

FISH SPECIES and FISHING SEASON

Fly fishing is one of the truly great adventures that Rapid Lake Lodge has to offer. Whether you are fly fishing for Speckled Trout, Sea Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Lake Trout or Arctic Char, you will enjoy every minute of your experience. The target species is dependant of the time of the year. There is no "wrong" time to fish with us, from the early Trout in July to trophy Arctic Char in August and September, every month has fishing excitement.

Rapid Lake Lodge



Fishing Season

	June	July	August	September
 <p>Speckled Trout 1 to 4 pound</p>	CATCH LIMIT [15 trout or 8 kg]  June 1 Sept. 7			
 <p>Sea Trout 1 to 4 pound</p>	[included in the speckled trout limit]  June 1 Sept. 7			
 <p>Landlocked Salmon 1 to 6 pound</p>	CATCH LIMIT [4]  June 1 Sept. 7			
 <p>Lake Trout 4 to 30 pound</p>	CATCH LIMIT [4] 			Catch and release only  June 1 Sept. 7, 8 30
 <p>Arctic Char 8 to 18 pound</p>	CATCH LIMIT [5]  June 1 Sept. 15			



SPECKLED TROUT OR BROOKIES FLY FISHING TACTICS

The **speckled trout or brookies** is actually a member of the char family and can only exist in habitat that meets its strict requirements for water quality and temperature. **Brook trout** must have well-oxygenated water and prefer temperatures between 52F (11C) and 61F (16C). Brook trout can be found in both streams/rivers and lakes, seeking out cooler temperatures in the latter as the season progresses. Wild speckled trout are aggressive feeders~ aquatic insects, leeches, minnows/baitfish and crustaceans make up the majority of the brookies diet.

Speckled trout gorge on insects, making them ideal for fly fishers. Dries, wets, and nymph patterns work well, as do minnow imitating streamers. Big specks especially take sculpin patterns, such as Muddler Minnows.

After ice-out they often feed near shore, but move deeper as waters warm.



SEA-RUN TROUT'S FLY FISHING TACTICS

Where possible, many trout leave their freshwater environs and head to sea. Unlike arctic char, they stay relatively close to shore, cruising in and out of brackish estuaries in search of food~ returning to their freshwater roots to spawn. Sea-run trout take on a more silvery appearance than their freshwater counterparts, depending on their diet and the length of time at sea.

Quiet, stealth approach for big trout. When approached on the flats trout are very difficult to sight cast, and it's uncommon to see them before they see you; for this reason they're easier to wade fish than to approach with a boat.

Fish at night for big trout. Big trout feed at night. It's a fact that most people overlook that bigger trout feed once the sun's down. If you want to consistently catch jumbo trout, fish at night by making a fire on the shore line.

Fish big baits for big trout. Big trout are typically lazy. They don't want to work hard for their next meal. But it's amazing how large a bait they'll try to devour. You want big trout? Fish big baits.



LANDLOCKED SALMON'S FLY FISHING TACTICS

When casting for landlocks, cast at an angle across the stream and let the line swing down and hang the fly in the current for a few seconds before making another cast. Many landlocked salmon will take as the fly swings in front of them. No one knows for sure just why a landlocked salmon takes during their spawning run but some of the reasons suggested are greed, territorial protection of the spawning area, annoyance, and anger. Whatever reason, when you are successful in hooking that first landlocked salmon, don't panic.

Drop the rod tip when the fish jumps (and they almost always will) and then keep a tight line when it is in the water. Play the fish strongly and with confidence.



LAKE TROUT'S FLY FISHING TACTICS

The Ungava region is home to thousands of Lake Trout. These normally deep water fish will take advantage of the cold June water temperature after ice out and feed on the top water and shallow running bait. A feeding frenzy will occur when the schooling minnows are forced to the top or cornered in shallow structure. At this time it is possible to take a trout with every cast. As for flies we seem to discover a new favorite every year. Steelhead flies and white rabbit work great retrieved slowly. You have to remember that lakera will thrash through the baitfish school stunning and killing with their heads and body and then return to eat the suspended stunned or dead bait.

Lake trout are fall spawners and will gather on the shallow rock structure and in the river to spawn. This usually starts the last week of August, first week of September and carries on all month. The males will take on a beautiful spawning color. Lakera are thrilled to catch in 2 meters of water. This is all sight fishing and you will be able to set the hook as you see the take.

Lake trout are particularly interested by Trolling Flies (3" to 4" long, in green, tan or gold). The small gold/yellow marabou streamer pattern, about 1 1/2" with a stout hook is also an excellent choice. In the shallow crystal clear water they seem to spook and turn away from larger flies. You will also want to bring along a good sinking outfit in a 7-8 weight for late evening casting to structure on the main lake with large steamers for bigger fish.



ARCTIC CHAR'S FLY FISHING TACTICS

Arctic Char are every bit as worthy a target as Atlantic salmon and steelhead. Arctic char enters the Baudoncourt, the Quijujuuajaq / Slot River and the Abrat River in huge numbers. Fish migrate from the sea to the river in shoals and can be found in August and September throughout the whole rivers. Fish coming recently from the sea will appear in a silver tone with white-orange spots on the side. As spawning approaches the Arctic Char becomes a true beauty: the back darkens and the belly turns into a deep orange-red. For those who have never taken a char on a fly, it is without a doubt the ultimate in fly rodding. Arctic char fishing is very similar to salmon. There are, however, certain techniques that will enhance your chances of taking a trophy char. It becomes important to know some of the habits of arctic char if you want to be successful. First off, **remember that the char are not in the river to feed during the fall spawning months and therefore, are not looking for something to eat.** There are certain methods of fishing for char that vary greatly from those used to catch trout. A char doesn't usually take the same lie that a trout might. They will usually hold next to a boulder where the current is slower or at the tail end of a pool alongside an underwater rock. When lying in the head of a pool, they will most likely be along the edge of the current instead of out in the center but keep in mind that there are exceptions to every rule so keep an open mind and don't hesitate to experiment.

For the most part, I've found that when char have first come into the stream they can be taken quite easily on streamers, and flies with bright colors often entice the fish easier than ones of more subdued colors. After the fish have been in the stream for a time, they do not respond as well to the larger streamer patterns and fishing small nymphs or wet flies tied on size 12 or 14 hooks generally will take more fish. Make sure that there is enough backing on your reel. Arctic Char is a really strong fighter!! A hooked fish will often run into the fast water. If you do not want to break the leader you should be prepared to let him go a few meters.

The ultimate excitement is sight fishing for Char! There are many places in our rivers where we regularly had the luck to do so!! In crystal-clear water not deeper than 90 cm we could perfectly

study their behaviour. Almost every cast in which the nymph drifted freely towards the nose of a Char resulted in a take. What exciting fishing! It is so hard to control your strike!

Someone once said that catching a salmon on a fly is the most fun you can have standing up. They just might be awfully close to the truth so good luck on your next arctic char trip to the rivers. If you would like up to the minute information on the arctic char fishing in the area, feel free to call me at the lodge [on the satellite phone: 613-988-8551](tel:613-988-8551) -June thru September .

If your desire is to catch large hard fighting specimens of arguably one of the world's most beautiful game fish, in a pristine wilderness setting, with absolutely no fishing pressure, then Rapid Lake Lodge should be on your "Dream Fishing Vacation" list.