



Of the other species of salmon the Sockeye originates between the Columbia River and as far north as Alaska, while the Pink salmon is the most numerous and widely distributed.

A fishing review would not be complete however, without mention of the steelhead trout. In the opinion of many this fish provides the ultimate challenge. Steelhead usually weigh 8 to 9 lbs, occasionally reaching 30 lbs, but on a weight ratio they match any other fish for their fighting qualities.

Of course there is naturally no shortage of appropriate accommodation in British Columbia either. Hundreds of fishing resorts and outfitters supply all the equipment and facilities you need. You may choose a simple lakeside cottage or one of the established lodges. But if you are eager not to waste time finding the best spots why not fly in to one of the new floating lodges. These offer the ultimate in modern comforts and provide prime fishing action right from your front door as the lodge is moved from one spectacular salmon run to another.

#### **Catch and live release policy**

One thing to remember is that Canada encourages a catch and release policy which anglers the world over are moving towards. They still get the thrill of a strike by a large fish but by releasing part of their catch they have the added satisfaction of knowing they are aiding conservation efforts and contributing to an enhanced fish population.

If you practice catch and release fishing, you should use a barbless hook. Refer to your provincial Anglers Guide (some of which are available from our Travel Information Office) or check with an outfitter or conservation officer for tips on 'going barbless'. You will be helping future generations of anglers to enjoy the same rich experience as your own.

#### **Heading north for unusual species**

Fishing in the Northwest Territories is legendary. Trophy lake trout, arctic grayling and arctic char are the prized species. The char is a spectacular fighter and, like its cousin the salmon, is an acclaimed delicacy for gourmets everywhere. They can be found from Baffin Island west to the border with the Yukon. The largest caught weighed 30 lbs but their average is usually 5 to 7 lbs with 15 lbs being quite common. Other species you will find include northern pike, pickerel, whitefish and inconnu.

Remember, there are catch size and possession limits with some species, so be sure to check this out when purchasing your sport fishing licence (dollars 15 for non-residents of NWT). Also look out for fish which have been tagged for fishery management studies. It is important you send these tags with details of fish size and location to the NWT Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Some of the fishing areas can be reached by roads such as the Dempster Highway and there are over 50 lodges and camps in the NWT scattered among some of the best fishing lakes and rivers of the world. Most people however fly in by floatplane from one of the major centres to reach their chosen spot.

#### **Moving east for brown trout territory**

Across the Rockies lies a province with infinite variety both in scenery and fishing opportunities. Anglers agree certain Alberta streams and lakes offer some of the finest fly-fishing in North America. In the north, numerous crystalline lakes are home to silvery lake trout, walleye, arctic grayling and northern pike.

Further south lies Calgary and right on its doorstep, the Bow River. This river is renowned for its clear fishing pools and an abundance of rainbow and the much sought after brown trout. Considered a delicacy to eat, the fighting brown trout grow an average length of 16 inches and are best caught by fly-fishing from one of the comfortable drift boats which operate along the river.

If you choose a more remote location, lodges provide all the services you could need including home-cooked meals, bedding, motorboats and experienced guides. Prices range from 80 to 150 dollars per day depending on accommodation and services.

#### **Prairie provinces – an exhilarating experience**

Northern Saskatchewan has one of the largest concentrations of floatplane fishing camps anywhere in the world. The town of La Ronge serves as the major base for expeditions heading northward into less accessible areas and to lakes that rarely see a fishing line. And from La Ronge it is easy to make worldwide air connections through the commercial airports of Regina and Saskatoon.

Armed with a 30 dollar fishing permit obtainable from the Saskatchewan Dept of Parks and Renewable Resources, countless lakes and waterways offer you the very best in fly-fishing. Pike, walleye, grayling, whitefish and trout are the primary species available. Moreover if you want to be



Ice-fishing in Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Saskatchewan