



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
KENAI/PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA OFFICE

514 Funny River Road
Soldotna, AK 99669
Main: 907.714.2471
Fax: 907.260.5992

January 09, 2020

Dear Kenai River Commercial Operator:

Please read this entire letter carefully as some requirements have changed.

Permit Fees:

- A \$100.00 non-refundable permit application processing fee will be applied to all State Park commercial operator permit applications.
- The fee for Kenai River Fishing Guides commercial use permit has changed to \$1000.00 for residents and non-residents (total of \$1100.00 including application processing fee).
- The fee for commercial activities permit, other than guided sport fishing conducted in the Kenai River Special Management Area, has changed to \$350.00 for residents and non-residents (total of 450.00 including application processing fee). The permit fees cover all employees of the business at no additional charge.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Per client fees for guided scenic tours is \$2 per client per day. Per client fees are not charged for guided sport fishing.

NEW THIS YEAR: Alaska State Parks will be issuing the ADF&G Business Owner/Guide License:

Applications for 2020 Saltwater and Freshwater Sport Fish Business Owner/Guide License applications are available at the Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, AK 99669. Licenses can be purchased online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>. You are required to provide proof of a current valid ADF&G Business Owner/Guide License prior to being issued a State Parks Commercial Operator Permit.

Pre-Qualification Requirements: To avoid any permitting delays please take the time to review the pre-qualification requirements for the Kenai River Guides. **You are responsible** to ensure that an updated copy of all the required documents are submitted and/or on file with the Alaska State Parks Permitting Office. When applying for the commercial operators permits **all** copies of required documents shall be submitted along with the permit fee. When this is completed a permit with an identification card and decals will be issued. Only after an operator is permitted are they authorized to provide guide service within the park. It is unlawful for anyone to provide guide services in any State Park unit until a permit has been issued under 11AAC 18. **In-Person permitting will be done by appointment only.** Please call 907-714-2471 to make an appointment. Permit renewals, updated

documentation, and correspondence received via email or mail will be processed in the order they are received. We will gladly copy paperwork and add information to your file at any time.

Kenai River Guide Academy: Anyone who intends to register as a Kenai River Sport Fishing Guide will need to successfully complete the Kenai River Guide Academy (KRGGA) prior to applying for a permit. A copy of your KRGGA certificate is required for registration. For more information, you can contact the Kenai Peninsula College at 262-0330. A web site is also available with the KRGGA information: www.krga.org.

Illegal King Salmon Fishing: Targeting King Salmon during a period that is closed is illegal. State Park Rangers will be conducting extra patrols during periods of time closed to King Salmon fishing. If it is determined that a guide is targeting Kings during a closed period, the clients will be cited for taking King Salmon during a closure and the guide will be charged with a misdemeanor citation for assisting or allowing a client to violate a closure. The ADF&G definition for take is: taking, pursuing, fishing, or in any manner disturbing, capturing, or killing or attempting to take, pursue fish or any manner capture or kill fish or shellfish.

Sockeye Fishing: Over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of guided sockeye fishing trips in the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA). By law, a guide must remain within sight and sound of their clients at all times. If you plan on offering Sockeye Fishing trips remember that a registered Kenai River guide must stay with the clients at all times. Guides are not permitted to act as transporters by taking clients to a fishing site dropping them off and leaving them there without a registered Kenai River Guide.

Habitat Violations: As a Kenai River Guide it is your legal responsibility to ensure that your clients do not violate any State Parks or Fish and Game laws while under your services. With the increase in guided sockeye fishing trips the number of habitat violations has also increased. If you are taking clients bank fishing, it is your responsibility to ensure that the area is open and you can fish there. If clients are found to be in violation of a closed area they will be cited and the guide will be charged with a misdemeanor violation by assisting or allowing a client to violate and summoned to court.

Outboard Motors: All motors operated in the KRSMA, including both Skilak and Kenai Lakes, must be a four-stroke or a direct fuel injection two-stroke motor, regardless of motor size or month of operation. All motors are subject to inspection to verify horsepower and motor type.

Commercial Vehicle and Trailer Registration: Any vehicles that are operated within the Alaska State Park system by a commercial operator have to be commercially registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Proof of commercial registration for all vehicles and trailers associated with your business are required for a State Park permit. Alaska state law requires that persons entering Alaska to work must register their motor vehicles in Alaska, within ten (10) days of arrival. Temporary registration is only valid for 30 days. Permits will be suspended for anyone who does not provide their permanent registration before the 30-day temporary permit expires.

Commercial Operator Decals: A numbered vehicle decal will be issued to the vehicle and the decal shall be permanent affixed to the lower corner of the driver side of the windshield. Decals shall not be altered or affixed to unauthorized vehicles. Any motor vehicle and attached trailer that is found in

violation of this requirement may be impounded and removed from the State Park at the registered owner's expense.

Safety Equipment: The permittee is responsible to ensure that the guide vessel or vessels is/are equipped, maintained and operated in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. This includes loading of the vessel not to exceed the U.S. Coast Guard/Manufacturer's Capacity information plate.

Boat Launches and Fees: KRSMA State Park boat launches are located at: The Pillars Boat Launch, Eagle Rock Boat Launch, Izaak Walton State Recreation Site, Bing's Landing State Recreation Site, and the Cooper Landing Boat Launch. Commercial operators using these facilities are required to pay the boat launch fee or purchase an annual boat launch pass. However, the boat launch pass is not honored at the Eagle Rock or Pillars boat launches. All clients are required to pay the daily parking fee for their vehicles. Annual passes may be purchased at the Gilman River Center or from volunteer hosts at state park facilities.

Restrooms: Public restrooms are located at the Kenai River Flats, Cunningham Park, Eagle Rock, Pillars, Ciechanski (directly upriver from River Quest), Big Eddy (upriver from Harry Gaines), Centennial Park, Swiftwater Park, Moose Range Meadows Public Fishing Facility (at the far end of East Redoubt), Funny River, Morgan's Landing, Izaak Walton, and Bing's Landing. In the Upper River, public restrooms are located at the Cooper Landing Boat Launch, Kenai River-Russian River Ferry Crossing and Jim's Landing.

Mandatory Orientation for new Non-Fishing Permittees: All new non-fishing permittees are no longer required to attend an orientation session **if the business that they work for has a copy of their orientation and safety program on file with Alaska State Parks. All scenic or non-fishing guide are still required to sign the Kenai River Scenic Guide Stipulations annually.**

Boat Specifications: Boats operating on the Kenai River are required to be exactly 21 feet or less in length or 106 inches or less in width.

Coast Guard vessel inspections: The Coast Guard will be offering pre-season boat safety checks. For more information please contact the Coast Guard at 235-3292.

Permits are required for fishing, tournaments, derbies and organized events in the KRSMA: For the KRSMA, due to the size of groups in relation to the river corridor, the limit **for on-river activities only**, is groups larger than **40** people. Any promotional, entertainment, spectator, or competitive recreation event that attracts more than **40** people must first obtain a Special Park Use Permit. The Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan provides further guidance to limit contests and competitions to those not designed to attract large number of anglers and that are scheduled for non-peak fishing times or during periods of projected low stocks.

Vessel Registration: Sport Fishing guides are required to register both motorized and non-motorized boats with the Division of Motor Vehicles. The Certificate of Number must be carried aboard the boat whenever it is in operation. If you have questions please contact the DMV in the Red Diamond Center on Kalifornsky Beach Road or call them at (907) 262-4681.

Department of Natural Resources Commercial Recreation Registration: Commercial users of general state lands and waters are required to register with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DNR/DMLW). Please contact the Anchorage DNR Public Information Center at (907) 269-8400 with any questions you may have about the registration.

Random Drug Testing: Operators who are required to hold a U.S Coast Guard License for their business operations in State Parks will be required to present to the State Park permitting staff documentation, including **expiration date** that they are registered in a marine random drug testing program. Alaska State Parks will verify registration in the random testing program and monitor test results. Alaska State Parks may impose an in-season permit suspension to anyone who has a verified positive test for drugs or alcohol. If you have any questions regarding the drug-testing program, please contact the U.S. Coast Guard in Anchorage at (907) 227-9248.

Check the Pre-Qualification List: Please review the enclosed pre-qualification criteria. If you have any additional questions regarding this letter or any matters concerning Non-Competitive Commercial Use Permits call Pam Russell at (907) 714-2471 or email at Pamela.Russell@alaska.gov.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful business season in 2020

Sincerely,

Pamela Russell/Jacques Kosto
Natural Resource Specialist III/Chief Ranger
Enclosures