



Roadside Salmon Fishing in Interior Alaska

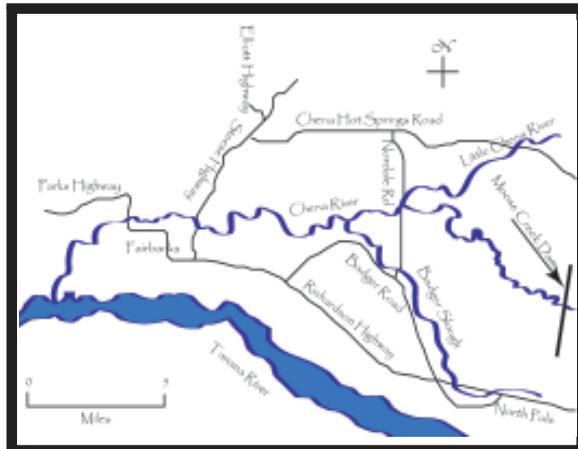
Best Places to Fish for King and Chum Salmon

The Chena and Salcha Rivers have the largest numbers of returning king and chum salmon in the Tanana River Drainage, with over 7,000 kings returning annually to the Chena River and over 9,000 kings returning annually to the Salcha River.

Chena River

Salmon fishing is open from the mouth of the river to a marker located 300 feet downriver of the Moose Creek Dam (45 miles upriver).

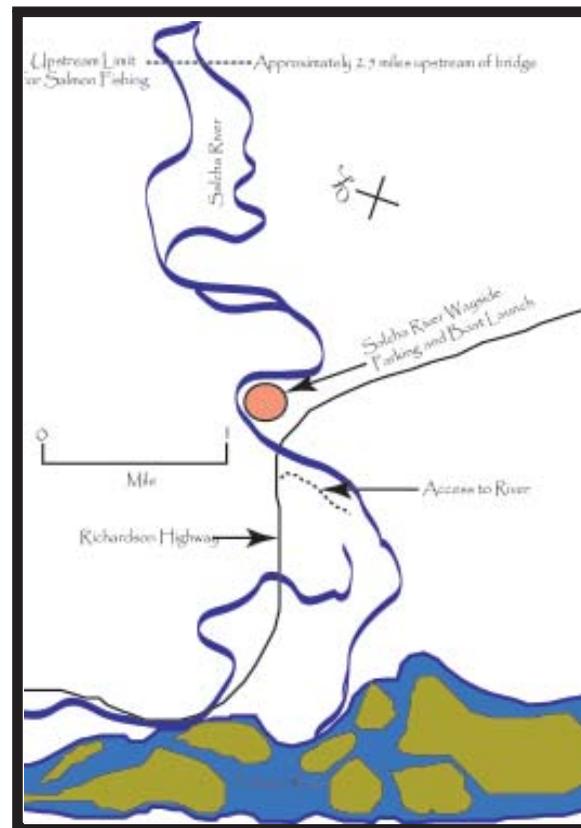
Select boat launch and walk-in locations: Chena Small Tracts Rd, Peger Rd, University Ave Campground, Graehl Landing, Nordale Rd, and Moose Creek Dam.



Salcha River

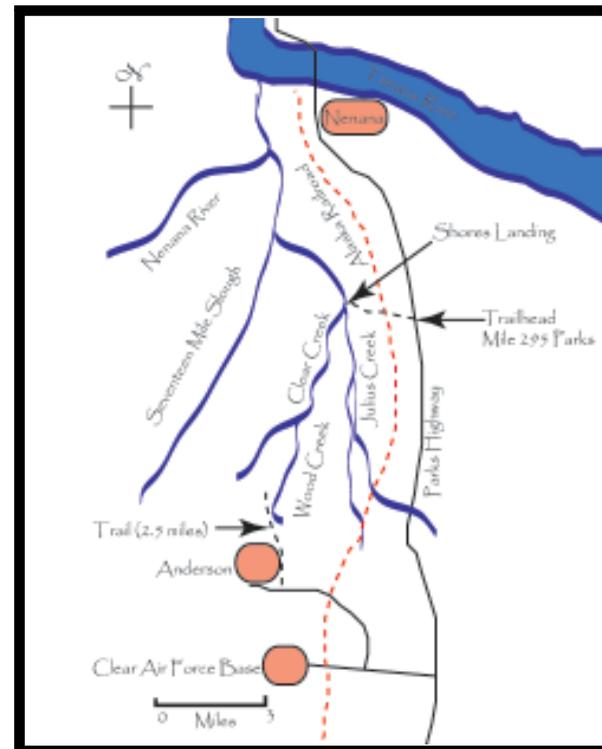
Salmon fishing is open from the mouth of the river to a marker located 2.5 miles upstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge.

Access is via the boat launch at the Salcha Campground, drive or walk to the large gravel bar located downstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge.



Other King and Chum Salmon Fisheries

Nenana River – Take the Parks Hwy south to Milepost 295 and hike to **Clear Creek**, or continue south to Anderson and hike to **Wood Creek**.



Chatanika River – Take the Steese Hwy. North to Fox, continue on the Elliott Highway to Olmes Pond. The Chatanika is accessible here via foot trails.

Goodpaster River – Catch and release king salmon fishing ONLY from the mouth of the river to a marker located 25 miles upstream. The Goodpaster is accessible only by boat. Launch at the Tanana River near Delta Junction or Clearwater Lake).

Chinook (King)...



...average 15-20 pounds and are available from late June to early August

Chum (Dog)...



...average 4-8 pounds and are available from mid July to late August

Coho (Silver)...



...average 6-10 pounds and are available from mid September to late October

King Salmon Fishing Tips

Back troll in eddies with large Quick Fish™ lures. Cast from the river banks using pixies, tadpolys, wiggle warts, Okie drifters or Spin and Glo™ type lures. If you plan on harvesting your catch, salmon roe works well.



Consult the Region III Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for opening dates, daily bag limits and special tackle restrictions.

Have a current Alaska Sport Fish license & king salmon tag (if appropriate).

Check the ADF&G website

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/eonr/index.cfm?region=Region%203%2DInterior>

or local ADF&G office (hotline 459-7385) for emergency restrictions or liberalizations to the Interior salmon fisheries.

Check river stage. High & muddy water conditions decrease fishing success.

Where Can I Catch Coho Salmon?

The **Delta Clearwater River (DCR)** has the largest documented coho salmon run in the Tanana River Drainage with over 60,000 fish returning annually in recent years.

The DCR is a clear, spring fed system which remains ice-free except during the coldest winter temperatures. A state maintained campground and boat launch located off of Remington Road (7 miles east of Delta Junction) provides easy access to the middle portion of the river.

You can fish for coho salmon directly from the riverbank in the area near the campground. Some anglers prefer to fish from riverboats.

CAUTION: The boat launch may be icy during coho season.



Other Coho Salmon Fisheries

Clear tributaries of the Nenana River, **Clear & Wood Creeks** (see map other side), and the **Richardson Clearwater River**.

Coho Salmon Fishing Tips

Cast brightly colored pixies or streamer flies.

Salmon Biology

By the time these salmon have reached the Interior Alaska spawning streams, they have already traveled over 1,000 miles from the Bering Sea.

King salmon are typically 5-6 years old when they return to spawn, chum salmon are 4-5 years old, and most coho salmon are 4 years old.

After spawning, all salmon die and their carcasses provide nutrients to the stream.

After hatching, the young salmon spend anywhere from a few weeks to two years in fresh water before migrating to the Bering Sea, where they mature into adults and return to their natal streams to continue the salmon cycle.

Catch and Release Tips

REMINDER: If an area is closed to salmon fishing that means it is also closed to catch and release salmon fishing.

Although Interior Salmon are edible, their flesh is deteriorated after their 1,000 mile journey; therefore many anglers choose to release their catch. Here are some suggestions that minimize harm to fish:

- Land the fish as quickly as possible, playing the fish to exhaustion takes away the energy it needs for spawning.
- Do not remove the fish from the water.
- Never place anything (hands, fingers, hooks) under the fish's gill covers.
- Gently grasp the fish around its body to remove the hook. Needle-nosed pliers work well for easy hook removal.
- If the hook can't be removed, cut the line as close as possible to the hook and leave it in the fish. Do this if it appears that removing the hook will cause more damage than leaving it in.
- Point the fish upstream. Gently cradle the fish in this position until it swims away on its own.