

Fishing FAQs



How often / how long will I be able to fish? Although we are not primarily a fishing charter, we do try to offer a variety of fishing opportunities throughout the week; along with hiking, kayaking and wildlife viewing. The crew will survey you and your fellow passengers at the beginning of the trip and build an itinerary around your interests.

My spouse/child is a novice – do you provide lessons? Sorry, no - Our guides can get you started, but their primary responsibility ashore in bear country is to ensure group safety, and often this won't allow for dedicated individual attention.



Do you supply fishing gear for novices and kids? Yes, we have plenty of spin rods & reels, troll rigs and halibut rods onboard, plus an assortment of lures. The spin rods are all set up with open face reels, which are a little more difficult to use than the Zebco-type closed face reels, but folks usually become pretty proficient at casting with open faced reels with little instruction. We also carry a few fly rods for guests who want to give it a try (serious anglers, please see reverse for suggestions on what to pack).



Can we fish for Halibut? Yes - Halibut are available year round and we carry all the gear you'll need to catch them.

Would we also be fishing for trout? Possibly - Trout-fishing is most common in the first half of the season (see the chart on the reverse). There are a few Cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden in the streams in late summer; but salmon dominate streams during July and August.

What type of waders would I need? Southeast Alaska streams are typically fairly shallow and not terribly cold (high 40's to low 50's), so lightweight coated fabric (GorTex) waders work best and are much easier to fit in a duffel bag or suitcase. We don't have storage aboard for 'loaners', so you'll want to bring your own.



What kind of wading boots should I bring? Rubber soled boots - Nationwide, there's a move to phase out felt soled waders because they can transmit nuisance species from stream to stream, so we recommend rubber soled boots. Please avoid cleated soles, since these can quickly ruin the wood decks on our boats.



Do I need to get my own flies and, if so, what kind? Not necessarily - Our guides will provide you with flies when you're in the stream. But if you stop in at a tackle shop in Juneau or Sitka before your cruise, you'll likely want to pick out a few choice flies recommended by the shop owner - to round out the patterns in your own personal fly box.

May I take the fish I catch home? Yes - The crew will clean, fillet, vacuum-pack and freeze your catch and pack it in a flight-ready insulated box for transport home at the end of your trip. They can also advise you on the best way to ship your fish if you don't want to take it as luggage.



THE BOAT COMPANY SUMMER FISHING CALENDAR

	MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
Steelhead										
King										
Chum										
Pink										
Silver										
Sockeye	Sockeye salmon are generally net caught - therefore The Boat Company does not target this species of salmon.									
Dolly Varden										
Halibut										

Slow

 Good

 Best

Suggested Fly Fishing Gear for Serious Anglers

As most proficient fly fisherman prefer the familiarity and comfort of their own equipment, The Boat Company recommends that guests bring their own fly-fishing gear. However, in case of an emergency, or if you or your traveling companion just want to try fly fishing for the first time; we have some limited fly fishing gear on board.

We suggest that serious fly fishers bring the following:

Rods: One 4 or 5 weight, 9 foot, 4 piece (or travel style) rod is most often used in SE Alaska in early spring for Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout. However, a stout 6 weight rod can be used for Dollies, Trout and Pink Salmon and will limit your carry on luggage. We also recommend packing along a 7 or 8 weight rod for tackling salmon.



For more proficient and adventurous anglers a switch rod in 5-6 & 7-8 weight range is advantageous when fishing from the beach.

Reels: A high quality reel with a drag system and a minimum 150 yards of 20 lb. backing.
Line: Line according to rod weight in the Weight Forward Floating category will do just fine for most applications but it doesn't hurt to bring some sink tips or a full intermediate line.

Flies: The Boat Company provides flies but if you have an extensive selection of trout and salmon flies, bring them with you, since many of the patterns will work. A good resource for local fly patterns may be found at Alaska Fly Fishing Goods, www.alaskaflyfishinggoods.com. Flies may also be purchased from www.Orvis.com. Below are some proven patterns; Clouser

Minnows in chartreuse/white, pink/white, black/white, olive/white; Egg-Sucking Leeches in pink, purple, and black; Deceivers, and various baitfish patterns.

Accessories: Your guide will assist in landing your fish but it is advised that you bring your own Forceps, Line snipers, and Fishing vest or hip pack. A good waterproof camera is an excellent thing to have as well.

Waders: The Boat Company does not provide waders, boots, or hip waders. If you want to fly-fish you should bring your own waders. Breathable waders, preferably Gore Tex, will keep you comfortable and dry.



Wading Shoes/Boots: The Boat Company does not provide wading boots. The State of Alaska now prohibits the use of felt soled shoes and boots while wading in State waters. Boots must have a sole made of rubber such as Orvis's EcoTrax. We discourage the use of waders with

incorporated boots as you may have to walk a fair amount in them. As the decks on both the Liseron and Mist Cove are made of wood, studded/spiked boots are strictly prohibited.



Socks & Gloves: Medium to heavy weight socks will keep your feet warm in Alaska's chilly waters. Waterproof gloves (even dishwashing gloves) will help too.

Sunglasses: Polarized sunglasses are a necessity to spot fish in the stream and to protect your eyes from flying hooks.