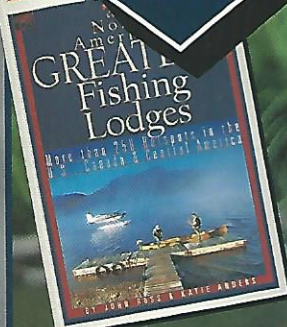


SPECIAL REPORT: BEST LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLES OF 1997

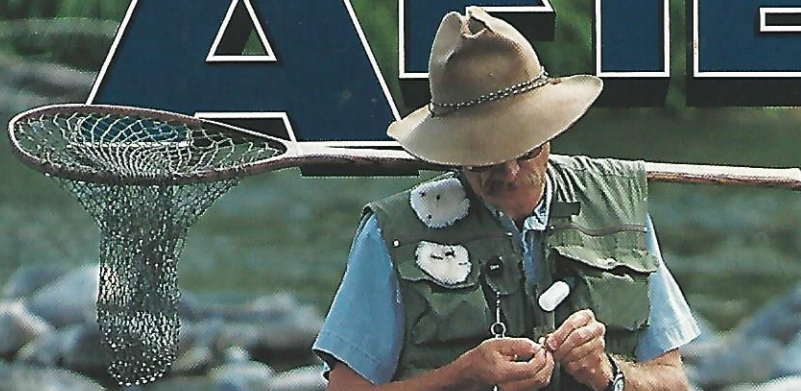
"Thinking and fishing go well together, somehow."—John Atherton, 1951

NEW  
SPORTS  
AFIELD  
BOOK  
Exclusive  
Excerpt



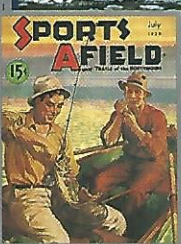
# SPORTS 1887 • ANNIVERSARY • 1997 AFIELD

<http://SportsAfield.com>  
MAY 1997



## THE RIGHT PLACE

Lodges • Secret Spots • Tactics  
Trout • Bass • Salmon • Walleyes • Pike



COOL

0 74820 08780 0

05

\$3.00

\$3.50 CANADA

GEAR

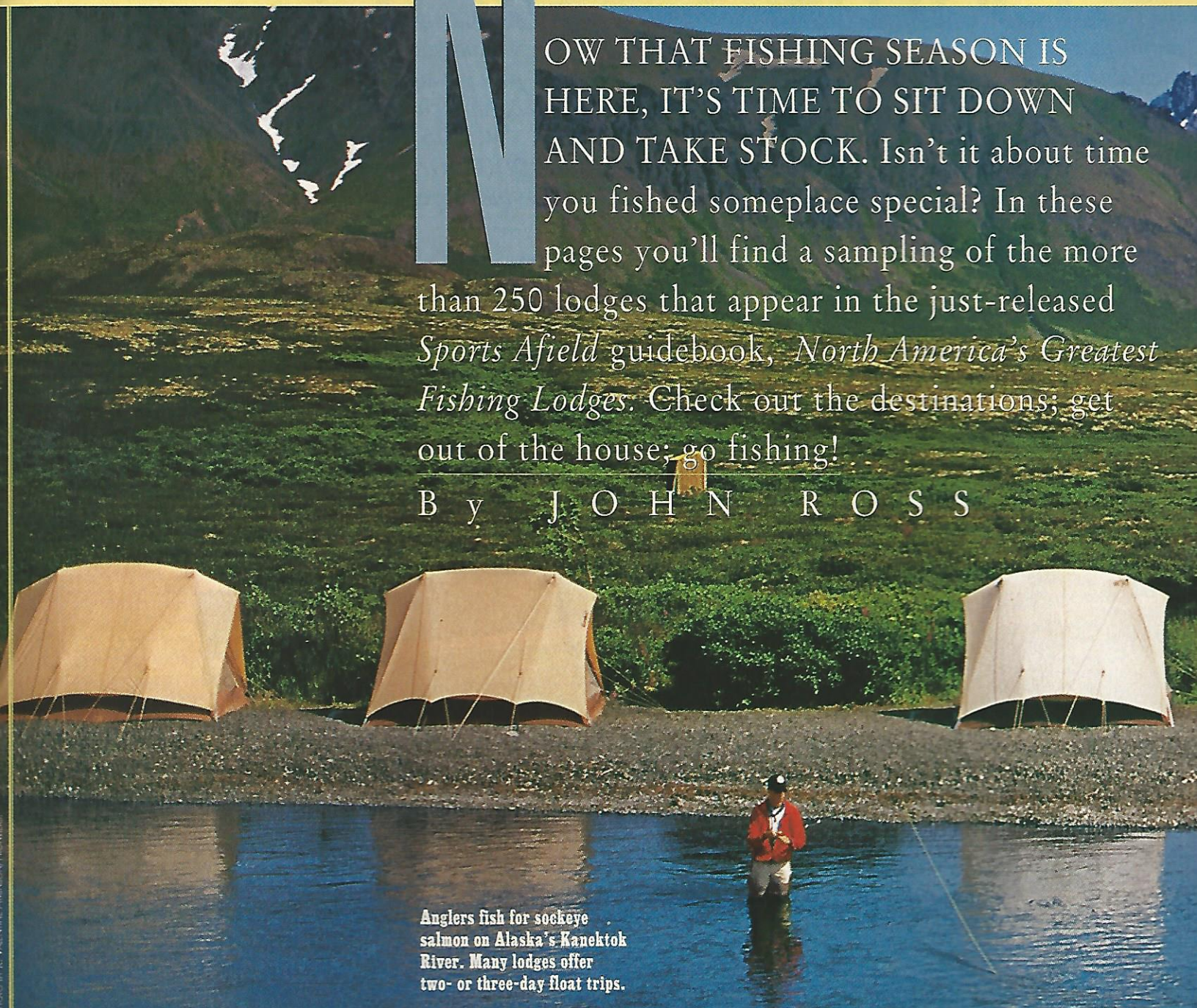


# THE RIGHT

**N** *A Sports Afield guide to the best*

OW THAT FISHING SEASON IS HERE, IT'S TIME TO SIT DOWN AND TAKE STOCK. Isn't it about time you fished someplace special? In these pages you'll find a sampling of the more than 250 lodges that appear in the just-released *Sports Afield* guidebook, *North America's Greatest Fishing Lodges*. Check out the destinations; get out of the house; go fishing!

By J O H N R O S S

A scenic view of a river in Alaska. In the foreground, a fisherman in a red jacket and waders stands in the water, casting a line. The riverbank is covered in three large, tan canvas tents. The background features a lush green valley with snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky.

Anglers fish for sockeye salmon on Alaska's Kanektok River. Many lodges offer two- or three-day float trips.

# LACES

ing waters, lodges and adventures in North America.





# The Right Places

A largemouth struggles with a plastic worm while a boat-bound angler hangs on. For bass, try Big Cedar Lodge and Lake Barkley State Resort Park.



## EAST

### RED RIVER CAMPS

Portage, Maine

Fish for bluebacked trout at a remote Down East camp.

WHERE THE RED RIVER flows out of Pushineer Pond, there's been a camp for nearly 100 years. Close at hand are nine ponds for flyfishing only; four that permit trolling with spinners; one for artificials only; and one that allows use of bait. Brook and lake trout fin these waters, but here you'll also find the all-but-extinct bluebacked trout, marooned by



receding glaciers centuries ago. The most likely time to catch them is right after ice-out, and again in late September. Guides are available but not required. Flyouts to remote lakes can also be arranged.

A romantic island cabin and nine other hand-hewn log cabins with gas lights, woodstoves and private baths house guests. Down East dinners are built around baked beans, roast chicken, turkey, beef and ham. Anglers are sent off each day with generous packed lunches or fixings for shore dinners.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Brook, bluebacked, lake trout. **RATES:** To \$80 per night for the American plan, double occupancy. **CONTACT:** Mike and Rhonda Brophy, Red River Camps, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 320, Portage, ME 04768; 207/435-6000 (summer), 207/528-2259 (winter).

### THE WILD RIVER INN

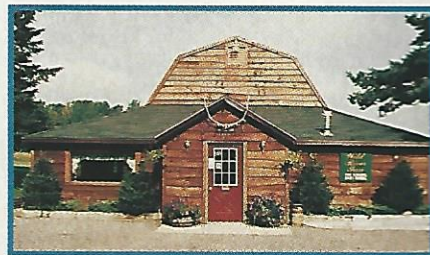
Pulaski, New York

Steelhead are the headliners at this comfortable lodge.

THE WORSE THE WEATHER, the better the steelheading on the Salmon River, a tributary of Lake Ontario. With the first snow, bright silver fish enter the river in October. When it's 30°F and blowing, who cares about frigid fingers when 16-pound steelhead are hammering your egg sacs or trashing your lures? If dancing on icy rocks lacks appeal, backtroll from guide Todd Sheltra's McKenzie driftboat on this fast-flowing river that never freezes. Anglers can also enlist Sheltra to take them out on the big lake for alewife-

fattened brown or lake trout.

Sheltra and wife, Anne Marie, said good-bye to western fishing a decade ago, moved to Pulaski and opened this lodge of efficiencies with kitchens and private baths. Cook your own meals or eat in one of the many good restaurants in town.



#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Steelhead, salmon, brown trout, walleye, smallmouth. **RATES:** From \$45 (\$59, peak season) night for 2. **CONTACT:** Todd Sheltra, The Wild River Inn, Dept. SA, 7743 State Rte. 3, Pulaski, NY 13142; 315/298-4195.

## SOUTH

### HIGH HAMPTON INN AND COUNTRY CLUB

Cashiers, North Carolina

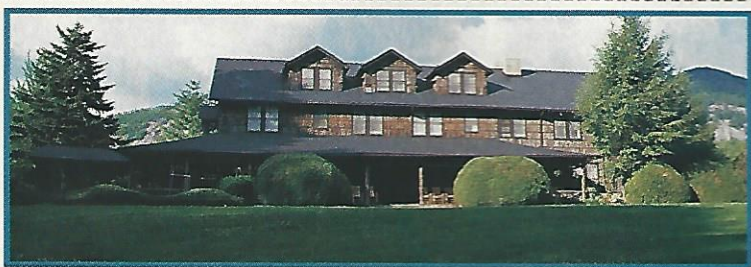
Combine fishing and golf at this large log hotel.

MOST OF THE GRAND OLD HOTELS in the southern Appalachians have been modernized. Not so High Hampton. Here, air-conditioning means you open your window and sleep to the deep sigh of mountain winds. Opened as a golf club in 1922, the inn now caters to anglers as well. Fishermen will find two lakes on the property, each with rainbow trout, broom and the occasional largemouth bass. Nearby streams hold native brookies. Then there's the Davidson, well known for its big brook trout.

High Hampton is a family place: Kids are welcome. You'll have your own table in the restaurant and you'll stay in the lodge itself, or in one of 19 cottages, most of which are on the course or on the lakes.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Brook and brown trout, bass. **RATES:** From \$83 per person, double occupancy. **CONTACT:** High Hampton Inn and Country Club, Reservations, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 338, Cashiers, NC 28717-0338; 1-800/334-2551.





**STATISTICS**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Cutthroat and rainbow trout.  
**RATES:** \$1600 per person, double occupancy for 5 nights and 6 days. **CONTACT:** Seven Lakes Lodge, Dept. SA, 738 County Rd. 59, Meekeer, CO 81641, 970/878-4772.

**STATISTICS**  
 and its fishing lodge to share his love of the country owner Henry Kravis, who built the is gourmet. You'd expect this from accommodations in the log-and-stone lodge and nearby executive cabin are plush, every window revealing the spectacular Flat Top Wilderness. Dining and wild rivers where fishing is a rewarding challenge.

**H**OW COULD WE DO A REVIEW OF THE BEST LODGES IN NORTH AMERICA without including Seven Lakes? We couldn't. This lodge has it all: three miles of the White River, stocked with rainbows and cutthroats that average 20 inches; ice-water lakes stocked with 10-pounders that rise readily to fly and spinner; accommodations in the log-and-stone lodge and nearby executive cabin are plush, every window revealing the spectacular Flat Top Wilderness. Dining and wild rivers where fishing is a rewarding challenge.

Hook into 10-pound fish and five-star dining in the Flat Top.

**SEVEN LAKES LODGE**

Meekeer, Colorado

**ROCKY MOUNTAINS**



**STATISTICS**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Walleye, smallmouth bass.  
**RATES:** \$85 to \$105 per day for 2. **CONTACT:** Gayles Bed & Breakfast, Dept. SA, 85 Cessna Dr., P.O. Box 564, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456, 419/285-7181.

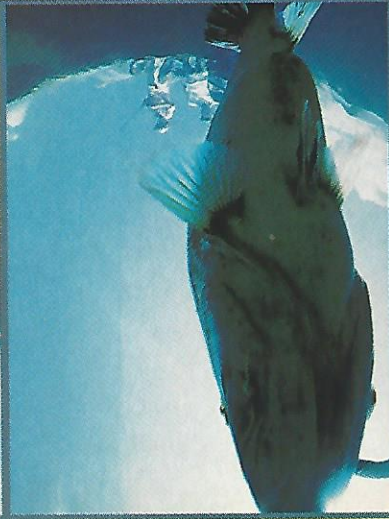
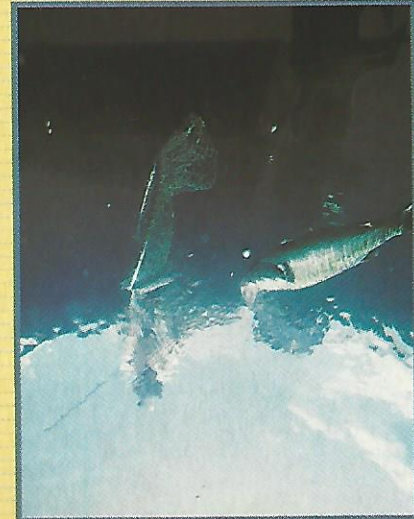
Anglers in the know stay at Gayles Bed & Breakfast, a maple-shaded frame house 100 yards from the lake. Anglers gorge themselves with so much breakfast (try the killer french toast) that most forego lunch and some opt for only a light dinner at the great diner next door.

**P**UT-IN-BAY ON SOUTH BASS ISLAND IS THE CENTER of one of the best walleye fisheries in Lake Erie. Walleyes up to 10 pounds come from these waters. Fish them through the ice or in the lee of the islands in spring. Summer brings smallmouth bass, then the walleyes turn on again in fall. Guides are available, as are ships for your boat.

Wake up in the center of walleye country.

Put-in-Bay, Ohio

**GAYLES BED & BREAKFAST**



**STATISTICS**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Rainbow trout, largemouth bass.  
**RATES:** From \$109 per day for 2. **CONTACT:** Big Cedar Lodge, Dept. SA, 612 Devil's Pool Rd., Ridgedale, MO 65739, 417/335-2777.

Guides are also helpful for bass in challenging Table Rock Lake back at the edge. A showplace among America's fishing resorts, accommodations here range from modest hotel rooms to luxurious suites decorated with mounts of game and fish and equipped with jacuzzis and fireplaces. Several restaurants offer impressive dining.

Carefully wood Canyon Nature Park, 20 minutes from Big Cedar Lodge. Carefully hatched, this spring-fed stream is stocked with huge rainbows (up to eight pounds). There's no need to wade; fishing is fully catch and release, but you must be a guide.

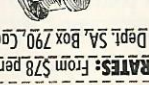


**WHAT'S NEW? BASS PRO SHOPS' JOHN MORRIS HAS OPENED A PRIVATE TROUT STREAM in his 10,000-acre Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, 20 minutes from Big Cedar Lodge. Carefully hatched, this spring-fed stream is stocked with huge rainbows (up to eight pounds). There's no need to wade; fishing is fully catch and release, but you must be a guide.**

**BIG CEDAR LODGE**

Ridgedale, Missouri

**MIDWEST**



**CONTACT:** Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Dept. SA, Box 290, Cordiz, KY 42211, 1-800/325-1708.

**STATISTICS**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Largemouth bass, cobbler.  
**RATES:** From \$78 per person, per night, double occupancy. Accommodate guests, or you can put up in the 78-site campground. With its full-service marina (guides, boat slips and rentals, bait and tackle) and 3600 acres (rentals and trap), there's plenty to do. The main lodge and cabins are available, as are ships for your boat.



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IS THIS GREAT RESORT AND ITS BASS FISHERY, so accessible to the midsection of the country. Lake Barkley's largemouth run is comfortably in the four- to five-pound range and hit best from March through June. Then warming water drives fish up. Cast into shore cover, paying special attention to willow clumps.**

Stay at a first-class resort with out-of-this-world fishing.

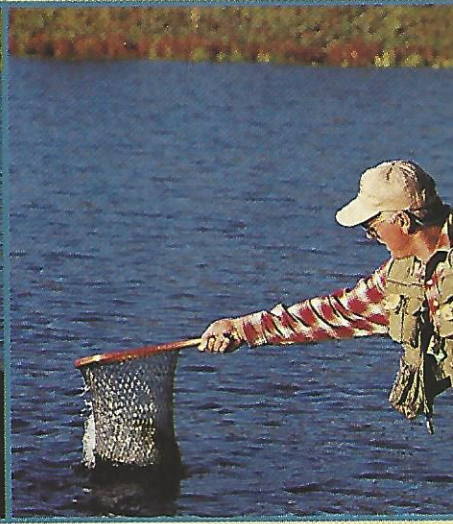
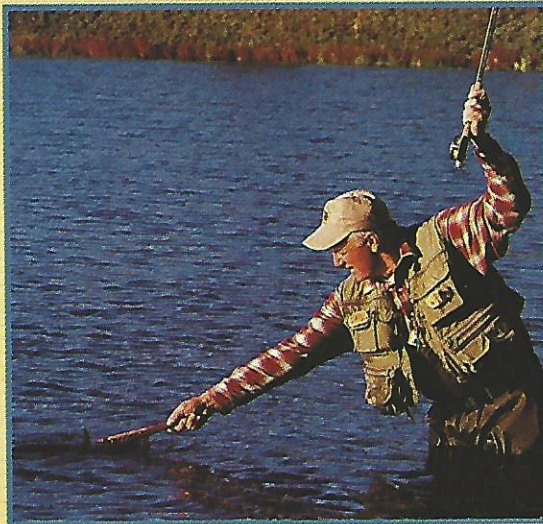
Cordiz, Kentucky

**LAKE BARKLEY STATE RESORT PARK**



## The Right Places

A fat rainbow is brought to net on the White River, near Seven Lakes Lodge, Colorado. Trout anglers should try the Williamson or Alaska's Yes Bay.



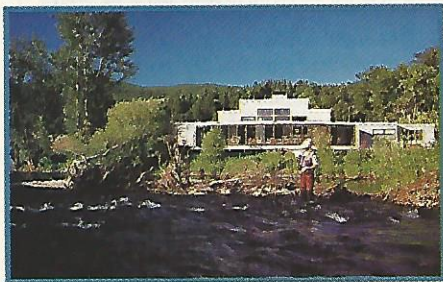
### THE COMPLETE FLY FISHER

Wise River, Montana

Fish for Big Hole browns while learning about ecology.

**N**O FLYFISHER IS COMPLETE WITHOUT AN UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES affecting that for which one fishes.

Along with technique, you'll learn about ecology here, but without any in-your-face environmental evangelism or preservationist proselytizing. And as you fish and talk with others, you may learn more about yourself as well.



Your labs are the Big Hole, Wise, Beaverhead and Ruby. You'll see some of the few Montana grayling, but you won't fish for them. You'll wade or drift for brown, rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout. At night, after dinner in the modernistic lodge, you'll sleep in your cabin or room to the sound of the river.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Rainbow, brown, brook, cutthroat trout. **RATES:** From \$2250 per person, double occupancy, for 6 nights and 5 days of fishing. **CONTACT:** The Complete Fly Fisher, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 127, Hwy. 43, Wise River, MT 59762; 406/832-3175.



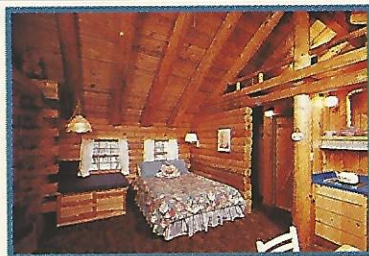
## WEST

### SORENSEN'S RESORT

Hope Valley, California

This Nordic resort is devoted to fishing in spring and fall.

**A**SKI RESORT IN WINTER, COME SPRING AND FALL, it's anglers who sit and rock in front of the woodstoves, feet toasting on the hearth in the quaint log cabins among the pines. A mile of the West Fork of the Carson River, stocked with 18-inch rainbows, runs through the property. The river is not wide, 20 feet in many places, and features riffles, pocket water, plunge pools and deep holes. You'll also find native brook trout up to 12 inches, and browns in



the 18- to 20-inch range. Fish with Judy Warren, who wrote the book about fishing the area. She can show you all the secret spots.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Rainbow, brown and brook trout. **RATES:** From \$65 per person per night. **CONTACT:** Sorenson's Resort, Dept. SA, 14255 Hwy. 88, Hope Valley, CA 96120; 1-800/423-9949.

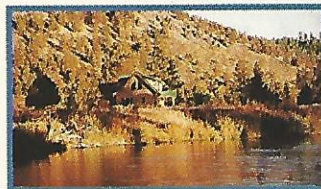
### LONESOME DUCK

Chiloquin, Oregon

At times, the Williamson fishes like a big spring creek.

**L**ONESOME DUCK OWNS A MILE AND A HALF OF THE Williamson, one of the best trout rivers in the state. Runs are deep, with massive rock structure. Fish Woolly Buggers or leeches from May through October. In the evening

when the wind dies, work a small dry over the weedbeds. You won't have to worry about setting the hook. The rainbows will do it for you.



Boats to fish the river are available at the lodge—three modern log houses can be rented with or without meals—guides, licenses and tackle can be found at the nearby Williamson River Anglers.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**KEY SPECIES:** Rainbow trout. **RATES:** From \$150 per person per night (minimum stay: 2 nights). **CONTACT:** Lonesome Duck, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 8164, Incline Village, NV 89452; 1-800/367-2540.



## ALASKA

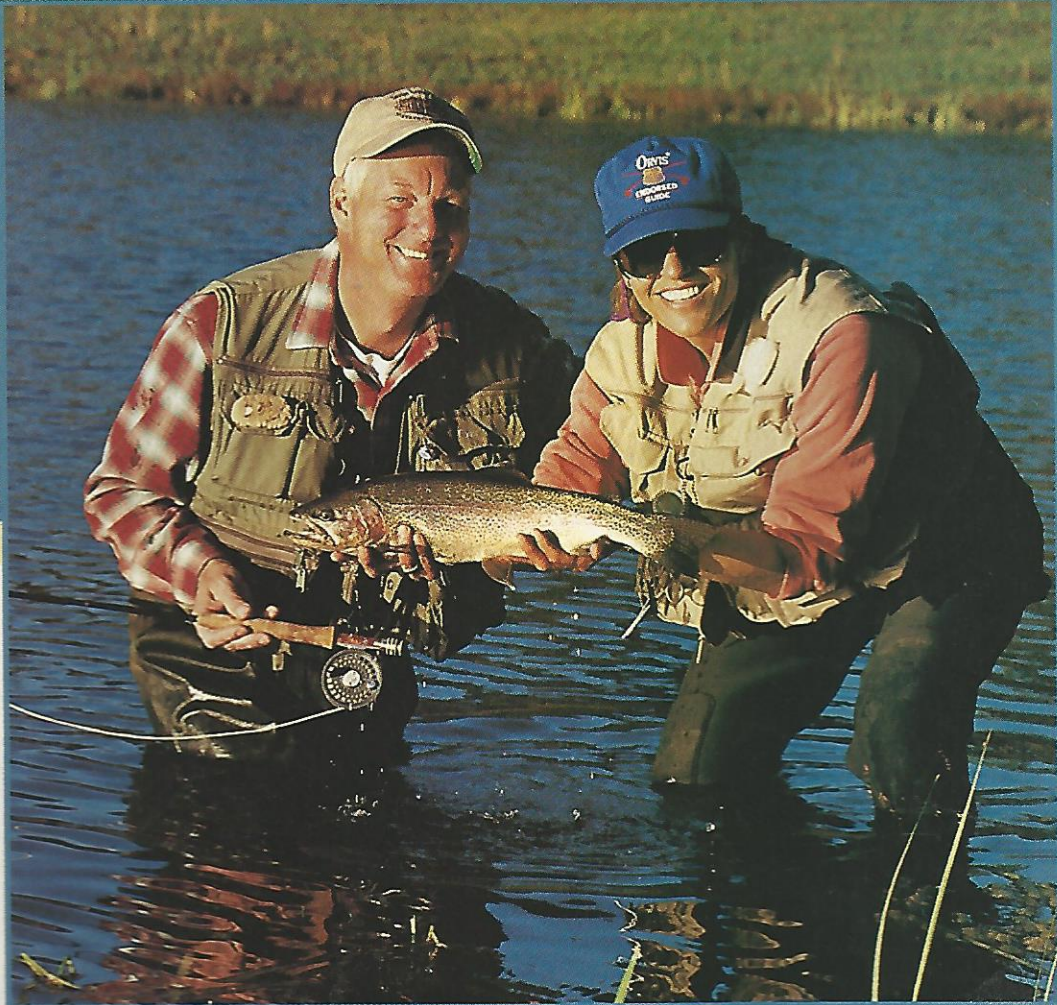
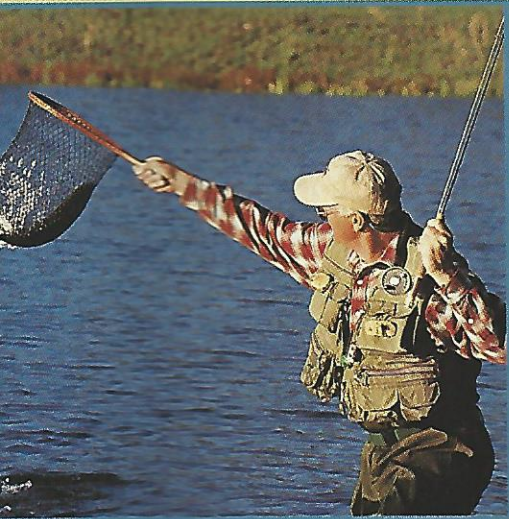
### KODIAK ISLAND RIVER CAMPS

Kodiak, Alaska

Driftfish down the Karluk for big salmon and steelies.

**D**AN BUSCH'S KODIAK ISLAND RIVER CAMPS IS a one-shop stop for anglers wanting to sample the variety of angling on these temperate islands just off Alaska's southwest coast. Fish for silver sal-





mon from belly boats from his camp (wooden cabins) on Paul's Lake in Afognak. Tent camp and float the Karluk for king salmon in June and steelhead in October. Or follow Kodiak's limited roads for sockeyes, pinks, silvers and Dolly Varden, and stay in Busch's comfortable bed & breakfast in town.

No matter how you do it, you'll eat well. Meals are prepared by Busch's wife, Randy, who teaches gourmet cooking in Kodiak.

**V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Silver king, sockeye and pink salmon. **RATES:** From \$1295 for the B&B to \$2495 for Karluk floats—all per person for 1 week. **CONTACT:** Kodiak Island River Camps, Dept. SA, Box 1162, Kodiak, AK 99615, 907/496-5310.

## YES BAY LODGE

Tongass National Forest, Alaska  
 Set your own fishing agenda, deep in Alaska's wilds.

**M**ANY ALASKAN LODGES HAVE SET FISHING PROGRAMS, BUT NOT SO YES BAY LODGE. Two anglers and their guide decide what it'll be. Troll or mooch for salmon. Jig bottom for halibut or rockfish. In May, steelheading (average size, eight pounds) in the rivers tumbling off the densely forested slopes can be fantastic. Rates are discounted in May and king salmon run in the Behm Canal past the lodge. What else could you want?

Accommodations at Yes Bay are gracious. Large rooms, carpeted and paneled in pine or cedar, are bright with large windows that give you views of bay or forest. Menus feature Alaskan seafood, poultry, pasta and prime rib.



**V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S**  
**KEY SPECIES:** Salmon and steelhead. **RATES:** From \$2265 per person for 4 nights and 3 days. **CONTACT:** Yes Bay Lodge, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 6440, Ketchikan, AK 99901, 1-800-999-0794.

## THE EDITORS' CHOICES

We twisted arms and got some of our editors to reveal lodges they consider special.

**TERRY McDONELL**, editor-in-chief/publisher  
 LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK RANCH, Dept. SA, 777 Country Road 1, Walden, CO 80480; 970/723-4209.

"Great fish, in a great place to fish, with great people to fish with." (You'll hear more about this place come elk season.)

**JAY CASSELL**, articles editor  
 AIR MELANÇON, Dept. SA, 2 Chemin Tour-du-Lac, Ste.-Anne-du-Lac, PQ, Canada J0W 1V0; 1-800/586-2201.

"I took my 11-year-old son to one of Air Melançon's wilderness cabins, on Reservoir Gouin, and we had the best father/son fishing experience imaginable. Walleyes and northern pike from dawn until dusk."

**HOMER CIRCLE**, bass fishing editor  
 WATERFALL RESORT, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 6440, Ketchikan, AK 99901; 1-800/544-5125.

"Best value for amount of dollars spent on the quality of fish—big fish!"

**GERALD ALMY**, lures and flies editor  
 BIENVILLE PLANTATION, Dept. SA, 111 Orange St., Macon, GA 31211; 912/755-0705.

"A palm-shaded lodge, great catch-and-release fishing, and a variety of lakes from one to 1000 acres make Bienville my favorite lodge for southern bass fishing."

**FRED KESTING**, executive editor  
 CHEECA LODGE, Dept. SA, Mile Marker 82, P.O. Box 527, Islamorada, FL 33036; 305/664-4651.

"Great accommodations and outstanding bonefishing."