



Alaska Tackle Check List

The Alaskan fishing conditions are notoriously hard on fly-fishing gear and clothing. It is important that your gear is the best you can afford and that you have the right gear for the species you will be targeting.

We recommend taking at least two fly-rods with you which would be 5- and 8-wt rods. However, if there are king salmon running, you will need a 10-wt rod as well.

• Rods

- 3-wt for targeting Arctic grayling.
 - We recommend Sage's X or MOD rod series, or Sage's PULSE rod series or the Horizon as more affordable options.
- 5-wt for targeting dolly varden and rainbow trout.
 - We recommend Sage's X or MOD rod series, or Sage's PULSE rod series or the Horizon as more affordable options.
- 8-wt for targeting chum, pink, silver and sockeye salmon.
 - We recommend Sage's X or MOD rod series, or Sage's PULSE rod series or the Horizon as more affordable options.
- 10-wt for targeting king salmon.
 - We recommend Sage's X or MOD rod series, or Sage's PULSE rod series or the Horizon as more affordable options.

• Reels

- Choose reels to match/balance your rods. Your reels should have a dependable drag system that will not fail under pressure. Do not take inferior Eastern reels to this venue - they will fail you sooner than later and can mean the difference between landing or losing the fish of your dreams.
- We recommend Abel's Super Series reels as the reels of choice for all the species you will encounter. However Sage, Galvan and Ross also make fantastic reels for this environment.

• Lines

• Floating Lines

For Arctic grayling, dolly varden, rainbow trout, pink salmon and sockeye salmon you will require floating lines. We recommend the Scientific Anglers' Sharkwave GPX or Wavelength MPX lines.

• Sink-Tip Lines

For king salmon, we recommend Scientific Angler' Sonar Sink-Tip lines. Alternatively, Scientific Angler's produce a wide variety of Skagit, Scandi, Spey and Switch lines, with interchangeable heads and tips.

• Leaders and Tippet

Due to the size of the fish you will encounter, it is necessary to carry a selection of heavy tippet material. Due to the clarity of the water, we recommend using fluorocarbon material which has a lower visibility in water than monofilament. We recommend Scientific Anglers' fluorocarbon tippet material.

For floating lines you will need leaders of 9 feet tapered from 1X through to 5X, with a selection of fluorocarbon tippet material to match.

For the salmon species, we prefer to use a short, level leader of Maxima Ultragreen ranging from 12lbs – 35lbs breaking strain.

• Waders

You will be float tubing these waters and will be in waders all day. It is important to wear the best quality breathable wader you can afford. The better a wader breathes, the warmer it keeps you.

SIMMS is the leader in wader manufacturing and produce waders for all conditions and to fit any budget. We prefer the SIMMS Headwaters GORE-TEX® waders, as they are the most



breathable. The SIMMS Freestone waders are a great affordable option. Or you could look at the HORIZON Guide Breathable wader which offer very good bang for the buck.
(DO NOT choose neoprene or PVC waders as they do not breathe and your perspiration will allow the cold to transfer straight through the wader.)



• Clothing

In Alaska you can expect four seasons in one day. It is important to have a good layered approach to your clothing as temperatures can vary from negatives at first light to the mid-to late teens by lunch time. Rain squalls and showers can approach with little or no warning and the wind can blow from dawn to sunset, cutting through your clothing. This, combined with low water temperatures can make for a cold day's fishing if one is not properly geared.

• Layering

The correct approach to layering incorporates garments that work well together and wick moisture away from the skin, while still remaining warm and dry. Use lighter layers on the bottom and work your way to heavier layers on top. SIMMS offer the best garments on the market when it comes to clothing that is designed to go under your waders or protect you from the elements, while still offering freedom of movement and the ability to add or remove layers to remain comfortable all day.

• Feet

SIMMS Liner socks should be your base layer, wicking any moisture off your feet. The liner sock should be covered by a thermal sock to retain heat. We have found the SIMMS Exstream Wading socks to be the warmest socks we have tried.

• Legs

Your fleece layer needs to be body hugging, have good freedom of movement and wick moisture exceptionally well. SIMMS Guide Fleece pants have been our choice since their launch. The SIMMS Wader Wick Fleece pants are a great affordable option. (Do not wear cotton long johns under your waders. Cotton is one of the worst wicking materials available.)

• Upper Body

Your fleece layer needs to be body-hugging, provide good freedom of movement and wick moisture exceptionally well. It is recommended to start with a lightweight, body-hugging shirt, with a technical shirt over that. The SIMMS Core Crew Neck as your first layer or the SIMMS Guide shirt is preferred for its low moisture retention. SIMMS Guide Fleece tops have been our choice since their launch. The SIMMS Wader Wick Fleece top is a great, affordable option. (Do not wear cotton under garments. Cotton is one of the worst wicking materials available.)

• Outer Shell

Having the right shell will provide a good barrier to the elements. A good SIMMS WINDSTOPPER® garment or SIMMS GORE-TEX® rain jacket will keep the wind from cutting through your layers. Although the WINDSTOPPER® garments is not considered a rain jacket, it will handle a fair amount of rain before it penetrates the membrane. Also worth considering are the SIMMS TORAY® jackets.

• Head, Hands and Neck

As much as 30% of your body warmth can be lost through your head! We prefer wearing beanies and caps on the lakes. SIMMS manufacture the warmest headwear we have seen – the GORE-TEX® Exstream cap – which will protect your head from rain, sleet and snow. The SIMMS WINDSTOPPER® beanies and WINDSTOPPER® Flap Caps will also protect you very well. Your hands will get cold if you do not wear gloves. The SIMMS Exstream™ Half Finger gloves are our glove of choice. They have a DWR finish which sheds water exceptionally well. The SIMMS Freestone half finger gloves are an affordable option. The SIMMS WINDSTOPPER® Neck Gaiter is ideal for keeping the wind off your neck.



- **Boots**

You will be on your feet for most of the day so a comfortable boot is important. The boot should have a Vibram rubber sole and good ankle support. SIMMS manufacture a variety of boots that have been developed for the angling environment.

- **Polarised Sunglasses**

Polarised sunglasses are a must as they will cut the surface glare off the water, allowing you to spot fish. They will also protect your eyes from the sun and any errant fly-patterns. SPOTTERS polarized sunglasses are without peer in the marketplace – there are no better sunglasses available.

- **Flies**

Flies are a personal thing, but prior to the trip, anglers will be briefed on what flies to buy or tie (if you tie your own).

- **Other items you will need**

- Vest
- Snips
- Scale
- Sunscreen
- SPF30 lip balm
- Finger guards
- Spare fly-lines
- Camera
- Camera battery charger
- Aloksak (waterproof plastic bag) to keep your camera dry
- Spare camera batteries
- Toiletries
- Casual clothing



Check/Packing List



Rods	3-wt for targeting Arctic grayling	
	5-wt for targeting dolly varden and rainbow trout	
	8-wt for targeting chum, pink, silver and sockeye salmon	
	10-wt for targeting king salmon	
Reels	3-wt	
	5-wt	
	8-wt	
	10-wt	
Lines	3-wt floating line	
	5-wt floating line	
	8-wt floating line	
	10-wt sink-tip line	
Leaders/Tippet	9' Leaders – 1X to 5X	
	Fluorocarbon Tippet Material – 1X – 5X	
	Maxima Ultra Green 12 to 35 lb	
Waders	Waders	
	Wader Repair Kit	
Clothing	Liner Socks	
	Extream Wading Sock	
	Fleece Pants	
	Technical Shirts	
	Fleece Top	
	SIMMS GORE-TEX or WINDSTOPPER® Jacket	
	Rain Jacket	
	Beanie	
	Cap/Hat	
	Gloves	
	Neck Gaiter/Buff	
	Casual Clothing	
Glasses	Polarized Sunglasses	
Equipment	Fly Boxes	
	Vest	
	Nipper	
	Forceps	
	Scale	
	Floatant	
	Sunscreen	
	Lip Balm	
	Camera	
	Chargers (phone and camera)	
	Finger Guards	
Toiletries		

