

# Fishing spots . . .

## *in Prince of Wales Island salt waters*

The more productive saltwater locations for salmon and bottomfish are shown on Map 2 (at right). Coastal waters are most effectively fished by boat. Your boat should be at least 14 feet and seaworthy, with full Coast Guard-required equipment on board (see Alaska Boating Safety requirements on page 25). 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, and Dolly Varden—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 2. 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 3 (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

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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 mosquitos, 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* ►

**Map 3.**  
Freshwater  
roadside  
sport fishing  
areas around  
Prince of  
Wales Island.



### *Wild Steelhead . . .*

Wild steelhead and resident cutthroat trout populations are fragile in many waters throughout this area. Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged for steelhead and cutthroat. Please follow the recommended techniques on page 21 for releasing fish without injury. Help Alaska conserve this irreplaceable wild resource for future generations.



Map key	Area name	Fish species available (see code key below)	Access	Facilities
1	Red Bay Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(f), RB, CT	P/T/R♦	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
2	Twin Island Lake	DV, CT	R♦	no facilities
3	"108" Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(f), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
4	Neck Lake	DV, CT	R♦	has skiff or canoe launch ramp
5	Tunga Lagoon Cr./Lake	SS, DV, CT	R♦	no facilities
6	Sarkar L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/R♦	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
7	Sweetwater Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/T/R♦	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
8	Eagle Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
9	Luck Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R♦	has skiff or canoe launch ramp
10	Hatchery Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R♦	has skiff or canoe launch ramp
11	Logjam Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
12	Staney Creek (USFS campgrounds are located at Staney bridge and Horseshoe Hole with 2 campsites each)	SS, CS, PS, SH(s), DV, RB, CT	B/T/R♦	USFS cabin, woodstove
13	Shaheen Creek	SS, CS, PS, SH(s), DV, RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
14	Thorne River/ Gravelly Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R	USFS campsite, 3 picnic tables
15	Balls Lake	SS, RS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R	USFS Eagle Nest campground: 11 campsites, 11 picnic tables, launch ramp for skiff or canoe
16	Control Lake	SS, RS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/R	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
17	Angel Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
18	Lake (Ellen) #3	SS, RS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R♦	2 USFS campsites
19	Klawock R./Lake	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	R	no facilities
20	Maybeso Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), CT	R	no facilities
21	Harris River	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R	USFS campground
22	Cable Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R	no facilities
23	Twelvemile Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities
24	Dog Salmon Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	R♦	no facilities

**Fish species codes:**

CS = chum salmon  
 CT = cutthroat trout  
 DV = Dolly Varden  
 PS = pink salmon  
 RB = rainbow trout  
 RS = sockeye salmon  
 SH = steelhead trout  
 (s) – spring run  
 (f) – fall run  
 SS = coho salmon

**Access codes:**

B = boat  
 P = floatplane  
 R = improved road  
 R♦ = unimproved road  
 T = trail

... in  *remote lakes  
and streams*

Remote lakes and streams are plentiful in the Prince of Wales Island area, and especially inviting to anglers seeking solitude and a more pristine nature experience. Some remote areas are shown on Map 4 (page 22), and the table on page 23 lists species and access.

Remote waters are reached by floatplane, boating in combination with hiking, or hiking in from a road. Remote waters are not for all anglers, as no public facilities or services exist near most of them. A few of the remote systems, however, do have Forest Service cabins close by.

The same salmonids which inhabit roadside waters are also found in remote systems, with the addition of Arctic grayling, which were stocked in three remote area lakes in the 1960s and again in 1972.

The same methods are used as in freshwater roadside fishing. The primary difference between remote and roadside sport fishing is the planning and choice of equipment. Smaller inflatable rafts or float tubes may be the only practical fishing vessel for some fly-in lakes. Pack-rods, backpacks (floatplane pilots

prefer internal frame or soft packs), and other compact equipment and goods are good choices for remote trips.

For your safety when sport fishing in a remote area:

- make sure someone responsible (and not accompanying you) knows your schedule and means of travel
- if you hire a charter flight or other transport, be sure the pilot knows when and where to pick you up
- take along enough food for a least four extra days, and a gun or other means of obtaining food if necessary
- carry a good supply of waterproof matches and additional fire starter
- carry a complete First Aid kit, along with flares, mirror, or other visual signal devices
- be wary of *and avoid all contact with* black bears, which you may encounter as they travel and feed along area streams
- don't drink water until it has been boiled for a least five minutes
- don't travel alone.

*remote lake and stream map on page 22* ►

## Catch-and-release Fishing

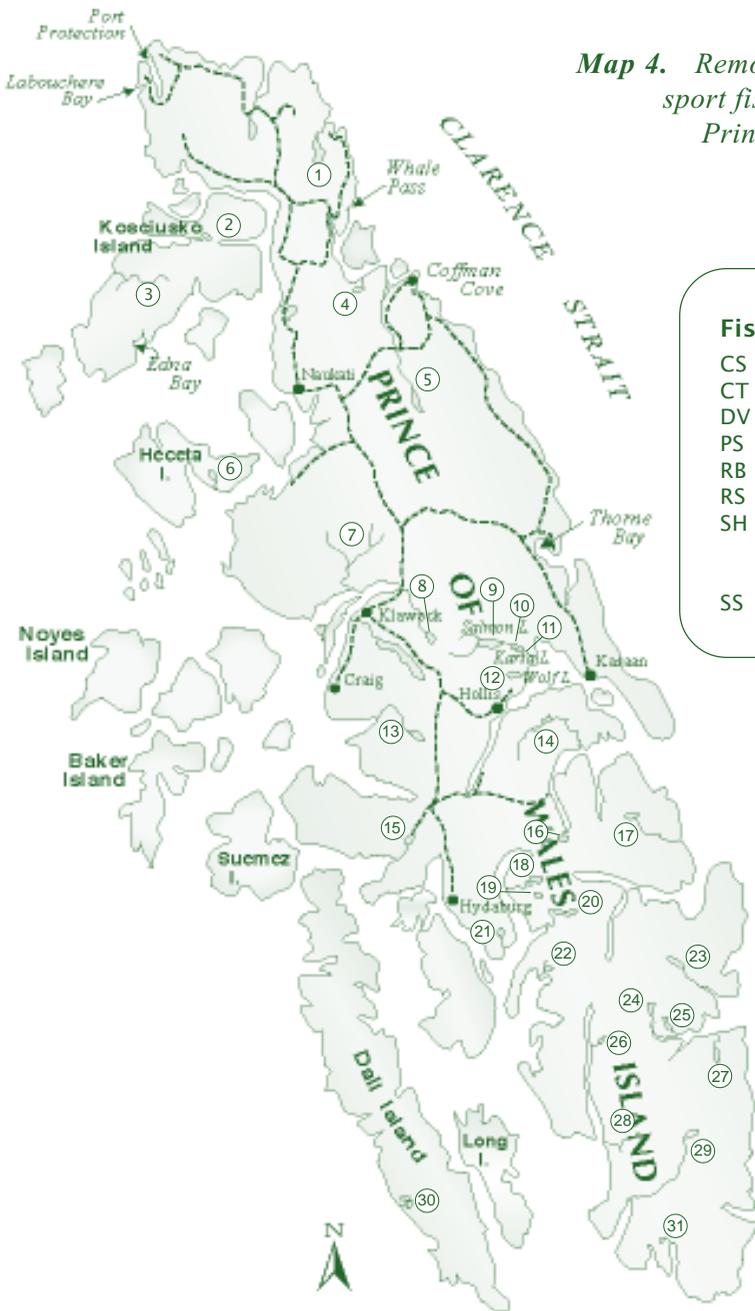
If you've planned your trip well and have put in some time fishing, you are probably catching fish. If you don't intend to keep a fish you catch, or can't keep it because of our regulations, let it go in the manner described below. There are minimum size requirements for king salmon and cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout harvested in essentially all Southeast waters, so catch-and-release fishing is a critical element in our fisheries. Proper techniques must be used, in order to keep mortality rates of released fish to a minimum:

➤ Do not net fish that you plan to release.

**TIP** ➤ Visiting anglers often practice catch-and-release for the first few days of their fishing trip and will selectively keep fish at the end of the trip to take home. This is also a good way to insure the fish you do take with you are in the best condition when you reach home.



- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the leader off as close as possible to the fish and leave the hook in.
- If the fish is hooked in the outer parts of its mouth, use needle-nose pliers to dislodge hook. (If you know ahead of time you will be releasing the fish you catch, bend down the barbs on your hooks to facilitate removal.)
- If you plan to release a fish, there is no need to take it from the water. If you're fishing at a shoreline, release your fish in deeper water to prevent it from thrashing around in shallow water where it may be bruised or injured.



**Map 4.** Remote lake and stream sport fishing areas around Prince of Wales Island.

**Fish species codes:**

- CS = chum salmon
- CT = cutthroat trout
- DV = Dolly Varden
- PS = pink salmon
- RB = rainbow trout
- RS = sockeye salmon
- SH = steelhead trout
  - (s) - spring run
  - (f) - fall run
- SS = coho salmon



## Remote Lake and Stream SPORT FISHING LOCATIONS

Map key	Area name	Fish species available (see code key on map)	Access	Facilities
1	Salmon Bay L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/T	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
2	Shiple Bay L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
3	Trout Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B/R*	no facilities
4	Barnes Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
5	Lake Galea/Honker L.	SS, RS, DV, RB, CT	P/T/C	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
6	Warm Chuck L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B/R*	no facilities
7	Shinaku L./Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT, G	P	no facilities
8	Black Bear Lake	RB	P	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
9	Salmon Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/T	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
10	Karta Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/T	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
11	Karta River	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B/T	USFS cabin, oil stove
12	Wolf Lake	RB	P	no facilities
13	Lake St. Nicholas	DV, CT	P	no facilities
14	Old Franks Lake & stream	SS, RS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
15	Soda Lake/Creek	SS, RS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/T	no facilities
16	Rock Lake	RB	helicopter	no facilities
17	Clover Lake	RB	P	no facilities
18	Summit Lake	Arctic grayling (USFS cabin with oil stove at Lake Josephine, about 2 mi NNW)	P	no facilities
19	Lake Marge	Arctic grayling	P	no facilities
20	Hetta L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
21	Eek Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P	no facilities
22	Nutkwa L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
23	Miller Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, SH(s), RB	P	no facilities
24	Kugel Lake	RB	P	no facilities
25	Kegan L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
26	Klakas L./Creek	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s/f), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
27	Johnson Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
28	Hunter Bay Creek	SS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities
29	Hessa L./Creek	DV	P/B	no facilities
30	Essowah Lake	SS, RS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	USFS cabin, woodstove, skiff
31	Nichols Lake	SS, RS, CS, PS, DV, SH(s), RB, CT	P/B	no facilities

**B** = boat    **P** = floatplane    **R** = improved road    **R\*** = unimproved road    **T** = trail