

## Alaska Cutthroat Trout Management and Research

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Coastal cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarkii* in Alaska are distributed from southern Southeast Alaska to the northern distribution of their range in Prince William Sound. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manage cutthroat trout conservatively with low bag limits and restrictions on the use of bait. The Alaska sport fishery harvest of cutthroat trout was reduced in the mid-1990s with the implementation of conservative regulations. Since then, the catch has declined as well, likely due to less effort for cutthroat trout by anglers.

From 1988 through 2016, extensive research was conducted on cutthroat trout in Southeast Alaska. This research was instrumental in developing the current regulations for cutthroat trout. Recently, cutthroat trout research has resumed with multiple research projects that have estimated cutthroat trout abundance and length composition. In addition, the catch per unit effort of a variety of capture gear types was estimated and baited trap set durations were examined. This research has aided the development of a rapid assessment technique for sampling cutthroat trout lakes with baited traps and angling in three-day sampling events to efficiently estimate cutthroat trout length compositions.