

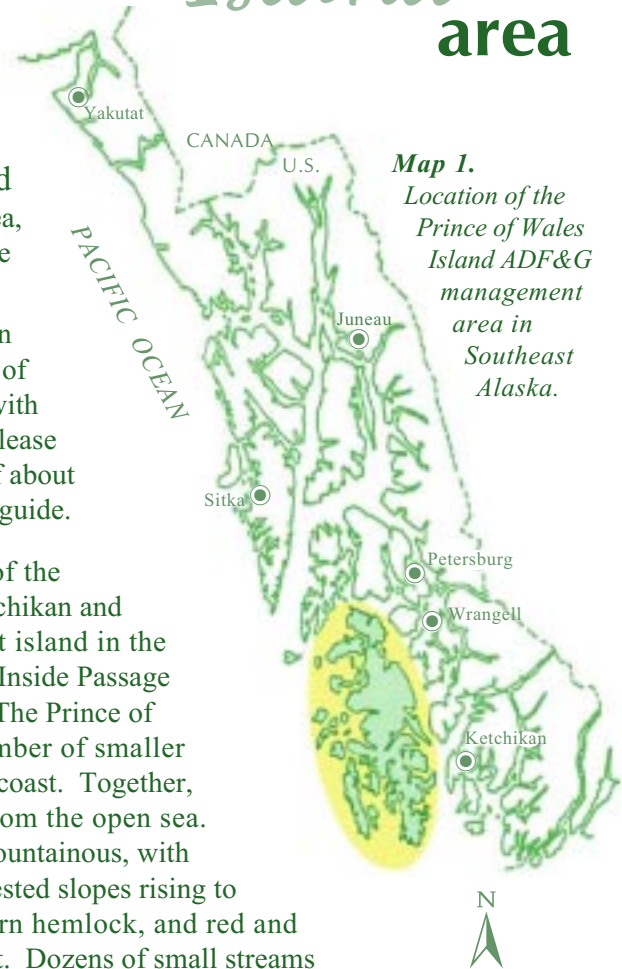
Guide to sport fishing opportunities in the Prince of Wales Island area



In southern Southeast Alaska, sport fishing is our most popular recreation, and in the Prince of Wales Island area, opportunities abound for even the most discriminating anglers.

This guide summarizes the main sport fishing locations on Prince of Wales Island and nearby areas, with maps and related information. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff about information not presented in the guide.

Prince of Wales Island lies off of the mainland coast, across from Ketchikan and Wrangell—it is the third largest island in the U.S. A waterway known as the Inside Passage separates it from the mainland. The Prince of Wales Island area includes a number of smaller islands clustered along its west coast. Together, they form a protective barrier from the open sea. The landscape is rugged and mountainous, with rocky coastlines and heavily forested slopes rising to 4,000 feet. Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, and red and yellow cedar dominate the forest. Dozens of small streams and lakes are scattered throughout the area.



Map 1.
Location of the Prince of Wales Island ADF&G management area in Southeast Alaska.

Land Ownership. . .

Most of the area is within the Tongass National Forest and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The rest is owned by Native corporations, state and local governments, and private landowners. Public access along some waterways is limited because of private land ownership. The USFS road map of Prince of Wales Island shows most of the privately held lands.

Population and Economy . . .

The area is sparsely populated: Craig is the largest town, with a population in 2000 of 1,397. The only incorporated cities are Craig, Thorne Bay, Klawock, Hydaburg, Coffman Cove, and Kasaan—all on Prince of Wales Island. Economic patterns have been historically influenced by logging and commercial fishing, but tourism has shown recent growth.

Climate . . .

Relative to the rest of Alaska, the area is mild and moist. Winter temperatures average around freezing (32°F), and summer temperatures average 56°F (ranging from 45° to 80°F). From November to April

(and as late as June in the higher elevations), snow and ice cover limit access to lakes and streams. Rainfall averages over 100 inches per year. Our weather is always unpredictable—high quality rain gear and rubber boots are recommended year-round!

Roads . . .

The road system on Prince of Wales Island is more extensive than elsewhere in Southeast Alaska. Of over 1,000 miles of public-use roads on the island, about 900 miles are Forest Service gravel roads maintained at various levels, depending on road-use patterns. DOT (the Alaska Department of Transportation) maintains the rest (about 105 miles of which are paved), linking the Inter-Island Ferry Authority terminal at Hollis and the airstrip at Klawock to the island's larger towns—Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay, and Hydaburg. The communities of Craig, Hollis, Hydaburg, Klawock, and Thorne Bay are all connected by paved road, and work is in progress on the road to Coffman Cove.

Kosciusko, Heceta, Tuxecan, and Marble islands have about 280 combined miles of Forest Service roads, but vehicle access is very limited to those islands, because they are not served by any ferry system.

Access to *Prince of Wales Island* communities

Prince of Wales Island can be reached by the Inter-Island Ferry Authority system (IFA) or by small aircraft from Ketchikan. Floatplane service is also available to northern Prince of Wales Island from Wrangell and Petersburg. There is only one developed airstrip on the island, and it is located 2 miles north of Klawock.

The IFA provides daily service to the island and is a dependable method of travel, regardless of weather. The IFA terminal is at Hollis, about 35 miles west of Ketchikan, across Clarence Strait. Autos, trucks, boats, and RVs can be transported on the ferry, but advance reservations are recommended.

Air charter companies

offer both wheeled and floatplane service for island area transportation. **Car and boat rentals** are also available to facilitate travel around the island.

For a complete list of area operators, contact these organizations:

Prince of Wales
Chamber of
Commerce
P. O. Box 490
Klawock, AK 99925
(907) 755-2626

Petersburg Visitor
Information Center
c/o Chamber of
Commerce
Box 649
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-4636

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

Wrangell Chamber of
Commerce
Box 49
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3901

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority . . .

The IFA maintains year-round ferry service between Ketchikan and Hollis. The system is very busy during summer and holidays. Reservations should be made well in advance at:

Inter-Island Ferry Authority
P.O. Box 495
Craig, AK 99921

1-866-308-4848 toll-free
(907) 826-4848 telephone
(907) 277-4829 (fax)
ifa@interislandferry.com (e-mail)

Visit the IFA Website: www.interislandferry.com

Lodging and facilities in the *Prince of Wales* *Island* area

Commercial lodging facilities are available in about half of the communities shown on Map 4. A number of sport fishing lodges, small motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments operate in the area. In addition to U.S. Forest Service facilities, there are private campgrounds and cabin rentals in some communities. Additional information on lodging may be obtained from:

Prince of Wales Island
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 490
Klawock, AK 99925
(907) 755-2626

City of Craig
P.O. Box 725
Craig, AK 99921
(907) 826-3275

City of Coffman Cove
P. O. Box 18135
Coffman Cove, AK 99918
(907) 329-2233

City of Hydaburg
P. O. Box 49
Hydaburg, AK 99922
(907) 285-3761

City of Kaasan
PO Box KXA
Kasaan, AK 99950
(907) 542-2212

City of Klawock
P. O. Box 113
Klawock, AK 99925
(907) 755-2261

City of Thorne Bay
P.O. Box 19110
Thorne Bay, AK 99919
(907) 828-3380

U.S. Forest Service Public Use Cabins



The U.S. Forest Service manages 19 cabins, one 3-sided shelter, and 10 picnic/campground areas for public use in the Prince of Wales Island area (see maps on pages 15, 18 and 22). The cabins house four to six people and are modestly priced (\$25–\$45/night in 2004, depending on location and time of year). Most are remote cabins,

where access is limited to floatplane, boat, or trail. Skiffs are available at many of the lakeside cabins. Sport fishing is available near all but two cabins. Reservations are required and can be made up to 180 days in advance at www.reserveUSA.com.

If you are planning road travel and are not familiar with the Prince of Wales Island road system, we recommend the USFS road map. Purchase a map, make cabin reservations, or find information at www.reserveUSA.com or contact a Forest Service office at:



U.S. Forest Service offices . . .

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

Craig Ranger District
P.O. Box 500
Craig, AK 99921
(907) 826-3271

Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919
(907) 828-3304

Summary of *Prince of Wales Island* area
transportation services



	Gas	Groc- eries	Float plane service	Road access	Boat ramp	Police	Medical services	Lodging	Fishing/ hunting license
<i>Coffman Cove</i>	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
<i>Craig</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Edna Bay</i>			•						
<i>Hollis</i>			•	•	•			<i>L</i>	
<i>Hydaburg</i>	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Kasaan</i>	•		•	•	•			•	
<i>Klawock</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Labouchere Bay</i>			•	•	<i>P</i>				
<i>Naukati</i>	•		•	•	<i>P</i>				
<i>Point Baker</i>	•	•	•						•
<i>Port Protection</i>	•	•	•					•	•
<i>Thorne Bay</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Whale Pass</i>	•	•	•	•	•			•	

L = limited availability

P = primitive launch ramp—recommended only for cartop boats or skiffs.