

Federal Management of Subsistence Fisheries

Fishing on most federal public lands is now subject to federal as well as state fishing regulations. If you plan to fish on federal public lands, consult the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for Federal public lands in Alaska. These regulations are available at many Federal Land Management Agency field offices (USFS, USF&W, BLM), at the office of Subsistence Management (1-800-478-1456) or on line: <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.htm>. In-season closures can occur at any time and may not be reflected in the federal subsistence management booklet so it is advisable to also contact the Federal Agency for the area where you intend to fish.

Cabin Survey Results



Fifteen of the 29 public-use USFS cabins in the Ketchikan area were surveyed in 1993 by the Ketchikan Ranger District and the ADF&G Division of Sport Fish. The following section summarizes those survey results.



K-1

Anchor Pass cabin—Northern Behm Canal

Located 60 miles NW of Ketchikan, the Anchor Pass cabin is accessed by boat or float plane. This facility, suitable for up to six people, is located at salt water and has a mooring buoy for anchorage of vessels. Sport fishing opportunities include halibut, rockfish, Dungeness crab and salmon (but see state regulations for closed areas).

This cabin ranked 3 out of 15 among surveyed public-use cabins for halibut fishing and Dungeness crab harvest opportunities. Anglers at this site should target June through September for halibut fishing and the best Dungeness crab harvest opportunities.



K-2

Blind Pass cabin—Northern Behm Canal

The Blind Pass cabin is 40 miles NW of Ketchikan on Hassler Island and is reached by boat or float plane. It is located at salt water and equipped with a mooring buoy for anchorage of vessels. The cabin houses up to 6 people. Sport fishing opportunities at this site include halibut, Dungeness crab, and cutthroat and rainbow trout—plus Dolly Varden char in nearby lakes and streams. Anglers can also fish for several species of salmon in salt water at this location.

Among the public-use cabins surveyed, this location ranked 4 of 15 for rainbow trout and 6 of 15 for halibut fishing opportunities. Anglers

at this cabin should target May–June and Sept.–Oct. for best rainbow trout fishing. June–Sept. is the most productive time for halibut fishing.



Fish Creek—Thorne Arm

The Fish Creek cabin is 18 miles SE of Ketchikan on Thorne Arm and is accessible by boat or float plane. It accommodates 6 persons and is situated at salt water, with an anchorage buoy provided. Saltwater sport fishing activities at this cabin include halibut, rockfish, salmon, and Dungeness crab. Freshwater angling within the Fish Creek drainage targets steelhead, cutthroat, and rainbow trout and Dolly Varden char.

Of the 15 cabins surveyed, the Fish Creek cabin was rated highest (first of 15) for rockfish and second highest (2 of 15) for halibut and salmon fishing in salt water. For freshwater sport fishing, the Fish Creek cabin was rated highest (first of 15) for steelhead trout and Dolly Varden. Anglers reserving this facility will have the highest catch rates for rockfish, halibut, and salmon from July to Sept. The best catch rates for steelhead trout are from Oct. to Dec. and April to May. Dolly Varden char catch rates are highest in May–June and Aug.–Sept.



S.E. Heckman Lake—Naha River drainage

The S.E. Heckman Lake cabin was built in 1997 and is a barrier-free facility. It is 20 miles NW of Ketchikan on the SE shore of Heckman Lake. This cabin is reached only by float plane. It houses up to 8 people in a two-room design and is heated by a wood-burning stove. A small skiff is provided for those using the cabin. Fishing opportunities

include salmon (four species), steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout, plus Dolly Varden char.

This cabin had not been built at the time of the 1993 cabin survey, but it would rank the same as the Heckman Lake cabin (located at the outlet of Heckman Lake). The best catch rates for rainbow and cutthroat trout are in May–June and Sept.–Oct., for Dolly Varden in May–June and Aug.–Sept., and for steelhead in Nov.–Dec. and April–May. Pink, chum, and sockeye salmon fishing is best in July–Aug., and coho fishing is productive in Aug.–Sept.



Heckman Lake—Naha River drainage

The Heckman Lake cabin, 18 miles NW of Ketchikan near the outlet of Heckman Lake, is reached by float plane or boat plus a 5½-mile hike up the USFS National Recreation Trail on the Naha River. It accommodates up to 6, and a small skiff is provided for parties using the cabin. Sport fishing opportunities include salmon (four species), steelhead, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, plus Dolly Varden char.

This cabin ranked first among the 15 cabins surveyed for rainbow trout fishing, second for cutthroat trout, third for Dolly Varden char, and fourth for steelhead trout. Recent trail improvements by the USFS enable easy access downstream from Heckman Lake along the Naha River all the way to salt water. The best catch rates for rainbow and cutthroat trout are in May–June and Sept.–Oct., for Dolly Varden in May–June and Aug.–Sept., and for steelhead trout, Nov.–Dec. and April–May.



Helm Bay—Cleveland Peninsula

Located at salt water, 24 miles NW of Ketchikan, the Helm Bay cabin is reached by boat or

float plane. A state-owned dock is available, but not connected to shore. The cabin is larger than most of the USFS cabins and accommodates up to 8 people. Sport fishing activities at this site include harvesting halibut and salmon.

This cabin ranked second out of the 15 surveyed cabins for Dungeness crab, third for rockfish, and fourth for halibut. Salmon fishing for all five salmon species is also available in nearby saltwater areas. Angler catch rates are highest from July to Sept. for rockfish and halibut, from July to Oct. for Dungeness crab, and June–Aug. for salmon.



Jordan Lake—Naha River drainage

Located on the southcentral side of Jordan Lake 22 miles NW of Ketchikan on the Naha river system, the Jordan Lake cabin is accessible by float plane or by boat with a 4-mile hike up the USFS Naha River National Recreation Trail. Cabin users can also fly to nearby Heckman Lake by float plane and hike 2 miles to the cabin. The cabin sleeps up to 6 and has a small skiff that provides easy access to the entire lake. Sport fishing activities at this site include salmon and steelhead fishing, plus rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char.

Among the 15 cabins surveyed, this one ranked highest for its salmon (first of 15), rainbow trout (2 of 15), Dolly Varden char (2 of 15), and steelhead trout (3 of 15) fishing opportunities. Catch rates here are best from July to Sept. for salmon, May–June and Sept.–Oct. for rainbow trout, May–June and Aug.–Sept. for Dolly Varden char, and Nov.–Dec. and April–May for steelhead trout.



McDonald Lake—Cleveland Peninsula

This cabin is on a small island near the outlet of McDonald Lake, 50 miles NW of Ketchikan. Normally reached by float plane, an alternative is to boat to Yes Bay Lodge at the mouth of Wolverine Creek, hike 1½ miles over a primitive trail, and reach the cabin via a floating bridge. The cabin sleeps up to 6 and is equipped with a small skiff for use by those reserving this facility. A small outboard motor is recommended because of the size of the lake. Sport fishing opportunities here include harvesting Dungeness crab, halibut and salmon in salt water, plus salmon, steelhead trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, kokanee, and Dolly Varden char angling in fresh water.

The McDonald Lake cabin ranked first among the 15 surveyed cabins for saltwater halibut fishing and freshwater kokanee fishing. Freshwater steelhead fishing was rated 2 of 15. Anglers using this cabin should target July–Sept. for halibut, Aug.–Oct. for kokanee, and April–May for steelhead trout.



Phocena Bay—Gravina Island

Located at salt water on the southwest end of Gravina Island, 25 miles from Ketchikan, the Phocena Bay cabin is accessible by float plane or boat, sleeps 6 people, and has a mooring buoy. You can fish in salt water for halibut, rockfish, or salmon, or harvest Dungeness crab. Nearby streams offer freshwater fishing for rainbow and cutthroat trout, plus Dolly Varden char.

Among the cabins surveyed, this site was noted for its halibut (ranked 3 of 15), rockfish (ranked 5 of 15), and Dungeness crab harvest (4 of 15) in salt water, plus fairly good Dolly

Varden char (ranked 2 of 15) fishing in nearby streams. Anglers reserving this facility will find halibut and rockfish fishing best in June–Sept., Dungeness crab harvest highest in July–Sept., and reasonable Dolly Varden char fishing in nearby freshwater areas in Aug.–Sept.



K-10

Orchard Lake—North Revillagigedo

The cabin is near the Orchard Lake inlet stream, 34 miles NW of Ketchikan. It is accessible only by float plane. This site is currently closed after damage from a falling tree, but is scheduled to reopen in the future. Cutthroat trout are the dominant species at this location. Anglers looking at one-day flights into this system will have the best chance of catching cutthroat trout in May–June and Sept.–Oct.



K-11

Patching Lake—Naha River drainage

The Patching Lake cabin is 20 miles NW of Ketchikan in the Naha River drainage and is accessible only by float plane. The cabin sleeps 6, and a small skiff is provided for use by those reserving this facility. Fishing opportunities include rainbow and cutthroat trout, plus Dolly Varden char fishing.

Among the cabins surveyed, the Patching Lake cabin was one of the most popular for cutthroat trout angling (ranked 3 of 15). Cutthroat trout fishing in this system peaks in May–June and Sept.–Oct. each year.



K-12

Plenty Cutthroat—Orchard Lake

Plenty Cutthroat cabin is on Orchard Lake near the outlet of this system 34 miles NW of Ketchikan. It is accessible by float plane or boat in combination with a 2-mile hike over

a primitive USFS trail. The cabin sleeps 6, and is equipped with a small skiff. Sport fishing activities at this cabin include salmon fishing and Dungeness crab harvest in salt water as well as cutthroat and rainbow trout, kokanee, and Dolly Varden char fishing in fresh water.

Among the surveyed cabins, this one is best known for its cutthroat trout (ranked 1 out of 15) and kokanee (ranked 3 of 15) fishing. Anglers here will enjoy the best cutthroat fishing from May to June and Sept. to Oct. Kokanee fishing is best from Aug. through Oct.



K-13

Rainbow Lake—Cleveland Peninsula

Located 27 miles NW of Ketchikan, this cabin is accessible only by float plane. The cabin sleeps 6 and has a small skiff for use by those reserving the cabin.

Rainbow trout were stocked in this lake, but the population has failed to reproduce in numbers sufficient to generate a viable sport fishery. Sport fishers interested in checking out this site for potential rainbow trout fishing should target their visit for May–June and/or Sept.–Oct.



K-14

Reflection Lake—Cleveland Peninsula

This cabin is 50 miles NW of Ketchikan and is accessed mainly by float plane. It can also be reached by boat and a 2½-mile hike from salt water. However, this is a primitive trail, and both bridges are currently washed out, making it inaccessible during high flows. The cabin sleeps 6, and a small skiff is provided. Sport fishing opportunities include salmon, halibut, and Dungeness crab harvest in salt water, plus salmon, rainbow and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char in fresh water.

The Reflection Lake cabin ranked third among the 15 surveyed cabins for its summer coho

salmon fishing, and fifth for cutthroat trout fishing. Sport fishers using this facility should target July–Sept. for summer coho fishing and May–June or Sept.–Oct. for the most productive cutthroat trout fishing.



Helm Creek—Cleveland Peninsula

Located 18 miles NW of Ketchikan in Helm Bay, the cabin is accessible by float plane or boat, is equipped with a mooring buoy, and sleeps up to 6. Sport fishing activities here include Dungeness crab harvest and fishing for halibut, rockfish, and salmon in salt water. Freshwater angling targets salmon, cutthroat trout, kokanee, and Dolly Varden char.

The Helm Creek cabin was most popular among cabins surveyed for its Dungeness

crab harvest opportunities (1 of 15). Salmon fishing ranked 4 of 15, rockfish 2 of 15, and halibut and kokanee 5 of 15. Anglers who reserve this facility should target July–Sept. for halibut, rockfish, and salmon, June–Oct. for Dungeness crab, and Aug.–Oct. for kokanee.



Deer Mountain—Revillagigedo Island

The Deer Mountain facility is an A-frame structure located along the Deer Mountain trail; it is used mainly by hikers in the area. Only incidental angling occurs on nearby streams and lakes, with a few salmon and Dolly Varden char harvested by anglers in the surrounding area. The best timing for angling opportunities within systems near this area would be May–June or Aug.–Oct. for cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden.

Wild Steelhead . . .

Wild steelhead and resident cutthroat trout populations are fragile in many waters throughout this area. ADF&G encourages the use of proper catch-and-release techniques by anglers for steelhead and cutthroat.

Please follow the recommended techniques on page 36 for releasing fish without injury. Help Alaska conserve this irreplaceable wild resource for future generations.

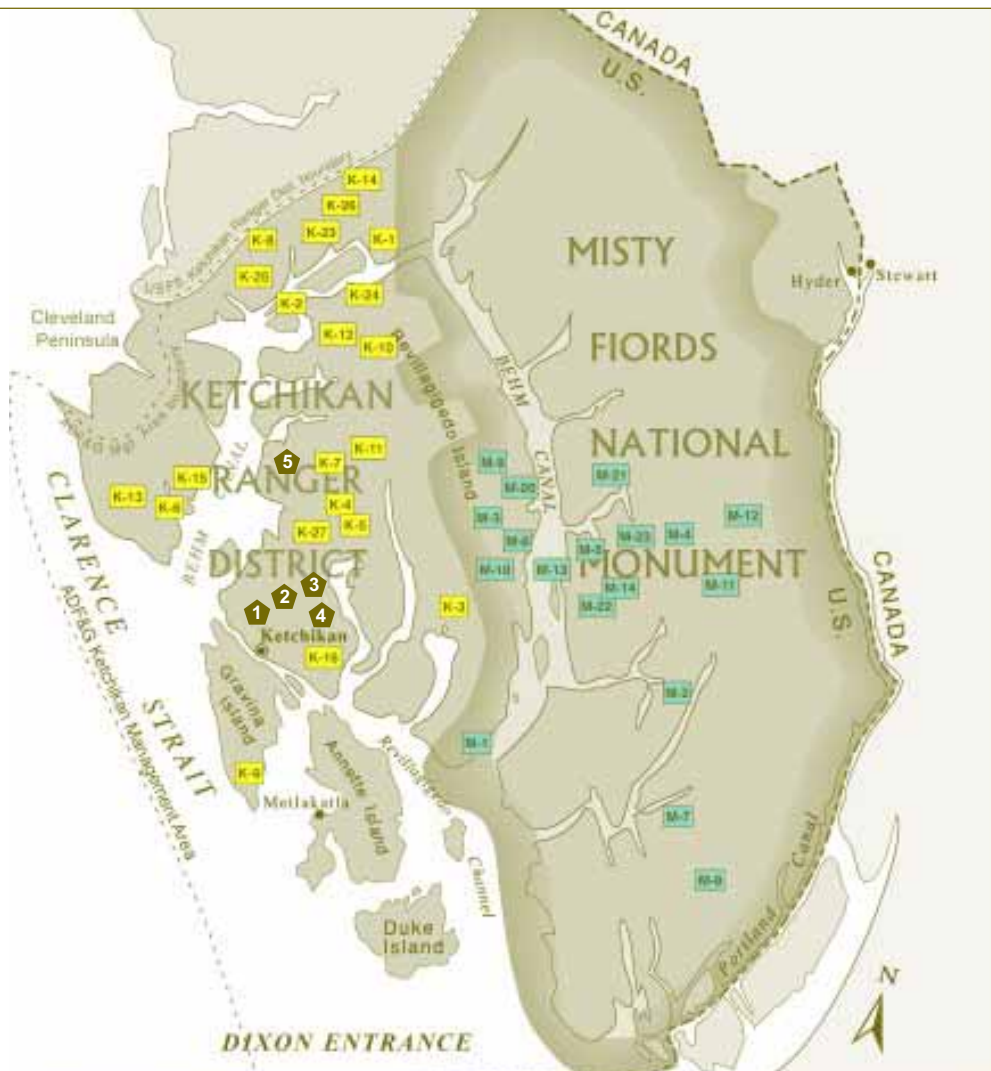


USFS cabins, shelters, and campgrounds

Map key	Location and structure type	Fishing	Wildlife	Stove type	Skiff	Access
<i>Ketchikan Ranger District</i>						
K-01	Anchor Pass	C SA	D, BL	W	n/a	P/B
K-02	Blind Pass	C SA	D, BL	none	n/a	P/B
K-03	Fish Cr.(Thorne Arm)	C SA, SH, TR	D, BL	O	n/a	P/B
K-04	S.E. Heckman L.	C SA, SH, TR	D, BL	W	.	P/H
K-05	Heckman Lake	C TR, SA, SH	D, BL	W	.	P/B/T
K-06	Helm Bay	C TR, SA	BL, BR, G, D, WF	W	n/a	P/B
K-07	Jordan Lake	C TR, SA, SH	D, BL	W	.	P/B/T/H
K-08	McDonald Lake	C TR, SA, SH	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P/B/T
K-09	Phocena Bay	C SA, H	D, BL	W	n/a	P/B
K-10	Orchard Lake	C TR	D, BL	W	.	P
K-11	Patching Lake	C TR	D, BL	W	.	P
K-12	Plenty Cutthroat	C TR	D, BL	O	.	P
K-13	Rainbow Lake	C TR	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P
K-14	Reflection Lake	C TR, SH, SA	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P/B/T
K-15	Helm Creek	C TR, SA	D, BL, G, WF, BR	W	n/a	P/B
K-16	Deer Mountain	A none	D, BL	none	n/a	T
K-23	Lake Shelokum	S TR	D, BL, BR, G	O	n/a	P/B/T
K-24	Long Lake	S TR	D, BL	none	n/a	P/B/T
K-25	McDonald Lake	S TR, SA, SH	D, BL, G, BR	none	n/a	P/T
K-26	Reflection Lake	S TR, SH, SA	D, BL, BR, G	none	n/a	P/T
K-27	Wolf Lake	S TR	D, BL	none	n/a	P/B/T
<i>Misty Fiords National Monument</i>						
M-01	Alava Bay	C SA, H	D, BL	W	n/a	P/B
M-02	Bakewell Lake	C TR, SA, SH	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P
M-03	Beaver Camp	C TR	D, BL	W	.	P
M-04	Big Goat Lake	C GR	D, BL, BR, G	O	.	P
M-05	Checats Lake	C TR	G	W	n/a	P/B
M-06	Ella Narrows	C TR	D, BL	W	.	P
M-07	Hugh Smith Lake	C TR, SA, SH	D, BL, BR	W	.	P
M-08	Humpback Lake	C TR, SA, SH	BL, BR, G	W	.	P
M-09	Manzanita Lake	C TR	D, BL	O	.	P
M-10	Red Alders (Ella L.)	C TR	D, BL	W	.	P
M-11	Wilson Narrows	C TR	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P
M-12	Wilson View	C TR	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P
M-13	Winstanley Island	C SA, H	D, BL, BR, G	W	n/a	P/B
M-14	Winstanley Lakes	C TR, SA	D, BL, BR, G	W	.	P
M-20	Manzanita Bay	S TR, SA, H	D, BL	none	n/a	P/B
M-21	Nooya Lake	S TR	D, BL, BR, WF	none	.	P/T
M-22	Winstanley Lake	S TR	D, BL, BR, G	none	.	P/T
M-23	Punchbowl Lake	S TR	D, BL, BR, WF	none	.	P/T

A = A-frame	GR = grayling	BL = black bear	O = oil	B = boat
C = cabin	H = halibut	BR = brown bear	W = wood	R = road
S = shelter	SA = salmon	WF = waterfowl	D = deer	P = floatplane
	SH = steelhead	G = mountain goat	TR = trout	T = trail

MAP 2. USFS cabins, shelters, and campgrounds in the *Ketchikan* area



Map key	Location/structure type	Fishing	Wildlife	Stove type	Skiff	Access
1	Last Chance Campground	none	TR, SA, SH	none	n/a	R/hike/bike
2	Three C's Campground	none	TR, SA, SH	none	n/a	R/hike/bike
3	Signal Creek Campground	none	TR, SA, SH	none	n/a	R/hike/bike
4	Blue Lake	none	D, BL	none	n/a	T
5	Naha Observatory	picnic shelter	TR, SA, SH	none	n/a	P/B/T

Fishing in the *Ketchikan* area

Marine waters of the Ketchikan area support catchable populations of salmon, halibut, lingcod, Pacific cod, greenling, herring, and several common species of rockfish.

Dungeness, Tanner, and king crab, and shrimp, scallops, abalone, and clams are also common. Other fish, shellfish, and invertebrate species can be found, but this guide covers the most common and popular species.



salmon

All five species of Pacific salmon resident to waters of the northwest U.S. and Canada are plentiful in area waters: king (chinook), coho (silver), pink ('humpy'), sockeye (red), and chum ('dog') salmon.

KING SALMON—the largest, scarcest and most highly prized of the Pacific salmon in the area, they are found mainly in coastal salt waters. They do not return in appreciable numbers to area streams (other than the Unuk and Chickamin rivers, which are closed to king salmon fishing).

Mature ('spawner') kings weighing up to 60 pounds are present from late

April through June, with peak availability in June. Immature ('feeder') kings from 10 to 30 pounds are present year-round, but fishing is best from May to mid-August, when king salmon migrate through area waters to spawn in mainland streams. The primary exceptions are hatchery returns in or near Ketchikan to the Neets Bay facility, the Whitman Lake Hatchery, the Tamgas Creek facility on Annette Island, Deer Mountain Hatchery, and a remote release site at Carroll Inlet.

Before fishing, acquaint yourself with the particular location where you plan to fish and know the sport fishing regulations for that location.

Locating king salmon in marine waters can be difficult. They frequent nearshore areas off points of land, around kelp beds, or in open water. Schools of baitfish such as herring or needlefish are good indicators of kings in the area. Baitfish schools may be located by fathometer or found where concentrations of sea

birds are observed diving for fish. Nearshore areas that extend out into tidal currents are effective ambush points for feeding baitfish, and, accordingly, for king salmon.

The most effective techniques for catching kings are trolling, mooching, or jigging.

The Ketchikan area king salmon sport fishery is strongly influenced by fish bound for natal streams such as the Unuk and Chickamin rivers. King fishing is also notably influenced by hatchery releases from several public and private hatcheries in the Ketchikan area. Whitman Lake, Carroll Inlet and Neets Bay hatcheries are the largest king salmon contributors in this area, followed by Deer Mountain (Ketchikan) and Tamgas Creek (Annette Island) hatcheries.

Sport fishing for kings in fresh water is closed except by emergency order openings from the ADF&G. Check with the local ADF&G office for pertinent emergency orders which are issued to provide additional opportunity for anglers to harvest hatchery-produced king salmon per the Board of Fisheries directive.

COHO SALMON—hard fighters and popular targets for anglers in area salt waters. Coho range from 3 to 20 pounds or more (8–10 pounds aver-

age), and they are abundant in coastal waters from July to September. The best saltwater fishing is from mid-July through mid-September.

In salt water, coho travel in large schools—they are often aggressive and can provide intense action. They are usually caught within 30 feet of the surface, but it's not uncommon to catch them down to 100 feet or deeper.

Coho can be caught by trolling, mooching, flyfishing, or by casting lures from boats. Fishing success is usually best within one or two hours of a tide change. Fishing is often productive in bays or estuaries near stream mouths from late August to October, when coho return to spawn in fresh water.

Enhancement efforts involving coho stocking have occurred primarily in the Ketchikan area at Neets Bay, Whitman Lake, Deer Mountain and Tamgas Creek hatcheries. All of these hatcheries serve as the incubation and rearing facilities for juvenile coho. Adult returns from these facilities contribute significantly to the area's sport fisheries.

Most area streams wider than 3 feet that enter salt water support at least small runs of coho. Summer-run coho enter some streams in late June to early July, but fall-run fish make up the

majority, entering streams between mid-August and November.

PINK SALMON—the smallest and most abundant salmon in Ketchikan area waters. They have a 2-year life cycle and weigh from 2 to 6 pounds (3 pounds average). ‘Pinks’ travel coastal waters in large schools (hundreds or thousands of fish), where they are abundant from early to late summer. Upon entering freshwater streams in summer, pinks develop a dorsal hump which is most pronounced in males—thus the nickname ‘humpy.’

Saltwater ‘humpy’ fishing is best in mid-July through August. Trolling, mooching, or casting lures or flies produce nice catches in salt water when pinks are biting. They are usually brightest and preferred for harvest while in open ocean or coastal waters, before they enter their spawning streams.

Pinks provide excellent action when schooled near stream mouths in August, and roadside fishing near jutting points can be productive in late July and early August.

Flyfishing is an effective technique for catching humpies in area streams, but baitcasting and spincasting are also productive.

SOCKEYE SALMON—regarded for their fighting skill as well as their satisfying flavor, these are perhaps the most difficult salmon to catch in area waters. The saltwater sockeye sport fishery is very limited and is best described as “experimental.” Most sockeye are caught by trolling or casting artificial lures.

Adult sockeye feed on small crustaceans and other zooplankton in marine waters and stop feeding once they return to spawn in fresh water. However, sockeye are most frequently caught in fresh water in July on flies or spinners.

CHUM SALMON—noted for the large teeth which develop most prominently in males upon entering fresh water (leading to the nickname ‘dog salmon’). Chums are frequently caught in local sport fisheries, usually by anglers trolling in salt waters, drift fishing or casting in streams for other salmon species.

A variety of gear in green or pink colors is usually the most productive for this species in fresh and saltwater. The best time to fish for chums is during the month of August in salt water and late August through early September in fresh water.

◆ ◆ ◆
KING SALMON FISHING IN FRESH WATER IS
CLOSED UNLESS OPENED BY EMERGENCY ORDER!
◆ ◆ ◆



Bottomfish

‘Bottomfish’ are fishes normally caught on or near the ocean floor: halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

HALIBUT—the most popular bottomfish in area salt waters because of its size and flavor. Pacific halibut is a toothy flatfish resembling a flounder, but it grows much larger—adult halibut over 300 pounds have been caught locally. Halibut live more than 20 years and are usually

harvested in area sport fisheries at 15 to 100 pounds (40 pounds average). Their preferred habitat is along fairly flat sand, rock, or mud bottoms near abrupt dropoffs or rocky points of land.

Peak fishing is in July and August. Though normally caught on or near the ocean floor at depths below 80 feet, halibut are sometimes caught at shallower depths by anglers trolling or mooching for salmon.

Check regulation book for halibut seasons!

Halibut will strike a number of offerings—whole or chunked herring, salmon heads or tails, octopus, squid, and chrome or lead-head jigs with various (optional) rubber tails or skirts.

Heavy, conventional tackle is recommended. Use caution when landing and handling halibut—some anglers prefer to dispatch a large halibut with a hand-gun before boating it. Others prefer a gaff, shark hook or harpoon, attached to a strong rope and float.

ROCKFISH—light-fleshed fish with a distinctive, appealing flavor. Rockfish weigh between 1 and 6 pounds (2 pounds average). Several species are harvested in area marine waters. Yelloweye (red snapper), the largest of the rockfishes, reach weights of 30 pounds, but average about 6 pounds. Rockfish are long-lived—30 to 100 years, depending on species.

Rockfish are often caught incidentally by anglers fishing for salmon or halibut. They are available year-round, but the best sport fishing is in the warmer months.

Check regulations closely for differential rockfish bag limits that apply in the Ketchikan management area!

Local rockfish species can be caught with herring or various jigs, spoons, or flies, anywhere from near-surface to bottom.

If you are planning to release the rockfish you catch, reel it up slowly to the surface, to avoid rupturing its swim bladder.

LINGCOD—a member of the greenling family, renowned for its prominent teeth and aggressive, territorial nature. Lingcod prefer irregular rocky formations like caves, particularly in exposed areas with heavy tidal movement.

Fish as heavy as 30 pounds are standard, though some exceed 50 pounds. Lingcod are caught with chrome or lead-head jigs, herring, or heads or tails from various marine fishes.

Check regulation book for lingcod seasons and limits!



Trout, Char, Grayling

Other fish found in area streams and lakes are steelhead, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, and Arctic grayling. A chart on page 23 shows the seasonal availability of these fishes in fresh water.

STEELHEAD—the most sought-after freshwater fish in Ketchikan area streams from November to May. The popularity of steelhead stems from their fighting prowess and small population densities, compared to salmon, other trout, and char. Steelhead are sea-run rainbow trout that, unlike salmon, are capable of spawning during two or more years.

Adult steelhead (3–20 pounds, average 7 pounds) return yearly to their spawning streams around the Ketchikan area. Relative to most of Alaska, the Ketchikan area has a large concentration of steelhead streams: ADF&G has identified more than 75. Several larger stream systems with lakes support both spring- and fall-run fish, but most steelhead streams support only the dominant spring-run fish. On the basis of limited information for area streams, ADF&G estimates annual returns of only about 100 to 1,000 adult steelhead to individual area stream systems—for most of these, the returns are fewer than 300 fish.

Anglers fish for spring-run steelhead from early March through May (peak fishing from mid-April through May in most streams), and for fall-run steelhead between late October and mid-January (peak is late November through December).

Drift fishing, with spinning or bait-casting tackle, and flyfishing are both effective. A host of hardware, flies, and other artificials will attract strikes, as will salmon eggs. ‘Steelies’ will at times smack almost any offering, yet they may go ‘off-bite’ during cold spells, low or clear water, periods of heavy fishing pressure, or for no apparent reason at all.

Steelhead are very sensitive to angler-induced mortality from being