

There are sport fishing license requirements for resident and non-resident anglers. These requirements are detailed at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishregulations.sc_sportfish.

Shore-based Fishing Around Homer, Alaska

Where to Fish Without a Boat

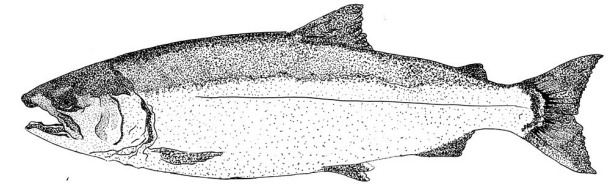


Illustration of coho salmon by Homer Flex High School student Samantha Inman



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1 END OF THE HOMER SPIT

DESCRIPTION: Fishing at the tip of the Homer Spit can be great fun for all ages. The water here is very deep just offshore.

FISH PRESENT:

Walleye Pollock (spring – fall)
Pacific Cod (spring – fall)
Yellow-finned Sole (spring – fall)
Starry Flounder (spring – fall)
Halibut (summer)
Irish Lords (spring – fall)
Sculpins (spring – fall)
Dolly Varden (mid-May to mid-July)
Coho Salmon (mid-July to mid-September)
Feeder Chinook Salmon (all year)

TIPS: The most popular place to cast from is between the ferry dock pilings and Land's End Resort, where fish-processing waste is expelled underwater. This chum draws in varieties of bottom fish. Cast from the gravel/cobble beach on any tide for bottom and mid-water fish. Many fishermen here use a surfcasting setup that consists of an 8.5-foot to 12-foot rod with a baited set-up consisting of a 20-inch leader and a 4-ounce weight with a chunk of herring. Kids can try casting baited setups or lures that are reeled in mid-water or allowed to sink and then reeled in slowly along the bottom.

DIRECTIONS: Travel 4 miles from the base of the Homer Spit out along Homer Spit Rd. and access the beach from the paved parking lot between Land's End Resort and the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry terminal.

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE? Yes.

2 MUD BAY

DESCRIPTION: Mud Bay is the body of water east of the Homer Spit's base. Its mudflats are made up of finer sediments, which settle in low wave energy areas.

FISH PRESENT:

Pink Salmon (mid-July to late August)
Coho Salmon (mid-July to late August)
Dolly Varden (mid-May to mid-July)

TIPS: While it is unwise to walk in the soft, deep mud below the high tide line, several spots along the shore of Mud Bay offer fishing opportunities for coho and pink salmon from the edge of the sand or gravel. Look out into the bay for jumpers and, when these are present, cast from shore with spoons, spinners, or baited setups (bobber or weighted bait line) with herring or cured eggs. Fish at high tide.

DIRECTIONS: Park in the lot at the base of the Homer Spit or find parking along Homer Spit Rd. in places where there is a public driveway/parking lot (such as at Green Timbers) or no guardrails. Then access the beach below the Homer Spit bike/pedestrian path. You can also access the berm below Kachemak Dr. on a road that leads down to the beach from a parking lot between Smoky Bay Air and Homer Air terminals.

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE? Nearby – at Mariner Park on the west side of Homer Spit Road.

3 NICK DUDIAK FISHING LAGOON

DESCRIPTION: The manmade Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon - locally called "The Fishing Hole" - is located on the 4-mile-long Homer Spit. The Lagoon was named in 2005 for Nick Dudiak, a former state biologist whose idea it was to create a fishery accessible to anglers of all ages while bringing a financial boost to the area. The project gained national recognition in 1990, when the Lagoon was named the "Best Sport Fish Enhancement Project in the Nation."

The Lagoon offers what is known as a terminal fishery. Stocked salmon smolt leave the lagoon to mature in open water and return in search of a spawning stream. They cruise around the Lagoon, looking for that nonexistent stream. Each year, Chinook and coho salmon are stocked by ADF&G.

FISH PRESENT:

Chinook Salmon (mid-May – early July)
Coho Salmon (mid-July – mid-August)
Dolly Varden (mid-May – mid-July) along outer beach

TIPS: Try casting lures such as spoons or spinners. Or try a weighted bait line or bobber setup (with cured eggs or herring). Anglers tend to have more success when fishing an hour or so on either side of the high tide, with the best chance for hooking a fish being when water is flowing into the Lagoon. Fish within 1-2 feet of the surface.

Twice each summer ADF&G hosts Youth Fishing Days, when a portion of the Lagoon is open only to kids 15 years old and younger. For these events, ADF&G staff and volunteers will be on hand for several hours to provide fishing rods, tackle and bait. Youth learn about local sport fish, how to cast, tie knots, and more. These events are always the first Saturdays in June and August.

DIRECTIONS: Travel 3 miles from the base of the Homer Spit out along Homer Spit Rd. and find the Lagoon northwest of the Homer Small Boat Harbor.

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE? Yes.



Chinook salmon
Photo © ADF&G



Coho salmon
Photo © ADF&G

4 BRIDGE CREEK RESERVOIR

DESCRIPTION: Bridge Creek Reservoir is a manmade, freshwater lake located above the city of Homer. It was created and is managed as a water supply source for the City of Homer's public water utility. This fishing spot is off the beaten path, offering year-round opportunities to avoid crowds.

FISH PRESENT:

Dolly Varden (year-round)
Rainbow Trout (year-round)

TIPS: Try casting worms or small lures from shore into the reservoir below the road/dike, or ice fish for dollys and rainbows during the winter.

DIRECTIONS: Take West Hill Rd. up to the convergence of Diamond Ridge Rd. and Skyline Dr. Take Skyline Dr. to the right and travel 0.9 miles to an unnamed road that features a 2-way or "Y" access to the left/north. Follow this dirt road until you reach the dam/dike and reservoir. Park at either end of the dike before walking down to the shoreline. Be careful to avoid the water whirlpool near the north end of the road/ [dam].

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE? No.

5 CARIBOU LAKE

DESCRIPTION: Caribou Lake is a remote fishery in the Homer area, located about 25 miles northeast of Homer and accessible via a trail [for 4-wheelers, bikes, skis, and snow machines] from a parking lot off Basargin Rd. You can view a map of this and other access trails to the lake on the Snomads snowmachine club's website at <http://www.snomadsonline.org/south-caribou-hills.pdf>. Please be respectful of private land ownership along the lake's shoreline, and access the lake on State-owned land if permission has not been granted to fish from private land.

FISH PRESENT:

Dolly Varden (year-round)

TIPS: Cast for Dolly Varden from shore with spinners or spoons, or ice fish for them during the winter. There may be a few salmon in the lake.

DIRECTIONS: From the Lake St. / East End Rd. intersection in Homer, go out East End Rd. about 19 miles. Turn left onto Circle Lake Rd. / Basargin Rd. (you will see a small lake on your right after making the turn), heading toward Razdolna. Follow this road 3.6 miles and turn left at Willard Rd. There are trail signs at this intersection indicating Caribou Lake Trail trailhead. Continue down Willard Rd. about .9 miles, and turn into the large parking area on the left. The trailhead is located at the north end of the parking lot. The trail to Caribou Lake is about 7 miles long. NOTE: Road signs may be missing from both Basargin Rd. and Willard Rd.

RESTROOMS AVAILABLE? No, unless nearby Caribou Lake Lodge is open.