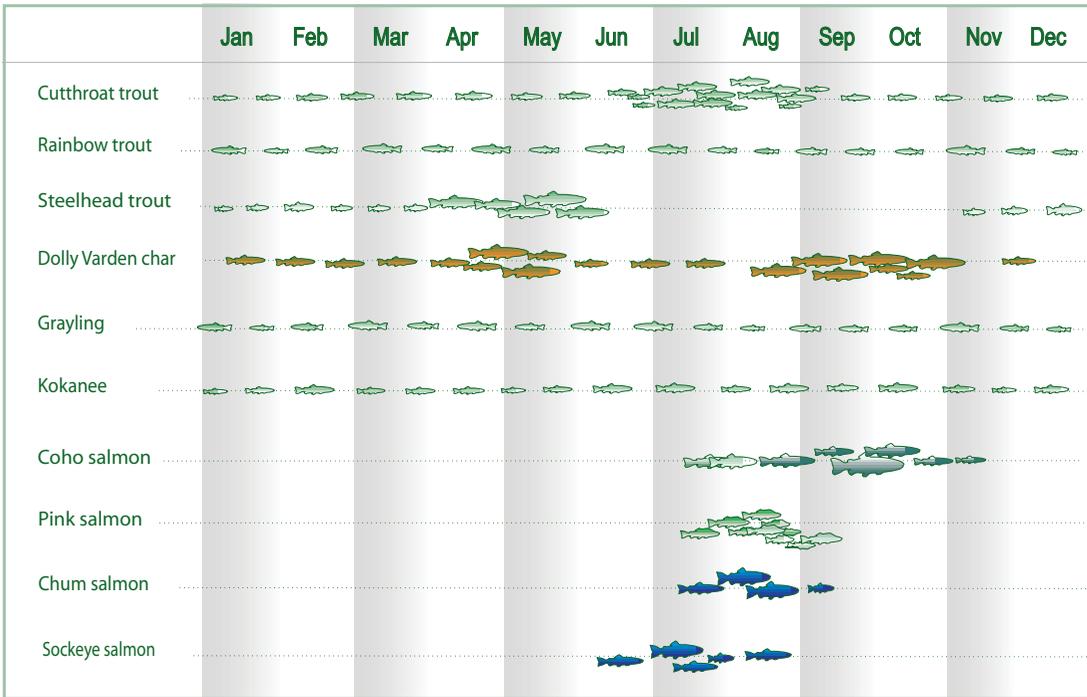
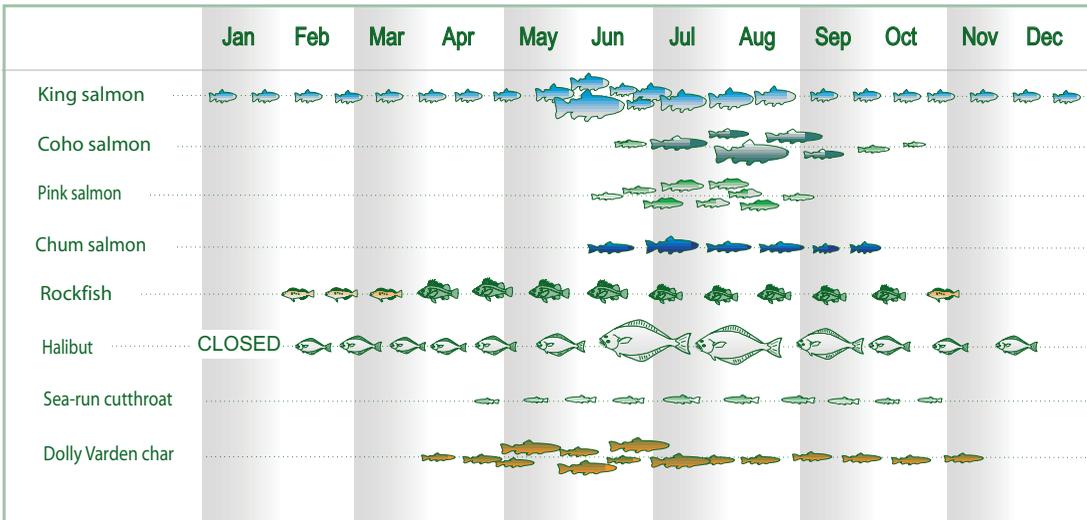


Fish TIMING CALENDAR

Fresh water



Salt water



Fish symbols indicate the beginning, peak, and end of adult presence of each species. Larger symbols, or concentrations of symbols, represent peak fishing times.

Fishing spots . . .

in Prince of Wales Island salt waters

The more productive saltwater locations for salmon and bottomfish are shown on Map 1 (at right). PoW coastal waters are most effectively fished by boat. Your boat should be 14 ft or longer, and seaworthy. Have a small ‘kicker’ engine in addition to the main engine, a VHF or CB radio, marine charts, and full Coast Guard required equipment on board. Craig, Klawock, Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, Hollis, and Hydaburg have public boat launches. There are also primitive marine boat launches—for skiffs and car-top boats only—in several area communities.

Roadside saltwater sport fishing is available but limited for pink and coho salmon, rockfish, halibut, shellfish, Dolly Varden, and marginally for steelhead and cutthroat trout.

TROLLING—the traditional method for catching salmon. Trolling involves towing a flasher or dodger (optional) trailed by bait or artificial lure behind the boat. Many prefer to troll parallel and close to shoreline.

Trolling with downriggers is effective in deeper waters, especially for king salmon. It is not unusual to catch halibut when using downriggers. As a fish strikes, the line is released from the downrigger weight, and a direct

battle begins with the fish. The weight release allows an angler to use a more sensitive rod and lighter line.

Use a 6-ft to 8-ft trolling rod with medium to heavy action, and a conventional reel filled with at least 200 yd of 20- to 40-lb-test monofilament line. Depending on conditions, use 2- to 24-oz. lead weights.

Herring is the bait of choice, fished whole with a slight bend, in cut-plug fashion, or in filleted strips on a single or tandem hook (size 2/0 to 5/0) rig on 2- to 6-ft leaders. Effective artificial lures include spoons or plugs which imitate baitfish.

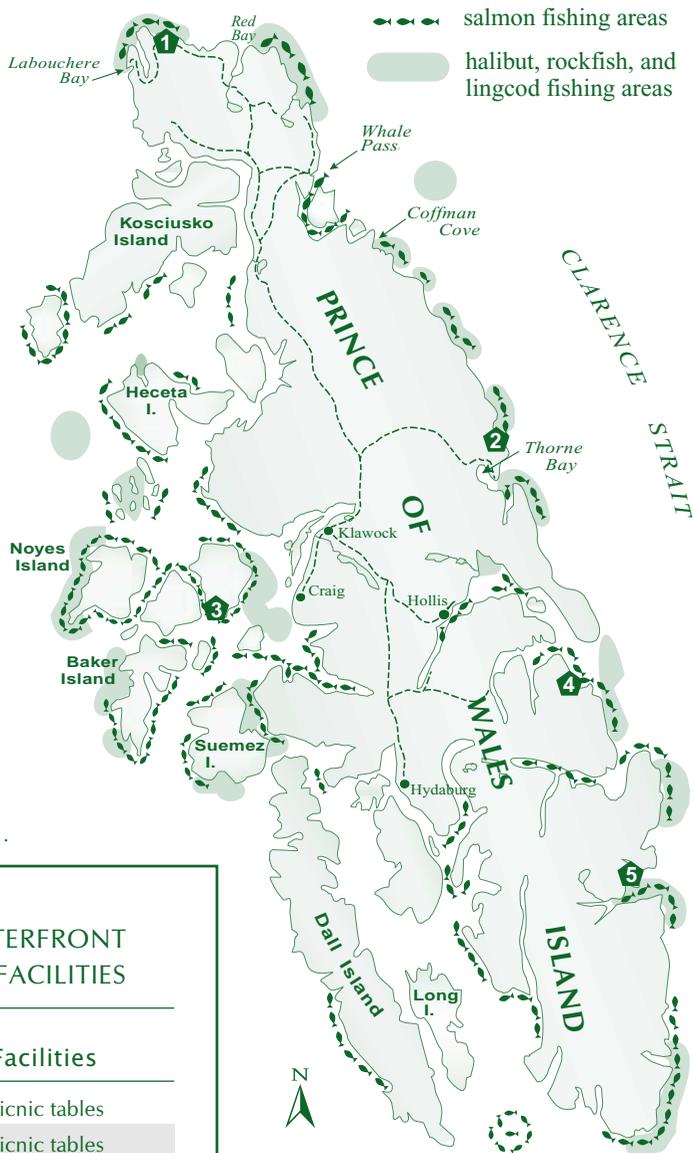
MOOCHING—a slower, more vertical method of fishing a wide range of depths. Mooching is done from an anchored boat, or a drifting boat, or while trolling very slowly. ‘Moochers’ usually target king or coho salmon, but they can also catch pink salmon, halibut, and rockfish.

More flexible, 7½-ft to 10-ft rods are used, with conventional or spinning reels and 15- to 30-lb-test monofilament. Whole, cut-plug, or strips of herring fished below a 2- to 16-oz. weight are the most common set-ups. Vertical jigging with a variety of metal jigs or spoons is also popular.

BOTTOMFISHING—for catching halibut, rockfish, lingcod, or other bottom-dwelling fish below a drifting or anchored boat. Use a 5-ft to 8-ft rod with heavy action, and a conventional reel with 30- to 100-lb-test line. The heavier gear gives added strength to free snagged terminal tackle and to heft large fish from a rocky bottom.

Terminal tackle consists of heavy monofilament or wire leader, single or tandem “J” (standard) or circle hooks from 3/0 to 10/0, and sliding or fixed 6- to 24-oz. weights. Herring, octopus, squid, or salmon heads or tails can be

cont'd . . .



Map 1. Salmon and bottomfish sportfishing areas around Prince of Wales Island.

Saltwater BEACH/WATERFRONT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Map no.	Area name	Access	Facilities
1	Memorial Beach	R	2 picnic tables
2	Sandy Beach	R	6 picnic tables
3	Point Amargura	P/B	cabin w/woodstove
4	Trollers Cove	P/B	cabin w/woodstove
5	Kegan Cove	P/B	cabin w/woodstove

R = road P = plane B = boat

used for bait. Artificial lures like spoons, lead-head or chrome jigs with or without rubber tails, skirts, or bait, are also effective.

FLYFISHING—productive for near-surface feeding fish such as coho and pink salmon or certain rockfish species, but may also produce fine catches of any common marine fishes discussed here. Streamers and other fly patterns which imitate baitfish may be effectively presented with high density, shooting head, sink-tip or standard sinking lines. Use a high-capacity fly reel with at least 100 yd

of backing matched on an 8-ft to 10-ft fly rod (7-weight or heavier).

SPINCASTING—used from boat or shoreline to catch salmon, sea-run trout, rockfish, or Dolly Varden. Open or closed-face spincasting or baitcasting gear works best when fish are seen at surface or in shallow nearshore waters. Tackle depends on the size of fish pursued: 7-ft to 9-ft rods with matched spinning or baitcasting reels filled with 10- to 20-lb-test monofilament line perform well. Use spoons, spinners, small metal jigs, and herring or other bait.

... in  PoW *fresh waters along the roadside*

The extensive island road system affords tremendous freshwater roadside sport fishing for salmon, trout, and char. Small to medium-size streams and lakes abound within a short walk from the local roads. Selected roadside waterways are shown on Map 2 (page 18), and the species found in each are listed in the table on page 19.

Salmon and steelhead are caught mainly in streams. Sea-run (anadromous) and resident rainbows, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden are caught in streams and in lakes.

Fishing methods vary according to target species and type of waterway. Drift fishing, flyfishing, and spinning or spin-casting are used in streams (hip boots or chest waders with felt soles are recommended). Skiffs, canoes, or inflatable rafts are used to flyfish, troll, and spincast on lakes. Shoreline fishing along lakes can also be productive, provided access is not limited by shallow lake margins, swampy muskegs, or dense vegetation.

DRIFT FISHING—the most popular method used for catching steelhead

cont'd . . .

and salmon, as well as other trout and Dollies, in area streams. A promising stretch of water often flows into or out of a pool or undercut streambank.

Depending on what you are fishing for, choose a 6- to 9-ft rod with light to medium action. A matching spinning or baitcasting reel with 4- to 15-lb-test monofilament line is effective. Salmon egg imitations, small plugs, spoons, and spinners will yield good results.

A proper drift is achieved when the cast is quartered upstream to slightly downstream and the weight touches stream bottom regularly every 1 to 3 seconds. A strike can actually be felt or indicated when the line stops. Water conditions dictate the weight needed. Too much weight causes snags; too little creates an unnatural drift. Use split-shot, pencil lead, or lures from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Some anglers fish their lure at depths of 1 to 4 feet, with a bobber or other float.

FLYFISHING—effective in stream riffles, runs, and pools for all freshwater game fish in the area, depending on pattern used, species targeted, and fishing conditions. For steelhead and salmon, use 7- to 9-weight fly rods and corresponding lines on reels with a good drag system; for other species, 3- to 7-weight outfits work well.

Most area streams are small and have vegetated banks, so backcasts may be restricted—roll casts will reduce snags. Egg and shrimp imitations will catch steelhead, salmon, other trout, and Dollies. Lake margins near inlet stream mouths and around downed trees or vegetative cover are favorite spots for trout and Dollies.

Dry flies that imitate adult mosquitoes, other black flies, mayflies, or stoneflies are effective lures for trout and Dollies during hatches in late spring and summer. Lures with sinking patterns that imitate juvenile salmon, sculpin, and insect larvae also catch fish.

SPINCASTING—a frequently used technique for catching game fish in fresh water. Open or closed-face reels and 4- to 8-lb-test monofilament with various spinners and spoons work well.

ICE FISHING—a limited winter pastime for some hardy anglers. Trout and Dolly Varden can be found in several roadside lakes and streams during winter, but *exercise extreme caution* when venturing onto the ice. During mild winters, the ice cover may be too thin for safe ice fishing.

freshwater roadside map on next page ►