

A scenic landscape featuring a wide, shallow river with rapids in the foreground. The river flows from the bottom left towards the right. The banks are lined with dense green coniferous trees. In the background, a range of rugged mountains with patches of snow and glaciers stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# FISHING ALASKA

**“I’m fishing in Alaska next week . . .”**

Is like saying -



**“I’m fishing in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, northern California, Oregon, and Washington next week.”**



Specifically

**Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley  
and the Kenai Peninsula**

**DISCLAIMER:**

**NOT A FISHING TRIP.**

**A VACATION WITH SOME FISHING.**

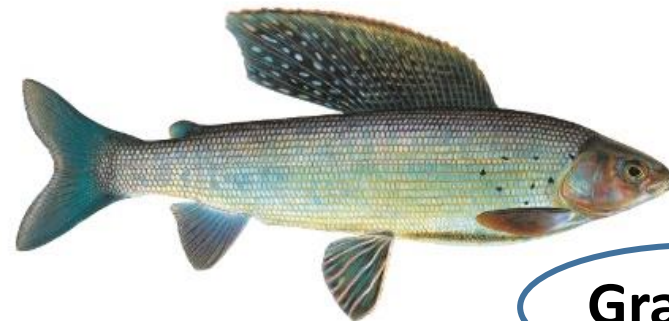
**Originally Planned for only a day-and-half guided wade  
fishing in the Mat-Su Valley (Talkeetna)**

# BUT THEN . . .



- + A one day float in the Kenai (Kenai River)
- + Daily “hop-ins” outside cabin in Talkeetna (Montana Creek)
- + An evening grayling trip south of Denali NP (Fish Creek)
- + A Denali back-country hike to check on a clear water stream
- + Another grayling stop (Fish Creek)

**Targeting . . .**



**Grayling**



**Rainbow**



**Dolly Varden**



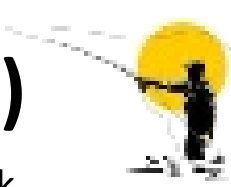
**Specifically did not want to fish for Salmon**

# General Comments

- **Great vacation, but generally modest fishing**
- **Factors . . .**
  - **Summer not peak season (Spring / Fall better in Mat-Su, Kenai)**
  - **Current Heat Wave (upper 80s, over 90) – stronger run off, water higher, siltier**
  - **Forest fires in the Kenai Peninsula**
  - **“Unique Local Techniques”**
    - - **Talkeetna: Czech nymphing with chipmunk sized streamers**
    - - **Kenai: 4 per boat, heavy weight, 12’ leaders**
  - **Took a knife to a tank fight (5 wt with 4X / 3X grossly overmatched)**

# Talkeetna (Montana, Goose, Troublesome Creeks)

65-85 degrees, Partly Cloudy, Water Clear with Moderate-Heavy Flow, Bottom firm with river rock



Guided: 21 & 22 June  
Unguided: 21, 22, 23 June



Grayling

Only one caught – Not Really Grayling Water



Rainbow

Hot Patterns: Dolly Lama



Size: 15-18" average, 21+" largest

Reward Factors:

Landscape

**Fight & Landing (strong, acrobatic fish)**

**-- Epic Break-offs**

***Other comments:***

- ***Tough Conditions . . . Modest numbers netted***

- ***Good guide (Mason Brewer) – but intent on finding / catching fish (some tough hikes) . . . refunded 33% of fees***



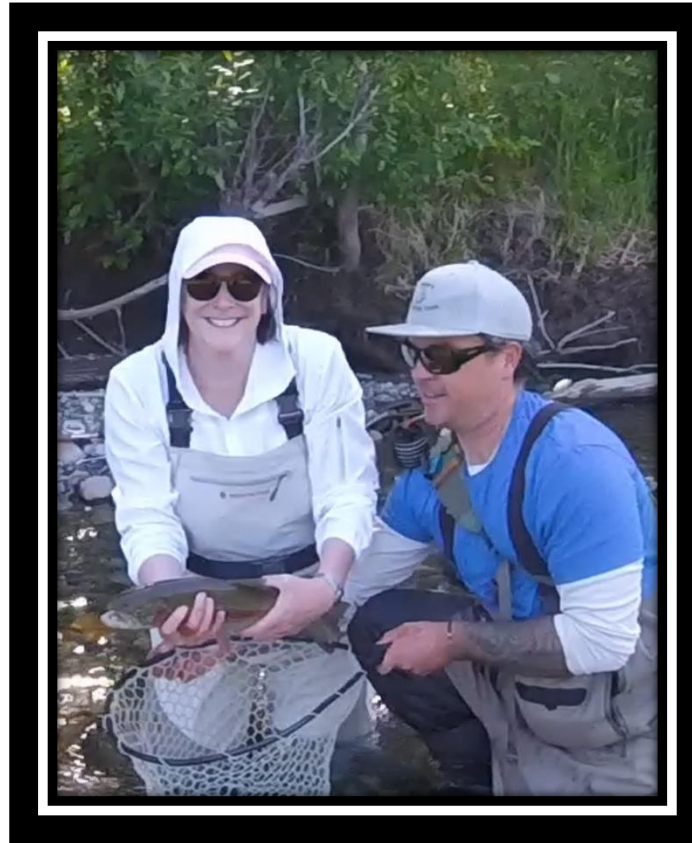
# Talkeetna (Montana Creek, Goose Creek, Troublesome Creek)



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# Fish Creek / South of Denali NP

65-85 degrees, Partly Cloudy, Water Clear with Moderate Flow, Bottom firm with river rock



Guided: 24 June  
Unguided: 28 June



Grayling

## Size:

10-12" average, 16" largest

## Reward Factors:

Numbers (20+ in an hour and a half)

Unique look (sail, eyes, & colors)

**Unique Dry attack profile**

## Hot Patterns:



Foam Beetle



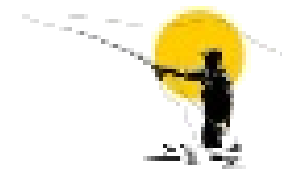
Elk Hair Caddis



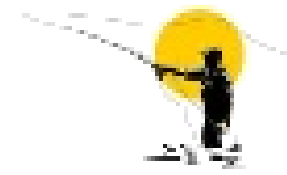
Nymphs (2BH, caddis)

*Other comments: Easy access, small stream + large pools, miles of water (along road)*

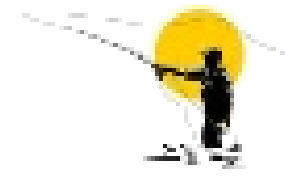
# Fish Creek (downstream of bridge)



# Fish Creek / South of Denali NP



# Fish Creek / South of Denali NP



**VIDEO**

# Kenai Peninsula (Kenai River)



30 June

65-80 degrees, Partly Cloudy, Wild Fires Smoke & Haze, High / Fast Water, Fly under Indicator, In & Out of Boat



Dolly Varden



Rainbow

## Hot Patterns:



Zonkers / Flesh Flies / stinger eggs

16" average, 19" largest

12-14" average, 14 " largest

Reward Factors: Terrain & Scenery, **Potential for Really Big Fish**

*Other Comments: Four man boat & no lunch, heavily weighted, long leaders, plop & drop technique, two that got away*



# **Kenai River – A Brief Summary**

# Kenai Peninsula (Kenai River)



30 June



# Kenai Peninsula (Kenai River)



30 June



# Kenai Peninsula (Kenai River)



30 June



## DANGER

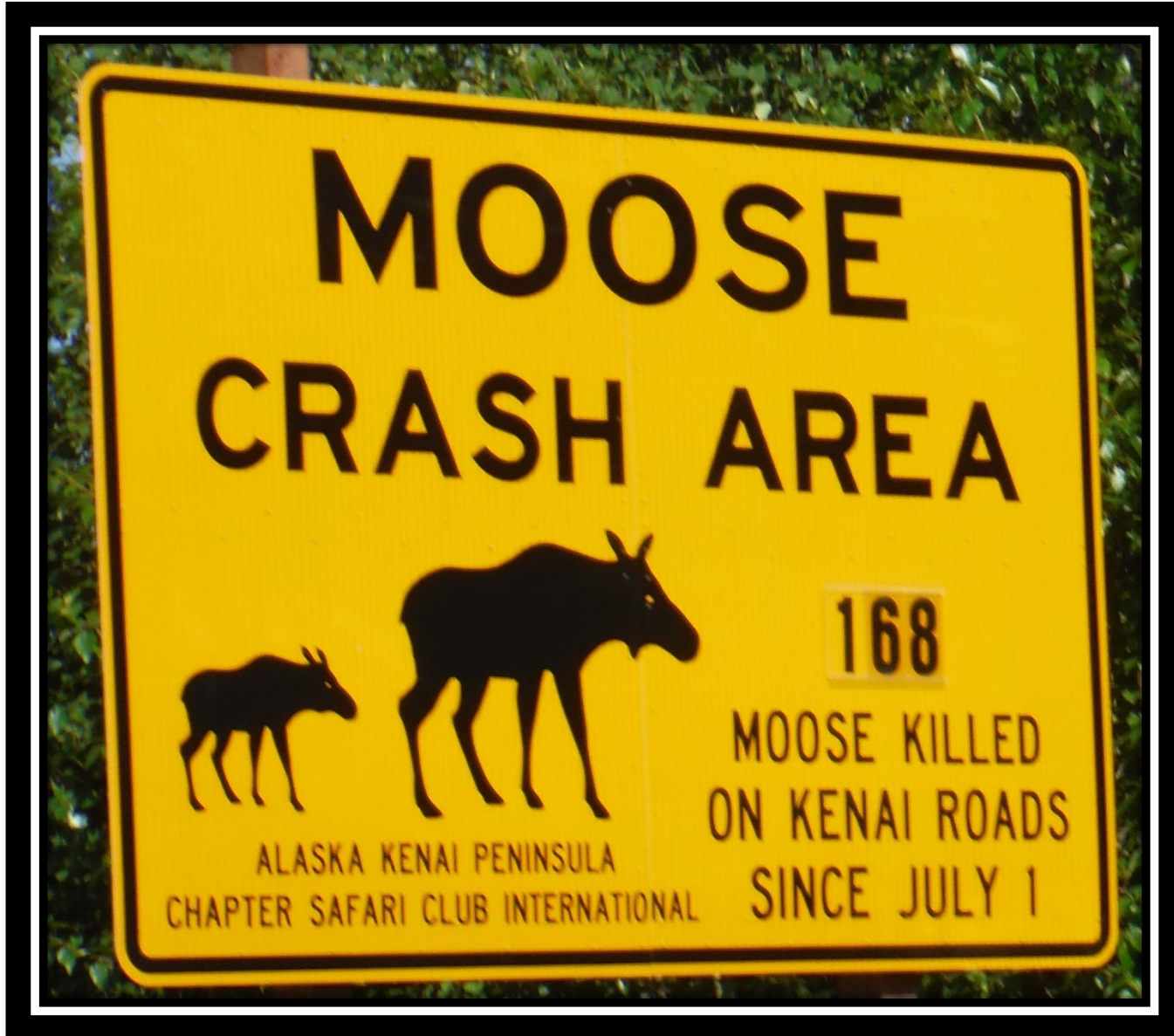
Water-scooping aircraft are using lakes in this area to fight the Swan Lake Fire.

Keep all boat activity to the lake edges if you must travel on area lakes. Consider staying off the lakes until fire fighting efforts are completed.

Water-scooping aircraft skim the lake surface to fill their water tanks before returning to drop this water on the fire.  
Please help the firefighters do their job by staying clear of all fire operations.



# Kenai Peninsula (Kenai River)



# Overall

- **Modest Fishing . . . Off season, heat wave, forest fires**
  - - **If fishing trip: Go at peak times and / or top (lodge) locations**
- **If combining with Summer vacation ... Focus on DIY & the Grayling**
- **Rocky Mountain Swing > Summer Alaska**
  - - **Travel time, ease, cost, fishing**
  - - **Guide services**