Sport Fishing in Prince William Sound

A Presentation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
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Presentation Roadmap

- Geographical location and access points.
- General description of sport fish users.
- Biological profile for select species.
- Sport fishing effort for select species.
- Brief outline of the specific sport fish BOF proposal.
Sport Fishing Effort in PWS

Angler Effort

Data from SWHS
Sport Fishing Effort from a Boat

PWS Effort from a Boat by Port

Year

Data from SWHS
Charter Trips in PWS

PWS Charter Trips by Port of Landing

Data from Charter Log book data
Species Profile:

Salmon (Coho Salmon)

Lingcod

Rockfish
Coho

- Age: 1-2 year in fresh water, just over 1 year in salt water
- Spawning timing: August – November
Coho Salmon

General Regulations:
- 6 per day, 12 in possession; of which only 3 of those fish maybe coho salmon.

Copper River Delta Highway Streams:
- 3 per day, 3 in possession
- Aug 15-Sept 15: after harvesting a bag limit of coho salmon, a person may not sport fish with bait for the rest of the day in these waters.
- A coho salmon that is removed from the water must be retained and becomes part of the anglers bag limit.

Terminal Harvest areas (Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, and Chenega)
- 6 per day, 12 in possession regardless of species
Coho Salmon

PWS Coho Salmon

Year


Number of Coho Salmon

0 50,000 100,000 150,000 200,000 250,000

Data from SWHS
Coho Salmon

Valdez Area Coho Salmon

Data from SWHS
Lingcod

Average age of harvest is 15 years old.

- **Habitat:**
  - Rocky reefs from 30-300 ft.
  - Spawning occurs in the spring and males guard the nest.

- **Fishing:**
  - Typically caught jigging.
Lingcod

- Season is open from July 1-December 31:
  - Minimum length of 35 inches long with head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with head removed.
  - 2 per day, 4 in possession
Prince William Sound Lingcod
Catch and Harvest

Data from SWHS
Rockfish

Pelagic (Chapter 75.995)

Most commonly caught species include: Black Rockfish, Dusky Rockfish, Yellowtail Rockfish, Dark Rockfish

Nonpelagic (Chapter 75.995)

Most commonly caught species include: Yelloweye Rockfish, Quillback Rockfish, Silvergray Rockfish, Copper Rockfish, Tiger Rockfish, China Rockfish.
Rockfish - Barotrauma
Rockfish
Deep Water Release


Rockfish

- The first two nonpelagic rockfish caught must be retained.

- May 1 – September 15
  4 per day, 8 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish.

- September 16 – April 30
  8 per day, 8 in possession, only 2 per day, 2 in possession may be non pelagic.
Rockfish

Prince William Sound Rockfish
Catch and Harvest

Data from SWHS
List of PWS Sport Fish Proposal:

**Lingcod**
- Proposal #1 – Reduce the daily bag and possession limit for lingcod in PWS area.
- Proposal #2 – Reduce the daily bag and possession limit for lingcod in a portion of the PWS area.

**Rockfish**
- Proposal #3 – Modify and align bag and possession limits for rockfish in the PWS area.

**Salmon**
- Proposal #26 – Allow bow fishing for pink and coho salmon in the Valdez terminal harvest area.
- Proposal #27 – Remove a closed water provision for Clear Creek.
This information and more is available in the Sport Fish Area Management Report

Thank you