

KISPILO
LEGENDS

Salmon Trout Steelhead

TIME FOR TROUT

From the Yukon to your Backyard:
Trolling with Buzz Ramsey
Creek Trout Basics
New Kamloops Fishery
Far North Lake Trout

Ontario Ice-Out Tactics
Salmon Trolling Secrets

Get the Most From Your Boat
The Hatchery Built by High Schoolers



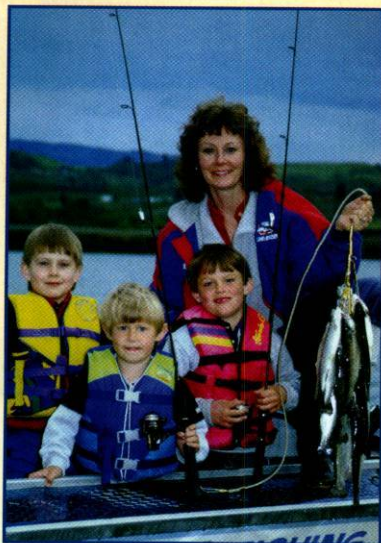
Salmon Trout Steelheader

(ISSN 0029-3431)

Volume 31, No. 5,

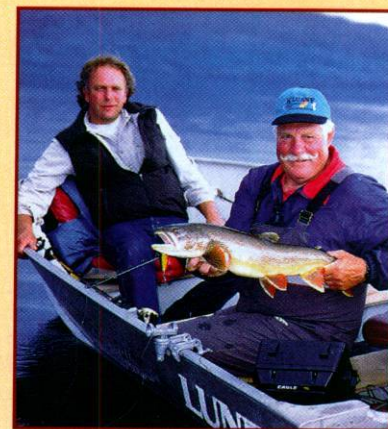
April-May 1998

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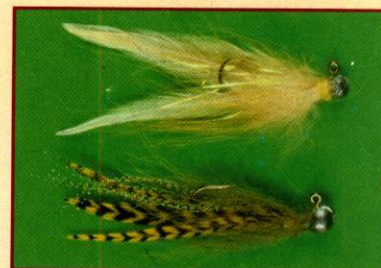


Left to right: Chazz Wolfe, Wade, Blake and Maggie Ramsey. p. 4
Buzz Ramsey photo

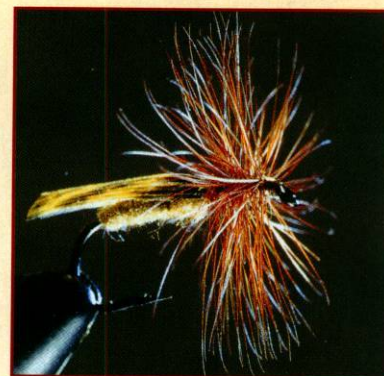
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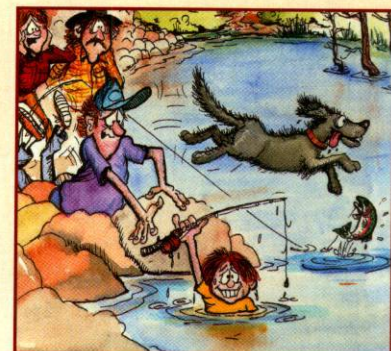
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Salmon Trout Steelheader (ISSN 0029-3431) is published six times per year (bimonthly); \$3.50 per copy; \$19.95 for one year; \$34.95 for two years. Add \$5.00 per year for Canadian and foreign subscriptions. Published by Frank Amato Publications, 4040 SE Wister, Portland, Oregon 97222, (503) 653-8108. Periodicals postage paid at Portland, Oregon. Reprint rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address changes to Salmon Trout Steelheader, P.O. Box 82112, Portland, Oregon 97282.

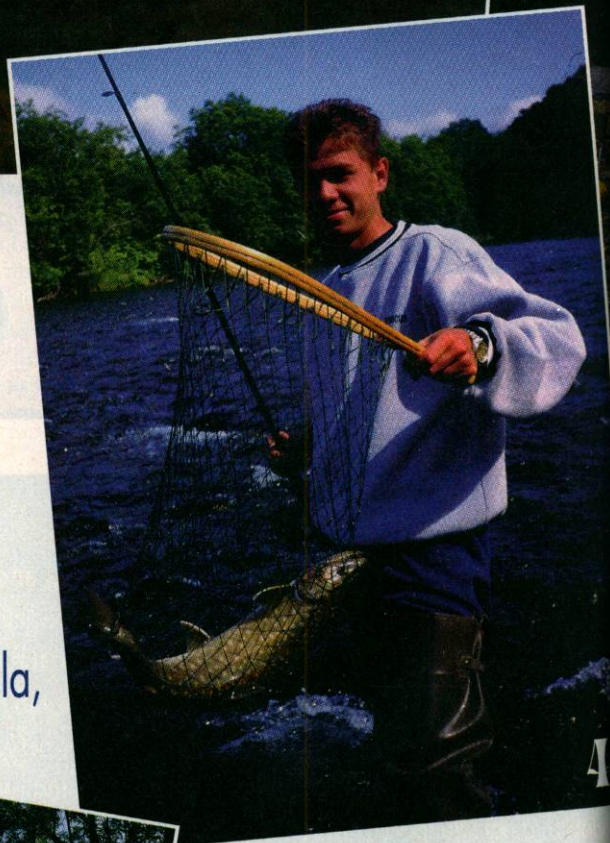


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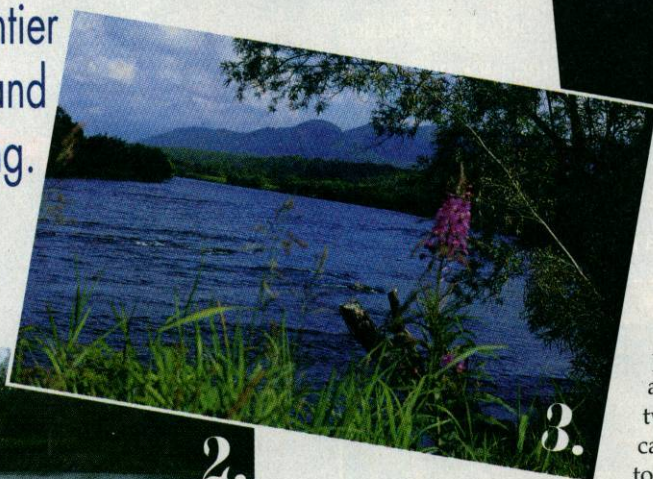
Russia's LAND OF **FIRE** & Ice

The author journeys to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, a recently opened frontier to pristine salmon and trout fishing.

Jack W. Berryman

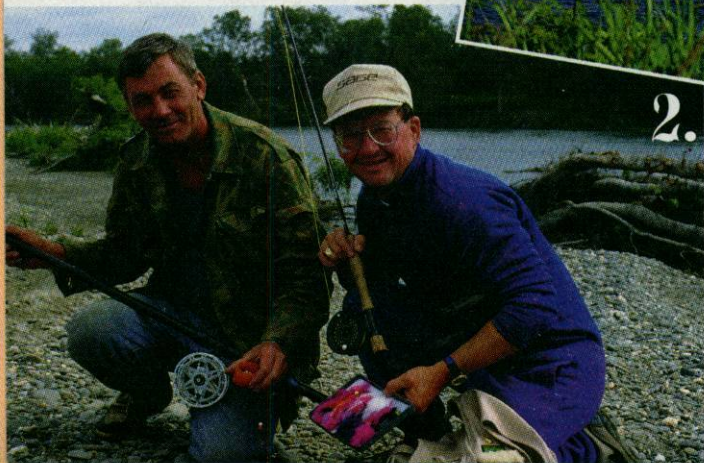


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Only a few truly wild frontiers remain in the world today, and even fewer offer world-class trout and salmon fishing. The Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's far east, happens to be one of these last special areas. Inaccessible for most of the twentieth century because of the political scene in Russia, the area is now open to tourism on a limited basis. This is great news for fishermen!

The peninsula of Kamchatka is about the size of California and lies in the far eastern portion of the country, east of Siberia and north of the Sea of Japan. It is bordered on the west by the Sea of Okhotsk and on the east by the Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean. If you follow the Aleutian Islands west from the coast of Alaska, you come very close to the southern tip of Kamchatka and its major city, Petropavlovsk. One of Russia's oldest cities, Petropavlovsk celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1990.

Kamchatka is covered with snow nearly eight months out of the year, but has a beautiful summer during July, August, and September. Known as Russia's "Land of Fire and Ice," the peninsula has twenty-nine active volcanoes and numerous glaciers and geysers. The landscape is remote and wild, covered with stone birch and aspen forests. Brown bear, Arctic foxes, ermine and mountain sheep are among its major inhabitants, and all five species of Pacific salmon, steelhead, grayling, rainbow trout, and two species of char, are present in large numbers in most of the peninsula's pure, free-flowing rivers.

6.

1. A wild Bystraya rainbow trout about to be released.
2. Russian fisherman Anatoly Garkusha and author compare their fishing equipment.
3. The splendor of Russia's Bystraya River in summer.
4. Pavel Nazarov with a large Siberian char, or Kundzha, in the net.
5. One of our many different campsites.
6. Sergey Nazarov plays a large rainbow from the bow of a river raft.

The Russian government opened Kamchatka to the Western world in 1991 and soon thereafter, hunters and fishermen began to explore the area and assess its potential. More recently, access has been improved by an agreement that permits Alaska Airlines to fly directly into Petropavlovsk from Seattle, via Anchorage. Fishermen can now leave Seattle and be in Russia in about nine or ten hours. Permits, visas, and passports are required and entrance

(Continued on page 60)

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Russia's Land of Fire & Ice

(Continued from page 55)

into the area is closely scrutinized. But, it is now possible to enjoy some of the most spectacular fishing anywhere in the world.

My introduction to the Kamchatka "fishing bounty" came via Kamchatka Angling Outfitters, a Seattle-based company specializing in wilderness travel and adventure. We floated the remote Bystraya River in large river rafts and camped along it for five nights. The Bystraya drains off of the western side of the peninsula into the Sea of Okhotsk. We reached it on a gravel road about three hours north of Petropavlovsk and floated about 60 miles to a take-out on another dirt road. Our party consisted of ten Americans and seven Russians.

The operators of Kamchatka Angling Outfitters are Tracy Blashill and Alice Whitelaw who between them have 27

dark. In all, we probably had the opportunity to fish at least 10 to 12 hours a day.

The Russian members of our group used long telescoping fiberglass rods and single-action reels spooled with heavy mono, to drift small pieces of pink rubber or small glass beads on floats into likely holding water. The Americans used spinning rods and reels to cast spinners and spoons as well as fly fishing gear. Since we floated the river in mid-August, coho salmon were beginning to show, but the Chinook and chum run had ended. Consequently, we focused most of our attention on the abundant native rainbow trout and two species of char, the Siberian or Kundzha, and the Arctic. The coho averaged 8 to 12 pounds, the rainbows were consistently in the 18 to 24 inch range, and the char reached 38 inches. We also caught grayling up to 20 inches. Our largest rainbow was 24 inches long with an 11 inch girth—about five pounds.

The fish in the Bystraya are very beau-

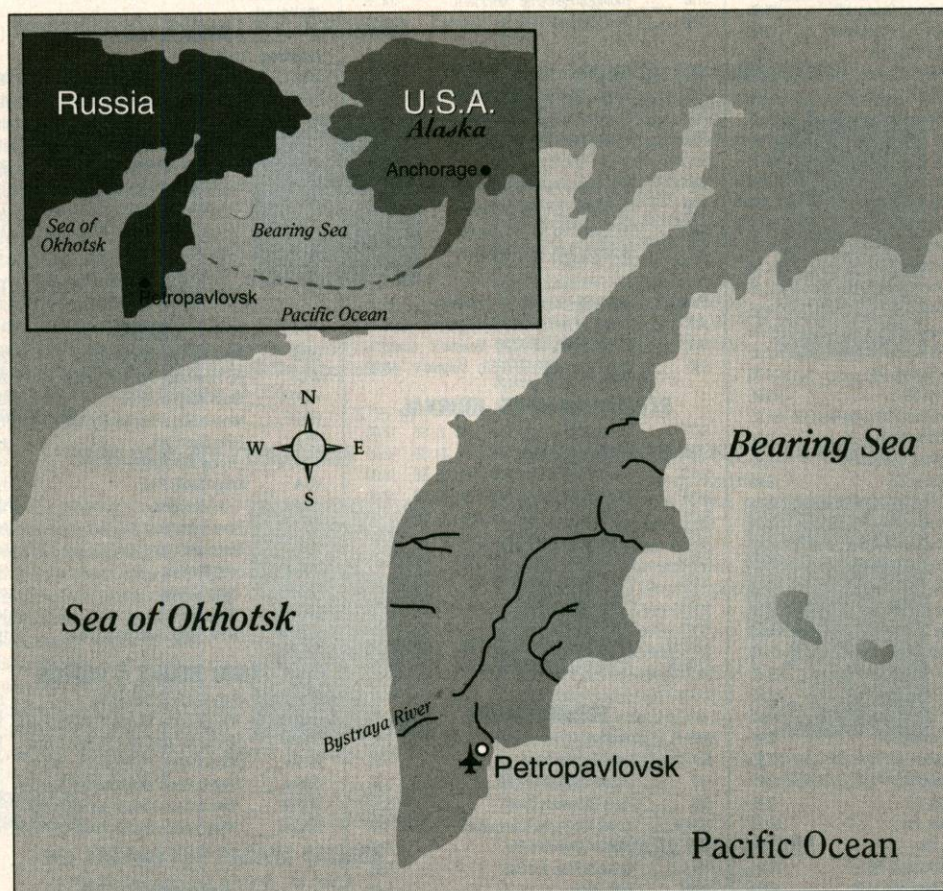
Babine Special worked very well. Also productive was a "smolt" pattern which had a red or orange head, silver body, and red hackle tail, tied on a size 6 or 8 silver hook.

Our daily routine involved setting-up camp, fishing, eating, fishing, sleeping, and breaking camp! We fished from the rafts as we floated and we stopped along the way to fish from the shore. And each evening, once we had set-up camp, we had time to fish until dark. In all, we probably had the opportunity to fish at least 10 to 12 hours a day.

On a typical day, each angler caught as many as 30 rainbow and char. These fish were spread throughout the river, but were more concentrated near the mouths of the tributary streams. The coho favored the still water behind islands or log structures. As we neared our take-out point only a few miles above tidewater, the Bystraya became more braided with numerous side channels. This area was particularly suited to fly fishing and yielded some of our largest coho and rainbows. One large rainbow estimated to be about 8 pounds straightened the hook, but since we felt we could catch fish at will most of the trip, losing a fish or two was never a major concern.

During our float trip, we saw several large brown bear at the river's edge. We also had the opportunity to see a pair of very rare stellar sea eagles. Harlequin ducks and mergansers were plentiful, as were a variety of other migratory birds that nest in the area during its short summer. Meals were superb. Tracy and Alice cooked on a large gas stove and baked fresh desserts in a Dutch oven. A glass of wine beside this remote river, or a sip of scotch around the campfire were typical endings to a day's fishing.

If you would like to experience the fishing trip of a lifetime and set foot on some of the most wild and pristine land in the world, contact Kamchatka Angling Outfitters, P.O. Box 19818, Seattle, WA 98109. Or, call them toll free at 1-888-297-8183. They are organizing groups of 6 to 10 fishermen for nine day trips during the 1998 season and would be glad to send you more information, including their beautiful booklet filled with gorgeous photographs of the river, fish, equipment, and native wildlife. □



years guiding and wilderness experience. They assembled a group of excellent guides and oarsmen with many years of experience fishing and floating similar rivers in Idaho and Montana. Our daily routine involved setting-up camp, fishing, eating, fishing, sleeping, and breaking camp! We fished from the rafts as we floated and we stopped along the way to fish from the shore. And each evening, once we had set-up camp, we had time to fish until

tiful and aggressive. They are all wild, and for the most part have never been fished over. We used 8- to 10-pound-test mono on the spinning rods and had the most success on silver spoons and spinners. Fly fishermen used 6-, 7-, and 8-weight rods and depending on the water conditions, cast a variety of sink tips as well as floating lines. A nymphing technique with egg patterns was particularly effective for rainbows. The Glo Bug and