



SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

FISHING IN THE SEWARD AREA

About Seward

The Seward and North Gulf Coast area is located on the southeastern portion of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. Here you'll find spectacular scenery and many opportunities to fish, camp, and view Alaska's wildlife.

Many Seward area recreation opportunities are easily reached from the Seward Highway, a National Scenic Byway extending 127 miles from Seward to Anchorage. Seward (pop. 2,600) may also be reached via railroad, air, or bus from Anchorage.

Seward sits at the head of Resurrection Bay, surrounded by the Kenai Fjords National Park and the Chugach National Forest. Most anglers fish salt waters for silver (coho), king (Chinook), and pink (humpy) salmon, as well as halibut, lingcod, and various species of rockfish. A few red (sockeye) and chum (dog) salmon are also harvested. King and red salmon in Resurrection Bay are primarily hatchery stocks, while silvers are both wild and hatchery stocks. A few area freshwater lakes have stocked or wild rainbow trout populations and wild Dolly Varden, lake trout, Arctic char and Arctic grayling.

Management of Sport Fisheries

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Sport Fish (DSF) is charged with the management of Alaska's sport fisheries under the sustainable yield principle, through regulations and management plans adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Enforcement of fishing regulations is primarily the responsibility of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. The ADF&G Anchorage office is the management office for the Seward/North Gulf Coast Waters area.

Every year ADF&G releases four sport fishing regulations booklets for the Northern, Southcentral, Southeast, and Southwest areas. Sport fishing regulations specific to the Seward area such as bag and possession limits, seasons, or tackle can be found in the current Southcentral Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary booklet.

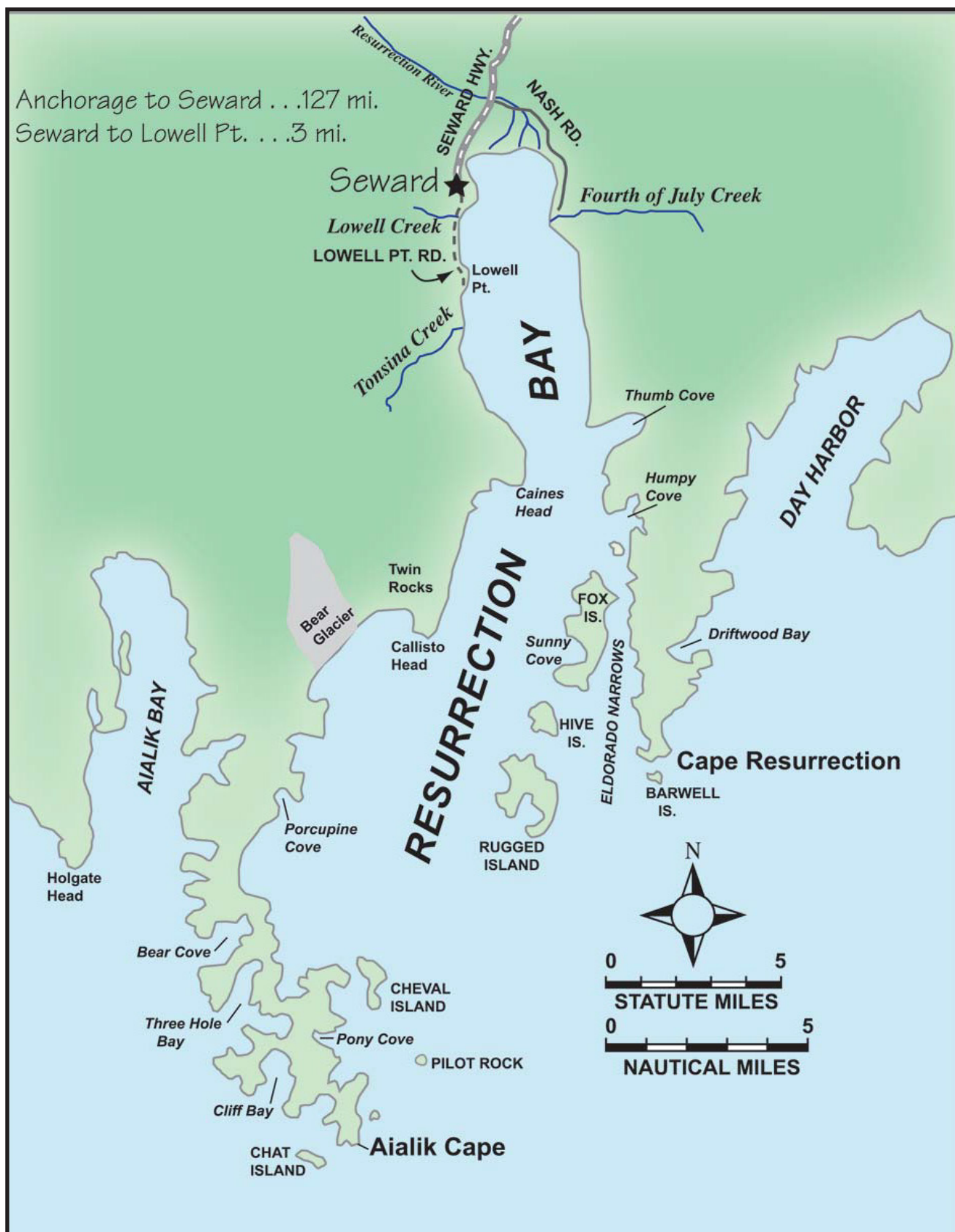
These booklets are free of charge and are available at ADF&G offices, wherever sport fishing licenses are sold,



and online at www.adfg.alaska.gov under the Regulations tab. Before you cast out your line, make sure you read all the regulations for the waters you are fishing. Don't forget to check for advisory announcements and emergency orders on the ADF&G website under the sport fishing tab. Select the Fishing Information link and then the Emergency Orders and News Releases tab. Anglers can select the region and management area they intend to fish. ADF&G may issue an advisory announcement and emergency order to open, liberalize, close, or restrict any fishery at any time due to biological needs. In the event an advisory announcement and emergency order is issued, ADF&G attempts to release the documents a minimum of 24 to 48 hours before it becomes effective.

During the summer ADF&G posts weekly in-season fishing reports online. Anglers can find these under the Fishing Reports tab under the Fishing Information tab. ADF&G staff records these in-season fishing reports on the North Gulf Coast/Seward sport fishing hotline at (907) 267-2503. Anglers can also subscribe to receive the notifications via their email. Updates are also posted on the ADF&G - Sport Fishing Southcentral Alaska Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact the Anchorage Sport Fish Information Office at (907) 267-2218.





General map of the Resurrection Bay area. Not to scale.

Hotels, Charter Boats, Sightseeing

There's lots to do in the Seward area. The Seward Chamber of Commerce maintains an excellent website at www.sewardak.org. Be sure to check here for accommodations, fishing charters, and boat and gear rentals, or call (907) 224-8051.

Seward is also one of the best places to explore Kenai Fjords National Park, with whales, puffins, tidewater glaciers, historical sites, bear viewing, hiking, kayaking, and much more. For more information, visit their website at www.nps.gov/kefj.

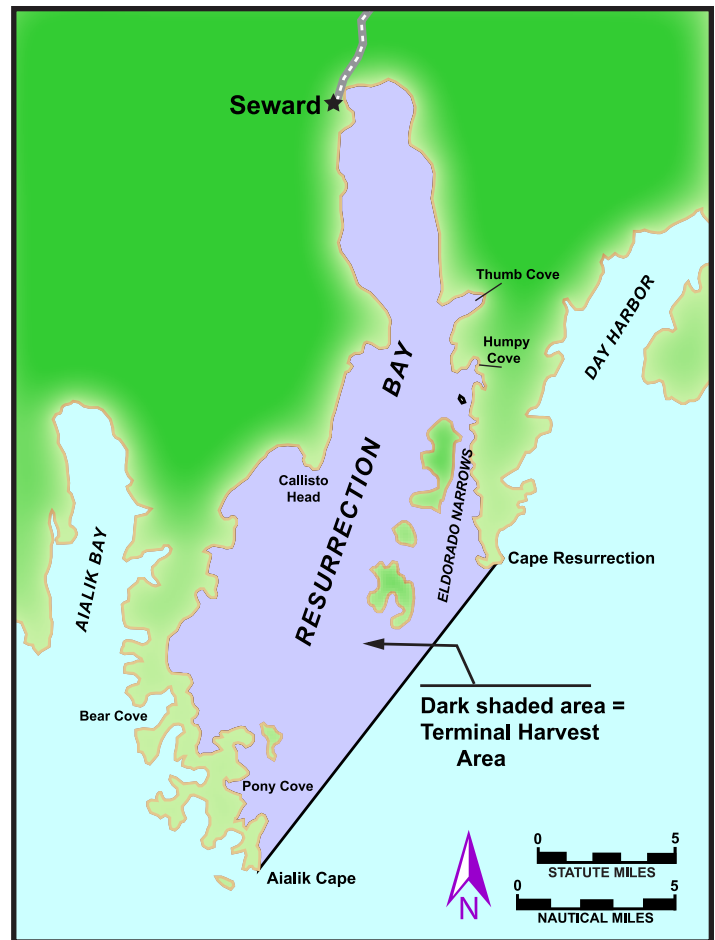
Much of the land north of Seward is in the U.S. Forest Service's Chugach National Forest, over 5.5 million acres of wildlife viewing, berry picking, back country camping and hiking, rafting, and more. The Seward Ranger District website is www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/pages_district/seward.html or (907) 228-3178.

Camping Areas

There are many camping and parking areas, both public and private, for recreational anglers and their families.

For information about federal campgrounds, visit www.recreation.gov. State campground information can be found on the Alaska State Park's website at www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks. There are ten different campgrounds located within the city of Seward. Camping information, maps and reservations for the city of Seward campgrounds can be found at <https://www.cityofseward.us/departments/parks-recreation/campgrounds>.

Along the Seward beaches there are undeveloped camping and parking areas, with public rest rooms and pay showers available at the Harbormaster's Office, as well as several Seward businesses. Across the bay, on its eastern side, there is undeveloped camping and parking in the area of Fourth of July Creek.



Seward sits at the head of Resurrection Bay, which is a "Terminal Harvest Area." Special bag limits apply inside the Terminal Harvest Area, so check the Southcentral Regulation Booklet salt water special regulations before heading out to fish.

Fishing Access

Most fishing effort takes place from private and charter boats that troll in the bay, or head east toward Prince William Sound and Montague Island to anchor up for halibut.

However, the city of Seward offers plentiful shoreline surf casting access off its beaches. The three main access sites are 1) just south of the small boat launch, 2) about 100 yards south of that at the Seward Lagoon outflow, and 3) the mouth of Lowell Creek, which is the waterfall on the southern edge of town.

Anglers also fish from the breakwater walls near the small boat harbor (but you must yield to boat traffic); from the beaches at the small boat launch to the Alaska Sea Life Center; along the breakwater wall on the road to Lowell Point, from the beaches at Lowell Point, and off Nash Road, near the Fourth of July Creek area.

Most surf casters start fishing 2-3 hours before the high tide and fish through the high tide. There's only one freshwater stream that is open to fishing for salmon, and that's a special section of the Resurrection Creek drainage. All other freshwater streams and drainages are closed year round to salmon fishing.





Resurrection Bay King Salmon

In addition to a fishing license, most anglers also need a king salmon stamp, even in salt waters. Check the license section of the regulation booklet, or call ADF&G before going fishing.

King salmon headed for Seward are primarily the result of hatchery stockings at the Seward Lagoon. Every year about 300,000 king salmon smolt are released into Resurrection Bay to begin the salt water phase of their life cycle.

These king salmon return from mid-May through June, with the peak around June 15. King salmon return at different ages. Some, called “jacks,” return after only one year in salt waters. These fish weigh only 1-2 pounds and are almost always males. Others return after two years at about 5-15 pounds. Most of these are also males. The majority of Seward kings, however, return after three and four years at sea at a weight of 25-45 pounds.

About 2/3 of the king salmon are taken by anglers fishing from private and charter boats, while the remaining 1/3 are harvested by shore anglers. Boat anglers typically troll with flashers and lures or flashers and small herring. Most shore-caught fish are snagged, which is legal in Resurrection Bay salt water. Other shore anglers catch their fish by casting large spinners or spoons, or by suspending bait under a bobber.

“Feeder” Kings

A small number of private and charter boats also troll year-round for “winter” or “feeder” kings, which are king salmon that have not matured enough to spawn. Success is highly dependent on the weather, which can get very rough in winter. Be sure to check the marine forecast for Resurrection Bay before going out. Information can be found here: <https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>.

Silver Salmon

Resurrection Bay supports one of the largest salt water silver (coho) salmon sport fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. The annual harvest in Resurrection Bay salt water ranges from 25,465 to 109,559 a year and the majority of the harvest, 83% and up, is by anglers from boats, of course depending on the year and weather. ADF&G has stocked silver salmon in Resurrection Bay waters since the early 1960s, in order to stabilize and increase the numbers of silver salmon available to sport anglers. The stocking program, conducted in cooperation with the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA), and the Seward Chamber of Commerce releases an average of 200,000 silver salmon smolt in Seward Lagoon and an additional 400,000 coho salmon fry or smolt into Bear Lake/Creek.

Anglers fishing in North Gulf Coast waters also catch hatchery silvers bound for Prince William Sound.

Run Timing

The Bay’s silver salmon enthusiasts have about 8-12 weeks to pursue this species, which usually weigh from 6-20 pounds. Silver salmon begin to enter the outer areas of Resurrection Bay the last week of June, with fishing continuing through mid-September.

Popular spots for early season silvers in the outer areas of the Bay include Cheval Island as well as Pony, Agnes, Porcupine, and Bulldog coves. Further in, boats also have success at Rugged Island and in Eldorado Narrows. A growing number of boat anglers have had excellent success in waters east and west outside of Resurrection Bay during July in recent years. As the season progresses, the silvers move toward the head of the Bay, with Callisto Head, Caines Head, Lowell Point, Spring Creek, Humpy and Thumb coves, and offshore of the “sawdust pile at the head of Resurrection Bay” being popular fishing areas. It is not uncommon to see over 600 boats actively pursuing silvers in Resurrection Bay during August.

Shore anglers concentrate their efforts from late August until late September along the beaches near the Lowell Creek waterfall, the Seward Lagoon outfall, and near the Seward Small Boat Harbor. Silvers usually do not hit the beach in fishable numbers until late August, and peak in the middle of September.



Stream Fishing for Silvers

Resurrection Bay also has small runs of wild silver salmon that return to the Bay's tributary streams in October, but please remember that with one exception, the fresh waters of the Resurrection Bay area are closed to salmon fishing.

The exception is the Resurrection River downstream of the Seward Highway and Nash Road. There's a fall fishery for silver salmon in these fresh waters, using unbaited single hooks, such as streamer flies or single hook Pixees. Silvers are typically in the Resurrection River from late August through October.



Salt Water Methods

Popular salt water methods for salmon include trolling herring on dual single hooks, with a trolling sinker, or a diving rig such as a "pink lady" to reach the desired depth. Downriggers with very heavy weights have also become widely used to fish at deeper depths. Many anglers also attach a flasher 12 - 36 inches above the lure or bait. "Mooching," or drifting bait with the tides, has also become popular. Use shrimp pattern flies or cut herring with a 6- to 10 oz. banana weight rigged above the leader and fish as if you were jigging. This method works best to depths of 40 feet and can be very successful when silver salmon are abundant.

Those who fish from shore generally prefer lures. A variety of spoons and spinners such as Vibrax and Pixees consistently produce good results. Anglers have also been successful fishing cut herring at all depths or using a bobber close to shore areas. Snagging is legal in Resurrection Bay salt water and becomes the harvest method of choice for many anglers late in the season, especially off the beach.

Pink Salmon

Pink (humpy) salmon are known to spawn in 12 tributaries to Resurrection Bay. Most of these fish spawn within a few miles of the ocean, and spawning within a river's intertidal zone is not uncommon. Spawning usually occurs in August and early September. This species has a two-year life cycle, and are most abundant on even-numbered years (2022, 2024, etc.). Resurrection Bay pinks weigh 3-12 pounds, and provide good action on light tackle from early July through early September.

Red Salmon

Historically, there have been very few wild red (sockeye) salmon in Resurrection Bay, and thus they have not contributed significantly to the sport fishery. The CIAA stocks Bear Lake with varying numbers of juvenile red salmon in order to support a commercial seine fishery in June. Most Resurrection Bay red salmon are snagged by shore anglers rather than caught on conventional tackle, with harvests ranging from 3,000 - 28,000 fish per year. Boat anglers are finding success by trolling with a small flasher above a fly, a bare red hook, or cut herring.

Chum Salmon

In Resurrection Bay chum (dog) salmon typically spawn in the same streams or intertidal areas favored by pink salmon. Unlike pinks, however, chum salmon remain in salt water from one to five years before returning to their natal streams. In Resurrection Bay, chum salmon return to the spawning streams from early July through early August.

Halibut

Pacific halibut are most often found on or near the bottom, over sand or gravel beds. While halibut have been recorded to depths of 3,600 feet, most are caught at depths of 90 to 500 feet.

Although a few halibut over 350 pounds have been caught in or near Resurrection Bay, fish in the 10-35 pound range are more common. Many charter boats operating out of Seward chase these fish well into Prince William Sound waters in Port Bainbridge and around Montague Island. Good catches of halibut are available to anglers starting in May as these fish migrate from deeper over-wintering and spawning areas, through September when they return to deeper waters. Very few halibut are taken from the waters immediately near Seward.

Most anglers use a stout 5-7 foot rod equipped with a level-wind, star-drag reel capable of holding up to 300 yards of 30-80 pound test line. Large jigs or 4/0-12/0 circle hooks baited with salmon heads, or whole or cut herring are typical. 24-32 oz. of weight is needed to hold the bait on the bottom, depending on the depth, speed of the current, and the tides. Although drifting is popular, anchoring is also effective because the bait creates a scent trail in the current that attracts fish. The best time to fish for halibut is just before, during, and after slack tide, since this is the easiest time to keep the bait on the bottom.



Lingcod

Lingcod belong to a family of fish called Hexagrammids or “greenlings.” Like halibut, this species is usually found on or near the bottom, most often over rocky reefs in areas of strong currents. While recorded to depths of over 1,000 feet, lingcod are most often caught at depths from 30 to 300 feet. These fish are an extremely aggressive predator: if it moves, and they can fit it in their mouth, they will try to eat it. Lingcod can grow to over 80 pounds and 5 feet long. In Alaskan waters, lingcod gather for spawning from late December through early January, with peak spawning from February through April. Eggs are deposited in nests on rocky reefs buffeted by wave action or tidal currents. After the eggs are fertilized, the female lingcod leaves for deeper waters, and the males guard the nests. Male lingcod will remain on the nest until the eggs hatch.

Egg development generally takes 7-12 weeks. Studies have suggested that some nests were still being guarded near Resurrection Bay through late June. During this entire 6-month period, lingcod are extremely aggressive. They will bite at anything and everything, and are therefore very vulnerable to harvest. Unguarded eggs are quickly devoured by predators. Successful incubation requires the presence of a male to guard the nest. Due to this, lingcod fishing is closed January 1st through June 30th to protect nest guarding males. After hatching, larval lingcod float at the whims of the ocean current until they develop into fish about 3 inches long, when they settle in near shore areas and begin to eat smaller fish. At first, growth is rapid, but it still takes 5 to 9 years for lingcod to become sexually mature. Adult lingcod are voracious, eating almost anything that comes their way,

including other lingcod. Male lingcod grow more slowly than females, and most fish over 44 inches long are females.

Lingcod fishing closed inside Resurrection Bay

Lingcod populations near Seward are depressed, therefore regulations are in place to allow these depressed stocks to rebuild. Resurrection Bay north of a line from Cape Aialik to Cape Resurrection is closed year-round to lingcod fishing, including catch-and-release.

If you unintentionally hook a lingcod in closed waters, or during a closed season, you can carefully release that fish. Lingcod, unlike rockfish, do not have a swim bladder and can be released alive with a high rate of survival.

Methods outside Resurrection Bay

Most anglers targeting lingcod use a medium stout rod and level-wind reel loaded with 200-400 yards of 30-80 pound test line with a 12-18 inch leader made of wire or heavy monofilament fishing line. Many anglers prefer to use the heavier weight line and leader, since it's possible to hook into a large halibut while fishing for lingcod. Terminal tackle usually consists of silvery lures or jigs aggressively “bounced” on or near the bottom. Many anglers also use bait, such as herring, attached to a size 5/0 or 6/0 J-hook. The best fishing for lingcod is found in offshore waters near rocks and other underwater structures from Cape Resurrection east to Montague Island. To avoid catching rockfish, reel up a few feet off the bottom.



Rockfish

Rockfish are common along the coastal waters near Seward. Rockfish are easily recognized by their stout bodies, bony heads, large eyes, and sharp fin spines. These spines can be mildly poisonous. Although 43 species of rockfish are known to live in Southcentral Alaskan waters, only about a dozen species are usually taken in sport fisheries. These species are classified for regulatory purposes as either pelagic (mid-water) or demersal/non-pelagic (bottom-dwelling).

Pelagic species travel in schools and are most often found near rocky reefs or pinnacles. Pelagic species are usually uniformly gray, black or brownish in color, and include black, dark, dusky, and yellowtail rockfish.

Demersal rockfish are typically found singly or in pairs on or near the bottom, near rocky reefs or pinnacles. They are usually brightly colored and vividly marked. The most commonly caught species include yelloweye rockfish, quillback, canary, China, copper, silvergray, and tiger rockfishes.

Life Cycle

Compared to most fishes, rockfish grow slowly and live a very long time. Many do not reach sexual maturity until age 15 or older, and some can live over 100 years. Rather than laying and fertilizing eggs in the open waters, like most fish, rockfish mate internally, then give live birth to as many as 2.5 million tiny larvae. Survival of these larvae is usually very poor, depending on predation levels and ocean conditions. Because of the high mortality of larval rockfish, relatively few offspring reach adulthood.

Also, rockfish have a closed swim bladder system, which just about assures that a rockfish pulled up from over 65 feet will have difficulty re-submerging unassisted if not quickly released at depth of capture. If a swim bladder is punctured, and the fish released, infection is likely to occur, and the fish could die. Rockfish can be released safely with the use of a deep water release mechanism. These devices are available for purchase in most sporting good stores in Alaska. For more information on how deep water release works check out our rockfish page which includes a helpful deep water release video: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingRockfish.main>. Please note, effective 2020, all anglers must carry a deepwater release device onboard their vessel when sport fishing in salt water and use the device to release rockfish that are not harvested at depth of capture or 100 feet.

As a result of their unique biology, all Pacific rockfishes are highly susceptible to overharvest. Regulations are very conservative, and fisheries managers also ask that you limit your harvest of these fish to what you will actually consume. The best way to minimize catching rockfish is to avoid rockfish habitat while targeting other species.

Anglers targeting rockfish and their tasty white fillets use a medium stout rod and level-wind reel loaded with 200-400 yards of 30-80 pound test line. Some anglers use lighter gear to enhance the fishing experience. Commonly used terminal tackle includes silvery lures or jigs aggressively jigged to attract nearby fish. Use of herring as bait also works well. Pelagic rockfish can also be caught on fly-fishing gear.

Popular rockfish areas outside the Bay include Johnstone Bay, Cape Aialik, and the Chiswell Islands. Areas inside Resurrection Bay possess fewer rockfish than less frequented areas outside the Bay.



Sharks

Three species of sharks are occasionally caught in the North Gulf Coast: salmon shark, spiny dogfish, and Pacific sleeper shark. Pacific sleeper sharks have inedible flesh that may be poisonous, and are rarely kept. Salmon sharks and spiny dogfish are both slow-growing, late-to-mature species. They give birth to live young, called “pups.” Average litter size for salmon sharks is five pups, while spiny dogfish give birth to an average seven. It's thought that the maximum age for salmon sharks is 25, while dogfish can live to be more than 80 years old. Because of this slow reproduction cycle and their long lives, sharks are extremely vulnerable to overharvesting. Salmon sharks are a fairly large fish. In the Gulf of Alaska, average size of 72 sampled individuals was 7.3 feet long. Salmon sharks have an abrasive skin, and the tendency to roll when caught, wrapping themselves tightly in fishing line before breaking off.

In 1997, the Alaska Board of Fisheries passed special state-wide regulations aimed at protecting all shark species, including salmon sharks, Pacific sleeper sharks, and spiny dogfish. Please read the salt water sections of your regulation booklet before you keep or release a shark.

Shellfish

An Alaska-resident-only shrimp pot fishery is open from April 15 through September 15 in a selected North Gulf Coast area. A permit is required and can be found online at www.store.adfg.alaska.gov. The area open is from Gore Point to Cape Fairfield.

Non-residents may not participate in this shrimp pot fishery, but they can drop shrimp pots in Prince William Sound with a valid Prince William Sound Sport Shrimp Permit.

Tanner Crab fishing is open in North Gulf Coast from October 1 through February 28. A permit is required and is available online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store. Dungeness and king crab fishing is closed in North Gulf Coast. Littleneck and butter clams are also closed for harvest.

Dolly Varden

Resurrection Bay supports a fair population of “anadromous” or sea-run Dolly Varden. These fish are available to saltwater anglers in May as they migrate out of over-wintering and spawning areas, and again in late August through September as fish return to freshwater over-wintering areas.

Popular sites include the mouth of Tonsina Creek and the Lowell Point area.



Freshwater Fishing

The eastern Kenai Peninsula, from the junction of the Seward and Sterling highways south to Seward, offers both stream and lake fishing.

Anglers can find lake trout, Arctic grayling, rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden. These lakes and streams are either near the Seward Highway or can be reached by U.S. Forest Service trails. Sport fishing regulations for these streams and lakes can be found in one of two sections of the Southcentral Alaska regulation booklet, depending on which way the streams flow: “North Gulf Coast,” or “Kenai Lake and Tributaries.”

Remember that salmon fishing is prohibited in all but one stream, and in all lakes of the Resurrection Bay area (south of Mile 12 Seward Highway).

Salmon Creek: The Seward Highway crosses Salmon Creek at Mile 5.9. This stream contains anadromous Dolly Varden which average about 10 inches. Best fishing here occurs in August.

Grouse Lake: Grouse Lake can be accessed via the Seward Highway at Mile 7.4. During the open water season the best fishing is when Dolly Varden enter (August-September) and exit (mid-May through early June) the lake. As these fish migrate in large schools, be careful not to snag or foul hook the fish. Best ice fishing at Grouse Lake is from December through early April. Try single salmon eggs or small lures.

Troop/Engineer Lake: At Mile 10.9 of the Seward Hwy., an unmarked trail leaves the turnout on the east side of the

highway. Continue about 1 mile east, beyond the railroad tracks, to find this lake which is stocked on odd years with rainbow trout. Arctic char were stocked in 2021.

Golden Fin Lake: Access is at Mile 11.3 of the Seward Highway. A short (0.6 mile), steep unmarked trail leads to the lake. The lake contains a self-sustaining population of landlocked Dolly Varden, which provide good action on light tackle. These fish average about 8” in length.

Grayling Lake: Grayling Lake is accessed from a two-mile trail originating at Mile 13.2 of the Seward Highway. The lake contains 6”-12” grayling, which may be caught on flies or small lures. This trail continues to Meridian Lake.

Lost Lake: Rainbow trout were originally stocked here in 1963, and lake trout have been stocked since 2020. This is a glacial lake 7.6 miles along a U.S. Forest Service trail from the Primrose Campground at Mile 17 of the Seward Highway. There is another foot trail about 8 miles long into Lost Lake at Mile 5.3 of the Seward Highway.

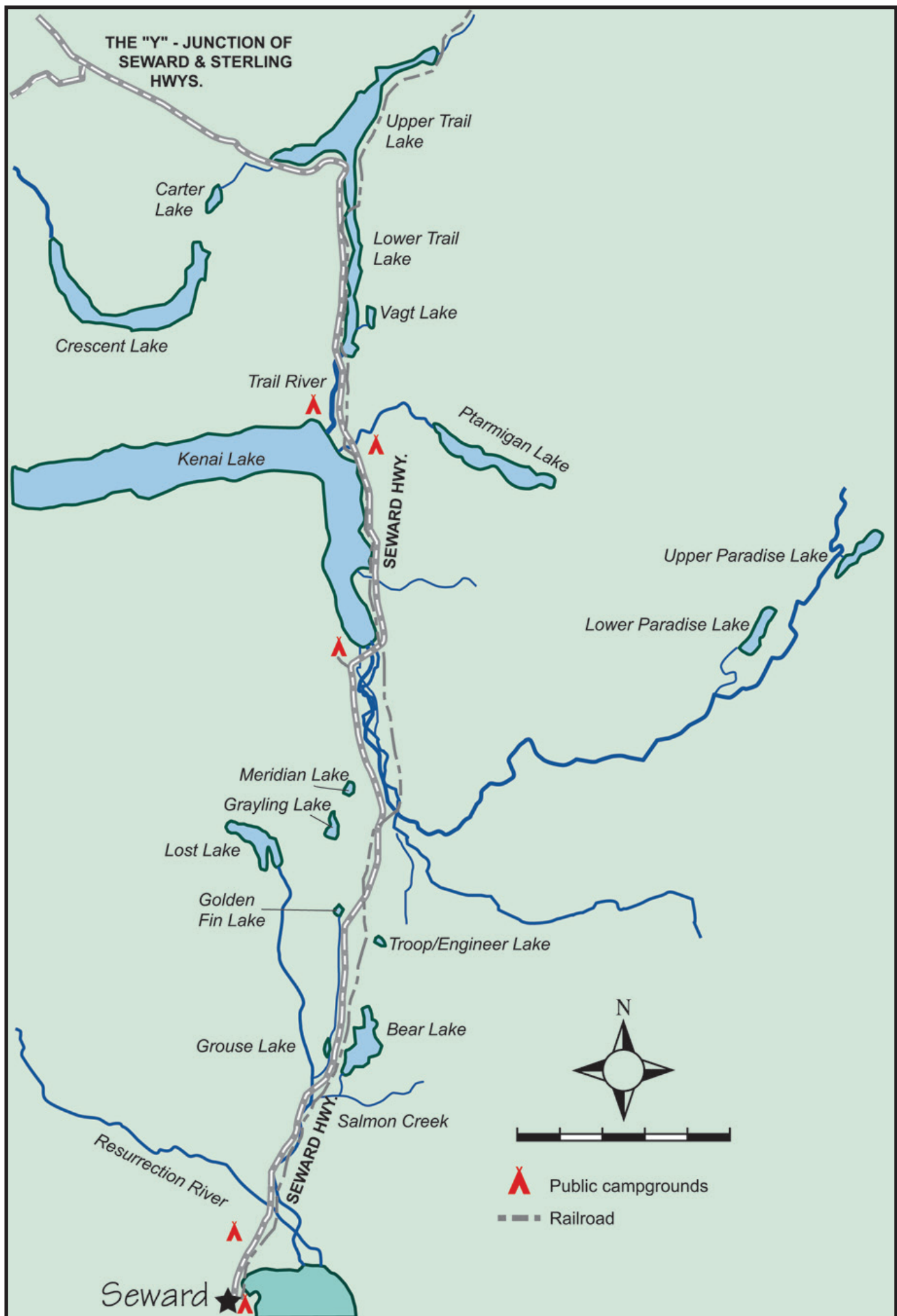
Ptarmigan Creek and Lake: Ptarmigan Creek crosses the Seward Highway at Mile 23.2 of the Seward Highway. There’s a U.S. Forest Service campground with 6 sites, and trailhead parking. Dolly Varden and rainbow trout are available at the outlet of Ptarmigan Lake. Ptarmigan Creek supports spawning sockeye (red) and king salmon. Feel free to photograph these fish, but remember that **fishing for salmon is prohibited**. Dolly Varden and rainbow trout fishing in the creek improves in August and early September as these fish move upstream from Kenai Lake.

Trail River: This river is accessed via a U.S. Forest Service campground at Mile 24.1 of the Seward Highway. The campground sits on Kenai Lake, has 64 sites and day-use picnic and parking. The lake and river have rainbow trout and Dolly Varden. A few lake trout are also taken each year. Fishing is from “ice-out” until “freeze-up,” with best fishing in spring and fall. Check regulations carefully as restrictive bag limits apply.

Upper and Lower Trail Lake: These two lakes parallel the Seward Highway from Mile 25.2 through Mile 32. Both lakes are glacial and contain Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, and lake trout. A public boat ramp is located at Mile 30.2 on Upper Trail Lake. Check regulations carefully as restrictive bag limits apply.

Vagt Lake: Accessed from Mile 25.2 (Trail River), there is about a 3/4-mile walk to reach the lake. Rehabilitated in the 1970s by ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service, the lake now provides excellent rainbow trout and Arctic char fishing.

Carter Lake: The trail, relatively steep, leading to this lake is located on the south side of the Seward Highway at Mile 33.1. Walking time to the lake is about 1.5 hours. The lake has been stocked with rainbow trout & Arctic char through a cooperative effort of ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service.



Youth Fisheries

There are two youth-only fisheries in Seward, one at the Seward Lagoon and outfall stream and another at First Lake. Both Youth Fisheries are for those ages 15 years and younger only. The First Lake Youth-Only Fishery runs four consecutive days, beginning the third Thursday in May.

The Seward Lagoon and Outfall Stream Youth-Only Fishery runs June 17-June 30 for king salmon and August 25-September 7 for coho (silver) salmon. The Lagoon is closed to all other species during these Youth-Only fisheries and closed to all fishing the remainder of the year. For bait and tackle restrictions during these fisheries please reference the Southcentral Sport Fishing Regulation summary, North Gulf Coast.



Fly-in Fishing Opportunities

There are several lakes between Seward and the junction of the Sterling Highway which offer fly-in fishing opportunities. These lakes may also be reached via trail, but many people prefer the convenience of fly-in fishing. Call the Seward Chamber of Commerce for air charter operators.

Johnson Lake: Johnson Lake is accessed via the Johnson Pass Trail or via float plane. The lake was initially stocked in 1963 with rainbow trout from Kamloops, British Columbia. The stocking was successful and a small, self-sustaining population has been established. These fish are typically taken with fly rod. The type of fly used and the presentation of the fly can be critical to success. Please check regulations closely.

Bench Lake: Bench Lake is also on the Johnson Pass Trail system. The lake was originally stocked in 1967 with grayling from Crescent Lake. A self-sustaining population has been established. Use either artificial flies or small spinners for success. The outlet of the lake (Bench Creek) has been a popular area for anglers.

Crescent Lake: Crescent Lake may be reached via the Crescent Lake Trail, Carter Lake Trail, or by float plane. An excellent self-sustaining grayling population has developed

from a 1952 stocking of 240 fish. Popular areas on the lake are the inlet and outlet. Shoreline areas also offer excellent grayling fishing. Please check regulations closely before fishing this lake, as restrictive seasons and bag limits are in effect.

Paradise Lakes (Upper and Lower): Upper Paradise Lake was stocked with grayling in 1963. The stocking was successful and these fish left the lake via the Snow River and made their way into Lower Paradise Lake. Grayling in both lakes average 10" to 12" in length. Lower Paradise also supports a small population of rainbow trout. Again, please check regulations before fishing.



Fish Viewing

Moose Creek: This small stream runs under, and follows along, the Seward Highway at Mile 32.2. There is a turnout and an informational U.S. Forest Service sign explaining the life cycle of the red (sockeye) salmon that spawn here. These fish, which have reached this area via the Kenai and Trail Rivers, are usually present in August.

Grouse Creek: This small stream follows the Seward Highway starting north of Mile 8.0, just outside of Seward. You can see spawning pinks (July-August) and silvers (September-October). There are several small turnouts available for parking.

Bear Creek Weir: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association operates a weir on Bear Creek near the outlet of Bear Lake. This weir is used to count red and silver salmon smolt emigrating from Bear Lake in the spring, and red and silver salmon adults returning to the lake during the summer and fall. The weir is located at mile 0.6 Bear Lake Road, just outside Seward along the Seward Highway.

Trail Lakes Hatchery: This private, nonprofit facility operated by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association is located in Moose Pass, near Upper Trail Lake. It is here that the Bear Lake silver salmon begin their life cycle before their release into Bear Lake. For more information, call (907) 288-3688.

Resurrection Bay Area Recreational Fisheries

Location	Species	Peak Availability
Resurrection Bay -Salt	Silver Salmon	Late June to mid-September
	King Salmon	Late May through June ("feeder" kings available all year)
	Pink Salmon	Even-numbered years, August through mid-September
	Red Salmon	Late May through July
	Chum Salmon	July through early August
	Halibut	April through October
	Rockfish	April through October
	Lingcod	Resurrection Bay is closed to lingcod sport fishing year-round Outside Resurrection Bay, lingcod are available July - December.
Area Streams	Dolly Varden	May, late-July through August
	Silver salmon	Late August through early October - open only in one stream
	Dolly Varden	Mid-June through Mid-April
	Rainbow Trout	Mid-June through Mid-April
Area Lakes	Dolly Varden	Entire year
	Rainbow Trout	Entire year
	Grayling	Entire year
	Lake Trout	Entire year



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These opportunities funded in part by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This summary is available in alternative communication formats. If you need assistance, please contact the ADF&G ADA Coordinator at (907) 465-6078; TTY/ Alaska Relay 7-1-1; or 1 (800) 770-8973.



Sport Fish Series produced by:

Southcentral Region
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish

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Except on state & federal holidays