



January 1, 2019

Dear Kenai River Commercial Operator:

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 not changed and remains \$700.00 for residents (total of \$800.00 including application processing fee) and \$1600.00 for non-residents (total of \$1700.00 including application processing fee).
- The fee for commercial activities permit, other than guided sport fishing conducted in the Kenai River Special Management Area, has not changed and remains \$250.00 for residents (total of \$350.00 including application processing fee) and \$750.00 for non-residents (total of 850.00 including application processing fee).
- The fee for a permit for commercial activities other than guided sport fishing for businesses required to obtain a special use permit from the Kenai Wildlife Refuge and whose activities will occur within that portion of the Kenai River Special Management Area bounded by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge has not changed and remains \$100.00 for residents (total of \$200 including application processing fee) and \$300.00 for non-residents (total of \$400.00 including application processing fee).

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

Alaska State Parks will no longer be issuing the ADF&G Business Owner/Guide License:

ADF&G Business Owner/Guide Licenses and logbooks will **not** be available from Alaska State Parks at the Gilman River Center. Please obtain your business owner/guide license **BEFORE** registering with Alaska State Parks. 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.

Applications for 2019 Saltwater and Freshwater Sport Fish Business Owner/Guide License applications are available at the ADF&G offices located at 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Suite B, Soldotna, AK 99669-8276. Licenses can be purchased online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>

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 up to date 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 have been 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 (KRGa) prior to applying for a permit. A copy of your KRGa 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 KRGa 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. 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 Kenai River Special Management Area, 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 Operator Stickers: Any vehicles that are operated within the Alaska State Park system by a commercial operator should be commercially registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Once this is complete, a copy of the registration will need to be submitted to the Alaska State Parks Permitting Office. 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. Stickers 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. **Permanently registered vehicles are not considered commercially registered.**

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: 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. The use of these facilities requires a fee or a State Parks boat launch decal, except that the boat launch decal is not honored at Eagle Rock or The Pillars. All clients will be required to pay the daily parking fee for their vehicles.

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 will be required to attend one 6-hour orientation session. **The orientation dates are May 18 and June 1, 2019.** All the orientation sessions will be held in the Copper Landing Area, (location to be determined) and are scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All new non-fishing permittees in addition to attending orientation will have to present their safety briefing that they would give to their clients. This presentation will be one on one with a Parks staff person and be conducted on the same day as the orientation. Please contact Pam Russell (907-714-2471) or at (Pamela.Russell@alaska.gov) at the Gilman River Center to register for one of the orientations.

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 Kenai River SMA, due to the size of groups in relation to 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 a 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 land 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.

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 Pam Russell at Pamela.Russell@alaska.gov.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful business season in 2019

Sincerely,

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