



Boating Regulations

In Alaska, the International Rules apply to all boats on all navigable waters, including the Kenai River. The Rules assign tasks but never control entitlements. For example, although vessels in certain situations should keep out of the way of others, the Rules never grant my vessel the right of way. Also keep in mind that the ordinary practice of seamanship requires precaution and prudent action by all boaters at all times, under all circumstances. Knowing the Rules is important. Boat boaters must be constantly vigilant of the circumstances and be prepared to respond from the Rules, in necessary, to avoid a collision. Boaters should obtain and become familiar with the complete Rules available from a link on www.alaskaboatingsafety.org.

It is illegal to anchor in a manner that obstructs a primary traffic channel or fishing channel of any section of the Kenai River.

Downstream from Skilak Lake, all power boats are limited to six passengers on board, including the operator. In July, guides are limited to a total of five people on board including the guide.

Both state and federal law requires that life jackets be worn at all times by children under the age of 13 when in an open boat or on a deck.

Remember, you are not only responsible for your boat, but also your wake. Be sure to approach other boats, docks and banks carefully. To reduce risk, erosion and disturbance of spawning beds, use appropriate speeds and travel slower wherever possible to keep your wake low.

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Boating in the Kenai River SMA

The Kenai is a big, fast, and cold river. You must be prepared for crowded boating conditions, natural and man-made hazards and cold water. Kenai and Skilak lakes, in particular, are very cold and subject to sudden high winds and big waves. Drift boats, canoes, inflatables and power boats all have a place on the Kenai, so item the best places to launch your type of watercraft. You must become familiar with the complete Rules available from a link on www.alaskaboatingsafety.org.

No one ever expects boating emergencies, but they happen – always be prepared. Most boating fatalities on the Kenai involve a combination of sudden cold water immersion and fast currents. Without a life jacket, even the best swimmers are at high risk of drowning. The first and most important step in surviving a boating emergency is to **ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET**.

Area Regulations—General

Camping is only permitted in developed campgrounds. All other undeveloped state lands, riverbank and day-use facilities are closed to camping. Federal lands (Bureau of Land Management) are open to camping with a permit. Contact the International Wildlife Refuge at 800-742-6272 or www.iwr.dgfaid.org/en/ or with the U.S. Forest Service at 800-728-3374 or www.fs.fed.us.

Fires are permitted only in provided metal fire rings or in metal-bottomed fire pans with sides. Use only dead and down wood. Never leave your fire unattended until the embers are cold.

Please respect private property along the river. Do not trespass, dock, bank-fish or camp on private lands without written permission.

Boats operating in Kenai River SMA are limited to 21 feet in length and 106 inches in width, and a 50-horsepower motor, except on Kenai and Skilak lakes, which are unrestricted. All boat motors used within the area must be four stroke or Direct Fuel Injection (DFI) throughout the year.

Depending on the watercraft type and size, mandatory safety equipment requirements (if requirements apply) may vary. Check www.alaskaboatingsafety.org for the full list of requirements.

Fish

Time of Year		Entire Year	
January	February	March	April
May	June	July	August
September	October	November	December
		Mid-May to July 31	
		Early July 1 to July 31	
			Mid-July 1 to
			Aug. 1
			Mid-Aug. 1 to
			Aug. 31
			Early Sept. 1 to Sept. 30
			Mid-Sept. 1 to
			Oct. 31
			Mid-Oct. 1 to Oct. 31
			Mid-Nov. 1 to Nov. 30
			Mid-Dec. 1 to Dec. 31

Kenai River Special Management Area—Amenities

A. Kenai City Dock	■	■	■
B. Kenai River Flats	■	■	■
C. Cunningham Park	■	■	■
D. Eagle Rock	■	■	■
E. The Pillars	■	■	■
F. Clechanski	■	■	■
G. Big Eddy	■	■	■
H. Skilak Creek	■	■	■
I. Centennial Park	■	■	■
J. Soldotna Creek	■	■	■
K. Swiftwater Park	■	■	■
L. Rotary Park	■	■	■
M. Keystone	■	■	■
N. Funny River	■	■	■
O. Morgan's Landing	■	■	■
P. Izak Walton	■	■	■
Q. Birns Landing	■	■	■
R. Lower Skilak Lake	■	■	■
S. Upper Skilak Lake	■	■	■
T. Hidden Lake	■	■	■
U. Jim's Landing	■	■	■
V. Russian River Ferry/Sportsman's Landing	■	■	■
W. Russian River Campground	■	■	■
X. Cooper Creek	■	■	■
Y. Cooper Landing	■	■	■
Z. Quartz Creek	■	■	■
AA. Trail River	■	■	■
BB. Parmigan Creek	■	■	■
CC. Primrose Campground	■	■	■

Legend

—	Highway
—	Gravel Road
—	KNSMA Area Boundary
—	ADFG & Fish Sonar Counter
—	Boat Launch
—	Restrooms
—	Camping
—	Picnicking
—	Fishing
—	Drinking Water
—	RV Dump Station

Watercraft Requirements





Anchor River Fritz Creek State Critical Habitat Area

0 1 2 Miles

A map of the Arctic region showing the location of the study area in the Beaufort Sea. A red star marks the location, and a callout box labeled 'Location Map' points to the star.

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