

2011 KENAI PENINSULA FISHING & CLAMMING TIDES*

KING FISHING - Chinook or King Salmon is one of the premier fisheries of the Kenai Peninsula due to their large size. In the Kenai River they can vary from 20 to almost 100 pounds (the record is 97 lbs. 8 oz.). Due to their size and their fighting strength, it is almost impossible to land a King from the river bank, thus hiring a guide with a boat is a must.

On the Kasilof River, the first run Kings are mostly hatchery fish that range from 15 to 35 lbs., thus they can be caught from the bank. However, there are plenty of guides with drift boats (no motors allowed) to increase your chances of landing a King salmon. As the second run of larger (30 to 60#) Kings enter the Kasilof, a guided drift boat is a necessity. The limit is two hatchery Kings or one hatchery plus one native on certain days.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISH TYPE</u>
COOK INLET & HOMER	SPRING through JULY	OCEAN KINGS
KENAI RIVER	MAY through JUNE	1ST RUN KINGS (20 to 100#)
KENAI RIVER	JULY	2ND RUN KINGS (40 to 100#)
NINILCHIK & ANCHOR RIVERS, DEEP CREEK	MEMORIAL WEEKEND PLUS TWO WEEKENDS	1ST RUN KINGS
KASILOF RIVER	Mid-MAY to mid-JUNE	1st RUN KINGS (15 to 35#)
KASILOF RIVER	JULY peaks @ 20th	2nd RUN KINGS (20 to 60#)

RED FISHING - I consider Sockeye or Red Salmon to be the best table fish. The Alaskan Wild Red Salmon has bright red meat and rich flavor which is high in Omega 3 oils. Plus it is one of the most exciting fish to catch. The red salmon doesn't eat once it re-enters fresh water. To catch them, you must drag a fly-hook through their mouth hooking them, not an easy task and very exciting when you hook them in the fin or tail. Many a rod has been broken or rod & reel lost when a 8 to 12 pound red takes off across the river after being hooked in the tail.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISH TYPE</u>
RUSSIAN RIVER	~ JUNE 15TH	1st RUN KENAI REDS (6 to 8 #)
KENAI RIVER	LAST 2 WEEKS IN JULY	2nd RUN REDS (8 to 12 #)
KASILOF RIVER	MAY through JUNE	1st RUN REDS (6 to 8 #)
KASILOF RIVER	JULY	2nd RUN REDS (6 to 8 #)

SILVERS & HUMPY FISHING – Silvers (Coho) and Humpies (Pink) salmon come into the rivers at the beginning of August. However the Pinks only come into the Kenai River on even years. There are two runs of Silvers in the Kenai River, but only one in the Kasilof. Both species feed in the river and spawn in the river and side creeks; therefore, both baits (cured salmon eggs) and lures will attract the fish. Silvers tend to feed only in early mornings and evenings on sunny days, Pinks feed any time and will strike at about anything. Silvers are more oily than reds and have orange meat, Pinks tend to have pink, mushy meat (especially the males).

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISH TYPE</u>
KENAI RIVER	AUGUST & SEPTEMBER	SILVERS (8 to 20 #)
KENAI RIVER	AUGUST EVEN YEARS	PINKS (4 to 6 #)
KASILOF RIVER	AUGUST	SILVERS (8 to 20 #)
NINILCHIK & ANCHOR RIVERS, DEEP CREEK		PINKS (4 to 6 #)

TROUT & DOLLY VARDEN FISHING - Rivers, creeks and lakes on the Peninsula are normally open to trout and Dolly Varden fishing all year round except for closures in specific areas on certain dates. Be sure to check the fishing regulations concerning the closure dates, limits and where they have to be released when caught.

*This information I have personally collected over the years fishing on the Peninsula. The dates vary due to changes in the weather, water temperature, ect.

HALIBUT FISHING – Halibut fishing begins in early spring as soon as hardy souls can venture out on the Cook Inlet or from Homer harbor. Charter boats out of Deep Creek or Anchor Point tractor pulls (where boats are put into and taken out of the ocean from the beach) usually begin in early April and end shortly after Labor Day. Halibut can also be fished from the beaches at high tide occasionally. May, June and early July are usually the best months due to weather and wind conditions although many large fish are caught in late July through August. Minimum tide level changes provide the longest fishing times and morning high tide change is preferred over low tide change. Below are the **best** fishing dates for the 2011 summer. NOTE: These are the best tides; however, Halibut fishing is generally good through May and June with good days also in July and August.

DATES	TIMES	TIDE LEVELS	PEAK DATE, TIME, CHANGE
MAY 9 to 13	7:30am to 12:34pm	16.8 to 15.2 ‘	5/11, 9:56am, 10.3 ‘
MAY 24 to 28	8:53am to 1:29pm	14.8 to 13.5’	5/25, 10:02am, 8.3 ‘
JUNE 9 to 11	9:37am to 12:15pm	15.4 to 15.5 ‘	6/9, 9:37am, 12.4’
JUNE 22 to 28	8:13am to 2:40pm	15.3 to 15.6’	6/24, 10:19am, 8.7’
JULY 8 to 11	9:19am to 1:21pm	15.7 to 15.7’	7/9, 10:37am, 13.5’
JULY 22 to 27	8:24am to 2:19pm	14.7 to 15.3’	7/24, 10:42am, 8.2’
AUGUST 7 to 9	10:23am to 1:19pm	14.9 to 15.7’	8/8, 11:58am, 13.2’
AUGUST 20 to 25	7:45am to 12:59pm	15.5 to 15.7’	8/23, 11:36am, 8.1’

BEACH HALIBUT FISHING - In the spring, Halibut occasionally come to the shore to feed during the high tides. Tides of near 20 feet are the best.

May dates -times	Tide Levels	June dates - times	Tide Levels	July dates – times	Tide Levels
3 RD - 3:39am	20.1’	2 nd – 3:46am	19.8’	1 st – 3:28am	20.0’
4 th - 4:11am	20.1’	3 rd – 4:24am	20.0’	2 nd – 4:10am	20.6’
5 th – 4:43 am	20.0’	4 th – 5:04am	19.8’	3 rd – 4:53am	20.8’
15 th – 1:39am	20.6’	13 th – 1:10am	20.0’	14 th - 2:46am	20.3’
16 th - 2:26am	21.8’	14 th – 2:04am	20.7’	15 th – 3:33am	20.8’
16 th – 3:26pm	19.9’	15 th – 2:54am	21.3’	15 th – 4:37pm	19.7’
17 th – 3:11am	22.4’	16 th – 3:42am	21.5’	16 th – 4:16am	20.9’
17 th – 4:14pm	20.4’	16 th – 4:52pm	19.7’	16 th – 5:13pm	20.0’
18 th - 3:56am	22.6’	17 th – 4:28am	21.2’	17 th – 4:56am	20.6’
18 th – 5:01pm	20.4’	17 th – 5:35pm	19.7’	17 th – 5:48pm	20.0’
19 th – 4:41am	22.1’	18 th – 5:12am	20.6’	18 th – 5:35am	19.9’
19 th – 5:48pm	19.9’			30 th – 3:12am	20.6’
20 th – 5:26am	21.1’			30 th – 4:11pm	19.7’
				31 st – 3:56am	21.6’
				31 st – 4:46pm	20.8’

BEST CLAMMING DATES FOR 2011

CLAMMING – The beaches from the Kasilof River south to the Anchor River provide some of the best Alaskan Razor clamming in the state. Last year there was a huge birth of new clams, thus the low tide beaches were covered with their tell-tale dimples. This year those little ones should have grown to good eating size. The most popular beaches for clamming are Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, Deep Creek and Whiskey Creek. Minimum tides below -2 feet are required to be able to reach the clam beds. Below are the prime clamming dates and times for the summer of 2011. Low Tide level

DATES	TIMES	TIDE LEVELS	PEAK DATE, TIME, LOWEST
MAY 4th	11:03am	-2.0'	
MAY 15 to 21	8:34am to 1:08pm	-2.7 to -2.1'	5/18, 10:53am, -5.3'
JUNE 1 to 5	10:09am to 12:41pm	-1.9 to -2.2'	6/4, 12:01pm, -2.6'
JUNE 13 to 19	8:18am to 12:45pm	-2.4 to -2.1'	6/16, 10:41am, -4.5'
JULY 1 to 5	10:27am to 1:05pm	-2.7 to -2.2'	7/3, 11:44am, -3.5'
JULY 13 to 17	9:02am to 11:42am	-2.4 to -2.6'	7/15, 10:28am, -3.4'
JULY 30 to AUG. 3	10:06am to 2:41pm	-3.7 to -2.0'	8/1, 11:22am, -3.7'
AUGUST 28 to 31	9:39am to 11:36am	-2.2 to -2.3'	8/30, 10:56am, -3.0'