

Sport Fishing Along the Dalton Highway



Alaska Department of Fish and Game



ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT FISHING REGULATIONS before setting out on any fishing trip. Current regulation booklets are available at all Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices, most license vendors, and online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.sport

Note: Emergency Orders (EOs) always supersede the published regulations. Always check for current EOs and Press Releases before finalizing your fishing plans at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/

The information contained in this document was partially funded by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability.

The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-478-3648, or (FAX) 907-465-2440.

Produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish, Region III 1300 College Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Contact (907) 459-7200 for more information.

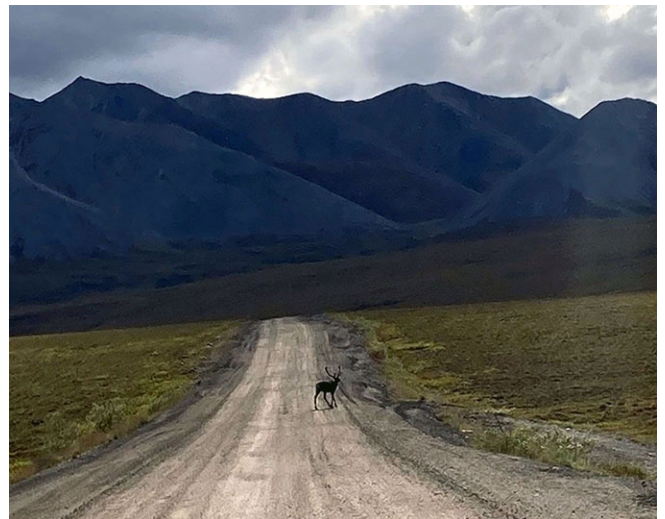
Cover Photos: Heather Fraley with a Sagavanirktok River Arctic grayling. Photo by Kevin Fraley

Copyright © 2024

②

Construction of the Dalton Highway made it possible for travel north of the Arctic Circle to reach some of the most remote areas in North America with relative ease and minimum expense. The Prudhoe Bay oilfield marks the northernmost point in North America that can be reached by road, but public access ends 1 mile south in Deadhorse. Travelers should be aware that access by road to the Arctic Ocean in the Prudhoe Bay industrial area is restricted to special authorization and licensed organized tours. Unauthorized private vehicles are not allowed in the oilfield complex.

The Dalton Highway extends 414 miles north from Livengood to the Prudhoe Bay industrial area on the Arctic Ocean. The mostly unpaved road has been maintained by the State of Alaska since 1979. The opening of the Dalton Highway to public travel in 1994 provided access to lakes and streams with subsequent increases in recreational fishing. As a result, there are special regulations for a corridor the length of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline north of the Yukon River extending 5-miles on either side of the Dalton Highway. Currently, fishing for all species, except salmon, is allowed within the pipeline corridor.



A caribou on the road near Atigun Pass. ADF&G photo

③

This brochure will acquaint anglers with roadside fishing opportunities along the Dalton Highway. The Dalton Highway Visitor Guide published by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a good source of information about campgrounds and campsites, services, safety, and points of interest (www.blm.gov/alaska/public-room/brochure/dalton-highway-visitor-guide). Hard copies can be picked up at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Fairbanks, at the Yukon Crossing Visitor Contact Station, and at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot. *The Milepost*, published by Northwest Books, is also a good source of information about points of interest and commercial services along the Dalton Highway. For current road conditions, visit 511alaska.gov



A car wash will be required after driving the Dalton Highway. Roads can become muddy and slippery after a rainstorm. Please check the current road conditions beforehand. ADF&G photo

The best fishing opportunities along the Dalton Highway are between July and mid-September, as many streams are turbid from snowmelt runoff throughout much of June. By mid-September, road conditions deteriorate due to inclement weather and ice begins to set up on lakes and streams. The number and variety of fish diminishes farther north, and fewer fish are available the closer to the headwaters of streams. Nevertheless, when timing and conditions are right, you can (4)



A Dalton Highway Arctic char. Photo by Oliver Ancans

find good fishing for Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, burbot, and northern pike. Lake trout also inhabit some lakes, but are restricted to catch-and-release only fishing.

A few Chinook (king) and chum (dog) salmon spawn in many of the highway's streams, providing limited viewing opportunities during spawning season. However, sport fishing for salmon is **PROHIBITED** for 5-miles on either side of the Dalton Highway, except at the confluence of the Ray and Yukon Rivers, which is not easily accessed from the road.

All fish in the streams are wild, native stocks. No effort has been made to stock hatchery fish or non-native fish into the area.

This brochure does not provide a complete list of all flowing waters crossed by the Dalton Highway or of all lakes that might be accessible from the road. Anglers should be aware that Arctic grayling, in particular, are found in virtually all flowing waters, especially during the summer months, and that exploration of small, unnamed creeks can sometimes provide excellent fishing. As a general rule, fishing success in this area, as in almost any area, improves the farther away you get from the road. Be prepared to walk a modest distance up or down the stream(s) to find better fishing, but keep in mind that large animals (bears) may be present, as well (5)



Arctic grayling from Grayling Lake. ADF&G photo.

as mosquitoes and biting flies that can make life miserable. Information on bear safety for anglers can be found at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/?adfg=livingwithbears.bearcountry

A word of caution to those intending to stop and fish along the Dalton Highway: remember that the highway exists primarily to serve industrial transportation needs. On a typical summer day, dozens of loaded, 18-wheel trucks travel along the narrow roadway in both directions. Parking along the highway is not recommended because of the large truck traffic, dusty conditions, and flying rocks created by traffic. Find parking places and pullouts that are well off of the roadway. Also be aware that many stream crossing turnouts are used by water trucks from the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT). They use the turnouts to fill up before proceeding with maintenance work on the road, so take care not to impede tanker filling.

In this guide, we list stream crossings and lakes by name and distance in miles (approximate) northward, from the start of the Dalton Highway near Livengood.

A Pitch for Fisheries Conservation

Because fish grow and reproduce more slowly at high latitudes and elevations, fish populations in these regions are particularly susceptible to overharvest. Average size and abundance can decrease quite rapidly in response to fishing pressure. Lake ⑥

populations of Arctic grayling, Arctic char, and lake trout are especially vulnerable to overfishing, although stream stocks are also sensitive to fishing pressures. Anglers are encouraged to practice proper catch-and-release techniques that are outlined later in this brochure to help conserve these fish stocks.

Hess Creek MP 24

Hess Creek is the largest stream between the Elliott Highway and the Yukon River bridge. The creek supports populations of Arctic grayling, whitefish, and northern pike. There is a good pullout located on the southwest side of Hess Creek that can accommodate about a dozen vehicles and a small one on the northwest side that can accommodate at most a half dozen cars. However, the latter is unimproved and can be muddy.

Yukon River MP 56

A well-developed boat launch is available on the northwest side of the Yukon River with a large parking area for vehicles and boat trailers. With the exception of burbot fishing, there is essentially no sport fishing on the mainstem of the Yukon River because of the water's turbidity. Chinook and chum salmon, northern pike, sheefish, Arctic grayling, whitefish, and burbot all live in the river. Burbot fishing is popular in the fall before freeze-up and in the winter through the ice. During summer months, commercial and subsistence gillnets and fish wheels may be



The mighty Yukon River at Milepost 56. ADF&G photo

seen near the bridge. The mouth of the Ray River is approximately 2 miles downstream of the crossing and can be a good fishing spot for northern pike and sheefish during summer. This is the only place where a fisher can target salmon within 5-miles of the Dalton Highway. A boat will be required to reach the Ray River as two muddy sloughs are between the Dalton Highway and the Ray River. Be sure to check current Emergency Orders for restrictions and closures to salmon sport fishing at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/

Ft. Hamlin Hills Creek MP 72.5

This small stream flows into the Ray River. Arctic grayling are present if there is sufficient water. A small, unimproved southeast turnout is available for parking at the bridge.

No Name Creek MP 80

This small stream flows into the Ray River. There is a small, unimproved southeast turnout at the bridge. The creek has undercut banks with overhanging brush in many places. Fishing can be good in May or June for Arctic grayling, but water levels normally decline in midsummer and the creek can become unfishable.

Kanuti River MP 107

This is the first tributary of the Koyukuk River crossed by the Dalton Highway. There is a large turnout on the southeast side of the bridge with a small, improved cement launch used by ADOT to collect water for highway maintenance. The Kanuti River contains Arctic grayling, burbot, whitefish, and northern pike. It flows through the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and joins the Koyukuk River about 80 miles downstream. Near the bridge crossing, the water is slightly tannic from draining from numerous Arctic ponds. Adventurous types might try paddling or walking a canoe upstream while fishing, then floating back to the bridge. Very adventurous folks can packraft approximately 7 miles downstream to

(8)

a remote hot spring, but be aware of river hazards such as sweepers and rapids and you will have to hike back to the Dalton Highway over very rough terrain.



The Kanuti River contains Arctic grayling, burbot, whitefish, and northern pike. ADF&G photo

Fish Creek MP 115

Fish Creek joins Bonanza Creek and flows about 30 miles before reaching the South Fork Koyukuk River. There are small turnouts on the north and southwest sides of the bridge. The stream is small and usually clear in summer. Whitefish are present, and you can find good fishing for Arctic grayling; however, walking and wading might be difficult because of the brushy banks and occasional logjams.

South and North Forks of Bonanza Creek MP 123 and MP 124

Both creeks contain Arctic grayling, burbot, and whitefish. There is a small, steep turnout on the southeast side of the bridge on the South Fork. The North Fork has a small turnout on the southeast side of the bridge. Both forks join, then meet Fish Creek before flowing to the South Fork of the Koyukuk River. The North Fork carries a higher volume of water than the South Fork.

Prospect Creek MP 135

Prospect Creek contains Arctic grayling, northern pike, and whitefish. Turnouts at the bridge are poor to nonexistent, but

(9)

a materials site access road 1/4 mile to the south provides access to the creek and is a safe turnout. However, do NOT block access for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. personnel who need to reach the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Prospect Creek joins the Jim River within 3 miles of the road crossing, and the Jim River flows into the South Fork of the Koyukuk River.

Jim River: No.1 bridge MP 140; No 2 bridge MP 141; No 3 bridge MP 144

No. 3 bridge crosses the mainstem of the Jim River and has the best turnout with a large parking area on the southeast side. There is a very tight turnout on the southeast side of the No. 1 bridge and a larger one at the No. 2 bridge. Chinook and chum salmon, Arctic grayling, burbot, whitefish, and northern pike are all found in the Jim River. This river is especially known for the Arctic grayling fishery at the Dalton Highway crossings. After being joined by Prospect Creek, the Jim River flows into the South Fork of the Koyukuk River.

The Dalton Highway parallels the Jim River for about 10 miles. In floating the Jim River, the No. 3 bridge and will not directly connect to the No. 1 and No. 2 bridges, which are side channels. The takeout is where the Bettles Winter Road (unmarked) crosses the Jim River and can be accessed at MP 135, south of Pump Station #5. This takeout is not obvious,



*Bridge #2 under the Jim River at Milepost 141.
ADF&G photo*



Arctic grayling are found in most streams along the Dalton Highway. Photo by Max Gerth

so you will want to mark the location on a GPS and leave visible flagging prior to beginning your float and is the final access to the Dalton Highway. Always be aware of your abilities to navigate river hazards.

Grayling Lake MP 149

This 80-acre lake is relatively shallow and flows into the Jim River. Grayling Lake constitutes an important spawning and rearing area for Arctic grayling. Good fishing for Arctic grayling is available during the spring and summer. There is a small turnout area at approximately 149 mi., north of the Grayling Lake Wayside. Grayling Lake is shallow at this access point and a canoe, raft, or small power boat would be handy, but not essential.

South Fork Koyukuk River MP 157

Juvenile Chinook and chum salmon, and adult Arctic grayling and whitefish are present near the bridge. At the turnout on the southwest side of the bridge it is possible to launch boats under certain water level conditions and there is ample parking for boats and trailers. The South Fork joins the Middle Fork Koyukuk River between rocky, shallow riffles and pools, making navigation by power boat difficult. On the southeast side of the bridge is another parking area, but fishers will need to navigate some riprap to access the river. 11

Slate Creek MP 174

This stream enters the Middle Fork Koyukuk River at Coldfoot. Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and whitefish can be found, and both Chinook and chum salmon have been reported in this stream. Resident Dolly Varden are small and not abundant. Turnouts are fairly nonexistent near Slate Creek, so park in Coldfoot and take care not to block roads.

Marion Creek MP 179

There are Arctic grayling and small Dolly Varden in Marion Creek. This stream joins the Middle Fork Koyukuk River to the west of the road. There may be enough parking for one or two vehicles on the southwest side of the bridge on an Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. access road. However, the best place to park is at the Marion Creek Campground. There is a nice parking area that can accommodate approximately eight cars across from campsite #26. A sign will point you to a primitive trail that eventually leads to the Marion Creek Falls. Marion Creek can be accessed in approximately 0.25 miles via a social trail. If you wish to continue several more miles to the falls, first get a map and advice from the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot so as to not get lost.



Dolly Varden in Marion Creek are relatively small.
ADF&G photo

Minnie Creek MP 186

Arctic grayling, burbot, and whitefish live in this small stream. There is a good turnout on the southwest side of the bridge that can accommodate several vehicles.



Minnie Creek has Arctic grayling, burbot and whitefish.
ADF&G photo

Middle Fork Koyukuk River – Coldfoot at MP 174 and 4 bridge crossings from MP 189 mi. to MP 205

This river is accessible from the north end of the airstrip at Coldfoot, but accessing the river will require navigating some steep riprap. North of Coldfoot, the Dalton Highway parallels the river for several miles. Chinook and chum salmon, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and whitefish can be found in the Middle Fork Koyukuk River. Fishing can be good under clear water conditions, but the water is usually silt-laden. There is a good road turnout at Bridge #3 (204 mi.) on the northeast side, with ample parking, toilets, and litter barrels. This used to be a good river access site for those wishing to float to a lower bridge; however, recently the river changed course and this site is no longer viable. The river can now be accessed a little ways north at Bridge #4 (205 mi.). There is a small pullout on the southeast side of the bridge that floaters can use to stage their crafts before parking at Bridge #3. Access is easier on the southwest side of the bridge just before the riprap. An approximately 6-hour canoe or raft trip starts at the Middle Fork Bridge #4 and takes out at Bridge #1, which is easily accessible from the Dalton Highway. Power boating in the Middle Fork requires shallow operation capabilities and props are not recommended.

Dietrich River MP 207

Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, burbot, and whitefish live in this river. The Dalton Highway parallels the river for about 25 miles as it goes up the Dietrich River valley. This highly braided river meanders through a broad floodplain, and rain tends to bring water to high and muddy levels within a short time. There is a turnout on the southwest side of the bridge, where canoes or rafts can be launched for travel down the lower Dietrich River for approximately 2 miles to where the Dietrich River joins the Bettles River near 208 mi. to form the Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

Atigun River – bridge crossings at MP 253 and MP 271

Arctic grayling, resident Dolly Varden, burbot, and whitefish inhabit the lower Atigun River, and Arctic grayling range throughout the upper Atigun River and many of its tributaries. Several miles of stream are accessible from the Dalton Highway as far north as the second bridge at 271 mi.

Only very small turnouts are available at the bridge crossings; however, if you park safely on the Dalton Highway shoulders and walk a short way, you can reach many stretches of river. Flyfishing for small to medium (6- to 12-inch) Arctic grayling can be fun when clearwater conditions prevail during summer. There is an



Looking south going up Atigun Pass with the Dietrich River paralleling the Dalton Highway. ADF&G photo (14)

opportunity to float from the Atigun River road crossing at 271 mi down to the Sagavanirktok River and take out along the highway between mile 312 and 334. There are no boat launches or parking areas right on the water for a takeout spot, so be prepared to carry your gear across the tundra to pack out. Since most of the Atigun River is within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, please file a float plan with the Refuge office in Fairbanks. This is a challenging float recommended for experts only!

Tea Lake MP 270

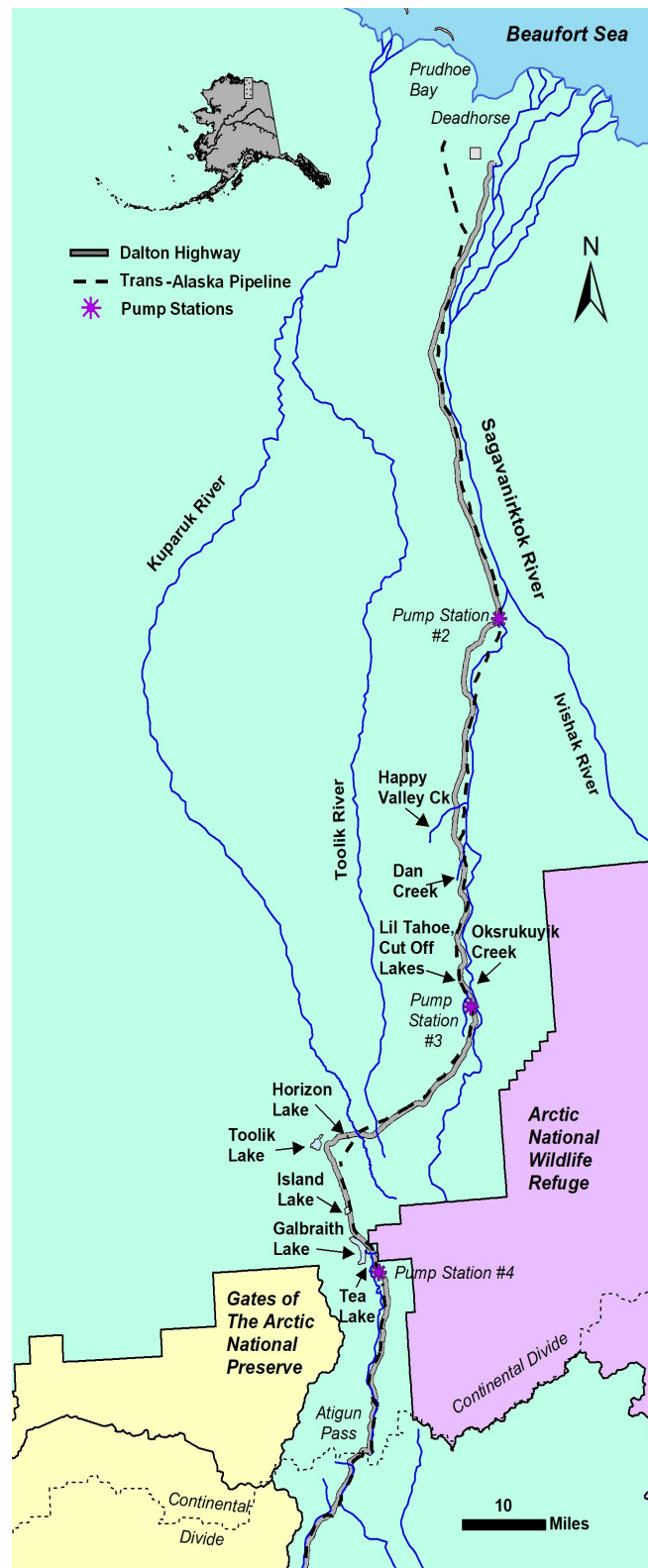
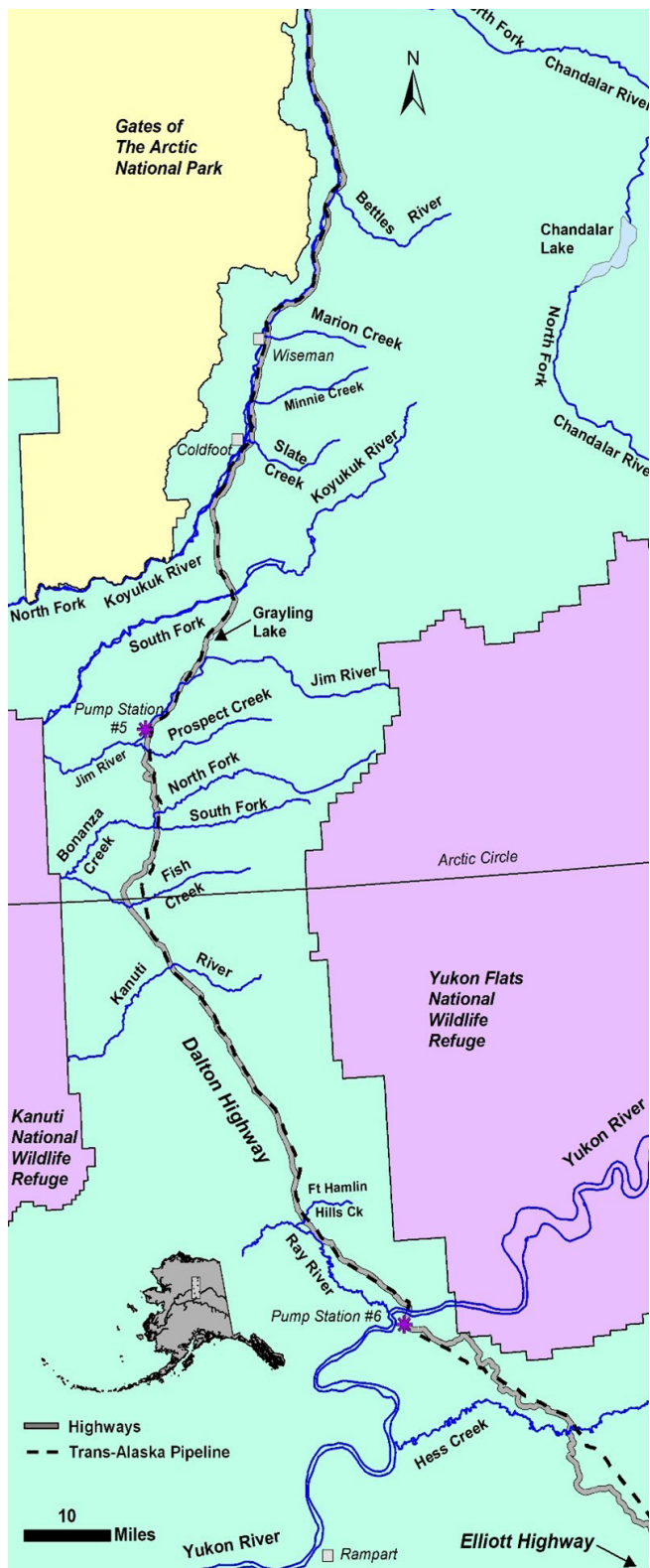
Located near the Dalton Highway and the access road to Pump Station #4, Tea Lake contains Arctic grayling and burbot. A short, downhill trail to the west side of the road over slightly wet ground leads to the lake shore. Fishing success is greater if using a boat or raft, but the craft has to be carried down to the lake.

Galbraith Lake MP 276

Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, lake trout, burbot, and whitefish all reside in Galbraith Lake. The maximum depth in this 1,030-acre lake is 23 feet, and its water is slightly turbid. You can see Galbraith Lake to the west of the Dalton Highway, and an access road runs to an active airstrip about 1.5 miles from the highway, but there is no road to the lake itself. The access road crosses one of the inlet streams 1 1/2 miles above the lake. Lake trout are sometimes found in the lower inlet stream during the fall. To fish on the lake, you



A lake trout caught in Galbraith Lake. ADF&G photo



can hike overland through semi-wet tundra or hike down the inlet stream. Because of the effort required, Galbraith Lake receives less fishing pressure than more accessible Dalton Highway waters. A lake outlet stream enters the Atigun River about 200 yards upstream of Atigun bridge #2.

Island Lake MP 279

Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake trout, burbot, and whitefish live in Island Lake. It is located a short distance to the west and downhill of the Dalton Highway and is not directly accessible by road. Fish abundance for all species is low.



*A Dalton Highway Arctic char in spawning coloration.
photo by Kevin Fraley*

Toolik Lake MP 284

Toolik Lake contains Arctic grayling, lake trout, and whitefish. It drains northward to the Kuparuk River. A marked access road, about a mile west of the Dalton Highway, leads to this 358-acre lake. Here, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Institute of Arctic Biology, operates the Toolik Field Station within the Toolik Lake Research Natural Area (RNA). The site of many Arctic biology research projects, the Toolik Lake RNA includes the lake and 82,800 acres of surrounding land. Fishing is permitted in the lake, but camping is prohibited within the RNA. Follow the signs at the entrance to the public day-use area. The maximum lake depth is 77 feet, so a canoe or raft can help improve catches. Lake trout fishing is best at breakup and just before freeze-up in the fall. Toolik Lake has inlet and outlet streams, (18)

and many other small lakes upstream and downstream are accessible by foot.

Horizon Lake MP 288

Arctic char live in this small lake, which has no active inlet or outlet streams. It lies less than a mile east of the Dalton Highway, but is not visible from the road.

Kuparuk River MP 290

Arctic grayling inhabit this far upstream tributary of the East Fork of the Anaktuvuk River. There are turnouts on the road and north of the bridge on the east side. A pipeline access road is present on the east side of the road that extends a little way upstream. Fishing for Arctic grayling can be good both upstream and downstream of the bridge.

Oksrukuyik Creek MP 298

Arctic grayling and burbot are present here. This stream, which drains the Campsite Lakes 5 miles south of the road, also crosses the road at 310 mi., just north of Pump Station #3. Anglers may try walking a short distance to the mouth of this stream at its junction with the Sagavanirktok River to fish for Arctic grayling and burbot.

Little Tahoe and Cut Off Lakes MP 298

These two lakes are located east of the Dalton Highway, approximately a quarter-mile north of the Oksrukuyik Creek bridge, east of the Dalton Highway and both contain populations of Arctic char. Little Tahoe is the first lake you come to a quarter mile east of the Dalton Highway and Cut Off is another quarter mile past Little Tahoe. While they are both close to the road neither can be seen from the road, so take care to know your surroundings before you venture too far from your vehicle.

Dan Creek MP 331

This swift, small stream flows into the Sagavanirktok River and there are Arctic (19)

grayling present here. Shoulder parking for three or four cars is available on the west side of the road at the bridge. Be careful parking because of steep hills on either side of the crossing. Park well off the road.

Happy Valley Creek MP 334

Arctic grayling are present here and burbot and Dolly Varden are occasionally available in late August—early September at the outlet. Turnouts to the east and west provide ample parking for any size of vehicle. Happy Valley Creek flows into the Sagavanirktok River at the north end of the Happy Valley airstrip. This is an active airstrip, so do not park in any way to impede airplane traffic.

Sagavanirktok River MP 299 to MP 415

There are no highway crossings of the Sagavanirktok River, but the river parallels the road for about 100 miles as it flows north to Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic Ocean. The river contains Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, burbot, and whitefish. The Sagavanirktok River can be reached by foot or vehicle from many points where the road comes in close proximity to it. One of the first such locations is just north of Pump Station #3 at 311 mi. Another convenient access point is near the Ice Cut at 325 mi., and the Happy Valley airstrip at 334 mi. provides another. Other good access points are located just outside of Deadhorse where the road swings very close to the river. Arctic grayling are year-round residents, but most of the Dolly Varden leave to feed in the ocean during the open water months. They return, beginning in late August, to spawn and overwinter in the river and some of its tributaries. Dolly Varden more than 6 lbs. are not uncommon, but their average adult size is 2 to 4 lbs. Fishing success in the river is limited to those periods when the adults are making their spawning migration in late summer.

The Sagavanirktok River also offers good opportunities for boating, rafting, and

canoeing in conjunction with fishing trips. Float trips are facilitated by the multitude of road access points.



*A Dolly Varden from the Sagavanirktok River.
ADF&G photo*

Proper Catch and Release Methods

Proper catch-and-release practices are used by anglers who desire to enjoy fishing in Alaska and who would like to preserve the resource for future generations. The practices detailed below are some of the most important steps an angler can take to sustain Alaska fisheries.

Tackle Choice

- Use strong line to land your catch quickly.
- Fish caught with flies or lures survive at a higher rate than fish caught with bait.
- Use hooks appropriate to the size of the fish. Overly large hooks can damage mouth parts or eyes, and small hooks can be swallowed deeply.
- Single-hook lures or flies may allow for easier release.
- Use pliers to pinch down barbs to make for easier release.

Landing Your Fish

- Land your fish carefully and quickly.
- Use a landing net made with soft or knotless mesh.

- Do not drag the fish up onto the gravel beach if fishing from shore.
- Avoid removing the fish from the water.
- Do not let fish flop in shallow water, over rocks, or on dry land.

Handling Your Fish

- Cradle the fish gently with both hands, one under its belly, one near its tail.
- Keep your fingers out of and away from its gills and eyes.
- Use wet cloth gloves, or wet your hands when handling the fish.
- Never squeeze the fish.

Removing The Hook

- Use long-nosed pliers to back out the hook.
- Remove the hook quickly and gently, keeping the fish under water while doing so.
- When a fish is hooked deeply, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Use steel hooks that will quickly rust out; avoid stainless steel hooks.

Reviving Your Fish

- Point your fish into a slow current or gently move it back and forth until its gills are working properly and it maintains its balance.
- When the fish recovers and attempts to swim out of your hands, let it go.
- Large fish may take some time to revive.

Taking Photographs

- Be aware that some regulations do not allow anglers to remove a fish from the water if it is intended to be released.
- If feasible, take a picture of the fish while it's in the water.
- If you take a fish out of the water for a photograph, do so when the photographer is ready.
- Wet hands before touching the fish.

- Stand or kneel in the water while taking the picture. This will help to minimize injury if the fish is dropped.

Non-Salmon Species Identification

Anglers frequently confuse the first three char species in this list. Fishing regulations differ among these species, so be sure you identify them correctly. Information about additional non-salmon species is included to aid identification.

LAKE TROUT:

Lake trout can be distinguished from other char by numerous white-yellow spots covering the head, the entire tail, back and sides. No other Alaska char species has spots on its face and tail. The lake trout also has a deeply forked tail, unlike most other char. True to their name, lake trout primarily inhabit lakes, but can also sometimes be found in northern Alaska rivers.



ARCTIC CHAR:

Arctic char have light-colored spots, typically larger than its pupil, on a brown to olive background that fades along its sides to a pale belly. Spawning colors are often brilliant orange or red and underbody fins have bright white leading edges. Arctic char tend to have a shorter head than Dolly Varden. Its tail has a slight fork, not as severe as the lake trout's, and the base of its tail is narrower than the Dolly Varden's. Arctic char in the Dalton Highway corridor are primarily lake-dwelling species.



DOLLY VARDEN:

Bluish gray or silver background with small, light spots. No spots on head or tail. Easily confused with Arctic char, but the Dolly Varden has a more squared-off tail, a more elongated head (especially spawning males) and a wider tail base. Dolly Varden are the only char species regularly found in rivers and streams of the Dalton Highway Corridor.



ARCTIC GRAYLING: Light copper to dark purple back, fading to bluish gray with black spots on sides. Large, sail-like dorsal fin with red and aqua to violet spots, iridescent in large fish. Dorsal fins of mature males extend to or past the adipose fin and females usually have much shorter dorsal fins. Pelvic fins often have orange stripes.



BURBOT: The only freshwater cod in North America, the burbot has a slim, elongated, mottled, brownish-black body and smooth skin. Dorsal and anal fins run from mid-body to tail. It has a flattened head and wide mouth with many small teeth and one barbel (whisker-like extension) hanging from its lower jaw.



WHITEFISH: Five species inhabit waterways of the Dalton Highway Corridor. Typically, they have prominent silver scales and no spots. Most whitefish are harvested in subsistence fisheries and are not easily caught with sportfishing tackle, with the exception of sheefish.

SHEEFISH: These are the largest members of the whitefish family and are readily distinguishable by the strong extended lower jaw and a deeply forked tail. Sheefish are uncommon in Dalton Highway waters north of the Yukon River crossing and most are fished at the mouths of major Yukon River tributaries that can be accessed by boat from the Yukon River bridge.



NORTHERN PIKE: A large, voracious, predatory fish. Back and sides are greenish with yellow-white irregularly shaped spots. The head is flattened, with alligator-like jaws containing many large, sharp teeth. Fins are tinged with orange.



Salmon Species Identification

Fishing for salmon is PROHIBITED within 5-miles the Dalton Highway. Be aware that sport fishing for Chinook (king) salmon has been closed and/or restricted since 2010 and that fishing for chum (dog) and coho (silver) salmon have been closed or restricted in recent years.

Below are some descriptions and photographs of salmon for identification purposes only.

CHINOOK (KING) SALMON:

Spawning adults turn maroon or olive brown with spots on the body and tail.



COHO (SILVER) SALMON:

Males develop pronounced "kype" or hooked-nose.

Coho salmon have spots on back and upper lobe of the tail. Male and female turn dark maroon and have dark backs.



CHUM (DOG) SALMON:

Spawning chum salmon develop pronounced, vertical calico bands on both sides. Males exhibit large, canine-like teeth.



Notes:

[illegible]