

Sport fishing regulations, licenses, and fisheries management



Sport fishing license fees and requirements are explained in the annual *Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary*, and sport fishing licenses can now be obtained on our ADF&G Sport Fish Licensing website :

➡ www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license

by telephone:

➡ (907) 465-2376

by mail:

➡ **ADF&G Licensing**
P. O. Box 25525
Juneau, AK 99802-55225

or from vendors throughout the state.

In general, fishing regulations are open to review and possible change by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) every three years. New regulations from BOF action take effect in spring, following the previous winter’s meeting. It is the BOF who actually determines when and how the various fisheries operate and how many fish each user group may harvest. ADF&G then manages the fisheries under BOF direction, to provide maximum fishing opportunity while insuring that sufficient numbers of fish will spawn to perpetuate the run.

Also inquire at the Ketchikan Sport Fish Division office (225-2859) before angling, to see if inseason emergency orders (EO’s) have been issued for the area you intend to fish—EO’s do not appear in the regulations summary booklet. They are issued either because emergency situations require immediate restrictive measures, or, conversely, because it has become possible to liberalize some fishing opportunities—oriented mainly at increasing harvests of hatchery fish. Checking for inseason EO’s has become especially important with regard to king salmon, since inseason bag limits and other regulations very often differ from “baseline” regulations in the summary booklet.

Sometimes, sport and commercial fishers find themselves fishing the same waters, and questions arise as to methods or numbers of fish taken by one group or the other. In areas where sport and commercial fishers share the same waters, it is to the benefit of each party to exercise consideration for one another.

There is plenty of room for both to co-exist, if a few courtesies are extended by all parties. □

Comfort and Safety . . .

Ketchikan area weather is very changeable, so boots and rain gear are a must. Short boots are fine for some areas or for use with rain gear, but hip boots and/or chest-waders are preferable for most shore-based fisheries. If you are camping, be sure to take along an abundance of rain-fly material.

Excellent populations of mosquitoes, white-sox, no-see-ums, and flies inhabit the area and can be depended upon to give you trouble if you do not have a good supply of insect repellent. Sometimes different brands of repellent are needed to deter the various types of insects. Insect-proof tents are a necessity, and head nets are needed in some areas.



Black and brown bears travel and feed along many fishing streams in the area.

They are powerful and unpredictable. Seeing one can be a memorable part of one's trip; however, bears should be avoided whenever possible. When in bear habitat: (1) make noise so as not to surprise one; (2) do not keep food stored in or near your tent; (3) keep a *very* clean camp; and (4) do *not* camp on a game trail or alongside a stream full of spawning fish. When all is said and done, common sense is your best protection.



Alaska Office of Boating Safety

Before you head out on open water, be sure you are prepared!

Your boat should be at least 14 feet and seaworthy, with full Coast Guard-required equipment. Have a small 'kicker' engine in addition to the main engine, a VHF or CB radio, marine charts, and PFDs for everyone on board.

The U.S. Coast Guard website and the Alaska Boating Safety website contain all the necessary information:

☞ www.alaskaboatingsafety.org

☞ www.uscgboating.org

Enjoy your trip . . . Return soon!