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## **Sunken vehicle retrieval to close Chena River to traffic Saturday**

**(Fairbanks, AK)** – A section of the Chena River will be closed to boat traffic Saturday afternoon while crews work to remove an abandoned truck that poses a hazard to navigation.

Staff from the Alaska departments of Natural Resources and of Fish and Game will lead the effort to remove the truck, scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to as late as 4 p.m. Divers will be in the water, and cables will be stretched across the river from Anderson Road to the truck, near the river's west bank at approximately river mile 2.

Access through the area will be restricted to ensure the safety of the dive team and avoid the cables which may be below, at or above water levels, said Alyssa Millard, a natural resources specialist with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The truck sank through river ice on April 4, but recovery efforts have been delayed due to high water levels and the presence of ice. Alaska State Troopers have issued multiple citations to the owner.

Removal of the truck will be one of the first projects for DNR's newly organized Statewide Abatement of Impaired Land (SAIL) section. The importance of safe and efficient traffic on the Chena made removing the truck an appropriate early project for the section, Millard said.

State officials and their contractors will do their best to retrieve the truck as quickly but safely as possible, said Millard, who expressed appreciation in advance for the public's understanding and cooperation in respecting the temporary river closure.

For updates on the Chena River closure and reopening, see the "Newsroom" section of DNR webpage at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/>, visit DNR's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AKDNR/?ref=bookmarks>, or call (907) 451-2739.

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