

Wading Gear

Aquaz Kenai Convertible Wader

www.aquazfishing.com

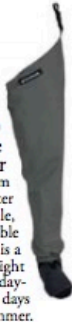
The Kenai Convertible Wader is constructed of three-layers of AQUALEX breathable, waterproof fabric. This is a lightweight, stocking foot wader, with 4mm neoprene booties. The wader has a zippered mesh front pocket and fleece-lined hand-warmer pockets, as well as built-in gravel guards and nylon wading belt. The convertible suspender system allows you to roll down or lower the top section of the wader to convert it to waist-high, a very appealing feature during the middle of summer. What's more, we've found that during cooler seasons when you're wearing a jacket over the waders, men can actually lower the front of the waders enough to answer the call of nature without having to take off your jacket, your pack or whatever else you have on. Though these are lightweight waders designed for summer fishing, the cut is generous enough to wear layers underneath for early spring or late fall Alaska fishing. This wader can be ordered direct from Aquaz's website and custom sizes can be made.



Patagonia Men's Rio Gallegos Zip Front Wader

www.patagonia.com

These high-end breathable waders are comfortable yet tough and durable, thereby garnering our respect after a full summer of hard use. Our tester commented that the booties fit better than on most waders, and he was impressed with all the interior and exterior pockets allowing for a lot of storage, as well as several places to attach tools.



Compass 360 Stillwater Breathable Hipper

www.compass360gear.com

Our tester loved the Stillwater Breathable Hipper for its simple, functional design and durable performance. This hip boot is a terrific value and is just the right choice for your road-system day-trips next year on the hottest days of summer.



Redington Prowler Wading Boot

www.redington.com

The boot has a sticky rubber sole that gives good traction on slick river rock. Lightweight and comfortable, yet stout with good ankle support, the soles on these boots also conveniently accept studs.



Simms Headwaters Boot

www.simmsfishing.com

Built to excel in the drink, Simms Headwaters Boot was a favorite of our testers this year, as it's lightweight yet durable and gave peace-of-mind when wading tricky waters due to the boot's stability and slip-resistant control.



OPST Wading Staff

www.opskagit.com

If you wade aggressively, a wading staff is a vital piece of equipment. OPST hit it out of the park with theirs. It is stout, yet relatively light, and it is a four-piece model made of heavy-walled aluminum, with heavy bungees that automatically pull the pieces into place. Simply pull it out of its neoprene case you've attached to your wading belt and it snaps itself together. The handle is made from comfortable foam that is warm to the touch. It's also adjustable for height over a range of five inches. The tip is machined to a dull point. A three-foot heavy bungee with a snap is attached to the end of the handle, enabling you to clip it to your person and let it hang while fishing.

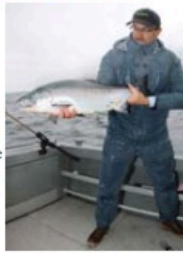
Apparel:



Grundéns Dark and Stormy Jacket and Bib Pant

www.Grundens.com

The set is lightweight, tough and waterproof, which are good traits to have for saltwater clothing in Alaska. Both the jacket and bib are made from eVent fabric that is both waterproof and breathable. On offer are ample pockets, including kangaroo chest-warmer pockets in the bib pant, which we found nice considering the cold and rain experienced in the fall on the saltwater in Alaska. Other features we appreciated are the waterproof crotch zipper, adjustable cuffs, recessed neoprene adjustable wrist cuffs, roll-away drop-hood and D-ring tool attachments.



Drift Creek Stormbloc Woman's Togiak Softshell Jacket

www.dryangler.com

Our tester liked the function, style and comfort of this jacket, which offers a three-layer shell fabric that provided good water-repellant properties in light rain. With Spandex built-in to the design, the jacket also delivers good range of motion for casters, and a standup collar, reversible center-front zipper and hemmed cuffs add to the features.



Montbell Superior Down Parka, Women's

www.montbell.us

Already loving a variety of Montbell jackets, our tester immediately fell for the Superior Down Parka. It's light in weight and is highly compressible, meaning it was easy to pack for extended trips, but the jacket really stood out when put on during inclement weather, as its cozy-comfortable warmth was of paramount importance at some point during all those excursions and the loose fit allows her to layer up.

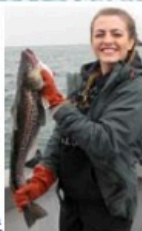


Jacket & Pants

Helly Hansen Women's Seven J Jacket

www.hellyhansen.com

Our tester commented that this jacket made the day in a steady downpour tolerable and even enjoyable. The jacket is windproof and provides warmth when worn over other layers, and is well designed with pockets that kept her and her phone dry. She said it is comfortable to wear all day, fishing or around town, and she recommends it.



Mountain Hardwear Sawhorse Convertible Pant

www.mountainhardwear.com

These pants were among our favorite items of the year. They are supremely comfortable and versatile, incorporating many strategically placed pockets as well as ankle zippers to easily put the pants on and off while wearing boots, and zip-off legs to convert the pants to shorts.



Grundéns Stormlight Jacket Mens

www.grundens.com

Super light and tough, we stayed dry through some nasty downpours on the Nushagak in July 2016 with this jacket. Features include an adjustable hood, waterproof front zipper and large storage pockets. The breathable jacket is functional and packable and a great choice for the angler heading to Alaska. It's available in five colors and six sizes.



Drift Creek Outdoors Granite Rainwear

www.dryangler.com

This rainwear is tough and completely waterproof, and those are essential qualities in rain gear, especially in Alaska. When moving, the rain gear is quiet, making it a good choice for hunters and anglers.

