



General Regulations - Northwest

Inclusive waters: The Northwestern Area consists of all waters draining into and including the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, Kotzebue Sound, and Norton Sound south of Point Hope and north of Point Romanof.

Fishing for all species is open year-round unless otherwise noted below or in Special Regulations.

KING SALMON

- 20 inches or longer—1 per day, 1 in possession.
- Less than 20 inches—10 per day, 10 in possession.

OTHER SALMON

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

ARCTIC GRAYLING

- 5 per day, 5 in possession, no size limit.

SHEEFISH

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

ARCTIC CHAR, DOLLY VARDEN & LAKE TROUT

- All lakes:
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession—in combination.
- Flowing and salt waters:
 - 10 per day, 10 in possession—only 2 of which may be 20 inches or longer and only 2 may be lake trout.

NORTHERN PIKE

- 10 per day, 10 in possession, no size limit.

BURBOT

- 15 per day, 15 in possession, no size limit.

SHELLFISH

- See pages 38-39.

HALIBUT

Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty. See page 7 for federal contact information.

- **Season:** February 1 - December 31.
- **Unguided anglers:** 2 per day, 4 in possession.
- **Consult federal regulations for the following:**
 - 1) Bag, size, and possession limits for guided (charter) anglers.
 - 2) Possession and landing requirements.
 - 3) Inseason changes to the regulations.
- **Filleting requirements for fish cleaned at sea:**
No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached.

OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

Methods and Means - Northwest

Hook Size:

- Multiple hooks with a gap between point and shank larger than ½ inch may be used for taking fish other than salmon, except where noted.

Use of spears or bow and arrows:

- Suckers and burbot may be taken with spear or bow and arrow year-round.
- **September 1–April 30:** Northern pike or whitefish (excluding sheefish) may be taken by spear or bow and arrow during any open season for northern pike or whitefish, or may be speared by persons completely submerged during any open season for northern pike or whitefish.

Special Regulations - Northwest

Cripple River:

- Open to fishing year-round, except for chum salmon.
- **Closed to chum salmon fishing.** All chum salmon caught must be released immediately.

Kobuk River drainage—upstream of the mouth of the Mauneluk River:

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Sheefish limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

Nome River:

- Open to fishing year-round except for Arctic grayling.
- **Closed to Arctic grayling fishing.** All Arctic grayling caught must be released immediately.

Northern Norton Sound—all waters draining into Norton Sound from Cape Darby to Cape Prince of Wales (see map above):

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Chum salmon limits: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Coho salmon limits: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Sockeye salmon limits: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
- Pink salmon limits: 10 per day, 10 in possession.
- Arctic grayling limits: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 15 inches or longer.

Penny River:

- **Closed to chum salmon fishing.** All chum salmon caught must be released immediately.

Pilgrim River drainage:

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Arctic grayling limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 15 inches or longer.

Salmon Lake—including its tributaries, and the outlet stream (Pilgrim River) 300 ft downstream from the lake outlet:

- Open to fishing year-round, except for salmon.
- **Closed to salmon fishing.** All salmon caught must be released immediately.

Selawik River drainage—upstream of the mouth of the Tagagawik River:

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Sheefish limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.

Snake River drainage:

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Arctic grayling limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, only 1 of which may be 15 inches or longer.

Solomon River:

- Open to fishing year-round, except for Arctic grayling.
- **Closed to Arctic grayling fishing.** All Arctic grayling caught must be released immediately.

Unalakleet River drainage:

- Open to fishing year-round.
- If you remove a salmon from the water, you must retain it. Any salmon removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked it. If you intend to release a salmon, you must not remove it from the water before releasing it.
- King salmon limits: 2 per day, 2 in possession, **only 1 of which may be 20 inches or longer.**
 - **There is an annual limit of 2 king salmon 20 inches or longer. Immediately upon landing and retaining a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must fill out a harvest record; see page 5.**
- Other salmon limits: 10 per day, 10 in possession, of which only 4 in combination may be chum, coho, or sockeye salmon. No size limit.
- Arctic grayling limits: 5 per day, 5 in possession, only 1 of which may be 15 inches or longer.