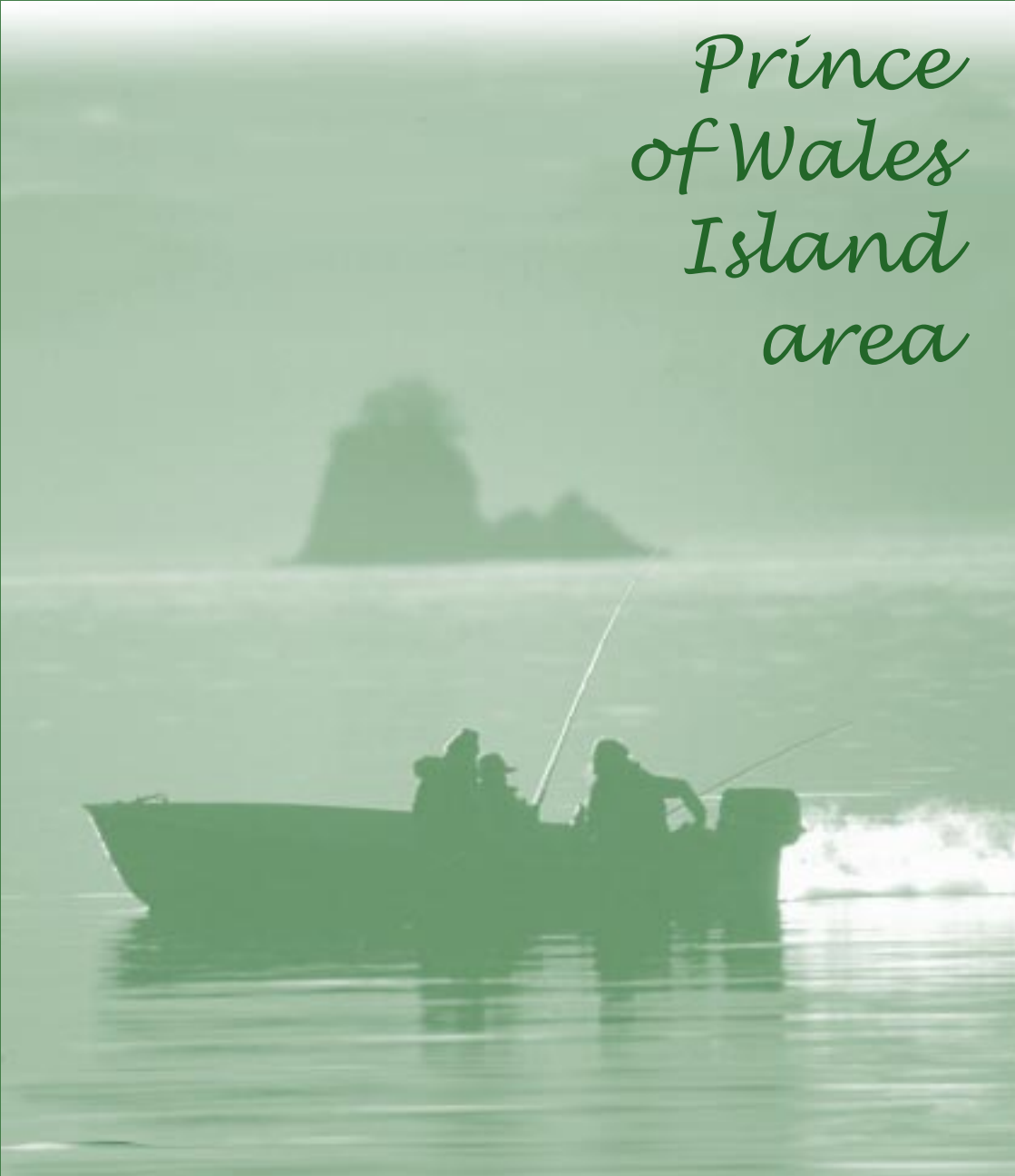


Sport fishing the

Prince of Wales Island area



Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Revised and edited by Steve McCurdy,
Prince of Wales Island Area Management Biologist
Layout, design and maps by Alma Seward,
Region I Sport Fish Publications Coordinator

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division Offices:



Southeast Regional Office
802 Third Street
Douglas, AK 99824-0020
(907) 465-4270

State Headquarters
Division of Sport Fish
1255 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4180

Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Drive
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-2859

Prince of Wales Island Area Office
333 Cold Storage Road
Craig, AK 99921
(907) 826-2498

Recorded fishing information for Southeast Alaska:

(907) 465-4116 (Juneau)
(907) 225-0475 (Ketchikan)

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ADF&G Public Communications Section: (907) 465-4112

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*produced by the Alaska Department
of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824
(907) 465-4270
(907) 465-2034 (Fax)*

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statewide/sf_home.cfm](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/sf_home.cfm)



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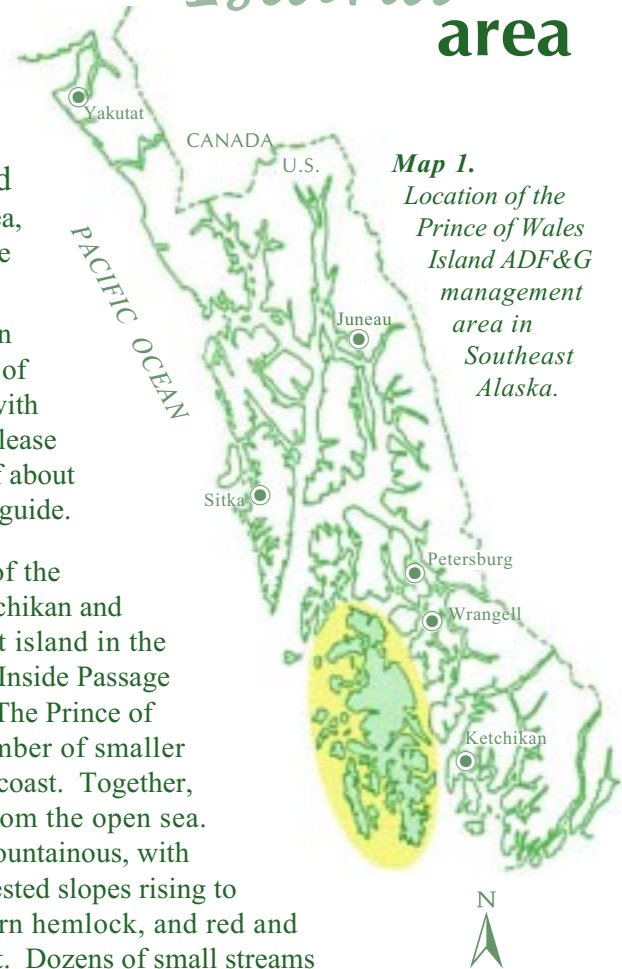
Guide to sport fishing opportunities in the Prince of Wales Island area



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.

Fishing in the *Prince of Wales Island* area

Marine waters of the Prince of Wales Island area support catchable populations of salmon, halibut, lingcod, Pacific cod, greenling, herring, and at least ten common species of rockfish.

Dungeness, Tanner, and king crab, and shrimp, scallops, abalone, and clams are also common. Other fish, shellfish, and invertebrate species can be found, but this guide covers the most common and popular species.



salmon

All five species of Pacific salmon resident to waters of the northwest U.S. and Canada are common in the area: king (chinook), coho (silver), pink ('humpy'), sockeye (red), and chum ('dog') salmon.

KING SALMON—the largest, scarcest and most highly prized of the Pacific salmon in the area, they are renowned for their fighting strength and endurance.

The king salmon sport fishery in marine waters off the west coast of Prince of Wales and nearby islands is

strongly influenced by fish bound for spawning streams and hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. King salmon fishing off the coast is also affected by hatchery releases from the Ketchikan, Sitka, and Petersburg areas.

Kings are found mostly in coastal marine waters as they pass through on their migration to mainland spawning streams. Mature ('spawner') kings weighing up to 65 pounds can be found in area waters from May to August, with peak availability during June. Immature ('feeder') kings from 10 to 30 pounds are around all year, but fishing is best from May to July.

There are no king salmon spawning streams in the area, although a few mature king salmon stray into island streams every year. King salmon fishing in fresh water is closed unless opened in-season by ADF&G emergency order.

Locating king salmon in marine waters can be difficult. They frequent nearshore areas off points of land, around kelp beds, or in open water. Schools of baitfish such as herring or needlefish are good indicators of king salmon in the area. Baitfish schools may be located by fathometer or found



where concentrations of sea birds are observed diving for fish. Nearshore areas that extend out into tidal currents are effective ambush points for feeding baitfish, and, accordingly, for king salmon.

The most effective techniques for catching kings are trolling, mooching, or jigging; flyfishing is less common.

COHO SALMON—hard fighters and popular targets for anglers in area salt waters. Coho range from 3 to 20 pounds or more (average 8 pounds), and they are abundant in coastal waters from July to September. The best saltwater fishing is from mid-July through August. In salt water, coho travel in large schools, are often aggressive, and can provide intense action. They are usually caught within 30 feet of the surface, but it's not uncommon to catch them down to 100 feet or deeper.

Coho can be caught by trolling, mooching, flyfishing, or by casting lures from boats. Fishing success is usually best within one or two hours of a tide change. Fishing is often productive in bays or estuaries near stream mouths from late August to October when the coho return to spawn in fresh water.

Hatchery-reared coho are released into two island streams—the Klawock River and Neck Lake. Those released into Neck Lake (near the community of Whale Pass) are a summer-run stock, and anglers can find excellent fishing

Before fishing, acquaint yourself with the particular location where you plan to fish and know the sport fishing regulations for that location.

for these fish in the outlet stream of Neck Lake from late June through August. Fishing for the Klawock coho is best in August and September—anglers often find excellent fishing from the shoreline along the road between Craig and Klawock.

cont'd . . .

Most area streams wider than 6 feet that enter salt water support at least small runs of coho. Summer-run coho enter some streams in late June, but most coho are fall-run fish that enter streams from mid-August to November.

PINK SALMON—the smallest and most abundant salmon in Prince of Wales Island area waters. They have a 2-year life cycle and weigh from 2 to 6 pounds (3 lb. average). ‘Pinks’ travel coastal waters in large schools (hundreds or thousands of fish), where they are abundant from early to late summer. Upon entering freshwater streams in summer, pinks develop a dorsal hump which is most pronounced in males—thus the nickname ‘humpy.’ Saltwater ‘humpy’ fishing is best in August, but it’s also good in middle or late July.

Trolling, mooching, or casting lures or flies produces nice catches in salt water when pinks are biting. They are usually brightest and preferred for harvest while in open ocean or coastal waters, before they enter their spawning streams. They often provide excellent action when schooled near stream mouths in August, and roadside fishing near jutting points can be productive—especially in August.

Flyfishing is usually the most effective technique for catching humpies in area streams, but spinning,

baitcasting, and spincasting can also be productive.

SOCKEYE SALMON—regarded for their fighting skill as well as their satisfying flavor, these are perhaps the most difficult salmon to catch in area waters. The saltwater sockeye sport fishery is very limited. Most sockeye are caught by trolling or casting artificial lures or flies. Adult sockeye feed on small crustaceans and other zooplankton in marine waters and stop feeding once they return to spawn in fresh water. However, sockeye are most commonly caught in fresh water in July on flies or spinners.

CHUM SALMON—famous for their large teeth, which develop most prominently in males upon entering fresh water. Chums are caught infrequently in local sport fisheries,



usually by anglers trolling in salt waters, drift fishing or casting in streams for other salmon species.



Bottomfish

'Bottomfish' are fishes normally caught on or near the ocean floor: halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

HALIBUT—the most popular bottomfish in area marine waters, these white-fleshed fish are delicious prepared in any of a variety of ways. Pacific halibut is a toothy flatfish that resembles flounder but grows much larger—adult halibut over 400 pounds have been

caught locally. Halibut live over 20 years and are usually harvested at 15 to 100 pounds. Their preferred habitat is along fairly uniform sandy, rocky, or muddy bottoms near abrupt dropoffs or rocky points of land.

Peak fishing is in summer. Though normally caught on or near the ocean floor at depths below 80 feet, halibut are sometimes caught at shallower depths by anglers trolling or mooching for salmon.

Check regulation book for halibut seasons!

Halibut will strike a number of offerings—whole or chunked herring, salmon heads or tails, octopus, squid,

and chrome or lead-head jigs with a variety of optional rubber tails or skirts.

Heavy, conventional tackle is standard for halibut. Use caution when landing and handling halibut!

ROCKFISH—at least 10 species are commonly harvested in area marine waters. These light-fleshed fish have a distinctive, appealing flavor. Most rockfish species weigh between 1 and 6 pounds (2 lb. on average). Yelloweye (red snapper) are the largest species; they can reach weights of 30 pounds, but average about 6 pounds. Rockfish are long-lived and, depending on species, may live 30 to 100 years or more.

Rockfish are often caught incidentally by anglers fishing for salmon or halibut. Although rockfish are available year-round, the best sport fishing is in the warmer months. All resident rockfish species can be caught with herring or various jigs, spoons, or flies, anywhere from near-surface to bottom. If you are planning to release the rockfish you catch, reel it up slowly to the surface, to avoid rupturing its swim bladder.

LINGCOD—popular marine fish renowned for their prominent teeth and aggressive and territorial nature. Lingcod prefer irregular rocky formations such as caves, particularly in exposed areas with heavy tidal movement.

cont'd . . .

Fish as heavy as 30 pounds are standard, although some exceed 50 pounds.

This member of the greenling family is commonly caught with chrome or lead-head jigs, herring, or heads or tails from various other marine fishes.

***Check regulation book for
lingcod seasons!***



Trout, Char, Grayling

Other gamefish caught in streams and lakes are steelhead, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, and Arctic grayling. The chart on page 13 shows seasonal freshwater availability of these fishes.

STEELHEAD—the most sought-after game fish in island streams from November to May. The popularity of steelhead stems from their fighting prowess and low numbers, compared to salmon, other trout, and char. Steelhead are sea-run rainbow trout that, unlike salmon, are capable of spawning during two or more years.

Adult steelhead (3–20 pounds, average 7 pounds) return yearly to spawning streams in this area. The island has a large concentration of steelhead streams, relative to most of Alaska: 85 are documented by ADF&G. Several larger stream systems with lakes support both spring- and fall-run fish, while most steelhead streams support only the dominant spring-run fish. Information is limited for many of the area streams, but in most systems fewer than 200 adult steelhead return annually.

Anglers fish for spring-run steelhead from early March through May (peak fishing is early April to mid-May), and for fall-run steelhead between late October and mid-January (peak is late November through December).

Drift fishing with spinning or bait-casting tackle and flyfishing are both effective. A host of hardware, flies, and other artificials will attract strikes. ‘Steelies’ will at times smack almost any offering, while they may go ‘off-bite’ during cold spells, low or clear water, periods of heavy fishing pressure, or for no apparent reason at all.

Steelhead can be susceptible to angler-induced mortality from being deeply hooked and from improper handling. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch-and-release when fishing for wild steelhead because of their low numbers and vulnerability.

RAINBOW TROUT—hard-fighting game fish which are highly prized by anglers. They are known for a prominent red stripe on the side, but their overall coloration varies widely and reflects habitat or degree of maturity.

Rainbow trout are found in area waters both as freshwater resident and as sea-run races. Sea-run rainbows are discussed above, under “steelhead.”

Rainbow trout up to 18 inches long inhabit many area streams and lakes. They are present year-round, but the best sport fishing is in spring and early summer.

Rainbows feed voraciously on aquatic insects and their larvae, small fish, eggs, and crustaceans. Effective offerings therefore include flies, spinners, spoons, and other artificials which imitate preferred foods. Rainbows are caught with flyfishing and spinning gear.

CUTTHROAT TROUT—popular native fish inhabiting many area waters. Like rainbows, they occur both as sea-run and resident in streams and lakes, inhabiting almost any freshwater habitat—even beaver ponds and backwater sloughs.

Trophy fish over 3 pounds are caught occasionally in freshwater systems. However, because area lakes and streams are not very productive, these fish are slow-

growing and have low population densities and reproductive rates.

These factors, coupled with their popularity with anglers, make them susceptible to overharvest. Catch-and-release fishing is therefore encouraged.

Cutthroat will strike any of a variety of lures or flies. Sea-run cutthroat are usually caught in area streams in late spring and fall. Resident ‘cutts’ often hold near inlet stream mouths and along lake margins, especially near vegetation.

Trolling with artificial lures produces nice fish in some lakes during summer, when fish are deeper. Instream catch rates are highest in spring, when salmon fry emerge from stream gravels.

DOLLY VARDEN CHAR—the only species of char native to area waters, Dolly Varden are known for following adult salmon upstream and feeding on eggs discharged by ripe female salmon. ‘Dollies’ are common both as sea-run and resident in many area streams and lakes.

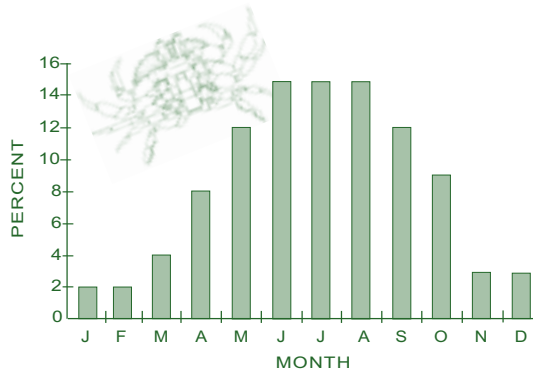
Dolly Varden fishing is generally good from late spring to early fall. A variety of flies and artificials will catch ‘Dollies’ in lakes and streams. Casting or trolling various spoons or spinners adjacent to marine shorelines and stream mouths also produces fish.

ARCTIC GRAYLING—introduced into three Prince of Wales Island lakes in the 1960s and 1970s, grayling are distinguished from trout and char by a prominent dorsal fin. Grayling are sensitive to pollution and prefer cold, clear streams.

Healthy grayling populations inhabit Summit Lake, Lake Melon, and Lake Marge. Their growth rate is slow; most are only 8–12 inches long. Their diet is mainly insects; hence flyfishing is most effective. Small spinners or spoons will also take grayling.

Shellfish

Dungeness crab and shrimp are popular targets, especially in summer. Crab and shrimp are usually caught in traps, pots, or ring nets baited with fish heads, tails, and viscera.



Seasonal availability of shrimp and Dungeness crab in Prince of Wales Island area salt waters.

WARNING!

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation recommends **no harvest** of mussels, clams, scallops, and other filter-feeding bivalves in the Prince of Wales Island area for human consumption. Those shellfish can transmit paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), a potentially lethal neurotoxin, to humans. Additional information or questions should be directed to:

ALASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

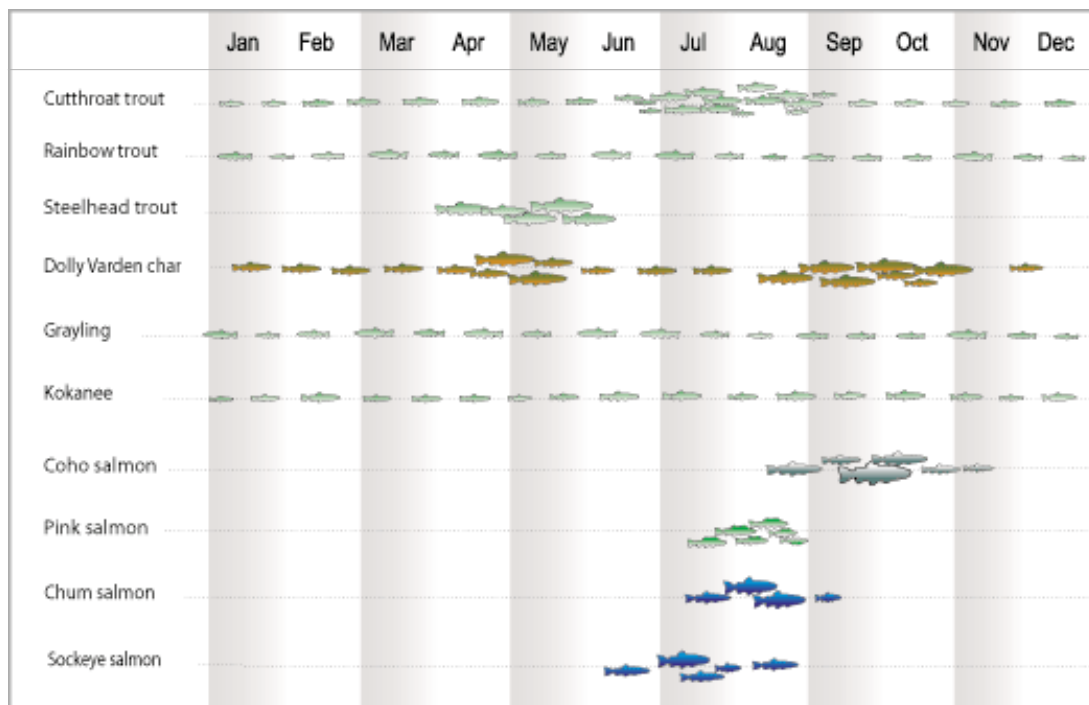
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

3601 C St., Suite 1324
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 563-0318

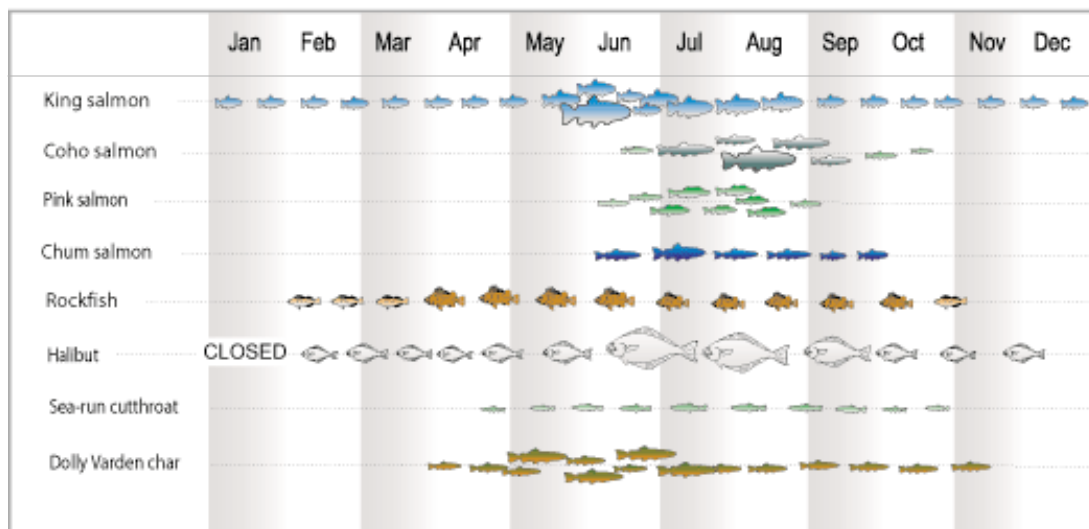
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501-2617
(907) 269-7640

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 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

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.

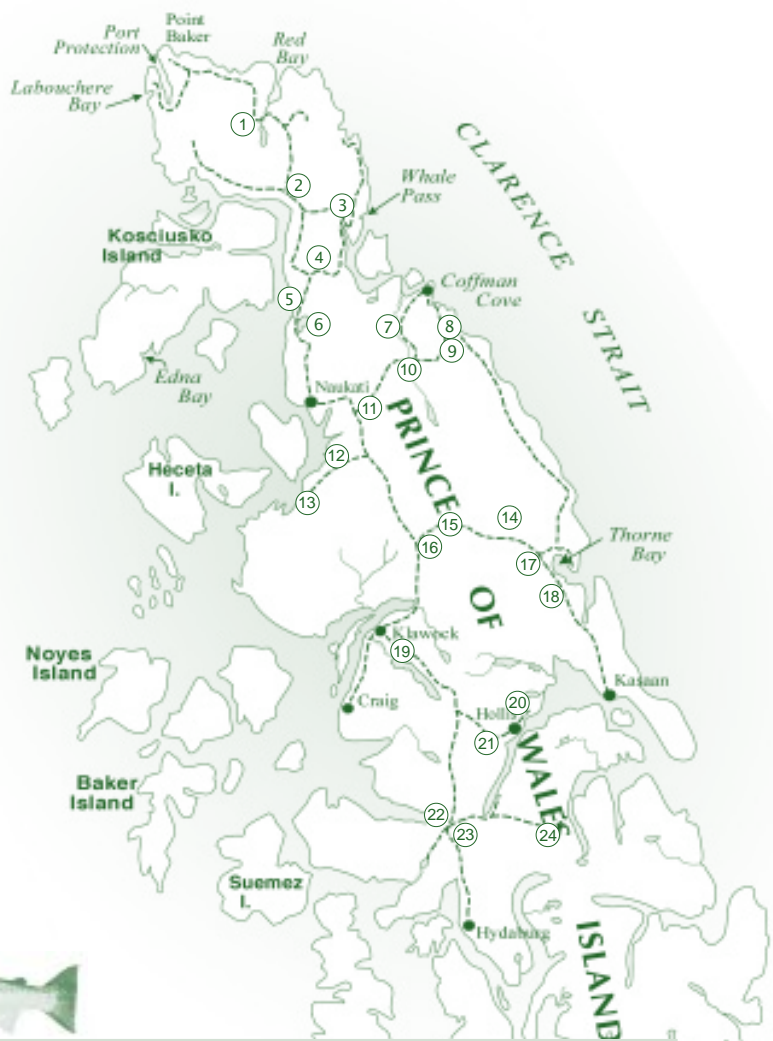
Dry flies that imitate adult mosquitos, other black flies, mayflies, or stoneflies are effective lures for trout and Dollies during hatches in late spring and summer. Lures with sinking patterns that imitate juvenile salmon, sculpin, and insect larvae also catch fish.

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

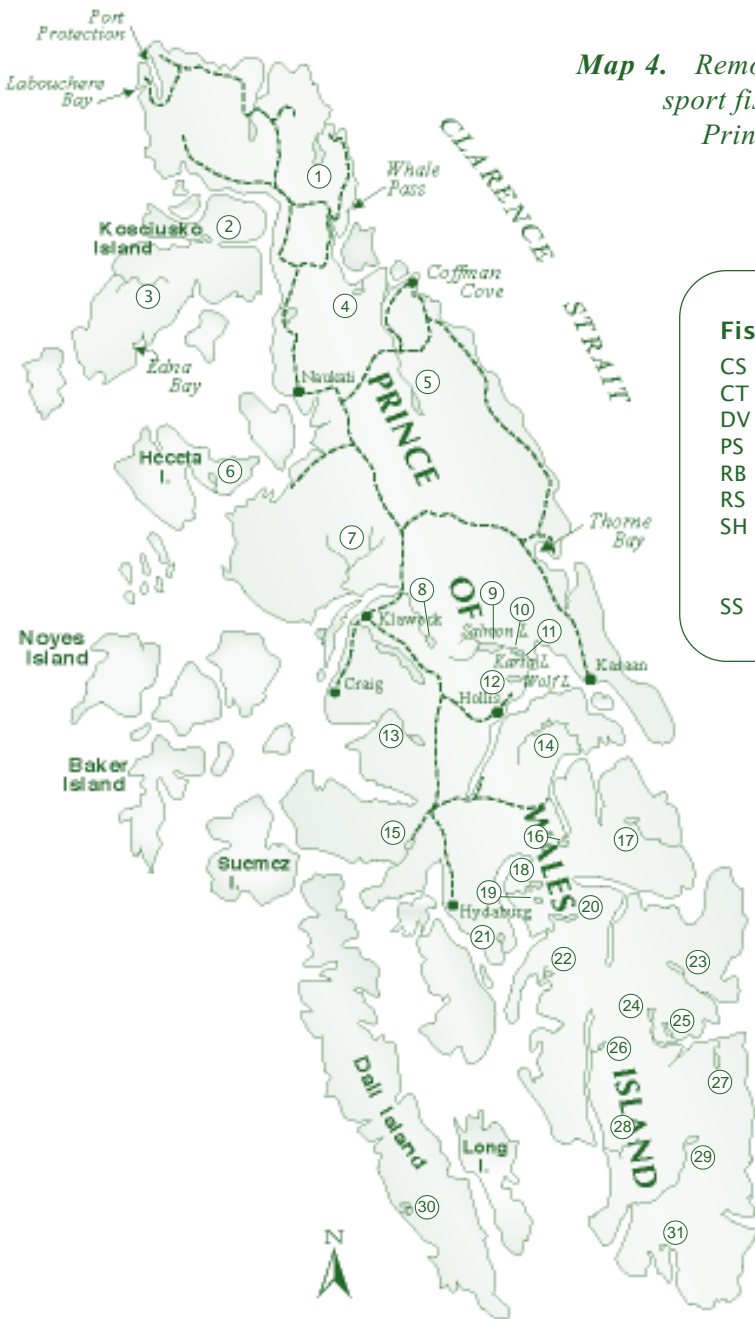
If you've planned your trip well and have put in some time fishing, you are probably catching fish. If you don't intend to keep a fish you catch, or can't keep it because of our regulations, let it go in the manner described below. There are minimum size requirements for king salmon and cutthroat, rainbow, 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

Sport fishing regulations, licenses, and fisheries management



Sport fishing license fees and requirements are explained in the annual *Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary*, and sport fishing licenses can now be obtained on our ADF&G Sport Fish Licensing website :

☞ www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license

by telephone:

☞ (907) 465-2376

by mail:

☞ **ADF&G Licensing**
P. O. Box 25525
Juneau, AK 99802-5525

or from vendors throughout the state.

In general, fishing regulations are open to review and possible change by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) every three years. New regulations from BOF action take effect in spring, following the previous winter's meeting. It is the BOF who actually determine when and how the various fisheries operate and how many fish each user group may harvest. ADF&G then manages the fisheries under BOF direction, to provide maximum harvest levels while insuring sufficient numbers of fish escape to perpetuate the run.

Also inquire at the Craig Sport Fish Division office (826-2498) before angling, to see if inseason emergency orders (EO's) have been issued for the area you intend to fish—EO's do not appear in the regulations summary booklet. They are issued either because emergency situations require immediate restrictive measures, or, conversely, because it has become possible to liberalize some fishing opportunities—oriented mainly at increasing harvests of hatchery fish. Checking for inseason EO's has become especially important with regard to king salmon, since inseason bag limits and other regulations very often differ from “baseline” regulations in the summary booklet.

Sometimes, sport and commercial fishers find themselves fishing the same waters, and questions arise as to methods or numbers of fish taken by one group or the other. In areas where sport and commercial fishers share the same waters, it is to the benefit of each party to exercise consideration for one another.

There is plenty of room for both to co-exist, if a few courtesies are extended by all parties.

Comfort and Safety

Weather around Prince of Wales Island is very changeable, so boots and rain gear are a must. Short boots are fine for some areas or for use with rain gear, but hip boots and/or chest-waders are preferable for most shore-based fisheries. If you are camping, be sure to take along an abundance of rain-fly material.

Excellent populations of mosquitoes, white-sox, no-see-ums, and flies inhabit the area and can be depended upon to give you trouble if you do not have a good supply of insect repellent. Sometimes different brands of repellent are needed to deter the various types of insects. Insect-proof tents are a necessity, and head nets are needed in some areas.



Black bears are common throughout Prince of Wales Island.

Seeing one of them can be a memorable part of one's trip; however, bears should be avoided whenever possible. The danger associated with bears is generally overrated, but bears are definitely unpredictable—encounters should never be taken lightly. When in bear habitat: (1) make noise so as not to surprise one; (2) do not keep food stored in or near your tent; (3) keep a *very* clean camp; and (4) do *not* camp on a game trail or alongside a stream full of spawning fish. When all is said and done, common sense is the best protection.



Alaska Office of Boating Safety

Before you head out on open water, be sure you are prepared!

Your boat should be at least 14 feet and seaworthy, with full Coast Guard-required equipment. Have a small 'kicker' engine in addition to the main engine, a VHF or CB radio, marine charts, and PFDs for everyone on board.

The U.S. Coast Guard website and the Alaska Boating Safety website contain all the necessary information:

 www.alaskaboatingsafety.org

 www.uscgboating.org