



State Of Alaska

Press Release

For Immediate Release: August 20, 2026

Commercial Permit Required for Use of State Park-Managed Waters

(Ketchikan, AK) – Alaska State Parks would like to remind local Ketchikan businesses, guides, and tour operators that a permit is required before conducting any commercial activities on State Park lands or waters. This includes guided trips, charter services, portrait photography, transportation, outfitting, or rentals.

If your business uses Alaska State Park-managed waters—such as charter sportfishing, wildlife viewing tours, or guided paddling—you will need to secure a Commercial Permit ahead of time. Helpful resources, including our Fact Sheet on Park-Managed Waters, can be found on the Alaska State Parks website <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/permit/index.htm>.

In the Ketchikan area, Park-Managed Waters include locations in and around Black Sands State Recreation Area (including waters around the Blank Islands), Dall Bay State Marine Park, Grant Island State Marine Park, Betton Island State Marine Park, and Totem Bight State Historical Park. If you're unsure whether your activity takes place in one of these areas, you can explore boundary maps using Alaska Mapper—it's an easy way to check before heading out.

Commercial Operators can apply for permits online anytime, and fee information is also posted on the Alaska State Parks website.

If the public has questions, we're here to help. Please reach out to Ranger S. Daly at 907-220-7338 or sean.daly@alaska.gov

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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