

# TROUT REGULATIONS for SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Trout regulations in Southeast Alaska are based on the ADF&G's research on cutthroat trout and steelhead in Southeast, published literature on trout, and an intensive public review process.

Regulations for managing trout (cutthroat and rainbow trout, in combination) and steelhead in Southeast Alaska are separated into two categories: steelhead and all other trout. Within these two categories, there are eight different levels of regulation written to achieve maximum angler opportunity while preserving existing stocks at optimum levels.

**Steelhead:** Wild steelhead are one of Southeast Alaska's most prized resources, and a minimum size limit of 36 inches has been established to provide a limited harvest opportunity yet protect most adult steelhead. Research shows that this size limit provides protection for 92% of adult steelhead throughout the region. In addition, there is an annual limit of 2 steelhead per person.

**Fall-run steelhead streams:** The Board of Fisheries has added protection to 24 fall-run steelhead streams. The use of bait and retention of steelhead is prohibited year-round in these waters.

**Regionwide regulations:** The 11-inch minimum and 22-inch maximum size limit for trout accomplishes two essential goals: it protects about 60% of all cutthroat trout until they can spawn at least once, and it protects juvenile steelhead so they cannot be harvested before they migrate to the ocean. But size limits are only effective if hooking mortality is reduced. Studies show that 48% of cutthroat die when caught and released with natural bait, but with artificial gear (lures, flies, etc.) less than 5% die. Rainbow trout caught with bait and released suffer a mortality rate of 28%, again much higher than with artificial gear. Bait is therefore banned in most fresh waters for 10 months of the year, with an opening intended to allow the use of bait for coho salmon fishing September 15 to November 15.

## Summary of Trout Regulations in Southeast Alaska

Species	Open season	Size and harvest limits
<b>Wild steelhead</b> (fresh and salt waters)	entire year	1 per day/2 in possession, 36-inch minimum size limit. <b>ANNUAL LIMIT</b> of 2
<b>Cutthroat/rainbow trout</b>	entire year	
<b>1. Regionwide regulations</b> (fresh and salt waters)	↓	2 per day/2 in possession, 11-inch minimum and 22-inch maximum size limit.
<b>2. High-use waters</b>		2 per day/2 in possession, 14-inch minimum and 22-inch maximum size limit.
<b>3. Trophy cutthroat lakes</b>		1 per day/1 in possession, 25-inch minimum size limit.
Turner Lake		catch-and-release only.
<b>4. Small cutthroat lakes</b>		2 per day/2 in possession, 9-inch minimum size limit.
<b>5. Selected stocked lakes</b>		5 per day/5 in possession, no size limits.
<b>6. Florence Lake</b>		5 per day/10 in possession, no size limits.

### Freshwater bait categories:

- 1. Fall-run steelhead streams, high-use waters, trophy lakes, small cutthroat lakes**—no bait year-round.
- 2. Regionwide**—no bait Nov. 16–Sept. 14 (bait allowed for coho salmon opening Sept. 15–Nov. 15).
- 3. Selected stocked lakes and landlocked lakes without cutthroat or rainbow trout**—bait allowed year-round.

**NOTE:** In a few cases, exceptions to the categories on this page apply, and are so noted as specific exceptions on pages following.

**Trophy cutthroat lakes:** Thirteen lakes in Southeast Alaska have produced cutthroat trout that qualified for entry in the ADF&G Trophy Fish Program. Anglers in a 1993 survey said that the opportunity to catch trophy-size cutthroat trout is important to them, and our research shows that cutthroat don't reach the 3-pound trophy size for about 12 years. No bait is allowed in trophy lakes, and all have a minimum size limit of 25 inches—except Turner Lake, which is catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.

**High-use waters:** Areas with developed access have more intensive fisheries—28 lakes and the Juneau road-side waters are in this category. The minimum size limit is set at 14 inches to protect local populations of cutthroat by allowing all female cutthroat to spawn at least one time. Bait is prohibited in these lakes year-round. In addition, steelhead fishing in Juneau road system streams is catch-and-release only.

**Small cutthroat lakes:** Buck Lake and Lake 436 (Baranof Island), Long Lake (near Wrangell), Lost Lake (near Skagway), Noname Lake (Prince of Wales Island), Shelter Lake (near Juneau), and Sukoi Lake (Kruzof Island) are smaller lakes that do not produce fish large enough to reach the 11-inch regional minimum size limit. Each of these lakes has a 9-inch minimum size limit, and bait is prohibited. Regionwide limits of 2 per day and 2 in possession apply.

**Selected stocked lakes:** In Twin Lakes in Juneau, and in the City Park ponds, Carlanna Lake and Harriet Hunt Lake near Ketchikan, bait is allowed year-round. There is no minimum size limit, and the bag limit is 5 trout per day and 5 in possession.

**Florence Lake:** Because a large population of cutthroat exists here and fishing levels are minimal at this remote lake, regulations are more liberal—at 5 per day and 10 in possession, no size limits—and bait is allowed. □