



Trout and Char

The Juneau and Haines road systems, as well as more remote parts of northern Southeast, furnish extensive access to both shoreline and freshwater fishing opportunities for Dolly Varden—one of the region’s most important sport fish species. Fishing begins for the most part in April and early May, when Dollies begin moving to salt water from overwintering lakes. During the next several months, these fish will move along marine shoreline areas and will be entering the lower reaches of many streams. By mid-

to late summer they are returning to their natal streams for spawning later in fall.

Sea-run cutthroat trout have a similar life history, except that they spawn in spring. The abundance of sea-run cutthroat trout is low, compared to sea-run Dolly Varden, and bag and possession limits, as well as size limits are correspondingly more restrictive.

For both Dollies and sea-run cutthroat, good shoreline areas to try are near stream mouths or where

there are rocky outcrops. Light to medium weight spinning gear is most commonly used for shoreline fishing. Lures such as Pixees, Krocodiles, Hotrods, and Dare-devils work well, both in salt water and fresh water.

Northern Southeast has rather limited steelhead trout fishing opportunities. There are runs of spring steelhead, but most are in remote locations, and run sizes are small. In general, peak steelhead trout fishing in northern Southeast streams is from early to mid-May.

Juneau roadside steelhead trout are confined primarily to Peterson Creek, which empties into Peterson Lagoon near Amalga Harbor. Past research indicates that the total escapement of steelhead into this system approaches 200 adults, but there are likely fewer than half this number in the stream at any one time, and the stream is very small and not easy to fish. Landlocked king or coho salmon are available all year long at Twin Lakes on the Juneau road system. These fish can be taken on bait, lures, or flies during the summer and through winter ice.