

alaska self guided fishing

Alaska Self-Guided Fishing: Your Ultimate Guide to the Last Frontier's Waterways

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Introduction:

Alaska, the land of the midnight sun and breathtaking wilderness, offers unparalleled opportunities for self-guided fishing. From the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean to the serene waters of countless rivers and lakes, the state is a fisherman's paradise. This comprehensive guide delves into the world of Alaska self-guided fishing, providing you with the knowledge and strategies to plan and execute a successful and safe trip.

1. Choosing Your Alaskan Fishing Destination for Self-Guided Trips:

The sheer diversity of fishing locations in Alaska can be overwhelming. Deciding where to go for your Alaska self-guided fishing adventure hinges on your target species and preferred fishing style.

Southeast Alaska: Renowned for its salmon (king, silver, sockeye, pink, chum), halibut, and lingcod fishing. Access is often by boat, requiring some boating experience and appropriate safety gear.

Southcentral Alaska: Offers diverse opportunities, from Kenai River salmon runs to saltwater fishing in Cook Inlet. Good road access makes it more accessible than Southeast Alaska.

Interior Alaska: Features numerous rivers and lakes teeming with trout, grayling, and pike. Fly-fishing is particularly popular in this region.

Southwest Alaska: A remote area known for its incredible halibut and salmon fishing, but typically requiring chartered flights or boat access. This makes it less ideal for complete self-guided trips.

1. Methods and Approaches for Alaska Self-Guided Fishing:

Successful Alaska self-guided fishing depends on understanding different methodologies:

Spin Casting: A versatile technique effective for various species, especially salmon and trout. Employing lures and spinners is key.

Trolling: Excellent for covering vast stretches of water, particularly effective for targeting pelagic species like salmon and halibut. Requires a boat and appropriate trolling gear.

Fly Fishing: A challenging yet rewarding method, ideal for targeting trout and grayling in rivers and lakes. Knowledge of fly patterns and techniques is crucial.

Bait Fishing: A simpler approach using live or artificial bait, effective for various species including salmon, halibut, and bottom fish.

1. Essential Gear for Your Alaska Self-Guided Fishing Adventure:

Proper gear is paramount for safety and success in Alaska self-guided fishing. This includes:

Fishing Rods and Reels: Choose appropriate gear based on your target species and fishing method.

Lines and Leaders: Select lines and leaders with the appropriate strength and material.

Hooks, Lures, and Flies: Stock up on a variety of options based on the species you target.

Waders and Rain Gear: Essential for staying dry and warm in unpredictable Alaskan weather.

Safety Gear: Life vests, first-aid kit, GPS device, satellite communication device, bear spray (especially in inland areas).

Navigation Tools: Charts, maps, compass, GPS are crucial, especially when boating.

Appropriate Clothing: Layers are vital to adapt to changing weather conditions.

1. Understanding Alaska Fishing Regulations for Self-Guided Fishing:

Alaska boasts stringent fishing regulations designed to ensure sustainability. Before your trip:

Obtain the necessary licenses and permits: These are mandatory and vary by region and species. Purchase them online or from authorized vendors.
Familiarize yourself with bag limits and size restrictions: These regulations protect fish populations and ensure responsible fishing practices.
Understand closures and restricted areas: These areas are often established to protect spawning grounds and sensitive habitats.
Check for any special regulations: These may apply to certain species, methods, or locations.

1. Planning Your Alaska Self-Guided Fishing Trip:

Thorough planning is crucial for a successful and safe Alaska self-guided fishing trip:

Research your destination: Understand access points, potential hazards, and local conditions.
Book accommodations and transportation: Options range from remote cabins to hotels, and transportation might involve renting a car, chartering a boat, or using a floatplane.
Pack your gear strategically: Ensure you have everything you need and pack for all types of weather.
Develop a detailed itinerary: This helps manage your time effectively and ensures you cover your desired fishing spots.
Inform someone of your plans: Let a friend or family member know your itinerary and expected return time.

1. Safety First: Navigating the Alaskan Wilderness:

Alaska's wilderness presents unique challenges. Prioritize safety by:

Being aware of wildlife: Bears, moose, and other animals inhabit Alaskan wilderness. Learn about bear safety and carry bear spray.
Checking weather forecasts: Alaskan weather is unpredictable; be prepared for sudden changes.
Knowing your limits: Avoid overextending yourself physically or venturing into unfamiliar territory without proper preparation.

Filing a float plan: If boating, inform someone of your route and expected return time.

Carrying a comprehensive first-aid kit: Be prepared to handle minor injuries and emergencies.

1. Sustainability in Alaska Self-Guided Fishing:

Responsible fishing practices are vital to preserve Alaska's incredible fish populations. Remember to:

Practice catch and release when appropriate: This helps maintain healthy fish populations for future generations.

Handle fish carefully: Minimize stress and injury to increase survival rates after release.

Respect wildlife and their habitats: Avoid disturbing animals and their environments.

Leave no trace: Pack out all your trash and leave the area as you found it.

Conclusion:

Alaska self-guided fishing offers an unparalleled adventure, allowing anglers to experience the raw beauty and abundant fishing opportunities of the Last Frontier. By carefully planning, understanding the regulations, prioritizing safety, and practicing responsible fishing, you can create an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Remember to always respect the environment and its inhabitants, ensuring that this incredible resource remains available for future generations to enjoy.

FAQs:

1. What is the best time of year for Alaska self-guided fishing? The best time varies by region and species. Generally, spring and summer offer the most opportunities.

1. How much does a self-guided fishing trip to Alaska cost? Costs vary greatly depending on location, duration, and gear. Budget accordingly.

1. Do I need a guide for Alaska self-guided fishing? No, but it's advisable to have some prior fishing experience and thorough preparation.

1. What are the common fish species found in Alaska? Salmon (various types), halibut, trout, grayling, char, and lingcod are among the most popular.
1. Is it safe to go self-guided fishing in Alaska? Alaska is a vast and wild place. Thorough planning, proper gear, and awareness of potential hazards are crucial.
1. What kind of boat do I need for Alaska self-guided fishing? Boat type depends on the location and your fishing style. Inflatable boats, small fishing boats, or even kayaks can be suitable depending on conditions.
1. How do I obtain an Alaska fishing license? Licenses can be purchased online through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website or authorized vendors.
1. What are the common hazards encountered during self-guided fishing trips in Alaska? Wildlife encounters (bears, moose), unpredictable weather, rough water conditions, and navigational challenges.
1. What should I do if I get lost or injured during my trip? Carry a satellite communication device or GPS, and inform someone of your itinerary before embarking on the trip.

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1. "Best Spots for Self-Guided Salmon Fishing in Alaska": This article provides detailed information on the prime locations for targeting different salmon species throughout Alaska.

1. "Alaska Self-Guided Fishing: A Budget-Friendly Guide": This piece explores cost-effective strategies for planning a self-guided fishing trip, including tips on gear rental and affordable accommodation options.
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1. "Planning the Perfect Itinerary: A Step-by-Step Guide to Self-Guided Alaska Fishing": This guide walks readers through the process of creating a well-structured and efficient itinerary.
1. "Alaska Self-Guided Fishing: From Planning to Post-Trip Reflection": This article covers the entire process, from initial planning to post-trip analysis, focusing on learning from the experience.

Alaska Self-Guided Fishing: A Deep Dive into the Wild

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed, PhD in Fisheries Biology & Aquatic Ecology, holds a lifetime Alaska fishing license and has spent over two decades researching and experiencing various aspects of Alaskan fisheries, including extensive self-guided fishing trips across the state.

Publisher: Alaska Outdoorsman Magazine, a leading publication focused on Alaskan outdoor recreation, boasting over 50 years of experience providing reliable and in-depth information on Alaskan fishing, hunting, and wilderness activities. They have a strong reputation for accurate and insightful reporting within the Alaskan outdoor community.

Editor: Mark Johnson, a seasoned Alaskan journalist and former Alaska Department of Fish and Game employee with over 30 years of experience covering Alaskan conservation and wildlife management, ensures factual accuracy and engaging storytelling.

1. A Historical Perspective on Alaska Self-Guided Fishing

Alaska's rich fishing history intertwines deeply with the concept of self-guided fishing. Initially, self-guided fishing wasn't a "choice" but a necessity. Early settlers and indigenous populations relied on their own skill and knowledge to survive, utilizing the abundant salmon runs, halibut grounds, and other fisheries. This inherent connection between the Alaskan people and their fishing resources laid the foundation for the modern practice of Alaska self-guided fishing.

The rise of commercial fishing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries altered the landscape, but the tradition of independent fishing persisted. While commercial operations grew, many Alaskans continued to fish for sustenance and recreation, creating a parallel tradition of Alaska self-guided fishing. The development of accessible transportation, improved fishing gear, and eventually, the internet, made self-guided trips increasingly feasible for non-residents.

2. The Current State of Alaska Self-Guided Fishing

Today, Alaska self-guided fishing is a significant component of the state's tourism economy and a cherished pastime for locals and visitors alike. Numerous lodges, outfitters, and guides offer packages that incorporate elements of self-guided fishing, allowing for a blend of independence and support. However, the core principle remains: anglers are responsible for planning, executing, and often, even transporting themselves to their chosen fishing locations.

This freedom comes with responsibilities. Navigating the complexities of Alaskan fishing regulations, acquiring the necessary licenses and permits, understanding the unique challenges of remote fishing locations, and ensuring safety are all crucial aspects of successfully undertaking Alaska self-guided fishing.

3. Types of Alaska Self-Guided Fishing Experiences

The diversity of Alaskan waters translates into a vast array of Alaska self-guided fishing opportunities. Anglers can choose from:

River Fishing: Targeting salmon (king, silver, sockeye, chum, pink) in numerous rivers across the state, often requiring wading or the use of small boats. This form of Alaska self-guided fishing often prioritizes access to remote and pristine river systems.

Lake Fishing: Focusing on trout, char, and other species found in countless Alaskan lakes, ranging from easily accessible spots to those demanding extended hikes or boat trips. This type of Alaska self-guided fishing provides opportunities for solitude and stunning scenery.

Ocean Fishing: Targeting halibut, cod, lingcod, rockfish, and other species from a chartered boat (often with limited guidance) or from shore-based locations. This option is generally more suited to those with some experience in ocean fishing.

Fly Fishing: A specialized form of Alaska self-guided fishing, attracting anglers seeking a more challenging and rewarding experience, particularly in pristine rivers and streams.

4. Planning Your Alaska Self-Guided Fishing Trip

Successful Alaska self-guided fishing demands meticulous planning. Key considerations include:

Location Selection: Researching fishing regulations, access points, and the specific species you intend to target. Factors like remoteness, accessibility, and weather conditions play critical roles.

Licensing and Permits: Obtaining the correct licenses and permits well in advance, understanding bag limits, and seasonal restrictions.

Gear and Equipment: Ensuring you have appropriate gear for the chosen fishing method, including rods, reels, lines, lures, waders, rain gear, and safety equipment.

Transportation: Planning transportation to and from your chosen fishing locations, considering options like renting a car, using a floatplane, or hiring a water taxi.

Safety Precautions: Familiarizing yourself with wilderness safety protocols, including bear awareness, navigation, and emergency preparedness. Carrying a satellite communication device is strongly recommended for remote locations.

Accommodation: Planning lodging, considering options ranging from camping to renting cabins or staying at lodges.

5. The Environmental Responsibility of Alaska Self-Guided Fishing

Responsible Alaska self-guided fishing necessitates a deep commitment to environmental stewardship. Anglers should adhere strictly to fishing regulations, practice catch-and-release where appropriate, dispose of waste properly, and minimize their impact on the surrounding environment. Supporting sustainable fishing practices is crucial to preserving Alaska's pristine waters and ensuring the long-term viability of Alaska self-guided fishing.

6. The Economic Impact of Alaska Self-Guided Fishing

While often overlooked, Alaska self-guided fishing contributes significantly to the state's economy. Anglers spend money on licenses, gear, transportation, accommodation, and other related expenses, directly supporting local businesses and communities. This economic impact highlights the importance of promoting responsible and sustainable Alaska self-guided fishing practices.

Conclusion

Alaska self-guided fishing offers a unique and rewarding experience for anglers of all skill levels. However, it demands careful planning, meticulous preparation, and a deep respect for the environment. By understanding the historical context, current regulations, and environmental responsibilities associated with this activity, anglers can maximize their enjoyment while contributing to the long-term preservation of Alaska's invaluable fishing resources. The combination of independence, natural beauty, and challenging fishing makes Alaska self-guided fishing an unforgettable adventure for those willing to embrace the wild.

FAQs

1. What is the best time of year for Alaska self-guided fishing? The ideal time depends on the species you're targeting, with peak seasons varying across different regions and rivers. Research the specific species and location carefully.

1. What kind of fishing license do I need for Alaska self-guided fishing? You'll need a sport fishing license, which can be purchased online or at various vendors. Specific requirements may vary based on your residency status.

1. What safety precautions should I take during Alaska self-guided fishing trips? Carry bear spray, a first-aid kit, a satellite communication device, and inform someone of your itinerary. Be aware of weather conditions and potential hazards.

1. Are there any restrictions on catch limits for Alaska self-guided fishing? Yes, strict regulations govern catch limits for various species. Familiarize yourself with these limits before your trip to avoid penalties.

1. What gear is essential for Alaska self-guided fishing? Essential gear includes appropriate rods, reels, lines, lures, waders (if necessary), rain gear, a sturdy backpack, and a reliable cooler for your catch.

1. How can I find information about fishing locations and access points in Alaska? Consult the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website, fishing guidebooks, and online resources to identify suitable fishing spots.

1. What are some potential challenges of Alaska self-guided fishing? Challenges include remote locations, unpredictable weather, the need for self-sufficiency, and the possibility of encountering wildlife.

1. How much does an Alaska self-guided fishing trip typically cost? Costs vary significantly depending on the duration, location, type of accommodation, and equipment rented or purchased.

1. Are there guided fishing trips available in addition to self-guided options? Yes, many outfitters offer guided trips for those who prefer assistance and expertise.

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1. "Alaska Halibut Fishing: A Beginner's Guide": A comprehensive guide to halibut fishing in Alaska, covering techniques, gear, and regulations.
1. "Planning Your Solo Fishing Adventure in Alaska": Tips and advice on planning a safe and successful solo fishing trip in Alaska.
1. "Alaska's Remote Fishing Lodges: A Comparative Review": A review of different fishing lodges in remote locations, comparing amenities, services, and fishing opportunities.
1. "Essential Gear for Alaska Self-Guided Fishing Trips": A detailed list of essential gear and equipment for different types of Alaska fishing trips.
1. "Navigating Alaskan Fishing Regulations: A Simple Guide": A user-friendly guide to understanding and complying with Alaska's fishing regulations.
1. "Wilderness Safety in Alaska: Tips for Self-Guided Fishing": Advice on ensuring safety during self-guided fishing trips in Alaska, including bear safety and emergency preparedness.

1. "Sustainable Fishing Practices in Alaska: Your Role in Conservation": Information on sustainable fishing practices and how anglers can contribute to the conservation of Alaskan fisheries.

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Although Patagonia is becoming an increasingly popular world destination for fly-fishermen, there is a conspicuous lack of information available to anglers on this remote area. Until now. Barrett Mattison and Evan Jones have spent several seasons independently fishing and exploring the entirety of Argentine Patagonia (an area roughly the size of Montana and California combined), and in this book they share everything you need to know before embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. Fly-Fishing in Patagonia includes: a general overview, a brief history of fishing in Patagonia, a breakdown of each fishing region, an in-depth description of over 100 waterways, best seasons to fish, logistics for travel, outstanding photographs and much more. If you have always dreamed of fishing Patagonia but weren't sure where to start, you now have all the information you need to have a safe and successful trip.

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"A lavishly photographed dreambook of the world's top angling spots" (Men's Journal) Amateur or expert, every angler dreams of landing "the big one," but that's only part of the appeal of fly fishing. Because even when hours pass without a bite, nothing beats the rugged beauty of the surroundings. For both armchair travelers and avid outdoorsmen who may have already started a checklist of their own, *Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die* maps out the meccas of the fly-fishing world. Through in-depth interviews with the sport's acknowledged gurus, author Chris Santella goes beyond standard guides to convey the very essence of the recommended locations. Readers can vicariously cast mouse patterns to fifty-pound taimen in the wilds of Mongolia, wrangle with wily permit off the Florida Keys, and match the hatch on Montana's Armstrong's Spring Creek. Jardines de la Reina, Cuba (tarpon), the Zhupanova River, Kamchatka (rainbow trout), and the Rio Negro, Brazil (peacock bass) are also included. The fifty essays include a cultural and natural history of each site, along with colorful anecdotes based on the author's and authorities' experiences. With breath-takingly-beautiful photos of the spots, many by celebrated fly-fishing photographer R. Valentine Atkinson, the book also provides adventurous anglers with enough travel-and-tackle information so that they, too, can start planning excursions to go fish around the globe. Praise for *Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die* "Santella offers 50 short takes on the ultimate fly-fishing destinations in this beautifully photographed and nicely packaged volume . . . With its elegant descriptions, gorgeous photos and practical information, this book is a dream travel guide for avid fly-fishers." —Publishers Weekly "Everything dad needs to tackle his next trip." —Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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Michener weaves together the exciting high points of Alaska's story: its brutal origins; the American acquisition; the gold rush; the tremendous growth and exploitation of the salmon industry; the arduous construction of the Alcan Highway, undertaken to defend the territory during World War II. A spellbinding portrait of a human community fighting to establish its place in the world, Alaska traces a bold and majestic saga of the enduring spirit of a land and its people. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from James A. Michener's *Hawaii*. Praise for Alaska "Few will escape the allure of the land and people [Michener] describes. . . . Alaska takes the reader on a journey through one of the bleakest, richest, most foreboding, and highly inviting territories in our Republic, if not the world. . . . The characters that Michener creates are bigger than life."—Los Angeles Times Book Review "Always the master of exhaustive historical research, Michener tracks the settling of Alaska [in] vividly detailed scenes and well-developed characters."—Boston Herald "Michener is still, sentence for sentence, writing's fastest attention grabber."—The New York Times

alaska self guided fishing: Canoeing Ray Goodwin, 2016-04-15 This is a thoroughly modern book on the traditional open canoe. It covers all aspects of the open canoe, from design to wilderness travel. What really sets it apart is its focus on canoeing techniques. Ray Goodwin is the UK's best known and (many would go so far as to say) foremost canoe coach. By introducing some of the latest canoeing performance skills, based on what he has discovered through decades of coaching and guiding, he sets out to inspire a new generation of paddlers. Through clear language and the use of photographs acquired over many years of paddling around the world, he shares some real insights of the reality of canoeing; sometimes gritty, but always enthralling. New in the 2nd edition is a section on 'vision pattern', a method for creating a mental map of a rapid. There is an expanded and re-written chapter on canoeing with children. There are more techniques for improvised sailing and more on advanced lining and tracking. It describes new solo rescue techniques and has many new inspirational canoe expedition examples. Ray has paddled extensively in Europe and his British canoe trips include the circumnavigation of Wales and the Irish Sea Crossing. In North America he has canoed the Rio Grande in the South and done trips as far north as the Arctic Circle, as well as doing two kayak descents of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. In addition to being a British Canoe Union Level 5 Coach in Canoe, Inland Kayak, he holds a Mountain Instructor's Certificate and has led ice climbs on Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and in the Atlas Mountains. He runs his own coaching and guiding business, working at all levels from novice to the top BCU leadership and coaching qualifications courses.

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alaska self guided fishing: Flies for Alaska Anthony J. Route, 1991 Along with its companion volume, *Fly-fishing Alaska*, this book will help make your dream flyfishing trip come true.

alaska self guided fishing: A Complete Guide to Float Hunting Alaska Larry Bartlett, 2002

alaska self guided fishing: Call of the Wild Guy Grieve, 2006 Guy Grieve's life was going nowhere - trapped in a job he hated, commuting 2,000 miles a month and up to his neck in debt. But he dreamed of escaping it all to live alone in one of the wildest, most remote places on earth - Alaska. And just when he'd given up hope, the dream came true. Suddenly Guy was thrown into one of the harshest environments in the world, miles from the nearest human being and armed with only

the most basic equipment. And he soon found - whether building a log cabin from scratch, hunting, ice fishing or of course dodging bears in the buff - that life in the wilderness was anything but easy... Part Ray Mears, part Bill Bryson, *CALL OF THE WILD* is the gripping story of how a mild-mannered commuter struggled with the elements - and himself - and eventually learned the ways of the wild.

alaska self guided fishing: Alaska's Constitution Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency, 2013

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alaska self guided fishing: Tip of the Iceberg Mark Adams, 2019-05-28 ****The National Bestseller**** From the acclaimed, bestselling author of *Turn Right at Machu Picchu*, a fascinating, wild, and wonder-filled journey into Alaska, America's last frontier In 1899, railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman organized a most unusual summer voyage to the wilds of Alaska: He converted a steamship into a luxury floating university, populated by some of America's best and brightest scientists and writers, including the anti-capitalist eco-prophet John Muir. Those aboard encountered a land of immeasurable beauty and impending environmental calamity. More than a hundred years later, Alaska is still America's most sublime wilderness, both the lure that draws one million tourists annually on Inside Passage cruises and as a natural resources larder waiting to be raided. As ever, it remains a magnet for weirdos and dreamers. Armed with Dramamine and an industrial-strength mosquito net, Mark Adams sets out to retrace the 1899 expedition. Traveling town to town by water, Adams ventures three thousand miles north through Wrangell, Juneau, and Glacier Bay, then continues west into the colder and stranger regions of the Aleutians and the Arctic Circle. Along the way, he encounters dozens of unusual characters (and a couple of very hungry bears) and investigates how lessons learned in 1899 might relate to Alaska's current struggles in adapting to the pressures of a changing climate and world.

alaska self guided fishing: Ultimate Journeys for Two Mike Howard, Anne Howard, 2017

Written by the founders of HoneyTrek.com, this inspiring book reveals hidden-gem destinations and insider tips for unforgettable couples travel. In these informative pages, Mike and Anne Howard--officially the World's Longest Honeymooners and founders of the acclaimed travel blog HoneyTrek--whisk you away to journeys of a lifetime. Drawing on their experience traveling together across seven continents, they curate the globe and offer tested-and-approved recommendations for intrepid couples, bringing culture, adventure, and romance to any couple--no matter their age or budget. Chapters are organized by type of destination (for example, beaches, mountains, and deserts) to help travelers discover new places and experiences based on their interests. Each entry focuses on a specific region, getting to the essence of each locale and its one-of-a-kind offerings. The authors reveal the best time to visit, the best places to stay, and recommended activities--each with their own adventure rating to illustrate level of intensity. Special features include funny and insightful stories from the Howards' own adventures, expert advice from other renowned traveling couples, and tips to increase the romance and excitement at each destination. A large map shows every location covered in the book, and each entry has a locator map depicting the city and country. Both entertaining and informative, this book is an invaluable resource and inspiration for a lifetime of travel.

alaska self guided fishing: *Bear Man of Admiralty Island* John R. Howe, 1996 Then, to round off the story and bring it up to date, the tale takes the most romantic turn of all. As his respect for

the great brown bears of Admiralty Island increases, the hero loses his interest in killing them. His love for the singular place that is southeastern Alaska grows, and with it comes a singular acceptance of the mighty animals that rule its craggy shores and misty forests. The hunter hunts no longer and becomes an inspiration to conservationists who would preserve the bears' realm forever.

alaska self guided fishing: Haa atxaayi haa kusteeyix sitee Richard G. Newton, 2006

alaska self guided fishing: McKinley Station Tom Walker, 2009

alaska self guided fishing: The Canneries, Cabins, and Caches of Bristol Bay, Alaska

John B. Branson, 2007

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