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PETERSBURG

Little Norway...

BIG SHOPPING: We're a small town with a giant selection of goods and wares. You can buy a spool of topaz colored thread at our quilt shop or a spool of inch-thick wire rope at our shipyard. Our art galleries feature the work of world-renowned artists and the crafts of many locals. Grocery stores here rival the selection of the chain-owned stores "down south," while our retail seafood processors will pick-up and fillet your catch or serve you recently delivered seafood, cooked to perfection. Men, don't miss our hardware stores. Home Depot and Lowes have nothing on us. Shop keepers joke: "if we don't have it, you don't need it."

BIG WILDLIFE: Our critters are well fed. From 500 lb. black bears to 30-ton humpbacks to trophy moose, we have it all. Early morning walks or drives are the best way to view our wildlife on shore. Off-shore, charter

captains can take you to view orcas, porpoises, humpbacks, sea lions and all species of sea birds. Try your hand at hooking and netting our famous wily king salmon.

BIG BOATS: Walk the 3-miles of floats in Petersburg's north, south and middle harbors and view nearly 700 vessels from 12-ft row boats to mega-tenders that can haul hundreds of thousands of pounds of salmon back to the canneries. Often mega-yachts of the rich and famous tie-up here during the summer. Sorry, no 2,000 passenger cruise ships here. We lack the restrooms and amenities for that many guests.



A bald eagle in search of its next meal sits atop an iceberg.

BIG MARKETS: Petersburg fishermen brought an estimated \$50 million in ex-vessel income to town in 2012, according to the United Fishermen of Alaska figures. Petersburg is ranked the 24th fishing port in the United States by volume and 20th by value of the 2012 landings. In 2011 fish processors paid wages of \$11.3 million to 1,087 processing employees whose products were valued at \$168 million and were shipped worldwide.

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Velkommen to Little Norway

Welcome to Petersburg, known for its Norwegian heritage and for harboring one of Alaska's most prosperous fishing fleets.

Fishing began approximately 2,000 years ago northeast of Petersburg at Sandy Beach. The beach area served as a fish camp for local Natives of Tlingit heritage.

The region turned into a year-round community around the turn of the century after a Norwegian, Peter Buschmann, eyed the blue ice of LeConte Glacier. Buschmann decided the north end of Mitkof Island, with glacier ice available nearby, would be an ideal spot for a cannery.

In 1897, construction began on the new site for Icy Straits Packing Co., for which Buschmann was manager. Icy Straits also built a sawmill to cut lumber for the building of the cannery, which was completed in 1900. Docks, homes, warehouses and other businesses sprang up around the cannery and in 1910 the city of Petersburg was incorporated.

Icy Straits, after changing hands several times, eventually evolved into Petersburg Fisheries Inc., now the largest seafood processor in town as measured by canning capacity. Petersburg Fisheries eventually developed into a major seafood-processing corporation, Icicle Seafoods Inc., based in Seattle.

Many of Petersburg's residents can trace their heritage back to

Norwegian ancestors, who followed Peter Buschmann to the snowy mountains and fjords that reminded them of home. At one time, Norwegian was commonly heard on the town's wooden streets and Norwegian Constitution Day is still celebrated during the Little Norway Festival each May.

Fishing continues to be the backbone of the economy, with more than \$52 million in seafood landed and processed in 2012. Logging, long another mainstay of the community, has returned when, in 2013, Viking Lumber contracted with the Forest Service to cut a \$1.1 million, 2,221 acre timber harvest on Kupreanof Island. The U.S. Forest Service continues to be a major employer in the community, with staff overseeing both timber and recreation programs.

Ours is a busy, working fishing community that enjoys hosting summer visitors.

On the Cover...

Small cruise ship passengers explore glacial icebergs at the entrance to LeConte Bay. (Ron Loesch photo)

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Petersburg facts and statistics at a glance

• **Population:** 3,273 within the Petersburg Borough.

• **Size:** Mitkof Island is 23 miles at its longest point and about 16.5 miles wide at its widest point, covering 211 square miles. Much of the island's flat land is covered by muskeg bogs.

• **Geography:** The island's highest point is Crystal Mountain, which reaches an elevation of 3,317 feet. Mitkof Island is separated from Kupreanof Island by the 20-mile-long Wrangell Narrows, which, in some areas, is just wide enough to accommodate the state ferries. The tide in the narrows can vary as much as 23 feet in one day from high tide to low tide.

• **Annual Precipitation:** The average annual precipitation is about 109 inches. About half of that falls in September, October, November and December.

• **Daylight:** 17 hours and 50 minutes on the summer solstice; six hours and 46 minutes on the winter solstice.

• **Personal income:** The estimated median household income for the Petersburg/Wrangell census area was \$64,303 in 2010. In Petersburg, private sector wages are paid to 51 percent of the workforce; 30 percent are employed by the government sec-

tor and 19 percent are self-employed.

• **Demographics:** According to the 2010 Census, Petersburg is 79.9 percent white; 7.9 percent two or more races; 7 percent American Indian and Alaskan natives; 3.2 percent Asian; 0.4 percent Black; 0.2 percent Pacific Islander and 1.1 percent other.

• **Vehicles & Boats:** According to the State of Alaska, 1,721 passenger vehicles, 153 motorcycles, 211 commercial trucks, 1,444 pickup trucks, 10 buses and 160 snowmobiles were registered in Petersburg in 2012. 1,437 boats were registered locally.

• **Economy:** Federal, state and local government, which includes the schools and hospital, is the largest employer in the town, employing 30 percent of the workforce.

Fishing is the economic force that drove the creation of Petersburg and continues to be a driving force in today's economy.

According to a 2012 survey, Petersburg generated \$50 million in fish landings, the 20th most in the nation. The community is ranked 24th in millions of pounds landed with 52 million pounds landed.

The town's seafood processors employ a total of about 1,100

Continued on page 5

Velkommen to Petersburg



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Continued from page 4

people during a busy summer season.

Behind fishing, tourism and timber also drive the local economy.

- **Education:** About 80 percent of the population over 25 has at least a high school education. About one quarter have a bachelor's degree or higher. The Petersburg public school system has just about 435 students enrolled in grades K-12 and has a graduation rate of 87.5 percent. The school district operates on a \$7.5 million budget annually.

- **Electrical:** Borough owned Petersburg Municipal Power & Light provides electrical power to the borough. The borough consumed 46,312,058 kilowatts of power in 2010. Of that



An aerial view of Petersburg shows the downtown area and waterfront.

power, 39,701,680 came from the Tyee Hydro facility in Bradfield Canal connected by an 83-mile transmission line.

The local hydroelectric power source is located at Crystal Lake on Crystal Mountain south of Petersburg. Less than a million KWH comes from stand-by diesel generated sources that provide back-up power to the borough.

- **Garbage:** The borough

collected and shipped 6 million pounds of garbage to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Washington. Trash is compacted, baled, loaded into shipping containers and barged to Seattle. An additional 379,000 pounds of recycling is also shipped to Washington.

- **Utilities:** Petersburg's water is supplied by the Cabin Creek reservoir. It contains a 50 million gallon water supply that is

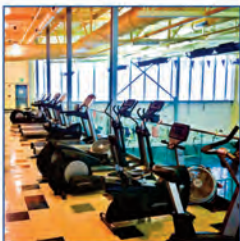
treated and piped to 80 percent of the households. A few homes use cisterns, wells or have water delivered. Municipal sewage receives primary treatment.

Total assessed valuation: About \$257,068,345 in personal and business property.

- **Government:** Petersburg Borough has a manager/assembly form of government. The borough's annual general fund budget is \$9.1 million.



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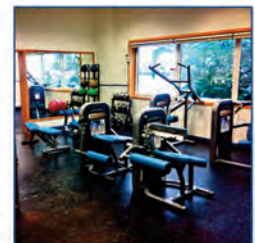
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**leisure pool
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Getting to Petersburg

Getting to Petersburg is part of the adventure. To reach Mitkof Island, where Petersburg is located, you will have to fly or float. Many visitors arrive on Alaska Marine Highway ferries. Small cruise ships also bring guests to our shores.

Alaska Airlines provides twice-daily jet service from Seattle or Anchorage and several smaller scheduled and chartered air taxis serve Petersburg from throughout Southeast Alaska. And best of all, Petersburg is off the beaten path of the large cruise ships, keeping it less crowded than many tourist destinations.

Petersburg hosts a growing flotilla of luxury yachts, owned and leased by the rich and famous. It is a popular port of call for everything from recreational activities to re-supplying the vessel.



The Alaska Marine Highway's M/V Fairweather cruises through Stephen's Passage on its summer run to Petersburg. Delivered in 2004, the 235 ft vessel operates at 32 knots with a maximum speed of 43 knots.

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Petersburg government over a century old

On Apr. 20, 1910, the city of Petersburg was officially incorporated.

While Petersburg was incorporated in 1910, the history of the area known as Petersburg spans thousands of years.

While there is evidence of natives using the area to fish and hunt for thousands of years, no permanent home sites have been found.

Tlingit tribes used the area to fish for salmon and halibut and hunted in the area throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Peter Buschmann came to the Petersburg area in 1898 and formed the Icy Strait Packing Company. Drawn by the protected area close to glacial ice and abundant fishing, the area soon became a popular business site and was informally named Petersburg.

In 1900, a census was taken and there were 76 inhabitants of Petersburg, all male. The majority of those men were Chinese, with the rest of Norwegian descent.

The process of incorporation began in 1908, when a petition was passed around the town to have it incorporated into a city. In December of 1908 the petition was filed in Juneau and a hearing took place in 1909.

At that hearing, the judge found that some of the signatures on the petition were women. The judge ordered the women's names re-



moved and eight new signatures were collected. The petition was filed again in late 1909.

The petition was accepted, and in January of 1910 an election was ordered. The election took place in February and passed with a vote of 55 votes for incorporation and 7 against.

At the time of incorporation, Petersburg was home to two salmon canneries, six salmon salteries, and a very functional salmon and halibut fishing fleet.

According to the petition for incorporation, there were 350 permanent residents, one sawmill, three merchandise stores, two restaurants, one barbershop, and more stores in the process of being built.

The reason given for incorporation included providing fresh water, law and order and the protection of public health, and the need for schools and fire protection.

In 2012 the City of Petersburg dissolved and the Petersburg Borough was formed with the vote of 782 citizens for the borough and 600 against. The borough boundaries extend from the Wrangell Borough to the south to the Juneau Borough line to the north and encompasses approximately 4,347 square miles of land and water. Alaska boroughs are generally the equivalent to counties, found in the Lower 48 states.

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53 Things to do in Petersburg

DESTINATION: PETERSBURG

Petersburg is a small town with a metropolis sized list of things to do. Here are some activity suggestions that will keep you busy for an afternoon or a week. For more information drop into the Petersburg Visitor Information Center at 1st & Fram St. or call (907) 772-4636.

It is advisable to make reservations for specific tours before you arrive in town. Tours are sometimes fully booked on specific days, especially in July and August.

1. Adventure Tours: Local companies can provide wilderness adventures by land, sea or air.

2. Art Galleries: Several galleries feature local and Alaska artists of all media.

3. Beachcombing: Search our rocky beaches for shells, rocks, & marine life.

4. Berry Picking: Harvest blueberries and salmonberries.

5. Bird Watching: A large variety of species unique to Southeast Alaska can be sighted. The most popular being the bald eagle, raven, waterfowl (Trumpeter Swans in winter), shorebirds, and songbirds.

6. Boating on Lakes: Enjoy a quiet day of rowing on one of our small lakes.

7. Fish for King Salmon: Blind River Rapids offers one of the few opportunities in southeast Alaska to fish from shore for King Salmon in June and July.

8. Day Trip up the Stikine River: Adventure up the fastest free-flowing navigable river in North America.



Yellow cedar shelters at the Blind Slough picnic area create a perfect spot for outdoor recreation.

9. Blind Slough Recreation Area: Picnic and swim on warm summer days, or ice skate during the brief winter freeze.

10. Swim: Petersburg Aquatic Center; fun for the whole family.

11. Clausen Memorial Museum: Discover the history and many cultures of the Petersburg area. See the unofficial world record king salmon!

12. Fishing Off the Public Docks: Try your hand at fishing off one of our public docks. Catch herring, Dolly Varden or maybe a passing king salmon.

13. Community Gym: Modern recreation complexes complete with a gymnasium, racquetball courts, a fitness center and arts/crafts facility. Equipment rentals are available.

14. Flightseeing: Sightseeing by floatplane or helicopter offers a personal tour of glaciers and coastal landscape by air.

15. Fresh Water Fishing: Located along the Mitkof Highway are many streams, full of salmon and trout, just waiting for

the avid fisherman. Don't forget your fishing license.

16. Self-Guided Public Art Tour: Wear comfortable walking shoes.

17. Check Your Email: During business hours, wireless access is available at the Petersburg Library in the Municipal Building.

18. Hiking Trails: A full menu of easy, moderate or challenging hikes awaits you. The Three Lakes Loop Trails and the connecting Ideal Cove Trail are great for families, and are favorites among hikers.

19. Horseshoes: Pits are located in Sandy Beach Park. In-

quire at the Parks and Recreation department in the community pool for equipment rental.

20. Kayaking: In our harbor and all around the island.

21. Nature Walks: The Evergreen Trail (corner of Dolphin and 5th, next to the elementary school) and the 12th Street Boardwalk next to the ballfield at the end of Excel Street. Hike the trail from Sandy Beach Park to City Creek.

22. Crystal Lake Hatchery: Salmon eggs are raised and released to enhance salmon stocks.

23. Bojer Wikan Fisher-

Continued on page 9

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53 Things to do in Petersburg

Continued from page 8

men's Memorial Park: Our community's tribute to loved ones who have passed on, and those lost at sea.

24. Eat Lutefisk

25. See a movie: A nonprofit student-run theater offers first-run movies Thursday through Sunday in the Wright Auditorium.

26. Performing Arts: Steppin' Out Dancers, Magic Moments Theater, Leikarring Dancers, Seetka Kwan Dancers, and more all perform seasonally.

27. Photography: What better way to remember your vacation than with your own photographs? Take advantage of the wildlife, flora and panoramic views found in the area.

28. Petroglyphs and Prehistoric Fish Traps: Found at Sandy Beach Park. Tread lightly! Once these nonrenewable heritage resources are gone, they're gone forever.

29. Playgrounds: Several conveniently located playgrounds throughout the City, including Yeil Ka Chaak Park, Mort Fryer Memorial Ballfield, and two playgrounds at the elementary school.

30. Boat Charters: Boat charters available year round: harbor tours, adventure touring, day and overnight fishing and expeditions.

31. Ohmer Creek Campground: A campground located in the National Forest. Popular with campers due to its natural setting close to trails and fishing.

32. Walk the docks: Petersburg's public harbors are a popular place to observe the fishing fleet.



Mitkof Island is silhouetted against an evening sunset.

33. Public Library: The Public Library has a collection of rare Alaskan books. A popular location to get out of the rain!

34. Restaurants

35. Lloyd Roundtree Memorial Seaplane Base: Seaplanes provide charter flights to outlying areas.

36. Shopping

37. Softball/Little League: From T-ball to adult softball leagues, there's always lots of action at the Mort Fryer Memorial Ball Park.

38. Sunsets: Capture the beauty on film.

39. Aurora Borealis watching

40. Waterfront: Bring your camera and enjoy a walk on the waterfront.

41. Whale watching: Also, visit the Marine Mammal Center at Viking Travel.

42. Eagle's Roost Park: Atop PFI Hill and walk down the stairs to the beach.

43. Hike Raven's Roost Trail

44. Falls Creek Fish

Ladder: View salmon running up Falls Creek on their way to spawn in the summer.

45. Walk the Loop: 4.7 miles

46. Viking Ship Valhalla: Sons of Norway parking lot on Sing Lee Alley.

47. View Rosemaled Store Fronts

48. Van Tours: Island scenery/wildlife/light hiking.

49. Rent a Car: For the day and cruise.

50. Rent a Boat: Explore or fish local waters.

51. Totem Poles: The Eagle and Raven totem poles stand on the lawn of the federal building at the corner of Haugen and Nordic Drive.

52. Outlook Park: Constructed in 2003, the park is located on the beach side of Sandy Beach Road. The park and gazebo offer public beach access, fixed binoculars, and a spectacular view of the Coastal Range and often whales.

53. Stop and take in the sights and sounds of South Harbor at the newly created viewing platform and benches on the east end of the harbor lot.

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Community events throughout the year

Little Norway Festival — The third full weekend in May. Petersburg's celebration of Syttende Mai — May 17, Norwegian Constitution Day. This is Petersburg's biggest festival featuring food and crafts downtown, parade, pageant, Fish-O-Rama Seafood Feast, dances and much more. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

King Salmon Derby — Memorial Day weekend. Four days of fishing frenzy with more than \$30,000 in prizes. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Canned Salmon Classic — June through mid-August. A contest to guess the number of cans of salmon produced during the season by Petersburg canneries. First prize is \$2,000. Proceeds support college scholarship fund. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Fourth of July — Petersburg's old-time Independence Day celebration with food concessions and craft booths, parade, carnival games, races, street games and contests, logging events and a fireworks display at night. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Rain Game Classic — Through October 25. Guess Petersburg's annual precipitation total. 50-50 split of ticket sales with winner. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.



Petersburg's Norwegian heritage is always proudly on display during May's Little Norway Festival.



Homemade vehicles, built and piloted by children, compete in the Humpy 500 race held on the the PFI hill every October.

Rainforest Festival — Weekend after Labor Day. The festival is a non-profit event with the goal of bringing participants closer to the natural world through education, exploration and the arts while learning more about our rainforest and the ocean that surrounds it. Events include lectures, walking tours, workshops, and visiting artists and authors.

Oktoberfest — October and November. A month of special events including music concerts, readings, arts and crafts classes, gallery walk and play. Sponsored by Petersburg Arts Council; 772-4573 or 772-3334.

Humpy 500 Go-Cart Race — Mid-October. Announcement of Canned Salmon Classic winners is the main event. Kids go-cart race downhill. Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Oktoberfest Artshare — October. The largest arts and crafts fair in Petersburg, featuring handmade items by artists and crafters from Petersburg as well as around the state. Quilt show and auction, food booths and entertainment. Sponsored by Muskeg Maleriers; 772-4451

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony — Friday after Thanksgiving. Lighting of the tree, music and benediction to kick off the Christmas season. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; 772-3646.

Julebukking — Christmas Eve. The streets of downtown Petersburg fill with bundled shoppers as, according to Norwegian tradition, merchants offer customers food and spirits in appreciation for their business that year.

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Sandy Beach fish traps found nowhere else in the world

While the modern town of Petersburg has over 100 years of history under its belt, it is very young in comparison to the Native presence on the island.

U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Mark McCallum often leads tours through the vast collection of artifacts located near town, which include six rock and wooden fish traps.

The oldest of the remnants dates back 2,090 years when, archaeologists believe, the tribe of Tlingits built two traps of stone, one on either side of Sandy Beach. The traps are over thirty feet across and all that is showing, during an average low tide nowadays, is a heart-shaped pattern of rocks pointing toward the water with a row of rocks leading the fish into the top of the heart in a V-shape. The theory is that fish



Remnants of the traps depicted above remain visible at low tide at beaches around Mitkof and Kupreanof islands. (Drawing courtesy U.S. Forest Service.)

that swam in near the beach at high tide would be funneled into the heart-shaped traps, which might have been three to four feet high, and would be unable to escape with the ebbing tide. The Tlingits probably then speared the trapped fish and brought them up the beach to be cleaned.

Later traps at Sandy Beach began to use wooden stakes as well as the rocks piled up for trap walls. The Tlingits eventually constructed all wooden traps. Wooden stakes preserved by the anaerobic conditions in the fine, wet sand still remain in the heart and V-shaped patterns. The traps were made of hemlock and are so well preserved they have retained a green color and fresh wood smell. Some of the wooden stakes do wash out of the sand from time to time. Once the stakes have come out of the sand, they turn brown and start to decay and turn to dust within hours.

While some of the traps are semi-circular shaped, the heart-shaped design was most successful by channeling fish in two overlapping circles inside the trap. This design made it most difficult for fish to find the exit to the trap, archaeologists speculate.

According to McCallum, this type of trap is unique to a 40-mile area around Petersburg. They are found nowhere else in the world.

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You can tell a lot about a place by its name

Southeast Alaska place names are more than just a location — they are history. They tell stories about people, turning a simple map into an illustrated textbook.

The first people to name places in Southeast Alaska were the Tlingit Indians. Later, fur traders and explorers gave names to still more sites.

Nonetheless, many names in common use just “sort of happened,” and their usage continues to this day.

Cape Fanshaw — On the mainland, protruding into Frederick Sound. It was named by Vancouver in 1794 but no clue has been found as to the source of the name. A small fishing settlement existed for some years on Fanshaw Bay, east of Cape Fanshaw. A post office, Cape Fanshaw, was established there in 1902. It closed in 1953.

Duncan Canal — An inlet 22 miles long at the southeast corner of Kupreanof Island. It was named in 1793 by George Vancouver for Adam Duncan, an officer in the Royal Navy.

Hobart Bay — The bay indents the mainland from Stephens Passage, south of Juneau. Named by Vancouver for John Hobart, the second Earl of Buckingham.

Keene Island — The island is at the juncture of Beecher Pass and Wrangell Narrows. Named for James W. Keene, a mariner

and ship pilot for some 75 years.

Kupreanof Island — The sixth largest island in area in Southeast Alaska with 1,089 square miles and 312 miles of shoreline. It lies between Sumner Strait and Frederick Sound and forms the west shore of Wrangell Narrows. The Native community of Kake is on its northwest shore. It was named for Ivan Antonovich Kupreianov, Russian Naval officer and the seventh chief manager of the Russian American Co.

LeConte Bay & Glacier — The bay indents the mainland at the head of Frederick Sound some 17 miles southeast of Petersburg. The glacier is at the head of the bay. Both were named in 1887 by U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. C.M. Thomas, who was conducting surveys in the area. Thomas named both features for Joseph LeConte, professor of geology at the University of California.

Mitkof Island — The island on which Petersburg is located. Forming the eastern shore of Wrangell Narrows, it is 211 square miles and 17 miles long. The island was named by the Russians for Capt. Prokopii Planovich Mitkof of the Russian Navy who in 1836 was appointed assistant chief manager of the Russian American Co.

A settlement named Mitkof

Continued on page 13



Mitkof Island and surrounding areas. (Map courtesy of AK Dept. of Fish and Game.)

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Names

Continued from page 12

was near the southern end of Wrangell Narrows at a place known as Kems and as Mason's Place. The Alaska Fish and Cold Storage Co. built a plant there in 1906 and the Mitkof post office was established Jan. 11, 1910; it was discontinued four years later.

Ohmer Slough — A bight on the eastern side of Duncan Canal near its head. It was named for Earl Nicholas Ohmer, mayor of Petersburg for several terms. Ohmer was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1882, attended college in Canada and came to Alaska in 1915. He entered the seafood business and was president of the Alaskan Glacier Seafood Co., specializing in processing shrimp and also handling crabs, clams and salmon. Ohmer served for many years as chairman of the Alaska Game Commission. He died in Petersburg on Oct. 25, 1955.

Papke's Landing — On the Mitkof Island side of Wrangell Narrows about nine miles south of Petersburg. Herman Papke began living there in 1903 and had marvelous gardens. He made the trip to town by rowboat with

his vegetables and strawberries until the road reached his place. In May 1962, his house burned and he lost almost everything, including a diary he had kept since 1903. Townspeople replaced the house and he continued to live there. He was well into his 90s when he died in the 1960s.

Petersburg — The town is at the northern end of Mitkof Island. It was named for its founder, Peter Thams Buschmann. He was born in Norway on July 31, 1849, and came to Washington state in 1891. In 1896, under the name Quadra Packing Co., he built a cannery on Mink Arm of Boca de Quadra, south of Ketchikan. The following year he built a saltery on Taku Inlet and also claimed a site on the Wrangell Narrows, the present location of Petersburg. His Icy Straits Packing Co. built a cannery and a sawmill on the Petersburg site. The cannery first operated in 1900.



erick Sound.

Point Agassiz — On the mainland, eight miles northeast of Petersburg. It was named by William H. Dall of the Coast Survey in 1877 for Jean Louis Agassiz, a Swiss-American biologist and naturalist. He came to the United States in 1846, taught at Harvard and conducted zoological explorations.

The Point Agassiz post office existed from 1930 until 1945 at the agricultural community of the same name. There also was a territorial school there for several years.

Prince of Wales Island — The largest island in Southeast Alaska, it is 132 miles long, 45 miles wide and has an area of 2,231 square miles with a shoreline of 990 miles. It lies west of Clarence Strait. Towns on the island include Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg, Kasaan and several small communities. Vancouver named the Prince of Wales Archipelago, which includes many islands to the west, in 1793, to honor the oldest son of King

George III. He was George, Prince of Wales.

Stephens Passage — A waterway some 80 miles long connecting Frederick Sound and Lynn Canal, bordered on the west by Admiralty Island and on the east by the mainland and Douglas Island. It was named in 1794 by Vancouver for Sir Philip Stephens, secretary to the British Admiralty, then the equivalent of the U.S. Navy Department.

Sukoi Islets — The islets are in Frederick Sound, six miles north of Petersburg. One source lists the name as being both Indian and Russian in origin.

Sumner Strait — A main east-west waterway extending some 80 miles from the mouth of the Stikine River to the ocean. It was named in 1875 by W.H. Dall of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey for Sen. Charles Sumner, whose speech in support of the Alaska purchase was credited with winning its ratification by the U.S. Senate.

Continued on page 14



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Names

Continued from page 13

Thomas Bay — Indents the mainland for about 10 miles, some 14 miles north of Petersburg. It was named by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, perhaps for U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Mitchel Thomas, who commanded the survey vessel Petterson and mapped extensively in these waters in the late 1880s.

Tonka — Site of a former cannery and post office on the western shore of Wrangell Narrows, six miles south of Petersburg. No information has been discovered about the source of the name. The Pacific Coast & Norway Packing Co. operated a saltery there in 1900 and built a cannery the following year. The post office was established in May 1902 and was discontinued in June

1905. In 1906 the company purchased a cannery at Petersburg and moved its operations there.

Wrangell Narrows — A narrow, 24-mile-long waterway connecting Sumner Strait and Frederick Sound and separating Mitkof Island from Kupreanof and Woewodski islands. Named for the Russian admiral, Baron Ferdinand Petrovich von Wrangell, the sixth chief manager of the Russian American Co.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was taken from "Southeast Alaska Names of the Chart and how they got there," published by Ripley/DeArmond, P.O. Box 21708, Juneau AK 99802. Used with permission of Mr. Rudy Ripley. Copies of the booklet available at most bookstores in Southeast Alaska.

Petersburg's Churches



See map on pages 22 and 23

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5. **First Baptist Church**
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6. **Petersburg Bible Church**
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7. **Catholic Church**
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Petersburg offers wide range of attractions for visitors

There is no shortage of places to see and things to do while visiting Petersburg — it's really a question of how much you can squeeze in before you leave town.

WHAT TO SEE

Clausen Memorial Museum

— Located on Fram Street between Second and Third streets. The museum provides a glimpse into Petersburg's rich history. Outside the museum is the fountain-sculpture "Fisk" — Norwegian for fish. The 11-foot bronze work, which depicts halibut, salmon and herring, was created by Karson Boysen and dedicated in 1967.

Outlook Park — Constructed in 2003, the park is located on the beach side of Sandy Beach Road. The park and gazebo offer public beach access, fixed binoculars, and a spectacular view of the Coastal Range.



Ohmer Creek provides a setting for camping, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Sandy Beach Fish Traps —

For the archeology lover, remnants of 2,000-year-old Tlingit fish traps can be found snaking their way across the mud flats of Sandy Beach during a low tide.

The beach also includes a

rock in which ancient petroglyphs have been carved. The fish traps, easily overlooked by those unfamiliar with this type of fish trap, are best seen with the assistance of a guide.

Continued on page 16



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Attractions

Continued from page 15

The Petersburg Ranger District leads interpretive walks during the summer. To protect the site, persons going on their own are asked not to move or remove any of the stakes or rocks in the mud flats.

Swan Observatory — Located at Mile 16 of Mitkof Highway, the wheelchair-accessible observatory was constructed in 2008. The building provides a shielded place to view trumpeter swans, some of which winter on Mitkof Island. Though 50 to 75 swans overwinter here, hundreds more of these large waterfowl stop here between mid-October and early December to rest and feed before continuing their migratory journey to the south. Be careful not to disturb the resting swans. Bears and salmon also may be seen during the summer downriver from the Swan Observatory in the shallow waters.

Crystal Lake Hatchery — Adjacent to the Blind Slough picnic area at Mile 17 Mitkof Highway, the fish hatchery is operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Visitors are welcome to walk the hatchery and ask questions between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; no tours are offered.

eagles are frequent visitors to this park atop the hill by Petersburg Fisheries on Nordic Drive.

Sandy Beach Picnic Area — This day-use picnic area is at the end of Sandy Beach Road and is about two miles from downtown Petersburg. Situated in a small cove, the park has three enclosed shelters with tables, two of them with large stone fireplaces. There is a play area for children and a sand volleyball court is located near the beach. Restrooms and running water are available.

Blind Slough Recreation Area — Drive 17 miles south of Petersburg along Mitkof Highway to this impressive recreation spot. The picnic area includes tables, grills, two large covered group shelters and wheelchair accessible restrooms. Swimming in the saltwater slough is permitted at the risk of the swimmer.

Man Made Hole — Located at Mile 20 Mitkof Highway, this swimming hole is another picnic spot equipped with picnic tables and grills, trails and shelters — perfect for a cookout. The site was formed by removing gravel



Tlingit history is depicted and preserved as a petroglyph on a rock located on the north side of Sandy Beach cove. The site can be accessed through Sandy Beach Park by crossing the tide flats at low tide.

Continued on page 17

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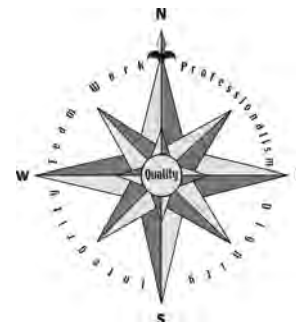
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Attractions

Continued from page 16

for construction of Mitkof Highway.

Ohmer Creek Campground

— A day use picnic area is provided at the campground located 22 miles south of Petersburg on Mitkof Highway. Watch for signs for parking and picnic locations.

WHERE TO CAMP

Ohmer Creek Campground

— Located 22 miles south of Petersburg on Mitkof Highway, this Forest Service campground has 10 sites suitable for tents or trailers up to 32-feet long. Tables, grills and barrier-free holding-tank toilets are available. Drinking water is provided at the site.

The Forest Service charges a fee for overnight use of a campsite. Look for a numbered post by each site and deposit the fee into a collection envelope provided at the entrance of the campground. The fee will be used for maintenance and possibly improvements to the recreation area.

The campground is set along a trout and salmon fishing



Man Made Hole located at mile 20 Mitkof Hwy, is a popular picnic spot and features a trail around the swimming hole.

stream. Fishing is permitted but licenses are required. Please check on local fishing regulations before dropping your line.

Green's Camp — A favorite location for family picnics and beachcombing, this campground is directly on saltwater and is 26 miles from Petersburg on Mitkof Highway. Restrooms, campsites, picnic areas are provided.

Wilson Creek Recreation Area — At Mile 27.9 Mitkof Highway, this area has tables, outhouses and turnarounds for trailers.

CABIN RENTALS

Twenty Forest Service cabins are scattered throughout the Petersburg Ranger District. Most cabins are accessible by boat or floatplane only. Contact charter air companies in town if you plan on flying to a cabin.

Each cabin includes tables, benches, bunks (without mattresses), wood or oil stoves (not suitable for cooking, bring your own fuel), an ax, a broom and an outhouse.

You must bring your own bedding and cooking gear. Rain gear, rubber boots and warm

clothing are essential. Insect repellent is often needed during summer months. Water can be obtained from nearby streams, or lakes and should be boiled for five minutes before drinking.

Cabins can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777, or at their website www.recreation.gov. Information and assistance with cabin reservations can be found at the Petersburg Visitor Center, the Petersburg Ranger District office, or on the website.

Petersburg Lake Cabin

— Located on Kupreanof Island across the Wrangell Narrow, the Petersburg Lake Cabin is accessible by a short boat ride and a hike or by floatplane.

Petersburg Lake is ice-free from April through November.

The hike can begin from the Kupreanof State Dock, or is accessible four miles up Petersburg Creek by boat. The hike is 10.5 miles from the state dock and 6.5 miles from the upper trail.

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Continued on page 18

Attractions

Continued from page 17

The pan-abode style cabin sleeps six, and is heated with a wood stove. A rowboat is available at the lake.

Petersburg Lake drains into Petersburg Creek, an area with outstanding steelhead, Coho, and sockeye fishing. Cutthroat trout and sockeye salmon can also be caught in the lake. In the fall, black bears can sometimes be viewed in Petersburg Creek fishing for salmon.

Kah Sheets Lake Cabin —

Located on Kupreanof Island, the Kah Sheets Lake Cabin is approachable by floatplane. The lake offers good sockeye fishing from the picnic platform or from the rowboats, which are provided at the cabin. A 2.5-mile plank trail connects the lake cabin to Kah Sheets Bay Cabin. The trail also accesses the creek for steelhead and Coho fishing, and views of the falls.

The cabin, picnic platform, and outhouse all meet barrier-free standards. The cabin sleeps seven people.

Raven's Roost Cabin —

Located on the mountain behind the Petersburg airport, the cabin is accessible by trail or helicopter. Scenery is exceptional year-round. The cabin sleeps six people.

The 4.2-mile trail begins in the parking area off of Haugen Drive, south of the airport. The middle section of the trail is very steep, and then flattens along the ridge top. Allow up to three hours one-way for the hike.

Water is typically available from muskeg pools, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own water, especially during dry conditions. Oil is provided.

Castle Flats Cabin —

The Castle Flats Cabin lies on the edge of the mud flats of the Castle River in Duncan Canal. It is 30 minutes by air and 30 miles by boat from Petersburg. A 15-foot high tide is required for a plane to land or a 13-foot tide for a boat to anchor next to the cabin. Water is available from a small creek west of the cabin.

Good steelhead fishing runs May to June, trout runs May to October, and excellent silver salmon fishing runs throughout August.

The tidal flats in front of the cabin make this a particularly good site for bird watching. A rowboat is provided at the cabin. The Castle River Trail connects the flats cabin with the Castle River Cabin and accesses the upper rowboat. The cabin sleeps four people.

Swan Lake Cabin —

This A-frame cabin constructed in 2005, is one of the district's most popular. Be sure to make cabin reservations early.

Swan Lake is an alpine lake at 1,514 feet above sea level on the mainland east of Thomas Bay. The lake is accessible by a 30-minute plane ride from Petersburg.

The cabin is surrounded by the steep peaks of the Coast Range, offering some of the most spectacular scenery and photo

opportunities on any site in the district. The steep slopes are home to mountain goats and alpine flowers. Rainbow trout are plentiful in the lake.

Special cabin features include two rowboats and a boathouse. The cabin sleeps five people.

West Point Cabin — This impressive modified A-frame is lo-

cated on the northern end of Kupreanof Island. The cabin, trail and outhouse are wheelchair-accessible.

The cabin also provides access to excellent beach hiking, saltwater fishing for king and silver salmon and viewing of whales in Frederick Sound. The cabin sleeps six people.



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Eagle & Raven totems represent native clans

In 2000 Petersburg Tlingits commissioned Sitka totem pole artist Tommy Joseph to carve two healing totems that now stand at the corner of Haugen and Nordic Drives. Both totems are 35-feet tall and tell the story of the local Raven and Eagle clans.

According to information displayed near the totems the eagle and raven represent the two distinct kinship groups, or moieties, that divide Tlingit society. Each moiety is further broken down into individual clans (groups of people descended from a common ancestor). All of the clans in Petersburg are displayed on the two poles at the site.

Drawings posted at the site identify the English and Tlingit names of each clan.

One element of the Raven pole also honors an important local geographic feature — Devil's Thumb — while other portions of the pole display parts of the post-flooding migration story with Man in Canoe and Stikine River.

The Petersburg Eagle and Raven poles were raised on October 7, 2001 and were carved in recognition of the Tlingit that contributed to the prosperity and diversity of the town.



In 2000 and 2001 Petersburg Tlingit natives commissioned Sitka totem pole artist Tommy Joseph to carve two healing totems that now stand at the corner of Nordic and Haugen Drives. Both the eagle and raven totems are 35-feet tall and tell the story of the Raven and Eagle clans that are represented by the totems.

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Saltwater spray outlines the graceful form of a breaching humpback whale in Frederick Sound. Photo by Carli Byrer.

Frederick Sound among the best places in world to see humpbacks

Of the estimated 22,000 humpback whales in the North Pacific, approximately 3,000 - 5,000 spend the summer feeding in Southeast Alaska. According to information provided by the Petersburg Marine Mammal Center, nearly half of the Southeast population enters the Frederick Sound area during the summer. This makes Frederick Sound one of the best places in the world for observing the feeding behavior of humpback

whales.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Notebook Series, the humpback is a baleen whale that has no teeth, but strains feed consisting of krill, herring and other small schooling fish, through plates of baleen on each side of its upper jaw.

Notable is the humpback group feeding technique called bubble net feeding. Groups of whales dive underwater and ex-

hale large columns of bubbles that concentrate prey thus enabling whales to race to the surface and consume the column of feed.

Multi-year group association and cooperative feeding between individuals have been observed.

Ventral grooves allow the animal's throat to expand greatly to take in large volumes of water, which is then forced out across the baleen plates that re-

tain the food.

Humpbacks may reach 55 feet in length with the more common size being 40 to 44 feet with females being larger than males.

The ventral side of the humpback's fluke or tail, has unique black and white markings unique to each whale. Researchers photograph these markings to identify individual animals.

Continued on page 21



Humpback flukes are displayed as a pair dives in close proximity to each other. Photo by Carli Byrer.

Whales

Continued from page 20

Humpbacks may stay submerged for up to 30 minutes, although most dives last 10-20 minutes. When resting or feeding close to the surface, whales may blow every few seconds, according to the ADF&G Series.

Humpback calves are born in tropical waters after a gestation period of approximately 11 months. Newborns measure about 12-feet and weigh two tons. They will suckle for up to a year. Sexual maturity is reached at 4-6 years. Mature females give birth every 2-3 years although females in Southeast have been seen with new calves during two or more consecutive summers.

Songs produced by males on the wintering grounds appear related to courtship, while those heard on the summer feeding grounds are likely related to feeding activities.

Frederick Sound humpbacks have specifically been tracked to Maui, Hawaii where they make a 2,800 mile migration. One whale identified in Alaska was seen 39 days later in Hawaii.



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Mountain goats transit the ledge on the north wall of LeConte Bay.

Points of Interest on Mitkof Island

The first Mitkof Highway mile marker is located just beyond the Ferry Terminal parking lot and the first mile is measured from Wells Fargo Bank downtown.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Hungry Point | 22. Man-Made Hole Lake: 20 Mi |
| 2. Sandy Beach Park | 23. Ohmer Creek Trail |
| 3. Dump Road - View of Frederick Sound | 24. Ohmer Creek Campground: 21.75 Mi |
| 4. Kings Row | 25. South Mitkof Ferry Terminal: 25 Mi |
| 5. Odin Road | 26. Green's Camp Public Use Area: 26 Mi, Picnic Area, Camp Sites, Toilets |
| 6. Mill Road | 27. Crescent Beach: 28 Mi |
| 7. Cornelius Road | 28. Wilson Creek Rec. Area: 28 Mi, Picnic Area, Camp Sites, Toilets |
| 8. Lyons Road | 29. Banana Point: 28 Mi, Toilets, Boat Launch |
| 9. Raven Trail Head: 4 Mi | 30. Blaquiére Point: 32.9 Mi, Toilet, Boat Launch |
| 10. Raven's Roost Cabin: (Permit Required) | 31. End of Road: 33.8 Mi |
| 11. Kupreanof State Dock: (Psg. Mtn. Trail & Petersburg Lake Trail Heads) | 32. Woodpecker Cove: 21.5 Mi |
| 12. Twin Ridge Ski Trail: 4.9 Mi | 33. Three Lakes Rec. Area: 21 Mi Loop |
| 13. Upper Twin Ski Trail | 34. Shelter Lake: 15 Mi |
| 14. Twin Creek Shelter | 35. LeConte Glacier Overlook |
| 15. Falls Creek Fish Ladder: 10.75 Mi | 36. Big Creek Bridge (Bear Creek) |
| 16. Papke's Landing: 11 Mi | 37. To Duncan Canal through Beecher Pass: To Forest Service cabins, hiking, waterfalls, fishing and viewpoints. |
| 17. Petersburg Shooting Range | 38. Thomas Bay: To Forest Service cabins, Baird Glacier, hiking, waterfalls, fishing and viewpoints. |
| 18. Blind River Rapids: 14 Mi | 39. To LeConte Glacier: Icebergs, seals, mountain goats, and excellent views. |
| 19. Swan Observatory: 16.25 Mi | 40. Frenchy Ridge Shelter |
| 20. Crystal Lake Fish Hatchery: 17.25 Mi | |
| 21. Blind Slough Rec. Area | |

A walking tour through Petersburg

The following numbers correspond with the map on page 22 and page 23.

1. Petersburg Fisheries — A division of Icicle Seafoods Inc. of Seattle. Pilings were driven in 1897 for a public dock, now the site of the cold storage. Icy Straits Packing Co. (Quadra Packing Co.), with Peter Buschmann as manager, built a sawmill where the Trading Union now stands to provide lumber for the cannery, which was completed in 1900. Icy Straits Packing Co. packed 32,750 cases of salmon that season. In 1901 they sold to Pacific Coast and Norway Packing Co. Pacific American Fisheries purchased it in 1929. PAF sold to Petersburg Fisheries Inc. in 1965. In 1977 they changed their corporate name to Icicle Seafoods, with Petersburg Fisheries as a subsidiary. In September 2007, Fox Paine III, a private equity firm, acquired a majority of shares of Icicle Seafoods.

2. Buschmann Historical Marker — Placed in 1967, it marks the spot where Peter Buschmann, originally from Nor-



Petersburg's largest employer and oldest local seafood processor, Petersburg Fisheries, is located at the north end of town along Wrangell Narrows.

way, built a cannery in 1898. The cannery did well and the town of Petersburg grew with it.

3. Trident Seafoods, Inc. — Founded in 1916 as Alaskan Glacier Seafoods and later moved to the corner of Main and Excel streets after a 1943 fire. The cannery was destroyed by fire again on Feb. 1, 1985. The oldest shrimp cannery in Alaska, it was

founded by Earl Ohmer and Karl I. Sifferman. Three generations of Kaino, Greinier and Ohmer families have taken part in the operation. Dave Ohmer Jr. remains as general manager. The cannery merged with Silver Lining Seafoods of Ketchikan in January 1990, then merged with Lafayette Fisheries Inc. two years later to form NorQuest Seafoods

Inc. It is now owned by Trident Seafoods. The plant handles salmon, halibut, shrimp, crab, rockfish, black cod, sea cucumbers and sea urchins.

4. Petersburg Boat Harbors — The North Harbor was originally constructed in 1958 and rebuilt in 2014, Middle Harbor was built in 1972 and the South Harbor was

Continued on page 27



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A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 26

built in 1984. The entire harbor has more than 700 stalls for Petersburg's large commercial fishing fleet and numerous pleasure crafts. Visitors boat moorage is on a per-foot basis. Public restrooms and showers are available. Grids can handle boats up to 70-80 feet long. Water and electricity is available on the floats. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult and wear a personal flotation device, which are available at the Harbormaster shed. Box 1047. Phone 772-4688. Standby on Channel 16 VHF and CB Channel 9.

5. Ocean Beauty Seafoods — Ocean Beauty is in a building built before 1912 by Citizen Wharf Co. for steamships. Alaskan Glacier Seafood's original cannery was located on the dock, and then moved to its Nordic Drive and Excel Street location following a fire in 1943.

Chris Dahl next bought the dock and operated a crab cannery. In 1945 Dahl and Dean Kayler formed Kayler-Dahl Fish Co. and started canning salmon as well. In 1946 the cold storage was built. Kayler-Dahl operated it until October 1969 when they sold to Whitney-Fidalgo Seafoods, Inc. It was purchased by Chatham Strait Seafoods in April 1987, and is now owned by Ocean Beauty Seafoods.

6. Sing Lee Alley Area — Formerly called Indian Street, this was the center of early Petersburg. The street contained the Variety Theater and skating rink (built in 1912), the Salvation Army Hall, Enge Building (built in 1901) housing a restaurant and store, and Sons of Norway Hall (built in 1912). The Petersburg Trial Court's building is on the corner of Sing Lee Alley and Nordic Drive.



Celebrating its hundredth birthday last year, 1912-2012, Petersburg's Sons of Norway Hall continues to be a social gathering place. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Marker Locations — Bronze markers and photo interpretive plaques are displayed at several historic sites listed below.

7. Gjoa & Nordic Drive — Centennial Park, Centennial Plaque & "Bruno" Bear Sculpture.

8. 13 N. Sing Lee Alley — Helse Restaurant

9. 15 N. Sing Lee Alley — Kinder Komfort Toy Store

10. 14 S. Sing Lee Alley — Enge Building/The Party House

11. 18 S. Sing Lee Alley

12. 23 S. Sing Lee Alley — Sons of Norway Hall — Fedrelandet 23 — The hall was built in 1912 and declared a National Historic Site in 1979. Sons of Norway is an international fraternal organization to preserve Norwegian heritage. The building is built on pilings over Hammer Slough. Rosemaling on the exterior is a traditional Norwegian art form. Box 629. Phone 772-4575.

13. Bojer Wikan Fishermen's Memorial Park — Located next to the Sons of Norway Hall the Bojer Wikan Memorial Park, constructed in 1998, provides a

commemorative memorial for those who have lost their lives at sea.

Turn left at intersection of Sing Lee Alley and Nordic Drive, go over the bridge and you'll arrive at the corner of Gjoa Street and First Street.

14. Federal Building — Built in 1972, the building contains the Petersburg Ranger District office for the U.S. Forest Service, which is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Area maps, woodcutting permits and general information are available at the district office. Tlingit totem poles and a small park are located in front of the building.

15. Municipal Building — Built in 1959, the building houses the police department (standby on CB Channel 9 or dial 911), an emergency unit, the borough assembly chambers and administrative offices. Box 329. Phone 772-4425.

Cross Nordic Drive, continue two blocks up Haugen Drive and turn right.

Continued on page 28

Petersburg Visitor Information Center

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A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 27

16. Petersburg Public Library

— Built in 2013, this new facility houses digital and print collections, computer terminals and public wifi, conference rooms, and more.

Backtrack one block west to First Street, continue one block.

17. Petersburg Indian Community (ANB) Hall

— Built in 1978. Center for tribal meetings, the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Available for all community activities. Box 1128. Phone 772-3636.

Continue north on First Street.

18. Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Center

— On the corner of First and Fram streets. General business



The newly constructed Petersburg Public Library located on Second Street and Haugen Drive.

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and recreational information available. Box 649. Phone 772-3646. Bronze Historic Marker site.

19. Petersburg Medical Center

— The hospital was built in 1983 and 1984, and dedicated in November 1984. The long-term care wing was renovated and incorporated into the new hospital. The building housing the Joy Janssen walk-in clinic was erected in 1994. The hospital is at 103 Fram St. Phone 772-4291.

Turn right on Fram walking past the Medical Center to the museum.

20. "The Fisk" — On the grounds of Clausen Memorial Museum, this fish sculpture was designed and fabricated by former Petersburg artist Karsten Boysen.

21. Clausen Memorial Museum and Museum Store — 203 Fram St. Opened in 1967, with the Heritage of the Sea addition added in 1976. Petersburg-

Kupreanof area history and culture is represented by a diverse collection of business, social and cultural items. Special attractions include a Tlingit dugout canoe, the Cape Decision Lighthouse lens, fish-trap anchors, and a stuffed 126.5-pound king salmon. On the grounds is "Land, Sea and Sky," a wall piece designed and mounted by the Petersburg Arts and Crafts Guild in 1977. Call for more information. Handicapped-accessible. Phone 772-3598.

Turn right on Second Street and head south to Haugen Drive. Turn left on Haugen, heading 1/4 mile to Twelfth Street. A paved walking path runs parallel to Haugen Drive beginning at Eighth Street.

22. Hallingstad Peratrovich Center — Located on 12th Street, the building houses offices of the Petersburg Indian Association.

23. Mountain View Manor —
Continued from page 29

A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 28

Located on 12th Street off Haugen Drive. The city-owned facility features a 48-unit apartment building for senior citizens. The grounds include beautiful flower gardens and landscaping. The building was doubled in size in 2004.

Head back to Haugen Drive & turn left.

24. Petersburg Fire Hall — Petersburg's Fire Hall was completed in 2012 and is the headquarters for Petersburg's volunteer fire and EMS providers.

25. U.S. Post Office — Completed in 2000, the post office is open 24 hours for box holders. The post office window is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

26. James A. Johnson Airport — Built in 1969. The first daily jet service started in June 1977 by Alaska Airlines. The Alaska Airlines terminal was remodeled and expanded in 1991. The former gravel runway was paved in 1982. Private plane tie-downs, fuel and aircraft maintenance, as well as helicopter and fixed-wing air service are available. Careful scrutiny in the area across from the airport reveals the remains of a three-plank boardwalk that people used to walk on to Sandy Beach over the muskeg before airport days.

Continue past the airport on Hau-



An early morning sunrise breaks behind Devil's Thumb, Petersburg's prominent landmark. Similar views can be enjoyed from the Hungry Point Viewing Area.

gen Drive eventually turning left towards Frederick Sound or right towards Raven's Roost Trail Head.

27. Sandy Beach Recreation Area — Daytime picnic area. Low tides reveal abundant sea life and ancient petroglyphs and fish traps on the left-hand side toward the point. The petroglyphs probably mark a heart-shaped fish trap of long ago.

Beach access is available at the following locations:

28. Sandy Beach Park Middle Shelter

29. Sandy Beach Park North Shelter

30. Whale Observatory & Out-

look Park — View wildlife through mounted binoculars. Interpretive panels feature information on humpback and orca whales as well as other marine mammals which frequent Frederick Sound.

31. Hungry Point View Area — Where the Wrangell Narrows

meets Frederick Sound. Offers a great view of the Coast Mountains and Devil's Thumb.

32. Strand's Home — Built in 1902 by Peter and Laura Summer. Erling began fishing with his uncle Peter in 1911 and resided in this home until his

Continued on page 30

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A walking tour through Petersburg

Continued from page 29

death in Oct. 14, 1984. The home is located at 806 North Nordic Drive. The home is now owned by one of their two daughters.

33. Eagle's Roost Park— Atop Petersburg Fisheries Hill is a city park where bald eagles may be observed. The eagles perch and roost there while they spy for fish to feed in Wrangell Narrows. Photo interpretive sign shows historic Ness Point.

Turn left on First Street across

from Eagle's Roost Park.

34. Petersburg High School - Mitkof Middle School - Wright Auditorium— The school district has strong vocational and academic programs. Many electives are offered, including foreign language, surveying and aquaculture. The 1952 building was remodeled in 1986 to become the middle school/junior high school. The 1976 addition is the black building housing high school classrooms. The school

also has two large aquariums. The 300-plus seat Wright Auditorium is housed in the middle school. Northern Nights Theater, a student run movie theater, shows recent release movies year round. The entrance is at 500 First Street.

Turn uphill at Charles W. Street.

35. Petersburg Community Gym & Pool— Built in 1990 and 1991, it contains a full basketball court, racquetball courts, a weight room and an arts and crafts room.

36. The Aquatic Center— Features Olympic sized pool, water slide, warming pool, sauna, and exercise area. Built in 2006. Call 772-3304 for the swim schedule.

37. Rae C. Stedman Elementary School— Built in 1969 for

kindergarten through fifth grades.

Walk through the parking lot side, walk to Dolphin Street. At the dead-end head uphill on Fifth Street. At Fifth and Excel is the historic Lutheran Church.

38. Petersburg Lutheran Church— The corner stone was laid in 1938 but the church building was completed and dedicated in November 1948. The education building was completed and dedicated in 1963. In 1997 the education building was cut in half and moved across the street. Holy Cross House, the current education/fellowship facility, was dedicated in November 1998. Continue walking down either Excel or Fram streets and you'll arrive back on Nordic Dr.

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Be cautious when encountering bears

On Mitkof Island, you're likely to see only black bears. But the larger and more aggressive brown bears occasionally have been spotted on the island.

While many bear stories are greatly exaggerated, it's smart to fear these furry mammals. Statistically, however, the likelihood of being injured by a bear in Alaska is about one-50th that of being injured in a car on a state highway. With proper precautions, the odds get even better.

The most important rule to follow is never feed the bears. In addition to it being illegal in Alaska, feeding bears can lead to injury – to you or the bear.

Cubs are cute and cuddly looking but potentially deadly because of their mother's protectiveness. If you see a bear cub in the woods, move away quickly because the mother will be somewhere nearby. Placing yourself, even inadvertently, between a sow and her cubs is virtually inviting the mother to attack.

Camping in bear country is a safe adventure if some simple rules are followed. Bears are attracted when food is left in accessible places.

Food should be stored and eaten separately from where you plan to sleep. It also should be packed separately from clothing in case of spills or leakage.

On other occasions, being a little noisy is a good idea. A surprised bear, especially one at close range, will often charge. Loud singing or talking is the simplest method of



Bear cubs are very cute but dangerous. Keep a safe distance away.

letting bears know you are there. Backpackers sometimes tie bells or a can of rocks to their packs.

If you come into close range of a bear, do not turn and run. Instead, back away slowly, without making sudden movements that could frighten the bear.

Startled bears often make a "whoosh" or

"woof" sound as they turn to run. If a bear runs away, don't be alarmed. If a bear stands its ground and begins a series of woofs or teeth-popping, this is your invitation to leave, since the bear may charge.

More information on Alaska's bears is available from the Petersburg Police Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Visitor Information Center and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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Fishing, and 'catching,' is the Petersburg way of life

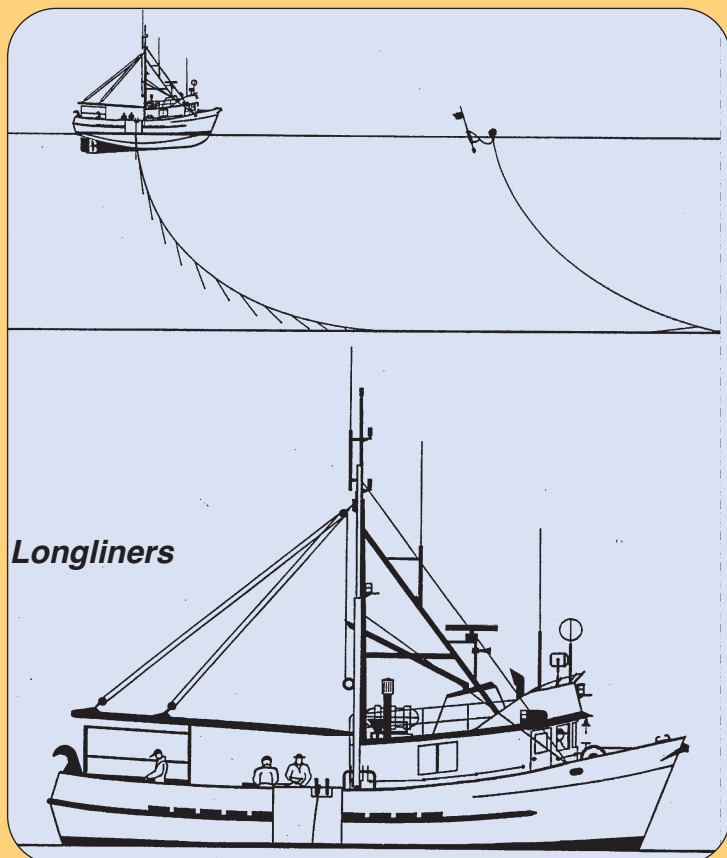
Petersburg is home port to 591 commercial fishing vessels. Petersburg fishermen hold over 1000 fishing permits for a variety of fisheries conducted statewide.

Following is an illustration of how various fisheries are conducted.

In 2012 the City of Petersburg and the State of Alaska each received \$760,516 in fishery business and landing taxes.

LOGLINERS

Bottom dwelling fish such as halibut and black cod are caught much the same way — with long lengths of line — hence the name longliners — using a series of hooks strung out across the ocean floor.

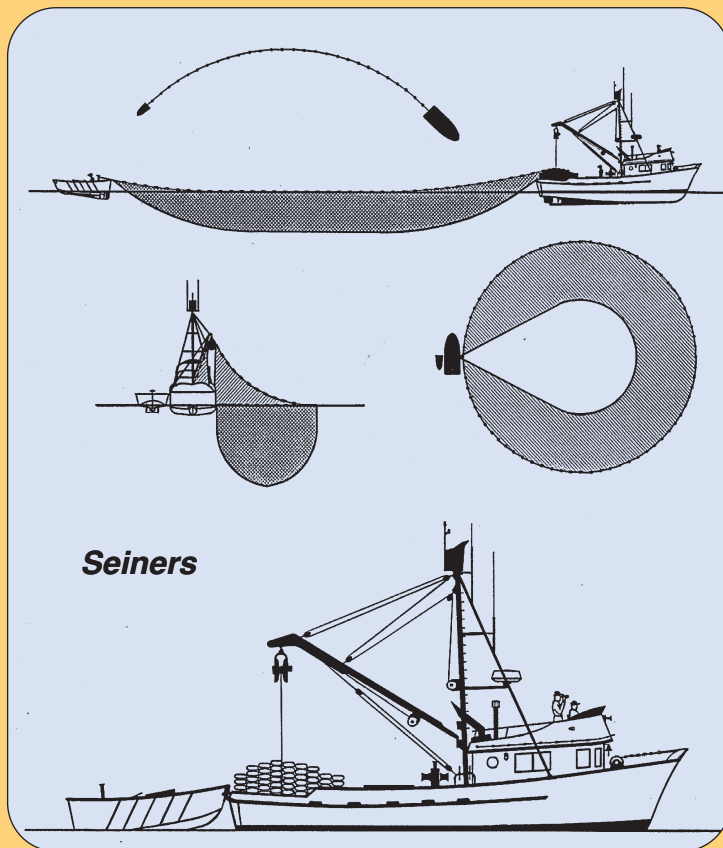


SEINERS

While trollers and gillnetters use just one or two-man crews, seiners usually have four or more on deck and one piloting a skiff. They catch large quantities of salmon, mostly pink salmon — called humpies — the primary product in the canned salmon market.

Once a school of fish is found, fishermen set out the open net with the skiff towing one end off the stern of the seiner and the seiner motoring away holding the other. After a short period the two boats close in a circle and close, or 'purse' the seine, trapping the salmon.

Seine boats are typically 58-feet in length and among the largest vessels in the harbor. They can be spotted by



the power skiff in the back and the net, with corks and lead line, piled in the stern.

TROLLERS

Five types of Pacific salmon are caught in the region: kings (or Chinook), Coho (silvers), sockeye (reds), humpies (pinks) and chums (dogs). Kings, or Chinook, are the big money fish, caught primarily by trollers

who run multi-hook lines from poles lowered out over the water as the vessels move through the fishing grounds.

Trollers also catch silvers, or Coho, which usually bring a good price and return to their spawning grounds somewhat later in the season than kings. Trollers should not be mistakenly called 'trawlers.'

Continued on page 33

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Fishing

Continued from page 32

GILLNETTERS

Gillnetters target sockeye (reds), chums (dogs) and occasionally Coho (silvers). In this region, gillnetters use 150-fathom driftnets. The nets are set and as fish swim into them, they become tangled and are pulled into the boat. Gillnetting can become an art form as fishermen constantly work the net to keep them from tangling in seaweed, logs, or on the rocks.

Gillnet fish are sold for restaurant and specialty use. Their price per-pound is higher than that of seine-caught fish, but not quite as high as troll-caught salmon.

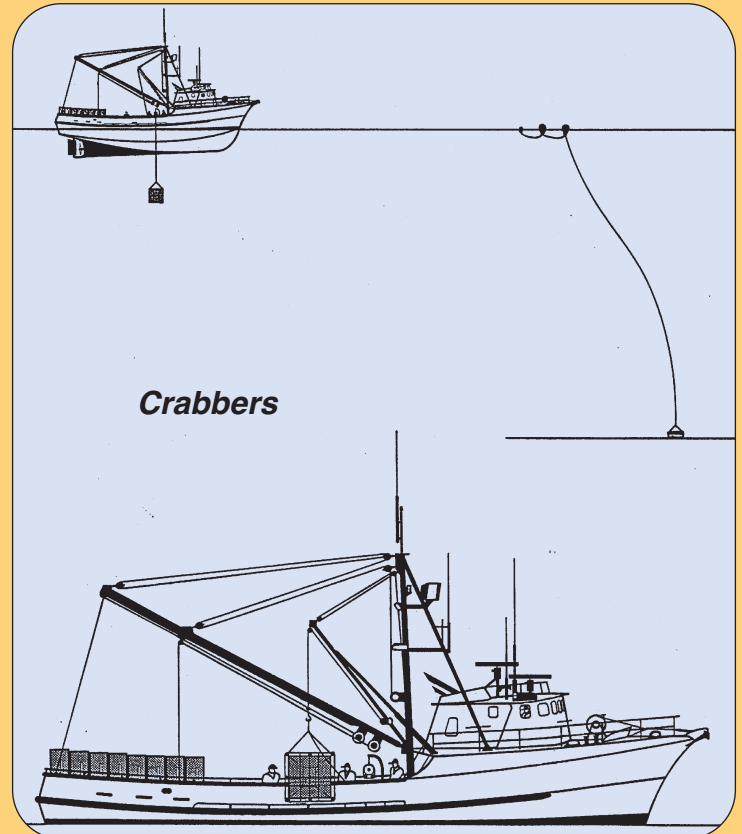
In 2010, area gillnetters caught 4.9 million pounds of salmon worth \$3.9 million.

Gillnet boats can be spotted by the hydraulic reel at

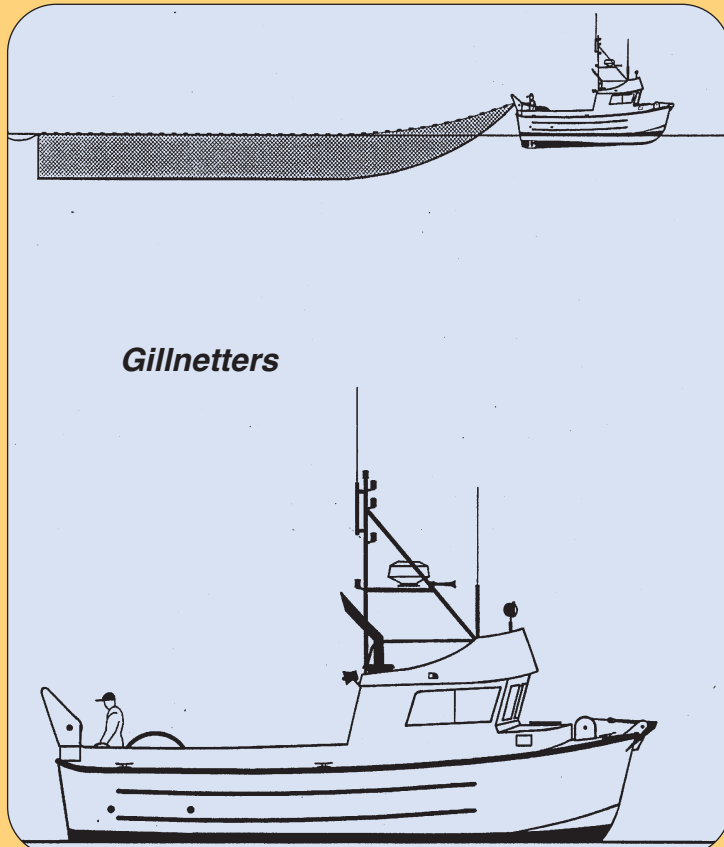
the rear of the boat. The reel is used to free-wheel out the net while setting and to wind in the nets that catch salmon. There are roughly 86 permits in Petersburg.

CRABBERS

Crews of two or more use pots weighing around 45-pounds for Dungeness crab, and over 500-pounds for the tanner and king crab (red, blue, or golden) fisheries. Crab boats use booms and power blocks to lower and raise the heavy crab pots to the ocean floor, marking the location of their pots with buoys. Pots contain bait jars to attract their crustacean prey. Fresh crab and 'live-crab' have become a 'must-have' for restaurants worldwide and Alaskan crab are rated as the finest.



Crabbers

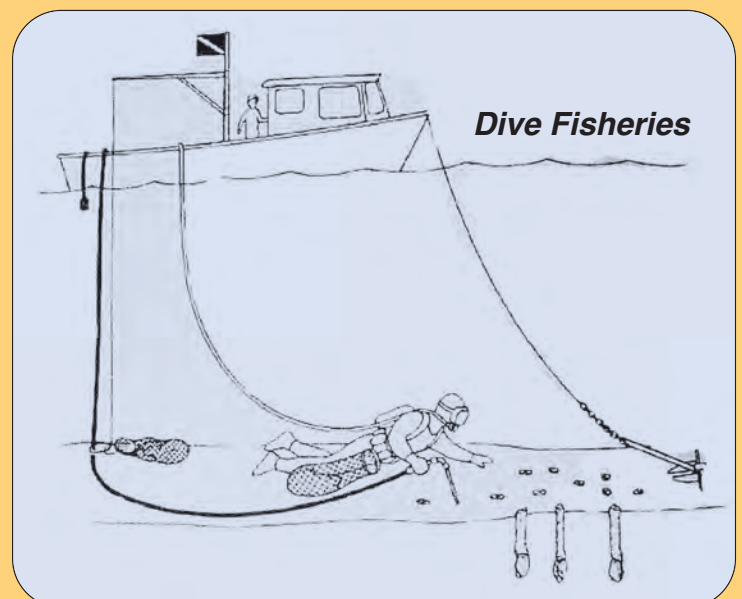


Gillnetters

DIVE FISHERIES

Dive fishermen are the newest kids on the block, marketing wise, but also some of the most talented and ingenious. Swimming down in scuba gear (or sometimes with umbilical diving gear) and often among sea lions, sea ot-

ters, and other aquatic life, dive fishers have targeted Abalone, Sea Cucumber, Geoducks, and Sea Urchins in the past. The species are plucked from between rocks or sandy sea floors and placed in bags, buckets, or nettings and raised to the surface.



Dive Fisheries

A guide to better understanding Alaskan speech

Unique words are required to carry on a conversation here in The Great Land. The following compilation will keep visitors in the conversations heard around town, and the state.

BANANA BELT: Area comprised of Southeast Alaska warmed by Pacific Ocean currents that keep winter temperatures very temperate at 27 to 43 degrees.

BARN DOOR: Large halibut over 250 lbs.

BOTTOM FISH: All encompassing name for halibut, black cod and rock fish that live on the ocean bottom.

BREAK-UP: The end of winter, and some marriages that don't last through the dark cold nights of winter. Break-up is what happens to pot-hole riddled roads in springtime.

CABIN FEVER: Condition characterized by boredom, restlessness or anxiety from a prolonged stay in a remote or confined space, like a cabin, in Alaska. Can be cured by a vacation in Cozumel or Molokai.

CHEECHAKO: A newcomer to Alaska. Also a greenhorn or tenderfoot.

CHINOOK: A warm wind or name of fish called Alaska King Salmon.

DEVIL'S CLUB: A prickly, broad-leaved plant that grows in damp habitats. It's hard to forget after you've bumped into it, leaving thorns in your skin.



Dungeness crab are nicknamed "Dungies"

DUNGIE: Nickname for the Dungeness crab weighing 2-3 lbs.

FISH TRAPS: Used by both natives and commercial fishermen to harvest salmon near spawning streams. The device channeled fish into an enclosed area. Now outlawed statewide.

HIGHLINERS: Title given to commercial fishermen harvesting the largest catch during a fishing season. Petersburg has a lot of them.

HOOLIGAN: A smelt-like, oily fish that runs up the Stikine River south of Petersburg each spring.

HUMPY: Pink salmon or humpback salmon, named for characteristic hump formed on the back of spawning males. Millions are caught and canned in S.E. Alaska each year.

ICEBERGS: Formed when ice breaks from the face of a glacier and drops into the water.

Local mariners call them "bergie bits."

LOWER 48: What many Alaskans call the 48 contiguous American states.

MUG UP: Time for grub and coffee, usually aboard a fishing vessel.



"Mug up" featuring a hearty fishermen's breakfast

MUSKEG: Grassy, wet bog type soil that covers much of Southeast Alaska. Caused by accumulation of decaying plant matter.

OVERHEAD: What the daily jet does when bad weather or fog prevents the aircraft from landing at its scheduled destination.

PANHANDLE: Nickname for Southeast Alaska islands and land running 600 miles along the Canadian coast. It appears to be a handle to the pan formed by the northern portion of the state.

PERMANENT FUND: Created in 1976 and made up of 25% of the proceeds of all mineral lease revenue received by the state. Qualified state residents receive a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) check each year from the \$40 billion dollar investment and savings account. PFD also stands for Personal Flotation Device.

PETERSBURG SNEAKERS: Brown rubber boots worn year-round by locals for fishing trips, camping trips, hikes, weddings and funerals. Also called Sitka slippers and Ketchikan

sneakers.

POTLATCH: Elaborate, ceremonial feast celebrated by area natives who gather for storytelling, dancing, gift-giving, sometimes lasting for several days. Used to mark totem pole dedications, accomplishments, weddings and deaths.

SLIME LINE:

Area of cannery where fish are gutted and cleaned prior to canning or packaging.

SOURDOUGH: A yeast-flour and water mixture used to make hotcakes, bread and other baked-goods for Alaskan settlers. Also used to describe an early settler or prospector

in Alaska. Anyone who has lived in Alaska for most or all of his or her life. One columnist penned that a sourdough was a person who was sour on Alaska and lacked the dough to leave.

SPOTTER: Pilot hired by a commercial fisherman, or fleet of fishermen to spot schools of hering or salmon from the air.



The Ulu knife is a traditional Native Alaskan knife.

ULU: Traditional Eskimo knife used for cutting and scraping. Available in most Alaskan gift shops.

TERMINATION DUST: First snow on the mountains, signaling the end of summer in Alaska.

WILLIWAW: Violent, strong wind-gusts reaching speeds in excess of 100 mph. They often form along coastal mountain ranges.

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The ebb and flow of Alaska tides

Look out at the shoreline, wait a few hours and look again... notice anything?

Approximately every six hours, the ocean tide fluctuates throughout Alaska, filling and draining area waterways. Tidal variations are as much as 20-feet.

The rise and fall of the sea level is caused by the combined gravitational forces exerted by the moon and the sun on the rotation of the earth.

This extreme tidal fluctuation is noticeable on beaches around Southeast, but more so in the skinny Wrangell Narrows.

The 22-mile long Wrangell

Narrows — also called “The Narrows” by Petersburg locals — is one of the most difficult navigational stretches in Southeast Alaska, and becomes more difficult due to the tides ripping up and down its shores.

Low tides can restrict access to areas around Petersburg. Nearly all fishermen or water enthusiasts carry a tide book to track when the next high and low tide will occur.

Tide books are available at area retailers.

Because of its depth and width restrictions, large cruise ships cannot navigate the narrows. The largest vessels that are able to nav-

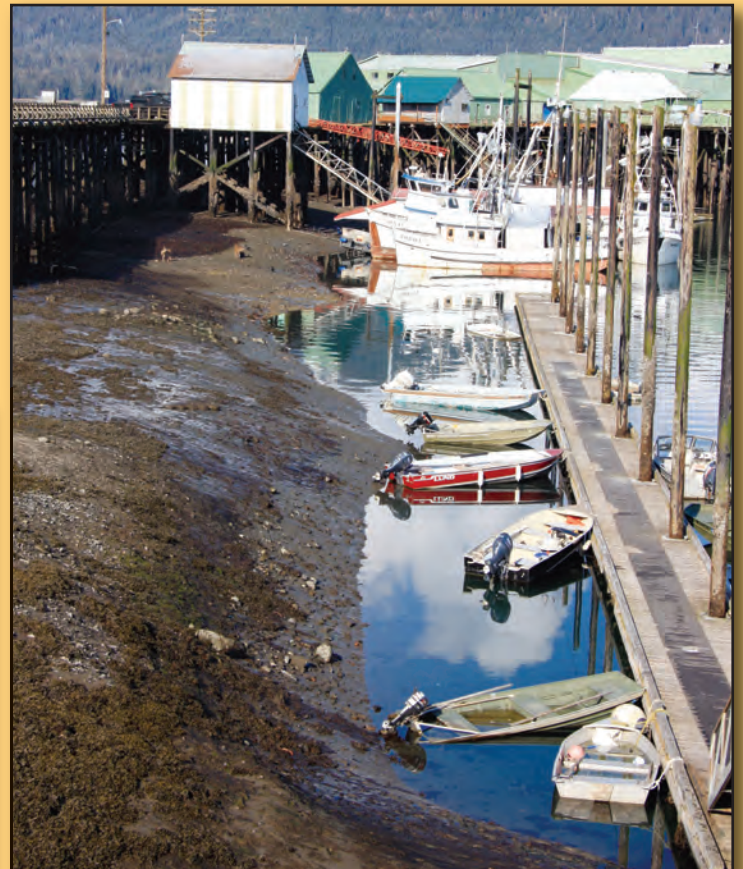
igate the stretch include barges and the 418-foot M/V Columbia, the largest Alaska Marine Highway ferry.

To allow for passage, approxi-

mately 60 lights and buoys mark both sides of the shipping lane, however high tide is necessary for larger vessels.



A high tide view of Petersburg's North Harbor.



A low tide view from the same place six hours later.



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Wildlife viewing tips

Dawn and dusk are the best viewing times: If you arrive early or stay late, you are likely to see more wildlife.

Learn feeding habits: Many shorebirds, marine birds and waterfowl follow the tides during their feeding cycle. Other wildlife such as bears, spend large amounts of time during the summer near salmon streams and berry patches.

Blend-in: Wear natural colors and unscented lotions. Hide behind vegetation and rocks.

Look for sign: Tracks in the mud and snow, unusual scents, scat and browsed vegetation provide evidence of wildlife in the area. Use these clues to locate animals.

Be patient: Allow enough time. Even in Alaska, where wildlife is abundant, it can take years, if not a lifetime, to see all the species.

Don't get too close: Give wildlife plenty of space. Binoculars and spotting scopes allow you to view wildlife without getting too close. Approach wildlife slowly and quietly. Allow animals a route to escape.

View without changing behavior: Avoid using calls or devices that attract wildlife. Don't throw rocks to make birds fly. Harassing wildlife is illegal.

Be respectful: Nests, denning areas, rookeries and calving grounds are sensitive areas. Intrusive visitors may cause parents to flee, leaving young vulnerable to the elements or predators. Stay on designated trails.

Leave "orphaned" or sick animals alone: Young animals left alone usually have parents waiting nearby.

Don't feed the animals: Don't get wildlife hooked on handouts. Some foods may even harm their digestive systems.

Information courtesy of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game



This moose cow and calf were spotted along Mitkof Highway near the 26 mile marker on a summer afternoon.



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Sailors' luck is steeped in superstitions

Fishermen, like many who depend on nature have a laundry list of superstitions and rules that are enforced on-board their boats.

Some are based upon the Bible. For example, since Christ was crucified on Friday, boats would not depart on that day. Sunday, however, is the best day to commence a voyage, because Christ's resurrection on that day is seen as a good omen. The adage is: 'Sunday sail, never fail.'

Fishermen would throw pocket change or canned goods overboard in the hope that the "hook-on men" (those who had died at sea) would lend a hand and put fish on their gear.

When a gillnet was pulled up with only one fish on it, fishermen called it, "getting the skunk off the deck." Future catches they believed, would certainly improve.

Other boat myths are:

Split Pea Soup — When served on board, a southwest wind was sure to blow.

Whistling — "Whistlin' up a westerly," was believed possible when persons whistled on deck. A fierce westerly storm gale is a much-feared storm at sea.

Horses — Don't mention them when on board. Call them long faces or long-ears if you must talk of them. Some skippers forbade horse clams coming on deck.

Buckets — Don't leave a full bucket of water on deck. Deck buckets are normally turned upside down. Hatch covers on the other hand are not turned upside down.

Women — For centuries it was believed that women had no place at sea. A ship could be doomed; by having the fairer sex aboard and furthermore they would distract the men from their duties. A naked woman however, according to ancient lore, could calm the seas. Thus the reason many vessels have a bare breasted figurehead at the bow.



Bananas — Long considered bad luck, the yellow skinned fruit is not to be brought aboard. They are believed to be the cause of everything from spider bites to causing ships to disappear. Pouring wine on the deck will bring good luck on a long voyage and is considered an

appreciated libation for the gods.

Dolphins — Dolphins swimming with the ship are a good omen while sharks following, are a sign of inevitable death.

Black Cats — Black cats are considered lucky while flowers are not. Flowers are used for funeral wreaths.

Cutting your nails or hair at sea is forbidden and never step-aboard a ship with your left foot. When stirring a pot or coiling a line, it must always be done in a clockwise direction.

Another mariner myth is that sailors pierced their ears to improve their eyesight and wearing a gold earring was both a charm against drowning, as well as payment to Davy Jones to enter the next world should a sailor die at

sea.

With time, this list of superstitions has withered in the modern world and some fishermen scoff at them.



"A lot of people joke about them, but if they can avoid doing those things, they will," noted a longtime descendant of a Petersburg fishing family.

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The next Visitor Guide will be distributed in January 2015.

Restrooms -

It's nice to know where they are

Ferry Terminal – Restrooms can be found at the ferry terminal off of South Nordic Drive, south of South Harbor as you head out of town. The terminal also has a pay phone but is only open when a ferry is due in port.

North Harbor – Toilets are right next to the harbor-master's office. A hot shower can also be had for \$1 and a pay phone is available.

South Harbor — In the South Harbor parking lot.

Visitor Information Center – Just two blocks east of Nordic Drive sits the Visitor Information Center at the corner of First and Fram streets.

City gym & pool – From downtown, take Nordic Drive and turn onto Dolphin Street. At Third Street, turn left. The public gym is on Charles W. Street between the high school and the elementary school. In addition to public toilets, there are showers and a pay phone.

City ball park — At the top of Excel Street, the ball park offers toilets available 24 hours a day.

Sandy Beach Park – For those on the north end of town, toilets are available at the park that can be reached after a scenic drive on Nordic Drive, the town's main street, which eventually turns into Sandy Beach Road. Bathrooms are in the picnic shelter at the north end of the park, and next to Sandy Beach Road parking area between the two shelters on the south end of the park. Another bathroom is located along the road at the South end of the park as well.

Travelling south on Mitkof Highway — Restroom facilities can be found at Blind River Rapids Parking Area, Blind Slough Recreation Area, Man Made Hole, Ohmer Creek Camp Ground, Green's Camp, Wilson Creek Recreation Area, Banana Point and Blaquiere Point Boat Launch.



RVs are welcome here

Petersburg welcomes RV guests and has two private parks to accommodate their visits. RV parking is available at the Ohmer Creek campground, operated by the U.S. Forest Service as well.

Recreational vehicles can find legal parking on most streets as long as posted signs are obeyed.

A water and service station is located at N. 3rd St. off Wrangell Ave., behind the community gym and aquatic facility. The service station fee is ten dollars. Contact the front desk at Parks & Rec to pay fee and receive the lock's combination.

For additional information, contact the Visitor Information Center at 2nd and Fram Streets or 772-4636.

Petersburg named *Yachting's* best town in 2013

Petersburg won Yachting Magazine's '2013 Best Towns' competition.

Dan Harding, Associate Editor for Yachting Magazine, wrote in an article, "Joining the ranks of Oxford, Maryland and Beaufort, North Carolina, the Alaskan fishing village has reminded us that the appeal of a destination is not always measured in amenities and attractions, and that natural beauty and character are what make a place truly special."

And the same sea lion plaguing boaters this year might be the same animal Harding included as part of Petersburg's charm.

"Navigate through Alaska's southern islands into the port of Petersburg and your welcoming party may just be a passing sea lion," the lead sentence states in the article.

Three Yachting readers nominated Petersburg and more than 44 percent of its voting readers chose the town on the magazine's Facebook page.

"When you do these competitions you expect those big quintessential yachting towns to be fan favorites," Harding said. "Little Petersburg, Alaska was a surprise but a welcomed one."

Jamestown, R.I. came in second and Seattle, Wash. came in third. Petersburg also contended with New Orleans, San Francisco and Portland.

Sally Dwyer with the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce said she's not sure who nominated Petersburg but she thanks them.

"It's exciting and we're hoping it brings in a lot of traffic and visitors to our area," Dwyer said.

She also said the chamber reached out to Ketchikan and other Southeast communities to



Luxury yachts such as the 440 ft. super yacht Serene cruise through Frederick Sound and surrounding waters often stopping in Petersburg for a few days or a few hours.

support Petersburg in the competition.

"What's good for the goose

is good for the gander around here," Dwyer said.

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culation of 350,000 in the United States and an international readership.

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WALKS CLOSE TO TOWN

Ferry Terminal to Town **[15 minutes one way]**

Easy

A left-hand turn out of the ferry terminal takes you on a quick walk to the heart of town.

On the way you'll pass the floatplane dock and South Harbor. To your left as you near town you'll see the historic Sons of Norway Hall with rosemaling on the shutters, and to the right the picturesque houses that line Hammer Slough.

Ferry Terminal to Scow Bay Loop Rd. **[45 minutes]**

Easy

From the ferry terminal parking lot the walkway is indicated by highway stripes. About a mile of the walkway runs along the Wrangell Narrows shoreline.

The Big Loop **[90 minutes]**

Easy

A favorite with Petersburg walkers, this loop swings up past the airport around muskeg, with an excellent view of mountains in every direction.

Head up the hill by the totem poles at the corner of Haugen and Nordic drives until you reach the walking and biking path adjacent to the road to the airport. Follow Haugen Drive all the way to Sandy Beach Park. Then turn left and take Sandy Beach Road to Nordic Drive. Follow it along the Wrangell Narrows until it takes you back downtown.

Hungry Pt. Trail Loop **[40 minutes]**

Easy

From downtown, walk up the hill to the end of Excel St. Make a left hand turn just past the end of the baseball field. Follow the gravel road past the small t-ball field and enjoy this quiet trail that bisects the town. Muskeg and mountain views are all around; blacktail deer can also often be seen. The trail exits to Sandy Beach Road. Turn left and take the sidewalk back to town along Wrangell Narrows, or take one of the stairwells down to the beach.



Springtime wind and tidal currents sometimes push icebergs ashore near Sandy Beach Park.

South Harbor Loop **[25 minutes]**

Easy

From downtown, follow Nordic Drive south over Hammer Slough toward the ferry terminal until you reach South Harbor. Enter the parking area and walk until reaching the harbor ramp. For those who have difficulty with inclines, be careful of the steep harbor ramp at low tide.

This is a pleasant and short jaunt past part of the Petersburg fleet. On the way back, turn left on Sing Lee Alley to pass the Sons of Norway Hall and Sing Lee Alley, which takes you back downtown.

Beach Walk **[20 minutes one way]**

Easy

Eagle's Roost Park north of Petersburg Fisheries includes a stairway onto the beach.

From there, at low tide, you can walk along the Wrangell Narrows all the way to Hungry Point, where the Narrows meets Frederick Sound. It's a good way to check out the eagles. Occasionally, whales also can be seen from the point.

Hammer Slough **[10 minutes round trip]**

Easy

The Birch Street boardwalk (across the street from the police and fire departments) is the first left off of Nordic Drive after Haugen Drive, if you're coming from downtown. It's a short but picturesque walk up the slough, past old homes and warehouses.

Twelfth Street Loop **[45 minutes]**

Easy

Start off at Hammer & Wikan hardware store downtown and walk up Excel Street past the

Lutheran Church and to the baseball field past Eighth Street.

Off to the right of the ball field is the William Musson Memorial pathway, which runs briefly through the muskeg and hooks up with 12th Street. In the summer, the flowers around Mountain View Manor retirement home can be enchanting.

Take a right off of 12th and you're back on Haugen Drive. Or turn left to walk to Sandy Beach.

While you're in the area, there is a nature boardwalk at the end of Dolphin Street, next to the elementary school just a few blocks toward town from the ball field at Eighth Street. The nature boardwalk is a shortcut to Eighth Street and goes through forested wetlands for about 900 feet.

Sandy Beach to City Creek Trail

Continued on page 41

Hikes

Continued from page 40

[1 hour one way]

Easy (some mobility necessary to step up and down)

Trail starts at the troll bridge at the south end of Sandy Beach Park. Walk can also be started at the bridge along Frederick Sound Drive that goes over City Creek.

Trail winds through the woods following the beach with a couple overlooks. If timed right, hikers may see or hear whales in Frederick Sound.

Raven Trail

[3 1/2 hours one way]

Strenuous

Walk or drive Haugen Drive to the turnoff behind the airport runway, and look for trail signs that lead uphill. About half of the trail is boardwalk and other parts have somewhat steep sections that are a good workout.

The view from the top offers outstanding views of Petersburg, Frederick Sound and Wrangell Narrows. The Trail also accesses the Raven's Roost Cabin.

HIKES OUT THE ROAD

Blind River Rapids

Boardwalk

[30 minutes round trip]

Easy

Located 14 miles from downtown on Mitkof Highway, this trail leads to one of the most popular fishing spots in the area.

The trailhead sign is highly visible from the road. A large parking lot can accommodate motor homes. The boardwalk to the rapids is approximately one-quarter-mile long, and the loop is one-half-mile. The trail passes through a muskeg bog before reaching the popular fishing hole at the rapids.

Restrooms are provided near the parking lot, and a shelter is available near the trail's end. Handicapped accessible.

Man Made Hole

[20 minutes]

Easy

Enjoy a quiet stroll in the woods around the swimming hole off Mitkof Highway at mile 20. Handicapped – accessible.

Restroom and a picnic shelter are available.

Ohmer Creek Trail

[1 hour from Woodpecker

Road to Snake

Ridge Road]

Easy to moderate

Located off Mitkof Highway at mile 21.5. This one-mile trail is adjacent to the Ohmer Creek Campground, and follows Ohmer Creek through mature rain forest and muskeg and over a beaver pond.

The first quarter-mile of the trail is wheelchair-accessible and accesses a fishing platform and the second part of the trail is plank and native tread. The trail provides anglers with access to the creek and adjacent ponds, providing fair to good trout and salmon fishing in late summer and fall.

Three Lakes Loop

Trail and Ideal Cove Trail

[30 minutes from the

trailhead to any one

lake; two hours from the

Crane Lake trailhead to

the Sand Lake trailhead]

Easy

This trail is located 21 miles from downtown off Mitkof Highway.

To get there, drive past Crystal Lake Hatchery onto the dirt road, past Man-made Hole and take the first left onto Three Lakes Loop Road. The total length of the Three Lakes trails and Ideal Cove Trail is about 5.4 miles. Wildflowers and berries abound along most of the trail and all four lakes offer trout fishing.

Rowboats and picnic tables provided at all three lakes.

An Adirondack shelter is provided at a small lake between Sand and Hill Lakes. Rowboats, fishing platforms, and picnic tables are available at all three lakes.

HIKES ON

KUPREANOF ISLAND

Petersburg Lake Trail

[Eight to twelve

hours round trip]

Moderate

Located on Kupreanof Island across the Wrangell Narrows

from Petersburg, the trail is accessible only by boat.

Hikers have a choice of getting onto the boardwalk trail at two separate locations: Kupreanof State Dock trailhead for a 10.5-mile hike, or the high tide trailhead up Petersburg Creek for a 6.5-mile hike. Both trails follow the creek, with access to trout and salmon fishing, wildflower meadows and great opportunities for photographers.

The wilderness portion of the trail has primitive construction and can be challenging to even experienced hikers. Hikers are advised to contact the Petersburg Ranger District on trail conditions prior to hiking.

The trail also traverses a portion of the Petersburg Creek and Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness.

The Petersburg Lake Cabin, located at the end of the hike is available for rent from the Pe-

tersburg Ranger District.

Petersburg Mountain Trail

[Six hours round trip]

Difficult

To get to the trailhead, boat across the Wrangell Narrows from Petersburg to the Kupreanof State Dock.

To the north (right), the trail goes to Petersburg Mountain. The trail extends 3.5 miles one-way. The first mile is an easy walk through the community of Kupreanof. The trail climbs fairly steeply for the next 2.5 miles to the saddle.

The last quarter-mile is a very steep scramble over rocks to the 2,750-foot summit, which provides one of the best views of Petersburg, coastal mountains and glaciers.

Veteran walker Susan Erickson and U.S. Forest Service staff contributed to this article.

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PHS students track LeConte Glacier movement

LeConte Glacier, located 23 nautical miles southeast of Petersburg is perhaps the most studied glacier in the world. For 27 consecutive years retired Petersburg High School geology instructor Paul Bowen and current instructor Victor Trautman have accompanied student teams to the glacier to survey the face and track the glacier's movement.

The group plots the glacier's location the second week of May every year.

"It's probably one of the longest running high school surveys in the nation," says Trautman. He added that the survey data has been used several times in scientific publications and is also cited on the U.S. Forest Service website.

The glacier is on the mainland on the Horn Cliffs side of Frederick Sound. The snowfield above the glacier runs up the Stikine River valley. It has the distinction of being the southernmost active tidewater glacier in

North America, often sending icebergs into Frederick Sound and onto beaches around Petersburg. In fact, the spring of 1998 saw the waters of Frederick Sound choked with bergs after a half-mile of ice from the glacier calved into the bay.

Trautman described LeConte Glacier as a tube of toothpaste. The more snow pack and weight that compresses the ice further up the valley, the more ice advances into the bay.

For the past decade, the face of the glacier has remained stable.

The face of the glacier has remained within an average distance of 92 yards of its 1999 position. Its farthest retreats were in the years 2001 and 2004 and its greatest advances were recorded in 1991, 2003 and 2005.

Each year, the survey readings determine the terminus, or ice base of the glacier. While the glacier hasn't moved significantly in recent years, its general tendency is to move forward with the



Calving ice splashes into LeConte Bay.

spring melts, retreating again in the fall. LeConte has retreated approximately 1.2 miles since 1991.

In some places, students have measured ice as thick as 4,400 feet. "We're not going to run out of ice," Trautman laughed.

At the terminus, about 200

feet of ice rise above sea level, and 800 feet are hidden below the water line of the bay.

To collect the data, the group is split in two. The students stand at two pre-set spots that have been measured from each other. They then measure the distance

Continued on page 43

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Visitors experience the sights, sound and chill of LeConte Glacier.

LeConte Glacier

Continued from page 42

from their points to various outcroppings across the glacier. Using basic trigonometry, the group takes the data and plots out the glacier's face.

The students are an exclusive group, having had to apply for their positions in the glacier survey club. They spend a great deal of time honing their surveying skills before making the trip to the glacier, Trautman said.

Despite years of study, there is something else no one knows: The age of the oldest snowflake at the bottom of the glacier, Bowen said.

The annual survey trip for high school students teaches them more than glacial science. "It really gives them a practical application of math and science," Bowen said.

Projects of this type usually run out of funding before a long-term consistent body of data can be gathered. "That's what's so different about this project. It's been consistently supported by the school and by Temsco Helicopters since 1983," Trautman added.

The glacier also provides visitors with spectacular scenery close to town. Several charter boats based in Petersburg offer sightseeing trips to LeConte Bay, and flight seeing trips also are available for people who want to gaze across the ice field from above.



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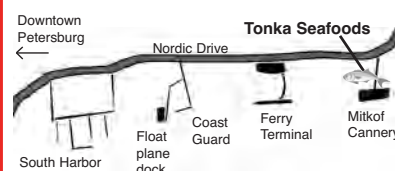
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Petersburg summer ties heat record

Blue skies and warm days enveloped Petersburg like seine nets to pink salmon in the summer of 2013, as the Southeast saw temperatures above and rainfall below average.

According to National Weather Service Data, the temperature on August 1 reached 83 degrees tying the warmest day ever recorded in Petersburg and breaking August 22, 2004's 82-degree record high.

Summer temperatures remained consistently warm across the region. Petersburg saw daily average temperatures in June and August reach three degrees above normal. And through September 15, average daily highs soared to more than seven degrees above normal.

"That doesn't sound like a lot but it's actually a pretty big deal," said Rick Fritsch, Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Juneau.

Petersburg's weather is dominated by rain. In fact, the National Weather Service record books show an average annual rainfall of 109 inches.

Compare that to an annual average

of just 15 inches in Anchorage or 11.3 inches

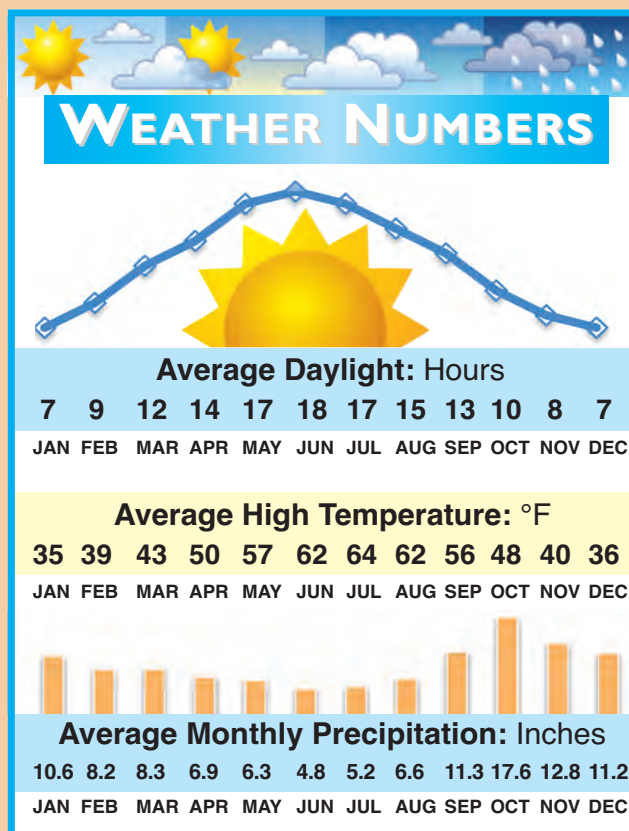
in Fairbanks and the weather in Petersburg may look inhospitable.

But the same ocean conditions that bring in all the moisture also moderate the temperatures. This makes for mild winters and cool summers. Even in the coldest month, January, temperatures rarely fall below freezing.

The average temperatures in Petersburg range from 45 to 64 degrees. The surrounding mountains protect Petersburg from high winds that are common in more exposed areas of Southeast Alaska.

People who live in this climate adapt. The essential piece of rain gear, either on sea or land, is a good pair of rubber boots, sometimes called "Petersburg sneakers." Style takes a back seat to the comfort of dry feet, and it is not out of place to wear these brownish-red boots on almost any occasion.

On the other hand, umbrellas are uncommon, but serious outdoor work or play is more comfortable in a good waterproof rain jacket and rain pants.



Options abound for sportfishing

Abundant king salmon and 300-pound halibut are among the fish that draw sport fishermen to Southeast waters.

Excellent saltwater fishing spots close to Petersburg are just a boat ride away in places like Cape Strait, Thomas Bay, Frederick Point, Wrangell Narrows, Sumner Strait and many secret bays.

For freshwater fishing, a drive down Mitkof Highway can take you to fishing spots at Falls Creek, 11 miles south of Petersburg; Bear Creek and Sand, Hill and Crane Lakes, off Three Lakes Loop Road at Mile 9.5; and Ohmer Creek, which is 21.5 miles south of town.

Anglers should contact Fish and Game to make sure they are up on the latest requirements. In most streams, no bait is allowed while fishing steelhead or cutthroats. Check with Fish and Game for the exceptions.

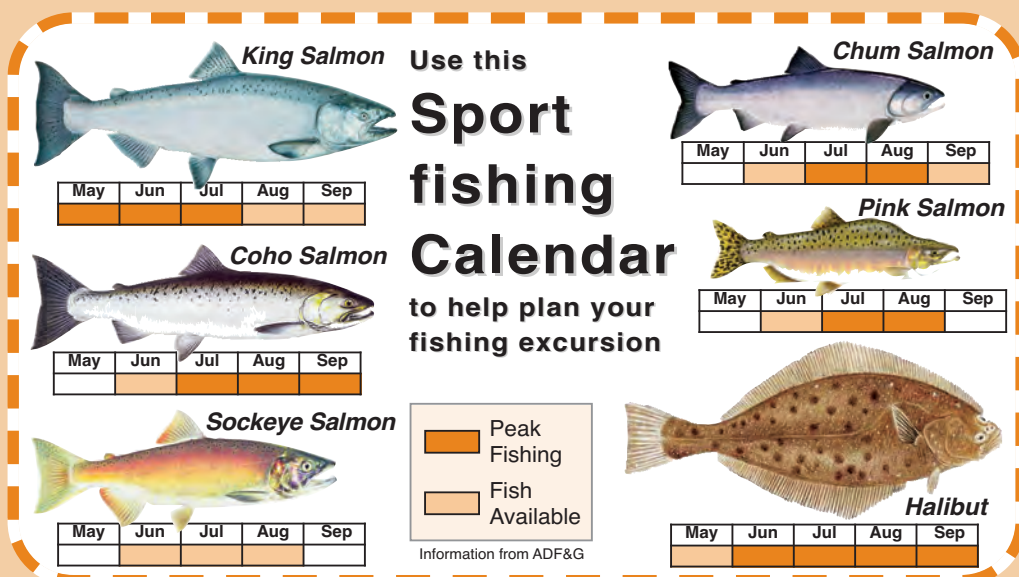
Fishing licenses can be bought at var-

ious vendors around town, including both of the hardware stores and both hotels.

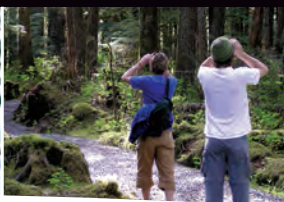
For more information about locations,

gear and peak times, contact the Fish and Game at its office near the bridge on Sing

Lee Alley; or call 772-3801.



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