SPORT FISHING IN ALASKA

FISHING TACKLE

What gear to use and how to use it!





Welcome to fishing in Alaska! Before you wet a line, make sure you understand the rules and regulations!

Sport Fish Regulation Summary Booklets are split into four areas, **Northern**, **Southcentral**, **Southwest** & **Southeast**.

Regulation booklets include license and permit requirements, as well as general and special regulations for all areas within the four regions.

Special Note: Emergency Orders (EO) can change regulations. EOs are issued to open and close sport fishing seasons or areas; to increase or decrease sport fish bag limits; or to modify methods of sport fish harvest. EOs may be issued at any time and have the same force and effect as law.

Scan the QR code to check EOs: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/

Get your license here!!

You can purchase your fishing license online through the ADF&G Online Store, the ADF&G Mobile App or at local vendors.

Many different fish species call Alaska home!

This brochure will cover commonly used fishing set-ups, lures, flies and more that are often used to target sport fish species in Alaska.

People may **sport fish** for different fish species to eat or for catch and release!


King (Chinook) Salmon

***DISCLAIMER**: The illustrated gear in this brochure serves to present possible types that can be used. Angler success using these gear types is not guaranteed. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not endorse or recommend one product over another. Many alternative products not pictured on this page are available and may work equal to or better than the examples pictured.*


Lake Trout

Sport fishing is defined as "The taking of or attempting to take for personal use, and not for sale or barter, any fresh water, marine or anadromous (lives in both salt & fresh water) fish by hook and line held in the hand or by hook and line attached to a pole or rod which is held in the hand or closely attended."

Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-In River



King Salmon

Spinners/Spoons/Flies

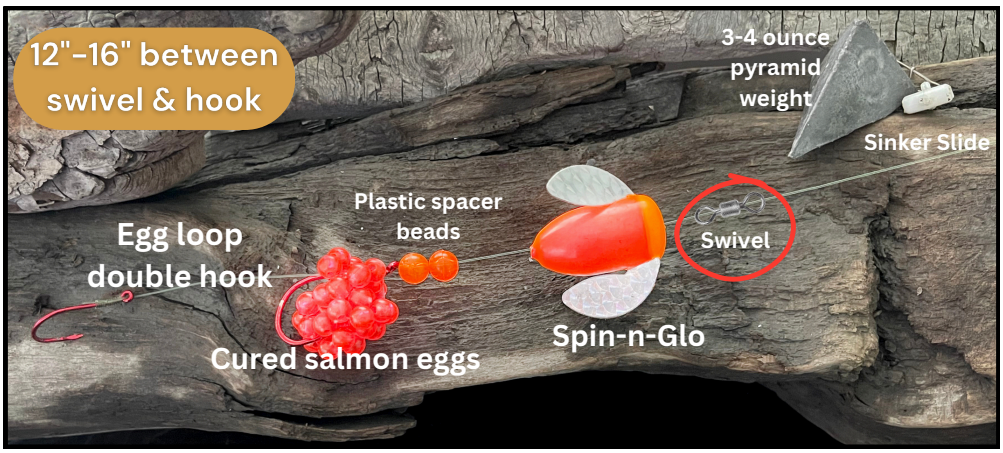








Bait-Bottom Fishing-Stationary





Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-In River

Coho (silver) Salmon

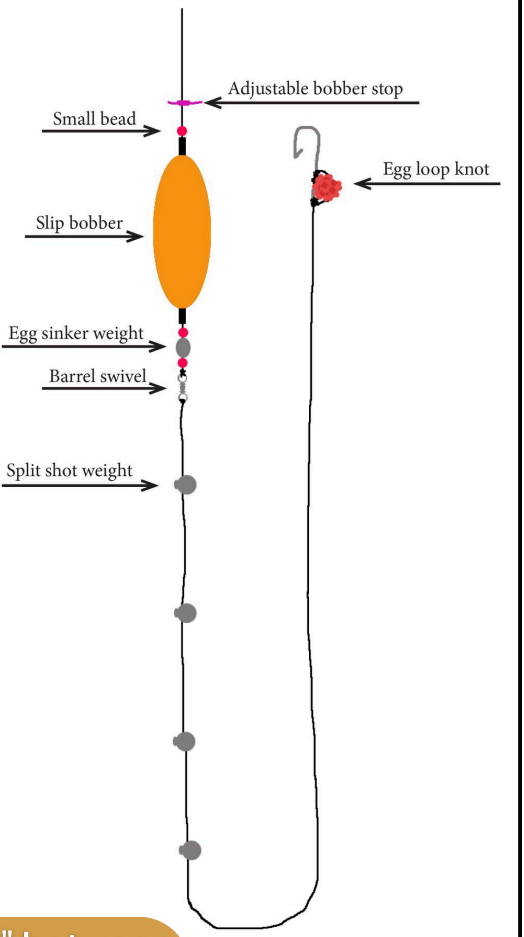


A slip float set up allows you to adjust your depth in the water.



Try cured salmon roe, jigs or chunks of herring or hooligan!



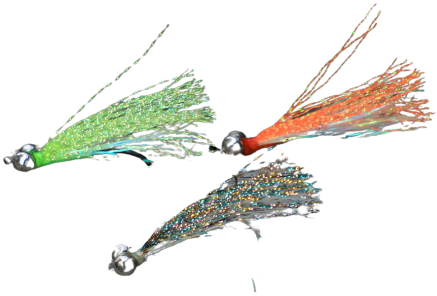


12"-18" between swivel & hook

Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-In River

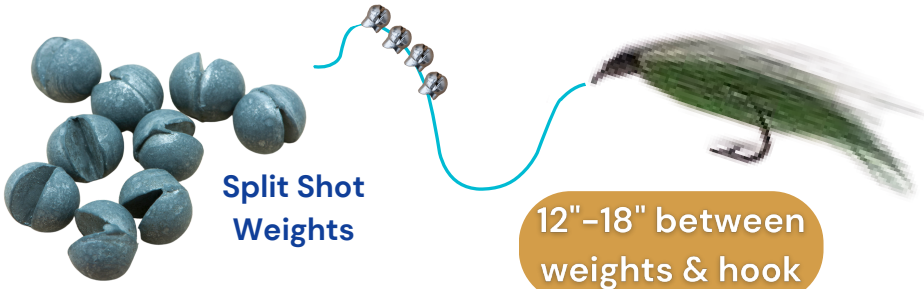


Sockeye (red) Salmon





There is a common misconception that sockeye (red) salmon do not bite once they enter fresh water. Of the 5 species of salmon, sockeye are the least aggressive but will often bite smaller plugs, shrimp flies and more.



To get to the bottom fast: split shot, pencil lead, or twist on weights.



Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-In River

Pink & Chum Salmon



Pink salmon (humpies) and chum salmon (dogs) can often be caught using the same lures and techniques as used for king salmon or coho salmon. They are quite aggressive and will hit spoons, spinners, bait, and brightly colored flies.



pink salmon



chum salmon

Securing Cured Salmon Eggs/Roe to Your Hook

Where and when bait is allowed, cured salmon roe can be an excellent choice of bait.

You can purchase cured salmon eggs at local sporting good stores or cure them yourself!





Learn how to tie an egg loop knot from this ADF&G video!

When attaching eggs to your hook, use a egg loop knot. This type of knot leaves a loop above the shank of the hook that can be cinched down on your eggs to secure them to the hook.

Expert Tip:

When fishing where multiple hooks are allowed, only put salmon roe on the top hook.



Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-Saltwater



King Salmon

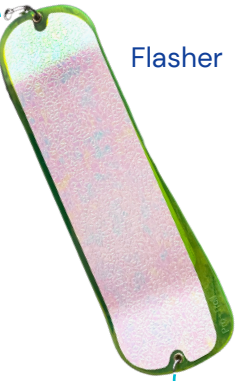
From a Boat: Troll herring or lures that imitate herring behind a flasher. You can use banana weights or divers, or down riggers to target different depths.





Banana Weight (8-12oz)

12"-18" between flasher & weight



Flasher



Diver



Cut plug herring or herring lure

12"-18" between flasher & hook



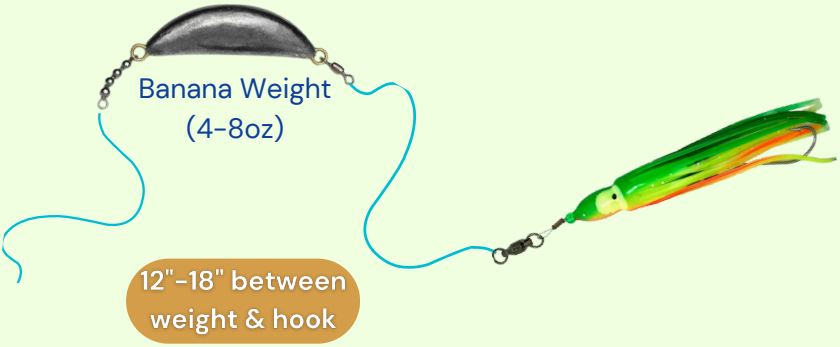
Salmon Fishing Set-Ups-Saltwater



Coho (silver) Salmon



From a Boat: The same trolling techniques that work for king salmon also work for silvers. Mooching is another way of fishing for silver salmon.



Mooching for silvers usually involves a squid or hoochie squid jig and a weight, with around 3 feet of line between the squid and weight.

TIP: Jig the squid at different depths in the water column to find where fish are located.

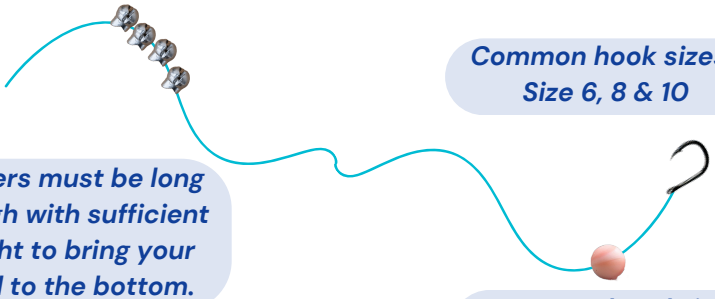
Egg Imitation Set-Up





During the late summer and fall when salmon are spawning, trout, Dolly Varden, grayling, and more target salmon eggs for food.

Eggs can be fresh, bright orange/red; or dead and dying and be opaque and milky colored.



Common hook sizes: Size 6, 8 & 10

Leaders must be long enough with sufficient weight to bring your bead to the bottom.

Common bead sizes: 6mm, 8mm, & 10mm.

Beads must be fixed on the leader within 2 inches of the hook (or free sliding). You can purchase beads at fly shops, craft stores and more.



In River Fishing



Trout/Dolly Varden

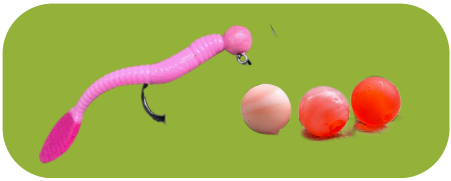
Spinning rods and fly rods are both effective at catching trout and Dolly Varden in moving waters.

Spin Fishing  Fly Fishing

Think about what will be in the water at the time you are fishing. Are salmon spawning? Are bugs hatching and flying around? These things can indicate what attractant to use!

Medium to light rod with balanced reel







4-6 weight fly rod and balanced reel









In River Fishing

Grayling

Spinning and fly rods are both effective at catching grayling in a river system.





Grayling can be caught on the same variety of flies and lures as trout and Dolly Varden. However, they have much smaller mouths, so you may want to decrease your hook and lure size.







Lake Fishing



Alaska is home to thousands of lakes, and hundreds of them are stocked with rainbow trout, Arctic char, landlocked salmon, lake trout, and or grayling. Bait and multiple hooks are allowed at all stocked lakes.

Try flies and lures that imitate aquatic insects/invertebrates and fish often found in lakes:

Common fish/insects	Suggested Lure/fly
Dragonfly Larvae 	 
Leach 	 
Stickleback 	 



Check out our stocked lakes webpage and find a lake near you to fish:

Pacific Salmon Identification

Marine Phase

Chinook (king) Salmon





- Spots on back and both lobes of the tail
- Black mouth with a black gumline

Coho (silver) Salmon





- Spots on back and upper lobe of the tail
- Black mouth with a white gumline

Sockeye (red) Salmon





- No distinct spots on back or tail
- White mouth with a white gumline
- Large, bright gold eye

Pink (humpy) Salmon





- Large, oval spots on back and both lobes of tail
- White mouth with a black gumline

Chum (dog) Salmon





- No spots; calico bands on body (often faint in salt water)
- White mouth with a white gumline

Photographs courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Spawning Phase

Chinook (king) Salmon



- Spawning adults turn maroon or olive brown
- Spots on body and both lobes of the tail remain

Coho (silver) Salmon



- Males develop pronounced "kype" (hooked-nose)
- Spots on back and upper lobe of the tail remain
- Male and female turn dark maroon and have dark backs

Sockeye (red) Salmon



- Spawning adults develop dull-green heads
- Males develop hump on back
- Both female and male turn red

Pink (humpy) Salmon



- Spawners turn dull gray on their backs and upper sides
- Lower sides appear cream color or white
- Large, oval spots on back and both lobes of tail remain

Chum (dog) Salmon



- Spawners develop pronounced, vertical calico bands on sides
- Males exhibit large, canine-like teeth

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Scan the QR code for Southcentral sport fishing regulations.

Find Ship Creek regulations under the "Anchorage Bowl."

Photographs by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Resources and Contacts

Scan to sign up to receiving fishing reports, press releases, advisory announcements and emergency orders!

Check out how to fishing videos on a variety of techniques and locations!

www.adfg.alaska.gov

@adfg.sportfish.southcentral

ADFG - Sport Fishing Southcentral Alaska

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This summary is available in alternative communication formats. If you need assistance, please contact the ADF&G ADA Coordinator at (907) 465-6078; TTY/ Alaska Relay 7-1-1; or 1 (800) 770-8973.