

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.

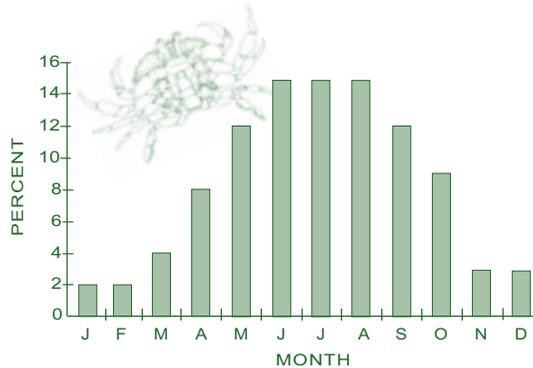
Dolly Varden fishing is generally good from late spring to early fall. A variety of flies and artificials will catch ‘Dollies’ in lakes and streams. Casting or trolling various spoons or spinners adjacent to marine shorelines and stream mouths also produces fish.

**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