

Alaska

POCKET FISHING

GUIDE

REVISED 2nd EDITION

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Fishing Regions of Alaska

SOUTHWEST (SW) Remote, roadless maritime province, Alaska Peninsula to Northwest coast. Has state's best stream fishing for salmon and trout; also excellent grayling, charr and pike. Also has promising pioneer saltwater fishery

(Halibut, rockfish and salmon) along Alaska Peninsula. Services are more limited and expensive than along road system.

SOUTHCENTRAL (SC) Mainland area fronting north Gulf coast, with well developed infrastructure (including good road system). Offers wide variety of easily accessed stream, lake and coastal fishing (especially salmon and halibut) with abundant services at reasonable prices. Has world record king salmon on Kenai Peninsula and adjacent saltwater. Climate is northern temperate/maritime.

SOUTHEAST (SE) The "Panhandle" of Alaska, with temperate maritime climate and unequalled saltwater fishing (all Alaska saltwater species). Also has the state's best steelhead and cutthroat trout fishing. Roadless, but has abundant services at slightly higher cost than mainland.

NORTHWEST (NW) A remote, sparsely developed region offering high quality wilderness fishing for trophy charr, grayling and sheefish, along with silver salmon, pike and lake trout. Services are limited and expensive. Climate is subarctic maritime/continental.

INTERIOR (INT) The heartland of Alaska, with lakes and large rivers, and the state's most abundant opportunities for pike and sheefish, also grayling and lake trout. Has a fairly developed infrastructure with prices slightly higher than SC. Climate is extreme continental, with warm, dry summers and cold winters.

ARCTIC (ARC) Alaska's most northerly, remote and inhospitable region, but with untapped potential for wilderness fishing of the highest quality for lake trout, charr and grayling. Services are extremely limited and expensive.



For more details, see area maps on pages 36-41

Game Fishes of Alaska



KING SALMON (KS) Alaska's largest and most prized salmon, common in coastal waters and streams, Ketchikan area to western Alaska (including Alaska Peninsula). Average size around 15 lbs; to 50 or more in some areas. Full bodied, with purple-blue to black to green back, silver sides and silver-white belly. Large black, irregular markings across back and entire tail fin. Black gumline in lower jaw. Breeding fish imbued with dusky red to copper shading. Flesh is white to pink to red-orange.

Run Timing: Immature king salmon available year-round in nearshore marine waters; mature prespawners from late April-July (May-August in rivers, with peak June-July)

Best Areas: Large river systems and coastal waters rich in feed or near migration routes, SW-SE

Best Lures: Kwikfish (K14-16); Hot Shot (034); Krocodile (1-5 ounce); Flatfish (M2-T60); Spin-n-glo (#0); Lil' Corky (#4); Pixee (2 1/2"); Silver Vibrax (#4-6); Apex (4 1/2-5 1/2"); Coyote (4"), Stinger (4-5")

Best Flies: Alaskabou, Popsicle, Flash Fly, Hareball Leech, Bunny Fly, Wiggletail, King Caviar, Herring Fly



SILVER SALMON (SS) An abundant, widespread (SE to NW) medium-sized salmon, prized for its aggressiveness and hard fighting abilities. Average size 6-8 lbs; to 15 lbs. or more. Similar in appearance to king salmon, only smaller,

with blue, green or gray back, silver sides and white belly. Irregular black markings across back and upper tail fin; no dark gumline on lower jaw. Breeding fish dusky, with greenish shading on backs, maroon on sides, head dark. Flesh is orange-red.

Run Timing: Available in nearshore salt waters June-August, then in streams late July-October (or later), peak August-September

Best Areas: Coastal streams and adjacent saltwater, north Gulf, Southwest Alaska, Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and Southeast

Best Lures: Silver Vibrax (#4-6); Mepps Aglia (#4-5); Pixee (1/2-7/8 oz.); Wiggle Wart (2"); Kwikfish (K10-14); Spin-n-glo (#2); Lil' Corky (#6-8); Hootchie (2 1/2- 3 1/2"); (pink) Dardevle (3/4 oz.); Apex (3 1/4- 4 1/2")

Best Flies: Egg Sucking Leech, Alaskabou, Coho Fly, Woolly Bugger, Flash Fly, Bunny Fly



RED SALMON (RS) Also known as sockeye, an abundant, medium sized salmon found in southern coastal river systems, SE-SW. Average size 4-6 lbs; to 10 lbs. or more in some areas. Body sleek, with steel blue, green or gray topsides, silver sides and whitish belly, No prominent markings. Sea bright fish easily mistaken for chum salmon. Flesh bright red. Breeding fish striking, with bright red sides and greenish black heads.

Aloof biters, sockeye are taken with sparse bucktail, yarn or hackle flies; rarely anything else. Can be taken in saltwater by trolling spoons & hootchies.

Run Timing: Late June-July most of Alaska

Best Areas: Major lake and river systems, SW-SE (including Kodiak)

Best Lures: (Rarely) Vibrax or Mepps Spinners (#4-5); Pixees (1/2-7/8 oz.); Hootchies (2 1/2- 3 1/2")

Best Flies: Russian River, Comet, Supervisor, Yarn Fly, Sockeye Orange, Brassie



CHUM SALMON (CS) A medium to large salmon, widespread and common, SE coast to Arctic. Average size in Alaska, 6-10 lbs; to 25 lbs. or more in certain areas. Metallic blue or greenish back, silvery sides and silver white belly. Markings absent. May be mistaken for sockeye salmon when fresh from sea. Spawning individuals darken to olive or yellowish white sides with distinct vertical bands of purple, black and white; males develop hooked jaws and prominent teeth. Flesh orange.

Run Timing: June-September for stream fishing, peak July & August

Best Areas: Larger coastal streams and adjacent saltwater, SE-SW

Best Lures: Large Vibrax & Mepps spinners; Pixee and Hotrod spoons (1/2 oz.+); Hot Shot (034); hootchies (3 1/2-4 1/2"); Kwikfish (K10)

Best Flies: Flash Fly, Clouser Minnow, Alaskabou, Coho Fly, Wiggletail, Everglow, Comet



PINK SALMON (PS) A small, very abundant, widespread salmon, SE to Arctic coast. Average 2-4 lbs; to 8 lbs. or more. Blue to bluish green topsides, silver sides, and whitish belly. Large, oval shaped black markings on back and entire tail fin. Spawning individuals turn dirty brown with slight vertical markings and develop ridge backs (hence the name humpy salmon). Flesh is pink.

Run Timing: Available along coasts, June-October; in streams late June-September, peak July-August

Best Areas: Coastal streams and adjacent saltwater, SE-SW

Best Lures: Pixee (1/2 oz.); Mepps Aglia (#3-5); Vibrax (#3-4); Dardevle (2 1/4"); Hootchie (2 1/2")

Best Flies: Flash Fly, Egg Sucking Leech, Everglow, Coho Fly, Comet, Alaskabou, Krystal Bullet



RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT (RT,ST)

An esteemed, hard fighting, small to medium-sized Alaska gamefish, to 10 lbs. or more, found in streams along southern coast, Ketchikan area to Kuskokwim Bay (including parts of Alaska Peninsula). Steelhead, sea-run form, more robust, to 15 lbs. or more, but less common. Rainbows usually olive green to gray back, silver sides, whitish belly, with trademark rosy red, scarlet or pink horizontal stripe and similar shading on gill plates. Black spots or small hatch marks prominent on back and sides. Sea-run and lake resident forms more silvery with less noticeable stripe. Flesh is white to pink.

Use flashy (silver or gold) lures or forage or attractor pattern flies for early season fishing and attractor color high-lights or egg/flesh patterns (including bead eggs) for summer-fall. Rainbows can also be taken with dry flies and Mouse patterns. Steelhead; use sparse attractor pattern flies, spinners and jigs.

Availability: Year-round, best in spring and late summer-fall

Best Areas: Large productive lake and river systems, SE-SW

Best Lures: Silver or gold Vibrax (#2-4); Mepps Black Fury (#2-4); Pixee (1/2 oz.); Kastmaster (3/8-1/2 oz.); Hot Shot (#50/70); Spin-n-glo (#2-4); Lil' Corky (#8-10); Roostertail (1/8-1/2 oz.); Crippled Herring (1/3-3/4 oz.), Marabou jig (1/2 oz.)

Best Flies: Polar Shrimp, Smolt, Muddler, Glo Bug, Adams, Egg Sucking Leech, Flesh Fly, Mickey Finn, Woolly Bugger, Mouse, Hare's Ear Nymph, Green Butt Skunk



CUTTHROAT TROUT (CT) Small (8-12 inch average), colorful trout native to coastal streams, ponds and bogs of southern coast, Ketchikan area to Prince William Sound. Also sea run form. Sides bronze to silver, back olive green to blue; belly pale white, with red slash marks under lower jaw. Heavily spotted. Flesh white to pinkish white.

Availability: Year-round, best in spring and late summer-fall

Best Areas: Coastal streams, lakes, ponds and estuaries, SSE

Best Lures: Panther Martin (1/8-1/2 oz.); Rooster tail (1/8-3/8 oz.); Kastmaster (1/8-1/2 oz.); Crippled Herring (1/6-3/8 oz.)

Best Flies: Smolt, Polar Shrimp, Egg Sucking Leech, Woolly Bugger, Adams, Black Gnat, Mosquito, Muddler, Hare's Ear Nymph



DOLLY VARDEN/ARCTIC CHARR (CHR)

Widespread and abundant sport species complex, found across entire state in rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Average size 1-2 lbs; up to 15 lbs. or more. Back gray, brown or bluish gray, sides, gray to greenish gray or silver, with creamy white belly. Marked with pink, red or yellowish oval spots over back and sides, with prominent white edged, carmine or yellowish belly fins. Breeding fish have pronounced colors and red-orange shading on lower sides. Flesh white to pink to pale orange-red.

Availability: Year-round; best in spring and late summer-fall

Best Areas: Large lake and river systems, SE-SW; also large rivers of NW and ARC

Best Lures: Pixee (1/8-1/2 oz.); Mepps Black/White Fury (#2-4); Kastmaster (1/4-1/2 oz.); Silver Vibrax (#2-4); Swedfish Pimple (1/10-1/2 oz.); Marabou jig (1/8-3/8 oz.)

Best Flies: Egg Sucking Leech, Polar Shrimp, Smolt, Muddler, Woolly Bugger, Copper & Orange, Bead Egg, Fry, Battle Creek



LAKE TROUT (LT) A common land-locked charr of alpine lakes in mainland Alaska. Average 3-5 lbs; up to 30 lbs. or more. Troutlike form with large mouth, silver gray to brown topsides, creamy white belly and numerous gold, yellow or white oval spots and vermiculations. Fins milky, yellow or orange with white edges. Flesh is white to yellow-orange.

Availability: Year-round; best spring & fall

Best Areas: Headwater lakes, Bristol and Kuskokwim bays (SW), Alaska Range (SC) and northern Alaska Peninsula (SW); upland lakes in Interior and Brooks Range (NW)

Best Lures: Dardevle (3 5/8-5 5/8"); J-Plug (4-5 1/2"); Kwikfish (K14-16); Krocodile (1 1/2 -5 oz.); Diamond King (4-5"); Crystal Minnow (3 5/8-5 1/4"); Crippled Herring (1-4 oz.)

Best Flies: White Ghost, Smolt, Woolly Bugger, Muddler, Black Ghost, Minnow, Supervisor, Deceiver



GRAYLING (GR) A small, whitefish-like game fish common in upland streams and lakes across Alaska mainland. Average 8-14 inches long; to 18 inches

or more and 3 lbs. Varied coloration, with silver gray to purplish blue or black topsides and whitish belly. Has huge dorsal fin. Markings sparse, with black or purple spots on sides, red and pink spots on top fin. Mouth is small and delicate. Flesh is white.

Availability: Year-round; best spring-fall
Best Areas: SW, NW and Interior rivers
Best Lures: Silver Vibrax (#1-3); Mepps Aglia (#1-3); Mepps Black Fury (#1-3); Panther Martin (1/32-1/4 oz.); Swedish Pimple (1/10 oz.); Kastmaster (1/8 oz.)

Best Flies: Black Gnat, Adams, Mosquito, Woolly Worm, Glo Bug, Polar Shrimp, Leech, Hare's Ear, Krystal Bullet, Egg Sucking Leech, Brassie



NORTHERN PIKE (NP) A widespread, voracious, predatory gamefish of mainland Alaska's rivers and lakes. Average size 4-7 lbs; to 30 lbs. or more in certain waters. Elongated body with duckbill snout, large mouth, prominent teeth and yellow eyes. Color green to greenish gray to brown, with rows of irregular, oval yellow-white markings. Belly creamy white or yellowish white. Fins usually greenish or yellow orange with dark mottling (except paired fins). Flesh is white. Aggressive, easily taken on variety of lures, flies and bait.

Availability: Year-round; best spring-fall
Best Areas: Large mainstem river habitat and associated lakes/ponds, SW, NW and INT
Best Lures: Dardevle (1-3 1/4 oz.); Crocodile (1 1/2-5 oz.); Red Eye (3-4 3/4"); Mepps Musky Killer (3/4-1 1/4 oz.); Rapala (4-5 1/2"); Flatfish (M-2 to T-60)

Best Flies: Reynold's Pike Fly, D's Minnow, Deceiver, Rabbit Lemming, Deerhair Frog, Dahlberg Diver, Flash Fly, Articulated Leech, Seaducer



SHEEFISH (SF) Large, predatory whitefish, found in rivers and estuaries of western and interior Alaska. Migratory, seasonally abundant in certain areas. Usually 4-8 lbs., but up to 25 lbs. or more in NW Alaska. Long, slender body with light brown to metallic green or blue topsides, silver grey sides and silver white belly. Fins dusky or clear; has no body markings. Flesh is white.

Availability: Year-round; best spring & fall
Best Areas: Large Rivers, NW & Interior
Best Lures: Crocodile (1 1/2-5 oz.); Doctor (3-4 1/2"), Hotrod (3/4-1 oz.); Rapala (3 1/8-5 1/2"); Bucktail jig (3/4 - 1 1/2 oz.)

Best Flies: D's Minnow, Deceiver, Supervisor, Smolt, White Ghost, Gray Ghost, Alaska Mary Ann, Herring



HALIBUT (HT) A prized, large, elongated flatfish of Alaska's coastal waters, SE to NW. Bottom dweller, found at various depths throughout year. Average weight 15 lbs; to 100 or more. Topside dark gray or dirty brown, with irregular cream or white blotches; bottom white or yellowish white. Flesh white.

Availability: Year-round; best late spring-fall
Best Areas: Productive coastal waters, SE to Alaska Peninsula

Best Lures: Crocodile (3 1/4-7 oz.); Crippled Herring (6-13 oz.); Sickletail/Scampi (6-12 oz.); B-2 Bomber Squid (8-12 oz.); Vike jig (8-12 oz.)

Best Flies: Herring, Squid, Baitfish, Halibut Flesh Fly, Seaducer, Deceiver



ROCKFISH (RF) Also known as sea bass, rock cod or snapper. Widespread and common, small to large, long lived game fishes (over 30 species in Alaska) found along rocky shorelines, kelp beds and reefs throughout southern coast, SE-SW. May be pelagic or bottom dwelling. 2-5 lbs. average size; certain species to 30 lbs. or more. Perch-like or bass-like in form, with prominent scales, large mouth and spiny dorsal fins and gill covers. Color and markings vary with species, may be dark brown to blue or red, with mottling or stripes. Flesh is white. Easily provoked with wide variety of lures, flies and bait. Deepwater species cannot survive being returned to water after capture.

Availability: Year-round; best late spring-fall
Best Areas: North Gulf coast (SC) and SE
Best Lures: Bucktail jig (3/4-2 oz.); Crocodile (1-2 1/2 oz.); Crippled Herring/Nordic (3/4- 1 1/2 oz.); Softail Jig ((1-3 oz.); Diamond Jig (2-3 oz.)

Best Flies: Deep Six, Squid, Shrimp, Seaducer, Candlefish, Calamari, Sandlance, Deceiver, Whistler



LINGCOD (LC) Fearsome, predatory bottom dweller (found over structure-rock piles, reefs, pinnacles, seamounts, etc.) of Alaska's southern coastal waters, SE to Alaska Peninsula (SW). Average size 30-40 inches and 10-30 lbs; to 5 feet long and 100 lbs. Elongated body with large head and mouth, prominent teeth and pectoral fins and long dorsal

fin (notched, with separate spiny and soft rays). Color varied, mottled (or spotted) bluish-green to black or brown, lighter towards belly. Flesh usually white (can be greenish to bluish white). Aggressive and easily taken on lures, bait and flies. Seasonal fishing restrictions, most Alaska coastal waters.

Availability: Year-round (check ADF&G regulations for seasons); best summer-fall
Best Areas: North Gulf coast, Kodiak Island and SE

Best Lures: Crocodile (2 1/2-5 oz.); Diamond Jig (4-8 oz.); Sickletail/Scampi (3-12 oz.); Vike jig (8-12 oz.); Bucktail jig (3-6 oz.)

Best Flies: Herring, Seaducer, Baitfish, Whistler, Squid, Deceiver, Rockfish, Candlefish



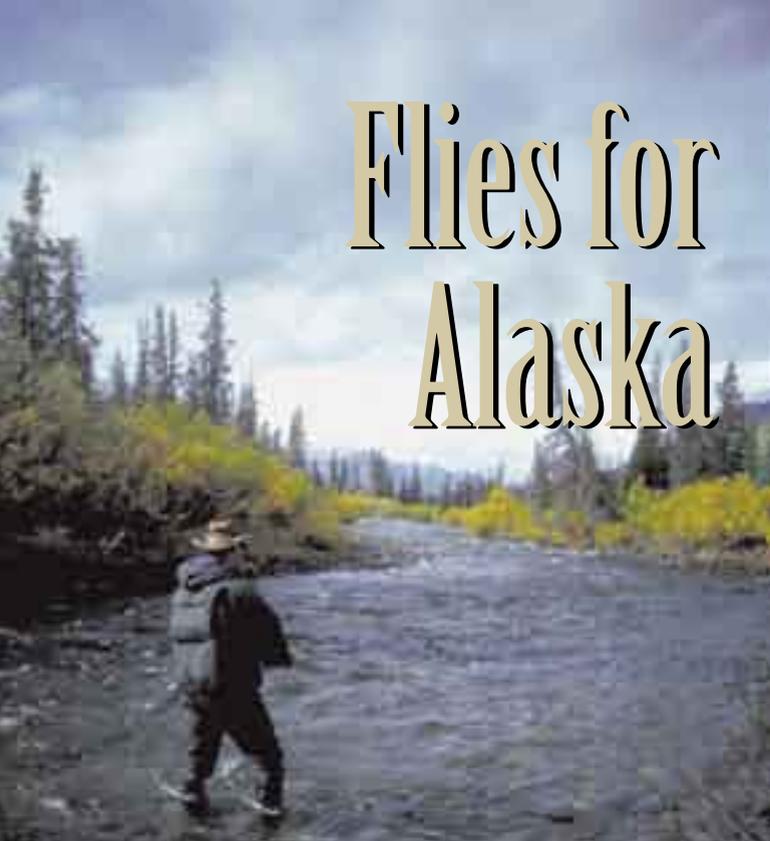
SALMON SHARK (SHK) Large, pelagic shark seasonally common (found around returning schools of salmon in summer-fall) along SE-SW coast. Average size 6-8 feet, 250-400 lbs; to 10 feet and 700 lbs. or more. Streamlined but robust body with prominent dorsal and tail fins, conical snout and dagger-like teeth. Color bluish gray on topsides, gray or white on bottom with grayish blotches. Flesh grayish to pinkish white. When schooled and feeding, salmon sharks are easily aroused with bait (salmon or large herring), big plugs and large flies. Potentially dangerous; should not be pursued casually or incidentally.

Availability: Summer-fall
Best Areas: Prince William Sound and parts of SE

Best Lures: Offshore trolling plugs (8-10"); giant softbaits (squid/baitfish) 8-11" large (9-12") squid skirt (hootchie)

Best Flies: Large baitfish/tractor streamers (8-12")

Flies for Alaska



FLY SELECTION

Most fly shops and catalogs offer a bewildering array of patterns for fishing Alaska. Many if not most of these patterns are variations of basic, time tested flies that can be grouped into the following categories. Keep in mind that when fishing in most Alaska conditions, fish will not be too selective, so you can quite often use similar patterns (see the substitution list for other choices).

ATTRACTOR PATTERNS: A broad group of bright flies that do not imitate any forage in particular, but trigger aggressive responses from predatory game

fishes. Very effective year-round for salmon, trout, charr, pike and sheefish. Should be fished with a lively strip.

For Alaska Use: Egg Sucking Leech, Alaskabou, Popsicle, Flash Fly, Coho Fly, Polar Shrimp, Russian River, Comet, Mickey Finn, Supervisor, Everglow and Woolly Bugger

FORAGE PATTERNS: A group of classic flies tied to imitate food items of predatory species. Effective year round over a wide range of conditions for nearly all Alaska game species.

For Alaska Use: Smolt (see substitution list for all types), Muddler Minnow, Leech, Minnow, Salmon Fry, Black Nose Dace, Parr Fly, Thunder Creek

EGG/FLESH PATTERNS: This fly group is comprised of patterns tied to mimic salmon eggs or flesh. Used primarily for trout and charr; fished usually on a drift.

For Alaska Use: Bunny Fly, King Caviar, Glo Bug, Bead Egg, Cluster Fly, Flesh Fly, Two Egg Sperm Fly

DRY FLY PATTERNS: Classic trout, charr and grayling flies that imitate insect life. Use when surface feeding is present.

For Alaska Use: Adams, Black Gnat, Mosquito, Caddis, Cahill, Wulff, Midge and Humpy

WET FLY PATTERNS: An important group of trout, charr and grayling flies that imitate emerging or larval insect life. Very effective for early season fishing.

For Alaska Use: Hare's Ear, Stonefly, Caddis Nymph/Larva, Black Gnat, Emerger, Brassie, Woolly Worm

SALTWATER PATTERNS: A broad group that includes bait imitations and attractor flies that are effective on all Alaska saltwater game fishes.

For Alaska Use: Herring, Clouser Minnow, Deceiver, Candlefish, Baitfish, Shrimp, Squid, Whistler, Sandlance, Seaducer

SPECIALTY PATTERNS: These are custom flies tied for specific species (like pike, rockfish or lingcod) or types of fishing.

For Alaska Use: Dahlberg Diver (NP, SF); Reynolds Pike Fly (NP, SF); D's Minnow (NP, SF, LT); Pink Pollywog (SS, RT, NP); Deep Six (RF, LC); Mouse (NP, RT, SS); King Flash Fly (KS, NP, SS, CS); Pike Slider (NP)

FLY SUBSTITUTIONS

Egg Sucking Leech (RT, CT, GR, SS, KS): Use also Egg Sucking Zonker, Starlite Leech, Hot Bugger, Egg Sucking Crystal Leech, Egg Leech. Use large (1/0 or bigger) for king and silver salmon

Alaskabou (KS, SS, CS, NP): Use Popsicle, Showgirl, Volcano and Hareball Leech

Flash Fly (KS, SS, CS, NP): Use also Everglow, Wiggletail, Kenai Special

Smolt (RT, CT, CHR, GR, LT): Use Alaska Smolt, Bristol Bay Smolt, Blue Smolt, Katmai Smolt; also Supervisor, Black Nose Dace, Coronation, Salmon Fry, Parr and Minnow. For lake trout, use Black, White or Gray Ghost

Russian River (RS): Use also Bucktail Supervisor, Sportsman Special, Sockeye Orange, Comet, Yarn Fly, Fall Favorite

Polar Shrimp (RT, ST, CT, CHR, GR): Use also Skykomish Sunrise, Copper & Orange, Fall Favorite

Woolly Bugger (SS, RT, CT, CHR, GR): Use also Leech, Matuka, Krystal Bugger, Articulated Leech, Zonker

Muddler Minnow (RT, CT, GR, CHR, LT): Use also Sculpin, Woolhead Sculpin, Marabou Muddler

Green Butt Skunk (ST): Use also Boss, Purple Peril, Signal Light

Flesh Fly (RT, CHR, CT): Use also Bunny Fly, King Caviar, Carcass Fly

Coho (SS, CS, KS): Use also Supervisor

Herring (KS, SS, HT, LC): Use also Baitfish, large Deceiver

Candlefish (KS, SS, PS, CS, HT, LC): Use also Alaska Candlefish, Lambuth Candlefish, Needlefish, Coronation

Mouse (RT, NP, SS): Use Lemming or Pollywog

Adams (RT, CT, GR): Use also Gray Wulff, Irresistible

Gnat (RT, CT, GR): Use also Midge, Mosquito

Elk Wing Caddis (RT, CT, GR): Use also Humpy, Bivisible

Best Flies for Alaska



Adams



Alaskabou



Bead Egg



Flesh Fly



Glo Bug



Gray Ghost



Black Gnat



Bucktail Supervisor



Caddis Nymph



Green Butt Skunk



Hare's Ear Nymph



Herring Fly



Candlefish



Clouser Minnow



Coho Fly



Mouse



Muddler Minnow



Polar Shrimp



Comet



Copper & Orange



Dahlberg Diver



Pollywog



Purple Peril



Russian River



Deceiver



Egg Sucking Leech



Elk Wing Caddis



Smolt



Sockeye Orange



Stoneyfly Nymph



Everglow



Fall Favorite



Flash Fly



Woolly Bugger



Woolly Worm

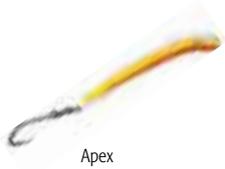


Yarn Fly

Flies are not to scale

Flies are not to scale

Best Lures for Alaska



Apex



Black Fury



Coyote



Crippled Herring



Dardevle



Diamond Jig



Hootchie



Hot Shot



Hotrod



J-Plug



Kastmaster



Krocodile



Kwikfish



Lil' Corky



Marabou Jig



Mepps Aglia



Nordic



Panther Martin



Pixee



Rapala



Rooster Tail



Scampi



Spin-N-Glo



Stinger



Teespoon



Sickletail



Tad Poly



Teezer



Vibrax



Wiggle Wart

Lures are not to scale

Lures are not to scale

Lures for Alaska

SELECTING LURES

The selection of lures displayed in tackle/bait shops, sporting goods stores and catalogs for fishing Alaska is overwhelming. How do you decide which of them to use for your fishing adventure? That will depend on the species, time of year, and kind of water you will be fishing. The following are descriptions of the major lure designs fished in the state, with illustrations of the most popular types. Use this information along with that provided in the species summaries to help select the right lures for the waters you intend to fish. (Consult charts in back and inside cover for general selection.)

BASIC LURE TYPES



SPINNERS Very versatile lures effective for all major Alaska freshwater sport species (and nearshore saltwater salmon). Consist of swivel mounted metal blade on wire shaft that spins when retrieved, mimicking the flash and jitter of frightened prey species, thus arousing predatory response from game fish (salmon, trout, charr, pike, grayling, sheefish, etc.) Spinners are the perfect casting lure for fishing small rivers and streams. Use nickel, silver or gold finishes with attractor color (red, orange, hot pink, yellow, chartreuse, etc.) highlights for most situations. Fish slowly, right above bottom for best results.

For Alaska Use: Vibrax (#5-6 for KS, SS, CS; #2-4 RT, ST; #1-2 GR); Mepps Aglia (#4-5 for salmon, #2-4 trout, and #1-2 grayling); Mepps Black Fury (#2-4 for RT, CT, GR, CHR); Rooster Tail and Panther Martin (CT, RT, GR, CHR); Teespoon (KS, SS); Mepps Giant Killer (KS, NP, SF); Vibrax Musky Buck (KS, NP, SF); and Metric Pro (KS, SS, CS). Use 1/2-1+ oz. for salmon and pike; 1/2 oz. or less for trout/charr



SPOONS A time tested lure design extremely effective for nearly all Alaska game species, fresh and salt waters. Consists of spoon shaped, bright metal body with trailing hook. Swims through water with lifelike forage fish movement, triggering predatory response from piscivorous game species (salmon, trout, charr, pike, sheefish, lingcod, rockfish, halibut, etc.). With high density, most spoons are perfect for casting and deep water trolling in lakes, big, fast rivers and marine waters. Use bright metallic finishes with attractor (for shallow casting) and other (black, blue, green, purple, etc. for deepwater trolling) color highlights. Longer, thinner designs can be fished like jigs (see below).

For Alaska Use: Pixee (KS, SS, CS, PS, RT, ST); Krocodile (KS, SS, LT, HT); Dardevil (NP, LT, SF, SS); Kastmaster (RT, CT, CHR); Hotrod (KS, LT, SS); Mepps Syclops (KS, SS, NP); Doctor (SF, LT, NP); Little Cleo (RT, CT, CHR); Coyote (KS, SS); Point Defiance (KS, SS); Diamond King (KS, SS); Red Eye (NP, SF, LT); Canadian Wonder (KS, SS); and Superior (KS, SS). Use 7/8-5 oz. for salmon, lake trout or pike; 1/8-7/8 oz. for trout/charr



PLUGS Popular and effective lure design for deep water trolling/casting in big rivers, lakes and ocean. Used mostly for salmon, trout, lake trout and northern pike. Body is minnow or plug shaped wood, plastic or metal with metallic finish; swims with bait mimicking movement when retrieved. May have lip to add diving action. Can be fished with bait. Available in wide array of sizes and finishes- silver, gold, red, green, char- treuse, white, etc., with equally varied highlight colors. Should be fished right above bottom for best results on fresh- water salmon (may require weights, downriggers and diving planers).

For Alaska Use: Hot Shot (KS, SS, CS, RT); Kwikfish (KS, SS, LT); Wiggle Wart (KS, SS, CS, RT); Tadpolly (RT); Flatfish (KS, SS, RT, LT, NP); Rapala (KS, SS, LT, NP); Yo-Zuri (KS, SS, NP, LT); J-Plug (KS, SS); A.C. Plug (NP); Tomic (KS, SS); and Apex (KS, SS). Use 4 inch or larger for salmon, lake trout and pike; 1- 3 inch for trout/charr



DRIFT BOBBERS Extremely effective drift lures for king and silver salmon, and rainbow and steelhead trout in bigger streams and rivers. Body buoyant or neutral density globular piece of plastic, cork, or sponge in bright colors with trailing hook. Can be fished with or without bait. Fished from boats, in

rivers mostly. Larger designs with plastic fins spin in current (i.e. "Spin-n-Glo") and are extremely effective. Fished with weight, lead dropper usually (or diving planers), right above bottom for best results.

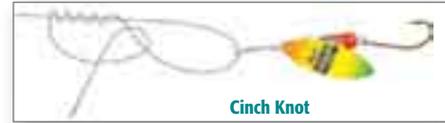
For Alaska use: Lil'Corky, Spin-n-glo, Cheater, Salmon Prop, Okie Drifter; size 3/4 inch or larger for salmon, less than 3/4 inch for trout/charr



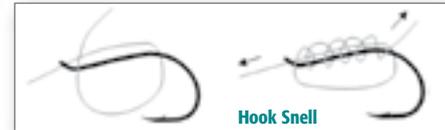
JIGS Very ancient lure design, extremely effective for all Alaska game species. Dense, bright metal body and fluttering action mimic shape and movement of injured baitfish. (Also lead head design with bucktail, marabou or soft plastic tail.) Fished vertically with up and down motion and vigilant attention of angler to detect strikes and quickly set hook. Come in all sizes and colors for salmon, trout, charr, pike, sheefish, halibut, lingcod and rockfish. Can be fished with bait. Great lures for ice fishing on lakes and nearshore marine waters.

For Alaska use: Crippled Herring (All game species); Nordic (all game species); Stinger (KS, SS); Diamond jig (KS, SS, HT, LC); Kalins Sickletail (HT, LC); Scampi (HT, LC); Marabou jig (RT, ST, CHR, NP, LT, SF); B-2 Squid (HT, RF, LC); Swedish Pimple (CHR, LT, KS, SS, RF); Teezer (KS, SS); Dart (KS, SS); Stinger (KS, SS); Vike (HT, LC); Strato (KS, SS, HT, LC); Crystal Minnow (KS, SS, HT, LC); Chinook Special (KS, SS); and Buzz Bomb (KS, SS). Use 3-12 ounce for bottomfish, 2-5 ounce for salmon/pike/lake trout/sheefish, 1/2-3 ounce for trout/charr

Knots & Rigging for Alaska Fishing



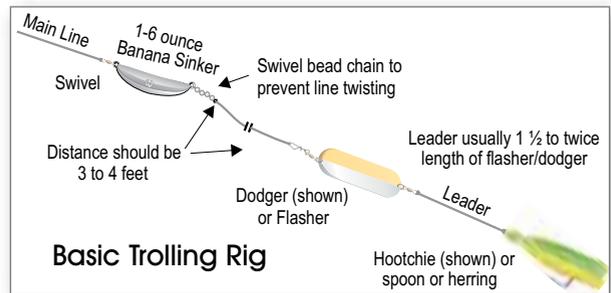
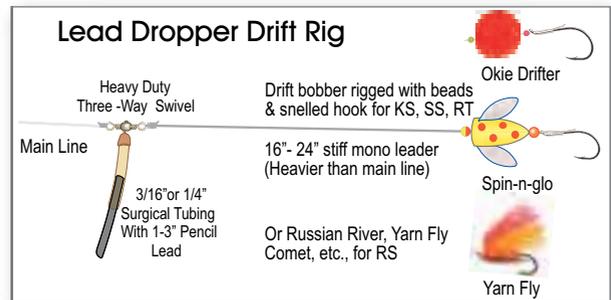
Cinch Knot



Hook Snell



Palomar Knot



Gearing Up for Alaska



ULTRALIGHT SET-UPS:

- Grayling
- Cutthroat trout
- Small stream rainbows & charr

Use 2-4 weight fly rod (7X-3X tippet); ultralight 5 ½-6 ½ foot spinning rod (2-6 lb. line)

LIGHT SET-UPS:

- Pink salmon
- Rainbow trout (all except trophy/extreme conditions)
- Charr (all except trophy/extreme conditions)
- Lake trout (all except trophy/extreme conditions)

Use 4-6 weight fly rod (5X-0X tippet); 6-7 ½ ft. light trout spinning rod (4-8 lb. line)

MEDIUM SET-UPS:

- Sockeye, chum & silver salmon
- Rockfish & small lingcod
- Trophy rainbow trout/ steelhead
- Trophy charr (all species)
- Northern pike (all except trophy)

Use 7-8 weight fly rod (2X-12lb. tippet); heavy-weight trout/ light salmon spinning rod (8-15 lb. line)

HEAVY SET-UPS:

- Trophy freshwater/saltwater king salmon
- Halibut & trophy lingcod
- Trophy northern pike/sheefish

Use 9-13 weight fly rod (15-30 lb. tippet); 7- 8 1/2 ft. heavy salmon spinning/casting rod (15-30 lb. line); 5-6 ft. medium-heavy (50-130 lb.) standup rod for trophy halibut

Note: The charts on the following pages are to be used as general lure/fly selection guides only. When planning your trip, be sure to check latest ADF&G Regulations for the waters you intend to fish for information on gear restrictions and closures which may affect your fishing!

www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/sf_home.cfm

Using the Lure & Fly Selector Pages

On the following pages are listed the major fishing locations for Alaska, with recommended flies/lures for each. (Selections are further identified with species they will catch at each location.) Use these charts as a general guide, but know that due to space limitations, all the lures/flies that would be productive could not be listed. Use the information in this guide to “fine tune” your choices. (Consult the lists of similar lures and fly substitutions, along with the recommendations for each species.)

TIPS FOR LURE/FLY SELECTION

Color: Use bright finish (silver, nickel, gold) lures for early season fishing for trout, grayling and charr, and attractor color (red, orange, hot pink, yellow, chartreuse, etc.) highlights on bright finishes when fishing trout in summer-fall. For freshwater salmon, use attractor highlights (hotter colors for silver, chum and pink salmon) and bright metallic finishes. For fly fishing trout, use forage patterns for early season and egg/flesh and attractor patterns for summer and late season. For most salmon, attractor pattern flies are the most productive.

For turbid waters, fish brighter lures/flies for better visibility. For clear, shallow waters, more subdued colors, like black, brown, copper, purple (along with smaller sizes) work best.

For much of the fishing in saltwater, use silver, nickel, white or gold finish lures with baitfish color highlights like green, black, blue, brown and deep purple. Use attractor colors sparingly in the ocean (remember that at moderate depths most bright colors flatten out), except when fishing shallow or casting

to prespawning salmon in bays, estuaries and lagoons. For flyfishing saltwater, baitfish or other forage imitation streamers are most productive.

Size: Large lures/flies for large fish, smaller for small fish is the general rule, but keep in mind the type of water you will be fishing. Deep/fast rivers, lakes and bays require larger, heavier lures/flies to fish effectively, while shallow streams need smaller lures/flies. Also, when fishing extremely turbid waters like glacial streams, larger lures/flies will present a more visible target to incite responses from salmon, trout and charr.

Match the Hatch: Select lures/flies that match, as much as possible the dominant food item of the season. Smolt (and other small baitfish) imitators (bright spinners, spoons, jigs, smolt and sculpin pattern flies) work best for early season trout and charr, while lures/flies with bright attractor colors work better in summer and fall. When fishing marine waters, check local forage (herring, candlefish, needlefish, squid, etc.) to determine best selection.

The mystery of fishing is that some lures/flies will produce well in certain locations and not in others, even though they may have similar conditions. Check with local shops, area fishermen, guides, fishing reports, etc., for additional info to help you make appropriate choices.

(Complete information for cross referencing flies/lures with individual species and locations can be found in **Alaska Fishing: The Ultimate Angler's Guide, 3rd Edition**.) Don't be afraid to experiment if you think a lure/fly will work that's not listed. Good luck!