



Alaskan Widespread Fishing Adventures, Inc.

Winter 2002/2003

Holiday Greetings from the Kenai!

Alaskan Widespread Fishing Adventures, Inc. and Reubin Payne (owner, guide, fish cleaner and head boatwasher) would like to extend greetings to all our family and friends this holiday season. The past fishing season has blown by in a blur of flying hooks, flopping fish and abundant smiles!

Thanks to all of our anglers for helping make our 2002 fishing season a huge success! We feel very fortunate to have the support of so many good people. We saw the return of familiar faces blended with a healthy dose of new clientel.

Just as our motto "come as a client and leave as a friend" promises, many of those new faces have become close friends.

Early Run Action

We kicked off our 2002 season in early May targeting king salmon and Pacific halibut



Courtney Baer with a July hawg!!

on the saltwater of the Cook Inlet. Both the king salmon and halibut migrate into the inlet in the spring following and feeding on the large schools of smelt and herring. We pursue these fish in the shadow of the Alaska mountain range with spectacular views of Mount Iliamna, Mount Redoubt and Mount St. Augustine, all active volcanos.

The early run of king salmon fishing produced some great days of limit catches. Saltwater anglers are allowed to keep one king salmon per day. Most of these fish range in the 20



(two per day) of these tasty flatfish.

to 30 pound class, typical of this run of king salmon. Multiple hookups in May, can create a frenzy of excitement!

Part of the adventure of Cook Inlet fishing is the potential to hook into one of our legendary bottom dwelling behemoth's - the giant Pacific halibut. These fish can exceed 300 pounds and provide sore arms and full coolers! As usual, the halibut fishing remained consistent May through August with nearly every trip providing plenty of action and limit catches

June fishing on the Kasilof & Kenai Rivers

The 2002 first run on the Kenai River was plagued by low king salmon counts and river closures. Thankfully, a strong

run on the Kasilof River more than made up for the Kenai's turbulent beginning. The swift, milky, glacial waters of the Kasilof produced day after day of limit king catches. We pursued the chinooks in 20 foot driftboats designed f



Stan Moses and the Georgia boys with a nice limit of Kasilof kings

the Kasilof's shallow waters. Back-bouncing was the most common technique used in the Kasilof River this season. This method utilizes our nine foot G-loomis bouncing rods spooled with 20 lb monofilament. We fished salmon roe on the bottom, often in less than 4 feet of water. The angler



Above, Mike Goetsch battles a fiesty Kenai River rainbow.

gently lifts and drops the rod tip, lifting the bait just inches off the bottom, yet still in the fish's strike zone. The majority of strikes occur as a slam on the rod tip followed by a powerful explosion of water alongside the boat as the king feels the hook and dashes downstream with the drag screaming and the rod bucking.

Although this is generally a catch and keep fishery, many anglers chose to release these noble giants. These voluntary catch and release practices allow anglers to continue fishing, but more importantly ensure strong runs in the future.

June 15th is opening day of rainbow season on the Kenai River. We target these fish on light spinning and fly fishing equipment in the swift glacial waters below Skilak Lake. We may also fish the limited entry Upper River Kenai several times each season. These large sections of river lie within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. This large tract of land is a designated wilderness sanctuary

with abundant wildlife and scenic beauty. We caught and released hundreds, perhaps thousands, of rainbows and dollies this past season.

Kenai river rainbows can reach weights of over 20 lbs. with fish in the 5 to 10 lb. range not uncommon. Our biggest rainbow of the year was 29-inches long and weighed in between 10 to 12-pounds! This is also the perfect trip for non-fishing spouses, and young anglers most interested in non-stop action.

the year of the giant. The Kenai pro-

duced an 87 and an 83 pound king, just days apart. We saw strong numbers of large kings enter the river throughout July with excellent fishing all the way through the last day of the season.

Our second-run kings are, by far, the largest salmon in the world. Seven of the 10 largest kings ever caught were hooked in the Kenai River. This year's run was estimated at 40,000 fish. Kings in the 50 to 60-pound range are not unusual, with 70 to 80-pound fish being caught every summer.

This July migration of salmon is what made the Kenai River world famous, attracting anglers from around the globe hoping to hook into one of these chrome-bright, hard-fighting brutes. Book early for the best dates in this



Rebecca Herbel with a typical sockeye

Sockeye Fever: Snag It!

We saw very large numbers of sockeyes (also known as reds), enter the Kenai River this July and into August with consistent fishing right up to the

season's close on August 15th. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimated the run at over 956,000 fish this season.

These 8 to 12-pound game fish provided anglers with liberal limits of six fish per person - not difficult to achieve! Many of our first-time anglers caught "sockeye fever" and left the river each day with sore arms and sacks full of bright red salmon fillets.

FINESSE FISHING RAINBOWS AND DOLLY VARDEN CHAR



Reubin and Mary Shoemaker prepare to release a colorful Kenai dolly varden.



Brad Feldner helps Rebecca Herbel hold her huge Kenai king

2002 Year of the giants!

This year's second run of king salmon stormed the Kenai River throughout the month of July. 2002 was



Reubin & Anna Hutchinson with

Cohos The silver floods of fall

August 3rd kicked off silver salmon fishing on the Kenai River. This 2002 coho run was strong throughout the peninsula's rivers, streams and bays.

We saw unprecedented numbers of silvers on both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

The closing of the king salmon season found us trading our heavy 9-foot G-Loomis King rods for lightweight spinning and fly gear. We utilize this equipment in the clear waters of the Kenai River below Skilak Lake. Through the month of August, we cast spinners into the quiet pools and backwater sloughs in hopes of tempting a strike from what many consider Alaska's premier game fish.

The coho, or silver salmon, is known for its bone-jarring strikes, quick and erratic runs, and spectacular, above-water leaping displays. They can be a finicky fish with the vast majority of strikes occurring at daybreak or amid overcast conditions. We often target silver salmon for the first 3 or 4 hours of the morning, take our 2 fish limit, then switch gear and chase trophy rainbow trout until midafternoon.

This season's run was strong with fresh fish pushing into the river well into October. The season ran until the last day of September.

Humpy madness 2002!!

The pink army showed up in force on the Kenai this August. With each high tide, wave after wave of humpies would flood the river. This fishery provided anglers with non-stop action. It is not uncommon for fishermen to catch and release 20 to 30 salmon in a single day's fishing. We see this run of

fish appear only on even-numbered years. Although next season will not have a significant pink run, our trout and young salmon will profit by feeding on the flesh, eggs and young of the 2002 Kenai River pink run.



Mike and Deborah with
an incredible run of silvers
make it the highlight of many visitors
Alaskan experience.

Flyout fever!!

Alaskan Widespread Fishing Adventures will continue guiding remote, fly-out trips to the west bank of the Cook Inlet for some truly unbelievable salmon fishing and bear-viewing trips. These day trips are a MUST for any angler's customized package!

The scenery, quality of fishing and

Hook into 2003!!

As the 2002 season winds down and old man winter grips the Kenai Peninsula, thoughts of next season seep into our minds.

This coming season promises to be another exciting endeavor for Alaskan Widespread Fishing Adventures. We will continue our commitment to ensuring high quality professional fishing experiences to all of our guests.

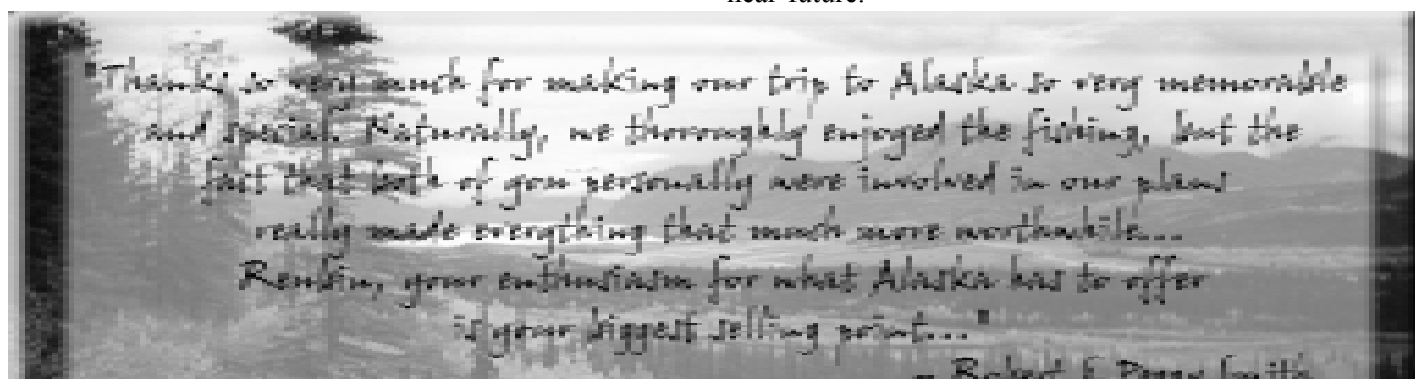


Jared enjoys his Make-A-Wish fishing trip.

We will also continue our involvement in preserving the resources and maintaining a strong fishery through involvement in programs such as "release a hog, take home a trophy." (see our website for details on the \$500 reward for participating)

We will continue to proudly donate our funds, time and energy to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Kenai River Professional Guide Association, and the Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

Thank you for considering Reubin Payne and Alaskan Widespread Fishing Adventures when booking your next Alaskan fishing experience. We hope to hear from you in the near future.



Robert F. Payne Smith



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2003 daily rates & custom packages

Fishing trips on the Kenai River may be customized to target King, silver, and sockeye salmon, rainbow trout and dolly varden char dependant on date and angler desires.

Kenai & Kasilof River Daily Trips

Half day \$130/person

Full day \$185/person

Cook Inlet Saltwater Trips

Full day salmon/halibut combo \$185/person

Salmon or halibut only \$150/person

Other fishing services include:

- Drift boat salmon fishing on the Kasilof River
- Fly-out, remote fishing with bear viewing opportunities
- Guided, hike-in silver salmon or steelhead stream fishing

For the best fishing dates and accommodations, please plan in advance. For your convenience, we can help arrange lodging in local cabins, bed and breakfasts, and lodges upon request. Call for details!

