

Item 6a



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794

Telephone: 907-283-3692 / FAX: 907-283-3693

MEMORANDUM

To: Kenai Parks & Recreation Commission
From: Robert J. Frates, Parks & Recreation Director
Date: September 28, 2004
RE: **Kenai River Personal Use Fishery - 2004**

Attached is the 2004 Kenai River Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Report. Also include are department reports along with recommendations for next year. Please review report and provide any comments or suggestions for next year's operation. Your input is valuable in making this fishery an enjoyable experience for participants.



KENAI POLICE DEPARTMENT

107 SOUTH WILLOW STREET KENAI, AK 99611

Telephone (907) 283-7879

Fax (907) 283-2267

September 6, 2004



To: Linda Snow, City Manager
Chuck Kopp, Chief of Police *luc*

FM: Kim Wannamaker, Lieutenant
Bob Frates, Parks & Recreation Director
Keith Kornelis, Public Works Manager

RE: 2004 Kenai River Personal Use Dipnet Fishery

The 2004 Dipnet Report includes this summary memo highlighting significant fishery observations, statistics, expenses and recommendations for the 2005 dipnet fishery; activity reports of Police, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works; and the Seasonal Enforcement Officer report detailing fishery observations, photos and recommendations for enhancing the North and South beach dipnet fishery.

The dipnet fishery opened at 6am on Saturday, 7-10-04 and closed at midnight, Sunday, 7-31-04. Most challenges associated with the fishery were anticipated and properly addressed by the City of Kenai during the course of the fishery.

The Police Department hired two non-sworn, unarmed Seasonal Enforcement Officers (SEOs) whose scheduled shifts provided coverage 7 days a week during the fishery. The SEOs overlapped during the week and worked cooperatively with Parks & Rec, City Dock personnel, and were assisted as needed by Patrol Officers. The SEOs were responsible for City Code enforcement (camping, parking, off-road vehicle operations, ATV use). This year was the first in the SEO position for both of them.

The Department handled 203 dipnet-related calls for service, compared to 38 in 2001, 49 in 2002, and 49 in 2003. The 49 calls for service in 2003 were actually more, but the daily iron ranger change-outs (Officers assisting Parks & Rec employees) were all logged under a single daily service call rather than individually numbered. The 2004 calls for service included cash pick-ups multiple times daily from the three pay shacks, plus iron ranger cash retrievals; Hit & Run complaints, illegal parking, complaints associated with campfires and littering, ATV & off-road vehicle operations, thievery, fights & disorderly conduct, and welfare checks. The Department also investigated one water death/drowning of a North Beach dipnetter in the mouth of the river, impounded 8 vehicles, issued 18 citations, and charged one person for negligent driving. A wrecker was called to the North Beach/Kenai Avenue area at least 14 times, however, only 8 vehicles were impounded because owners would often appear to move their illegally parked vehicles upon seeing police and a tow truck.

Sworn Officers spent 31 hrs and SEOs spent 204 hours on dipnet-related activity. A Honda 4-wheeler was again provided by the Kenai River Center and used extensively by the SEOs for patrolling the South Beach, Kenai Avenue, and the area north of S. Spruce extended on the North Beach.

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Manned pay shacks were placed on S. Spruce and on Dunes Rd, and parking/camping fees were immediately collected from fishery participants, cutting down significantly on unpaid parking issues experienced in previous years.

2004 Dipnet Fishery expense summaries are noted below:

Police Department Expenses (Labor)

Police Officers	(31hrs)	\$1,481
Seasonal Enforcement Officer ¹	(204hrs)	2,536
Pre and post-season meetings & planning	(28 hrs: Chief, Lt.,SEO)	920
Equipment & Fuel costs ²		<u>500</u>
Total		\$5,437

Parks and Recreation Expense Estimate

Materials & Supplies	28,466
Labor	<u>19,959</u>
Total	\$48,425

Public Works Expense Estimate for Kenai Boating Facility

Materials and Contract Services	6,692
Labor	12,619
Equipment	<u>2,515</u>
Total	\$21,826

Finance Department

Labor (dipnet meetings, processing payments)	3,500
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Grand Total Expenses **\$79,188**

Launch Ramp and Dipnet Parking/Camping Revenue **\$169,953**

¹ Labor costs are for both SEO's

² Patrol cars, the Dept. pickup, and 4-wheeler were the equipment expenditures for the fishery. The costs incurred in this category would reflect fuel consumption by the vehicles; driving to/from pay shacks, City Hall, police station, Kenai Avenue, and up & down the beaches on the ATV, and possibly idling time at any of the mentioned locations. With this in mind, an estimate of use would range from as little as 30 gallons to upwards of 100 gallons of gasoline.

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2004 Concerns and Considerations for 2005

Signage

Although signage was more streamlined than years previous, the multiplicity of signs, sizes and locations still proved confusing to dipnetters who were “first timers” or who only come to Kenai once a year, for the fishery. A master signboard for the North and South beaches would serve as a focal point for dipnetters to review Kenai Municipal Code ordinances, dipnet fishery regulations, and park/camp fees. Individual signs would still be necessary to mark beach access points, handicap parking, and areas prohibited to vehicular traffic. Ideally, this signboard would be located at the pay shacks, where attendants could give out information and answer questions related to the fishery while collecting fees.

A single-sheet “parking areas” map would be a quick reference guide for the pay shack people to distribute to arriving drivers; this information could also be added to the website and media outlets. An enlarged version of this suggested map could be weatherproofed and posted on a master signboard, the outside of the pay shacks, and other places frequented by out-of-town dip netters.

Paid Parking

A huge increase in compliance was seen this year as a result of installation of manned pay shacks that made it very convenient for motorists to pay as they arrived and receive up-to-the-minute parking conditions, fish reports, and other information. On the North beach (S. Spruce), particularly on weekends, the parking lot filled quickly and those arriving later tended to either park at the little league fields, or along the curb near the Catholic church/Anchor Trailer Court/Little League park. Some drove on the beach N of the access point (S. Spruce extended) if they had 4WD, and shack attendants reported some motorists simply left because there was no room. Police and SEO contacted many motorists in the S. Spruce parking area because they parked their primary vehicle in one spot, and their trailer and/or other equipment in the next spot (but only paid for one spot); all of those contacted either paid for the 2nd spot or moved stuff to make it available.

Either as a result of a full parking lot or personal convenience, several motorists parked on the gravel beach access pad, blocking to/from access for other beach drivers and commercial set-netters hauling fish/gear on & off the beach. Tow trucks cleared the area, and some drivers complained there were no signs prohibiting parking there, while others claimed they’d been told by pay shack personnel that it was okay for them to park there.

A prepaid punch card or season pass would offer cash-handling relief. A transferable punch card/pass would be handy for families or groups and a window decal issued with the pass would save time at the pay shack and on parking enforcement.

Restrooms

There were minimal complaints regarding full, overflowing, or inadequate number of port-a-potties. An outhouse should be placed near the South Beach pay shack for employees’ use. The existing permanent restroom at the junction of S. Spruce/Kenai Ave. could be replaced by a fire & vandal-resistant concrete toilet for about \$24,000. The removed structure could be re-installed at another location (park, playground, camping area). The existing structure was periodically vandalized not only during the dipnet fishery, but other times of the year as well; it was burned, wood cut/pulled off, and Plexiglas damaged.

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Camping

Tents were allowed on both beaches this year with a camping permit (\$10/12hrs). This did not create significant police issues, save recurring trash problems and some difficulty with camping permits not secured to the tent(s) in a conspicuous place.

Recurring problems with camping are litter, fires, and habitat damage. Several campers on the North Beach set up between the Sewer Treatment plant and the high bluff below S. Forest/Toyon, and built fires ranging in size from small heating/cooking fires to raging bonfires, which had potential for spreading to the grass and other vegetation nearby. Continual police and SEO contact with these campers kept the fires controlled and, when requested, people generally did not mind moving their fires further away from the vegetation or making them smaller.

ATV use seems to increase each year and this year was no exception. There were more ATV complaints this summer, primarily on the N. Beach, than previous years. Pay shack attendants were able to keep track of the violators and provide relevant information to responding police/SEO, and more ATV riders were contacted; repeat complaints regarding the same ATV were nil once they'd already been contacted.

Dumpster Service

Dumpster service to the North Beach will need to be doubled in frequency. Trash accumulated to an unacceptable level in and around the North Beach dumpster on three separate days. Dumpster service to the South Beach should be added to next years operational plan for the fishery. See photos attached.

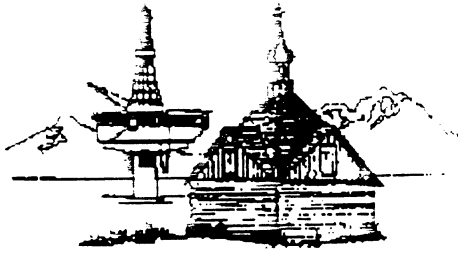
Traffic Congestion on Kenai Ave

This was not a problem except during mid-fishery weekends, with a flood of dipnetters arriving and leaving within a small time frame. It was anticipated that a lot of vehicles would be on Kenai Ave to unload/load their gear from the beach, and SEOs and police officers spent a lot of time maintaining traffic control, impounding vehicles as applicable, to keep the process moving as smoothly as could be expected.

If the Kenai Avenue turnaround could be enlarged there would be more room for vehicles to maneuver. An extension of Kenai Avenue would not have to encroach dunes or wetlands, while achieving a greater area. A circle drive at the end of Kenai Avenue would be ideal for creating 1-way traffic flow for loading/unloading gear.

The biggest problem with Kenai Avenue is it is barely 2-lanes wide. If one vehicle parks on the W side, against the concrete barriers, it bottlenecks traffic going both ways. Making pull-outs along Kenai Avenue would create designated load/unload areas without blocking the throughway. Many people do not load/unload at the turnaround because they dipnet up the beach (N) from the mouth of the river; it is more convenient to carry their load straight to the dunes/Kenai Ave than to haul their stuff to the turnaround or the beach access extension of S. Spruce.

For a more in depth review of the 2004 dipnet fishery and photos, please review the departmental reports included with this summary memo.



CITY OF KENAI

"Oil Capital of Alaska"

210 FIDALGO AVE., SUITE 200 KENAI, ALASKA 99611-7794

TELEPHONE: 907-283-7535

FAX: 907-283-3014

MEMO

To: Linda Snow, Kenai City Manager
CC: Lt. Kim Wannamaker, Robert J Frates
From: Keith Kornelis, Kenai Public Works Manager *KK*
Subject: Dip Net Fishery 2004
Phone: (907) 283-8232 Fax: (907) 283-3014
Date: September 1, 2004

Public Works Department upgraded the north and south side dip net area facilities and made some improvements to the city's overall operation.

- We closed Old Cannery Road extension with concrete barriers and barricades. Worked with DNR to obtain a temporary closure of the section line easement. We put up signs requested by DNR and completed the City of Kenai Detour Permit for closing the road.
- We moved all three pay stations in place and set up concrete barriers. (We have had a pay station at the dock for many years and our suggestion that we do the same for the north and south side parking paid off.) We obtained a Project Specific Permit from the Kenai Peninsula Borough to allow the city to place the pay station in the Dunes Road right of way to collect the beach-parking fee.
- We hauled gravel and graded the north and south side parking lots and beach entrances.
- We marked the parking spaces in the north side and dock parking lots and made and installed many signs in each location.
- We worked with Police, Finance, and Parks to develop regulations, policies, and operational procedures for the dip net operations.
- We scheduled the city employees for the dock boat launch and parking dip net operations.
- We placed ads in newspaper and radio about the dip net fishery. Developed informational sheet to help answer questions asked about the fishery.

Here are some suggestions for improvements to the dip net fishery:

NORTH SIDE

- Paving the area around the pay station and turn-a-round near the beach and the parking lot at Municipal Park. This is being bid September 7. The rough estimate is \$18-26,000. If council approves, this project will come out of our Municipal Grants Program fund.
- Provide electrical power to the pay station for lights & heat and area lighting. I think area lighting could be funded from the Municipal Grants Program fund.
- Not allow camping or fires on the beach from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (or S. Spruce) to the high bluff area to the north.
- Replace the existing old outhouse at the end of S. Spruce with a precast concrete outhouse at cost of around \$30,000. (Continue to use port a potties at the turn-a-round on Alaska Ave. during the dip net season)

SOUTH SIDE

- Survey the section line which is also the city limits and Old Cannery Road extension. This should be done now since beach access may have to change next year.
- Furnish a dumpster and a port-a-potty at the pay station and dumpsters on the beach.

DOCK

- Replace culvert under Boat Launch Road. This needs to be the top priority since we could lose the road anytime. (\$18,000). Could use Municipal Matching Grant funds.
- Build a Dock Exit Road and additional parking. Public Works is working on a land trade for this road. Could use Municipal Matching Grant funds since it will be an improvement to a transportation route.
- Build a right turn lane on Bridge Access Road from a new Dock Exit Road going south into Boat Launch Road. The city would need DOT approval. Could use Municipal Matching Grant funds.
- Pave the staging area in front of the restrooms and launch area and improve area lighting.
- Add two additional launch ramps and floats (have \$350,000 grant). Working on design.

Completed Dip Net Capital Improvement Projects

- Alaska Ave. concrete piles and aluminum walkways and stairs \$120,000
- S. Spruce Beach Parking and signs \$105,000
- Wetlands Protection Project and Bluff Stairs Improvements – This project is presently being worked on. It is being funded by a 50% matching grant from the US Fish & Wildlife (a total of \$24,000). It includes improvements to the trail from Municipal Park to the dip net parking lot, blocking access to the wetlands on S. Spruce and along the trail, and improvements to the stairs from S. Forest Dr. to the beach.

2004 Dip Net Expenses at the Dock **Materials and Contract Services**

Restroom supplies, pumping, and misc.	\$ 997
Portable toilets (additional)	1,250
Dumpster (additional)	413
Newspaper ad and payment receipts	1,286
Parking lot- signs, delineators, paint, etc.	1,188
Concrete barriers (for north & south side).	1,170
Other miscellaneous items	388
Total	\$ 6,692

Labor Expenses

Dock Manager	\$ 3,460
Dock Worker	4,981
Pay Station Worker	2,706
Streets- Pay stations, concreted barriers, signs	448
Streets- Parking Lots	1,024
Total	\$ 12,619

Equipment Expenses

Streets- Pay stations, concreted barriers, signs	525
Streets- Parking Lots (includes gravel cost)	1,990
Total	\$ 2,515

2004 TOTAL MATERIALS, LABOR, & EQUIPMENT COSTS **\$ 21,826**

The above does not include the contract services (\$1,550), the labor (\$5,088), nor the equipment (\$8,895) costs to set the launch ramp piles and floats and remove the mud from the launch ramps, which totals \$15,533.



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KENAI PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT


210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Keith Kornelis, Public Works Manager
Lt. Kim Wannamaker, Police Department

FROM: Robert J. Frates, Parks & Recreation Director 

DATE: July 30, 2004

RE: Parks Dip Net Report - 2004

The biggest change for the Parks & Recreation Dept. from previous fisheries was the purchase and staffing of the dip net pay shacks. Shack attendants started the evening of Friday, July 9th in preparation for the season opener on July 10th. Shacks were staffed 17.5 hours each day from July 10th through July 20th and 24 hours from July 21st through July 31st. Parks & Recreation also provided three (3) attendants to work at the City Dock during evening hours and weekends.

The Parks & Recreation Department provided shack attendant training and participated with Finance, Public Works, and Police on providing additional procedural training. The money handling procedures developed by Finance worked reasonably well. Shack attendant security is still a lingering concern, however, cell phones and frequent visits by KPD officers alleviated fears. Consideration could be given to providing alternative and convenient ways for people to pay, thus, eliminating some of the cash accumulation at the shacks. Although the fee structure was fairly self-explanatory, some discussion could be given to simplifying the fee structure.

The weekends of the 17th and 24th were extremely busy for shack attendants, particularly on the north side. Vehicle congestion during these weekends prompted us to staff additional help on the north side to assist with traffic control. The parking lot couldn't accommodate the amount of vehicle traffic during these times and warranted extra help.

Litter, Fish Waste, and Sanitation

Many dip netters disregarded the “pack it in pack it out” policy on the south beach, thus, prompted daily checks from the parks crew. Shop Maintenance placed oversized tires on the trash truck making traveling the beach access much easier. Most of the trash collected was not loose trash, but rather bagged and piled near the restrooms. Dumpster services on the north side were increased by one day over last season in order to meet the service demand. The fish waste dumpsters were used only moderately with most fish waste left on the beach. The Parks crew raked the beach after the fishery and was able to get it reasonably free of fish carcasses.

Thanks to the Boys & Girls Club, participants with Project Protect and ALPAR assisted with litter pickup and protection of the dunes once a week. The youth in these programs worked hard, took tremendous pride in their accomplishments, and enjoyed themselves every step of the way.

Portable restrooms were again provided on the north and south side and were serviced daily. Restrooms were able to meet demand and no problems were reported back from Al Gagnon and Sons.

Sand Dune Protection

With assistance from Project Protect, sand from the raised walkways was removed prior to the fishery, old barrier fencing replaced, and Project Protect signs put in place. Barrier fencing was also added on the south side, including signs. As part of their project, barriers were maintained every Thursday, in addition to, keeping beaches clean and speaking to people about their efforts.

Post Clean-up Activities

As previously mentioned, the north beach was raked following the fishery. Project Protect, ALPAR, and City crews also made a final sweep of the beaches. The associated dumpsters, portable restrooms, and fish waste dumpsters were also removed immediately following the fishery.

Considerations for Next Season

Season Pass:

A season pass or punch card system would allow people to pay in advance, lessen the amount of cash handling by shack attendants, and be more convenient for some users.

Electrical:

Adding temporary electricity to the north side shack would provide better lighting and security for attendant.

South Side Portable Restroom & Dumpsters:

A portable restroom near pay shack should be added for attendant's use. Due to amount of use and accumulated trash on the south side, a system to provide and service dumpsters on the south beach should be explored.

North Side Permanent Restroom:

Consideration should be given to replace the existing restroom at the end of Spruce Street. Existing restroom could be relocated to another area, perhaps Municipal Park.

Other suggestions include some paving at the end of Spruce Street, surveying of the section-line easement off Old Cannery Road, and no fires north of the beach access at the end of Spruce Street.

Parks and Recreation Expense Estimate

MATERIAL & SUPPLIES

Portable Toilets	\$17,000
Dumpsters	2,200
Fee Shacks	2,000
Preparations	4,800
Payment Envelopes	1,636
Bank Bags	250
Receipt Books	500
Fuel	80
Total	\$28,466

LABOR

Wages (fee station attendants)	\$15,000
Wages (dock work)	2,959
Wages (miscellaneous)	2,000
Total	\$19,959

Memo

To: Lt. Wannamaker
From: S.E.O. Espy and Giles
Date: 9/1/2004
Re: 2004 Kenai River Dip Net Fishery

The information included in this report is a summary of the Personal Use Dip Net Fishery that took place at the mouth of the Kenai River beginning on Saturday, July 10 and concluding on Saturday, July 31.

The fishery opened on Saturday, July 10 at 0600. To start, the fishery was only open between 0600-2300. This was the first year that the City of Kenai placed pay booths on both the North and South beaches. The pay booths opened on Friday, July 9 and were fairly busy collecting from dip netters staying the night for the 0600 opener. The pay booths collected \$10 for 12 hours parking and \$10 for 12 hours camping. The pay booths alleviated many problems from the last several years. There were only a few cases of people failing to pay. It was generally done while the pay booths were closed and was due to confusion. The Seasonal Enforcement Officers (SEOs) did not issue any citations for failing to pay during the 2004 dip net fishery. The City also limited access to the South beach to the Dunes Road access; concrete barriers were put in place at the beach access point off the end of Cannery Road.

The first week of the fishery was fairly busy. SEOs spent most of their time on the North beach controlling parking, controlling traffic on Kenai Avenue, and citing people for operating vehicles in the prohibited area South of the South Spruce beach access point. The parking lot was full but didn't exceed its capacity. Seasonal Enforcement Officers impounded 5 vehicles for illegally parking and issued 4 dip net related citations.

SEOs spent time at the South beach checking pay receipts; however, due to blocking the Cannery Road access and placing a pay booth on Dunes Road there were very few problems with people failing to pay.

On Saturday, July 17 there was a considerable increase of people and vehicles on both the North and South beaches. SEOs spent the majority of their shifts keeping traffic moving on Kenai Avenue. By early afternoon the north beach parking lot was full and vehicles went to the Kenai Little League Fields to park. People also began parking outside the concrete parking medians blocking traffic in the parking lot. SEOs were able to keep this under control by

placing orange traffic cones at the end of each parking row. Pay booth attendants also helped keep this under control by informing people not to park outside the orange cones.

Considerable time was also spent keeping the South Spruce beach access point open. People were attempting to use the access point to load and unload dip netting gear. People were also parking in the prohibited area on the beach North from South Spruce to the sewer treatment plant. This caused vehicles that were trying to exit the beach to get stuck in the sand. There were times when this area was so congested it would have been impossible to get an ambulance down to the beach had there been an emergency. When SEOs left the area vehicles would continue to park in this area.

On Sunday, July 18 the number of vehicles stayed about the same for the majority of the day. SEOs dedicated the majority of their time to the North beach on the same problems. Some time was spent at the south beach; however, the dip netters seemed to police themselves fairly well there. During late evening the majority of dip netters left both the North and South beaches, this caused a lot of congestion on Kenai Avenue. The rest of this week through Friday, July 23 was fairly slow and for the most part was limited to local residents and required less attention from SEOs. Seasonal Enforcement Officers impounded 4 vehicles and issued 1 dip net related citation during this first week.

On Tuesday, July 20 there was an Alaska Department of Fish and Game emergency order, which opened the dip net fishery to 24-hour dip netting. This alleviated the problem on Kenai Avenue of every body trying to leave at the 2300 closure. This made it possible for SEOs to patrol the South beach later in the evening.

Throughout the second week SEOs received multiple complaints of ATV use from people on the South beach. People indicated that when law enforcement was not present the ATVs were out of control. They explained that juveniles were riding at high rates of speed through campsites and the majority of them were not wearing helmets. People were mainly concerned about the ATVs colliding with pedestrians. Accordingly, SEOs increased their presence on the South beach, particularly in the late evenings.

On Saturday, July 24 there was again an increase in vehicles and people on both beaches that lasted through Sunday, July 25. The increase, however, was not as large as the previous weekend. People were more manageable but still required constant policing. SEOs continued to spend the majority of their time at the North beach but continued to maintain a strong presence at the South beach to keep ATV use under control.

The rest of the week through Saturday, July 31 remained busy and SEOs continued to deal with the same problems. SEOs also assisted in collecting envelopes from the iron ranger on the South beach through out the entire dip net fishery. Seasonal Enforcement Officers impounded 5 vehicles and issued 9 dip net related citations during this week.

SEOs made occasional stops at the Kenai City Docks. There was a large problem with traffic getting backed up from the pay shack to the highway. There was not a lot that could be done

about this problem. SEOs did make a few contacts with people illegally camping in the area and also contacted several people that failed to pay for parking.

SEOs spent a total of 204 hours on dip net related activities during the 2004 dip net fishery, 167 hours at the North beach and 37 hours at the South beach. SEOs also responded to or initiated 56 dip net related calls for service.

SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

OVERALL

The biggest change overall between this year and previous years was the placement of manned pay shacks at both the North and South beaches. This made the job as SEOs much easier and allowed us to be more efficient with our time and energy. This was determined to be a great success and it is suggested that this method be continued in future years. The majority of people contacted felt that the \$10 fee (for every 12 hours of parking/camping) was reasonable and fair. Over 95% of the people complied with the \$10 fee, and displayed their permit properly on their vehicles. Camping permits were much more difficult to check. Most people that were camping were normally down dip netting and away from their campsites. This made it difficult to know who to contact as the campsites were left unattended.

NORTH BEACH

Because of lack of space and parking, the North beach usually needed much more attention from SEOs than the South beach did. Consistently throughout the first two weeks of dip netting, even during the weekdays, the parking lot was anywhere from 75%-90% full, with the first three Saturdays reaching full capacity. During the last week of the season traffic was consistent, but most days the parking lot was only about 50%-60% full. Most of the heavy traffic on the weekends would arrive Friday evening and begin to disperse by Sunday morning or early afternoon. There was a definite increase in problems and municipal code violations on the weekends, relative to greater numbers of people at both beaches. Many of the citations we wrote and vehicles we impounded were for failure to read or see signs already posted either on the beach or on Kenai Avenue.

One large problem that existed on the North beach was moving vehicles that were parked on the beach between the beach access point and the North end of the sewer treatment plant. There was only one sign posted on the left side of the access point stating, "All vehicles must proceed North beyond the sewer treatment plant". Approximately 90% of the people contacted who were parked illegally in this area on the beach said that they did not see a sign that would prohibit them from parking there. The majority of them were happy to comply with this regulation and quickly moved their vehicles beyond the sewer treatment plant. One suggestion that could help alleviate this problem in the future is to rethink where the sign is posted at the beach access point, and also how it is worded. Secondly, more signs could be posted on either side of the beach access point. Thirdly, signs could be posted along that stretch of beach prohibiting parking.

Another problem related to the previous one is that of dip netters camping and setting up tents in the area between the beach access point and the sewer treatment plant. Many groups and families were asked to move from these spots. The common response received from them was, "There wasn't a sign posted saying 'No Camping', so we didn't think it was a problem". One suggestion would be, that the area between the beach access point and the sewer treatment plant be closed completely to camping as well as parking of vehicles, and that area be used only for vehicle to access on and off the beach and for pedestrians. One way to enforce this is to place signs along the dunes in this area saying "No Camping". Second, possibly place a sign at the beach access point prohibiting camping until past the sewer treatment plant.

Another point of confusion that the general public had about the North beach parking lot was the signs indicating, "parking/camping is not to exceed 12 hours in a 24 hour period. There were only two days out of the entire dip net fishery season in 2004 where this regulation needed to be enforced; Saturday, July 17, and Saturday, July 24.

Some other suggestions to improve things at the North beach would be to better specify where RVs are allowed to park within the parking lot, and to paint lines designating each RV spot throughout the lot. There were groups of people taking two and three spots in the RV section, preventing other RV's from parking there, and being able to use the beach for dip netting purposes. This would also help alleviate the concern that there are not enough RV spots in the North beach parking lot.

Another suggestion having to do with RVs is to designate at least two handicap RV spaces. The current spaces for handicap parking don't allow enough room for an RV to park, without blocking other traffic.

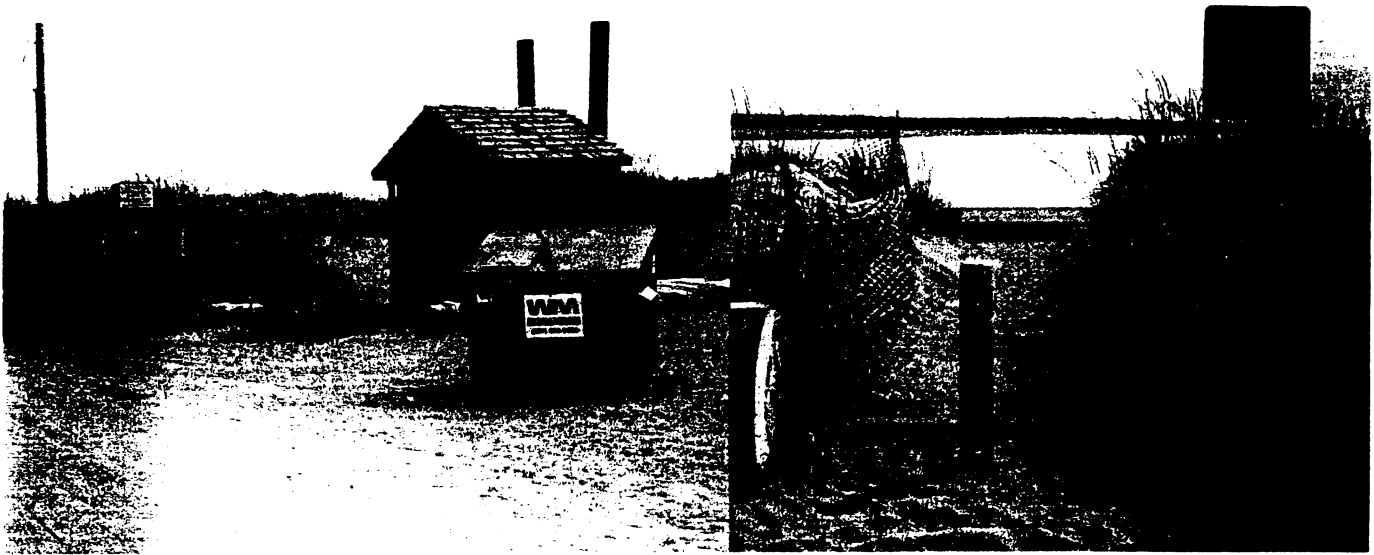
As a whole the traffic on Kenai Avenue moved pretty steadily throughout the three-week season. The only times traffic became a serious problem was when the fishery closed at 2300 hours, before it was opened to 24 hours, and also between tides when the fishing had died down. A large problem encountered on Kenai Avenue was that the majority of the people did not understand how Kenai Avenue was supposed to be used, and they did not know the time limit they had to unload.

A lot of time spent by SEO's on Kenai Avenue was spent explaining to people how they could more efficiently come down, load/unload their gear, and move their vehicle off Kenai Avenue. A couple of suggestions on how to alleviate some of these problems on Kenai Avenue would be, to first post a sign stating the time limit dip netters have to load/unload on Kenai Avenue. For example: "10 minute loading/unloading zone only". A second suggestion would be to place an explanation in the pamphlet given out to dip net users, outlining the correct loading and unloading procedures and guidelines for the usage of vehicles on Kenai Ave.

SOUTH BEACH

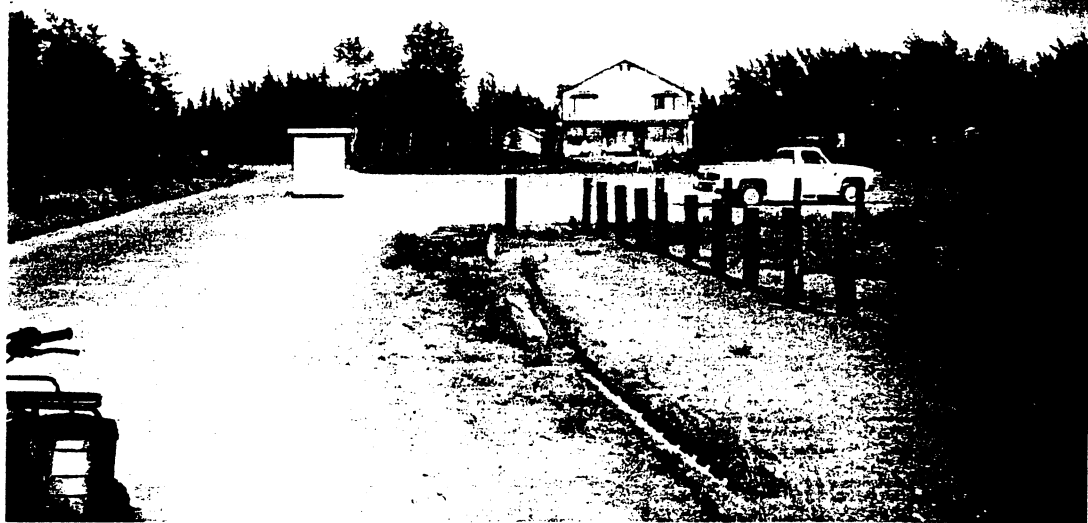
Everybody on the South beach seemed to police themselves rather well and the majority of the people displayed their parking permits in clear view. Having the pay shack at the entrance to the South beach on Dunes Rd. was a great success. The percentage of people complying with the \$10 fee increased dramatically from last year to this year, by just having a manned pay shack at the beach entrance. Everything seemed to go very smoothly on the South beach throughout the three-week fishery and needed much less attention from SEOs than did the North beach.

The only real concern that became a problem on the South beach was the use of ATVs. There were multiple complaints of reckless driving of ATVs throughout camps and the dip netting areas on South beach. The majority of violators were juveniles whose parents were not policing their children. There were also several complaints with juveniles riding ATVs without helmets. Those juveniles that SEOs came in contact with were warned and advised of the municipal codes they were in violation of. There are no suggestions on how to remedy this problem, other than to make constant patrols on the South beach throughout the dip net fishery season.



North Beach A Day or 2 Before the Dipnet Season





Dunes Road/South Beach Pre-season

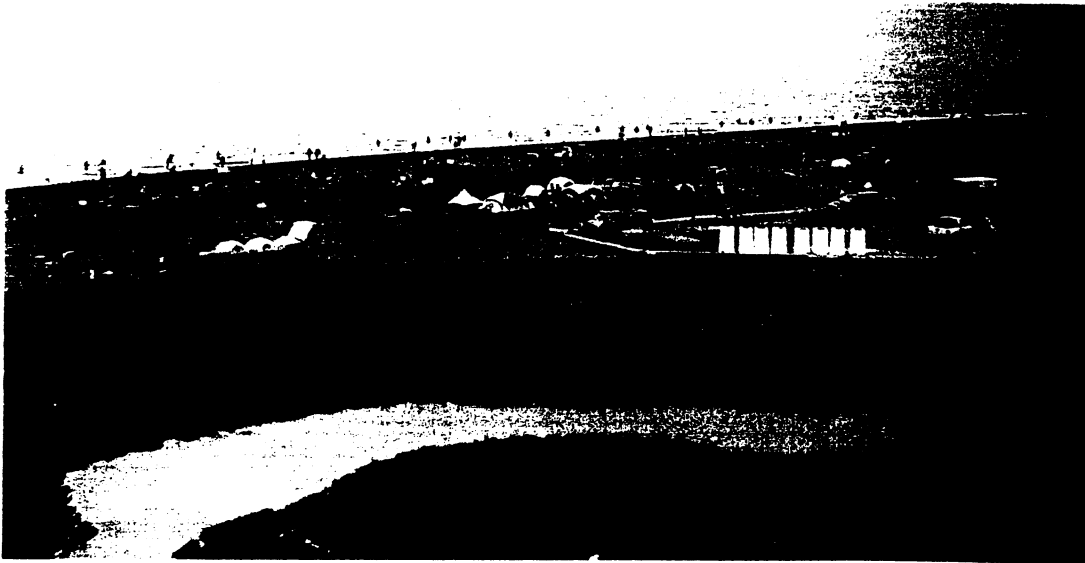


South Side Beach

JULY 17, 2004

S.Spruce @ Kenai Ave.





July 20: TOP- N.Beach/Kenai Ave turnaround
BOTTOM- N.Beach looking across river at S.Beach



July 23: S.Beach. Bottom sign says "No Camping"

July 25: N.Beach off Kenai Ave.

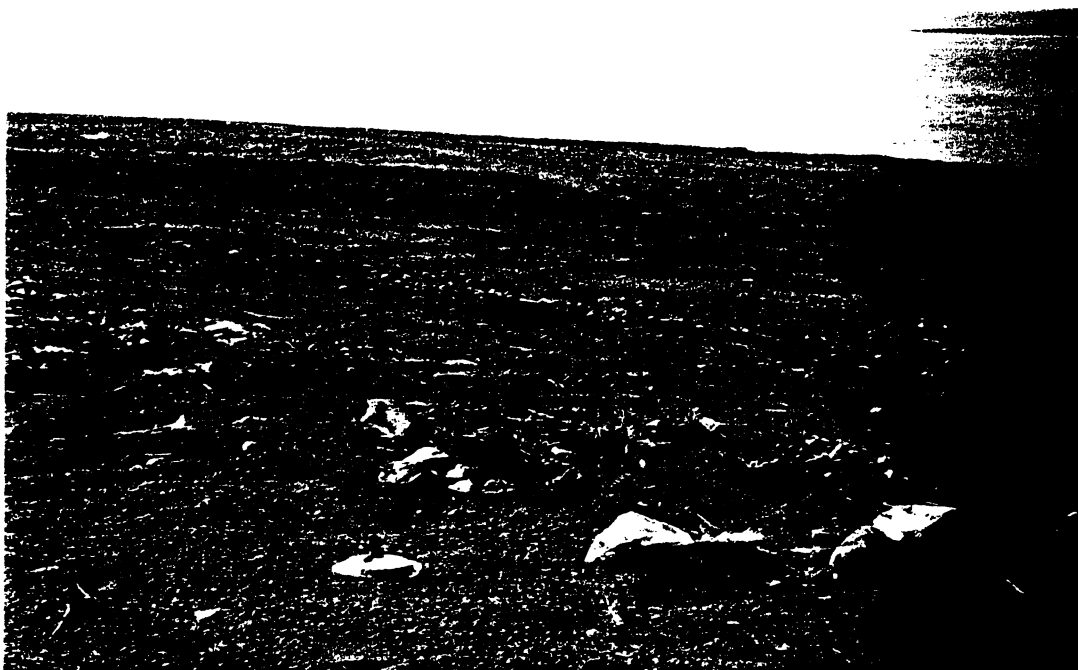




July 30: N Beach looking across at S. Beach

July 31: N & S Beaches. Last day of the dipnet fishery





South Beach post-dipnet fishery. Outhouses & iron ranger gone.

Bob Frates

From: "Scott Walden, Fire Chief" <swalden@ci.kenai.ak.us>
To: "Bob Frates" <bfrates@ci.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 11:40 AM
Subject: FW: Beach Fires

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Walden, Fire Chief [mailto:swalden@ci.kenai.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 11:16
To: 'kwannamaker@ci.kenai.ak.us'
Subject: Beach Fires

Kim -

This is the addendum submitted per Council and CM questions. Scott

September 16, 2004

TO: Linda Snow, City Manager
FROM: Scott Walden, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: ADDENDUM TO DIP NET FISHERY REPORT
Warming/Campfires and Camping on the Beach

As noted in the report presented to Council September 15, 2004 and in the citizen concern at Council about campfires on the beach, the dip net fishery brings change to our beaches each year. The influx of people due to the accessibility and popularity of the fishery will likely continue to grow and require reasonable, controlled accommodation by the City for camping and camp fires.

KMC 18.35.010(b) authorizes the City Manager to designate camping areas and for Council to establish camping fees, and outlines limits for camping in a designated area.

Consideration should be given to establishing boundaries for these areas on the beach that exclude areas near dunes or other sensitive areas, and adjacent to the bluff due to the concern of the spread of camp fires to residential and historical areas atop the bluff.

During the fishery camp fires should be limited to approved fire pits. These can be fire rings made of culverts or pipe. Each fire ring should be spaced on the beach to provide use by several camp sites, could be placed by Parks or Public works permanently or seasonally. They may require periodic debris removal, and should be set into the ground to resist theft and vandalism and to withstand occasional extreme tide changes.

Establishing these fire rings should cause people to gravitate to them rather than moving down the beach. Where an approved camping area has no fire ring for some reason, commercial camp fireplaces could be required. These are portable, screened fireplaces that are restricted to small fires due their size and construction, and are readily available for public purchase at The Home Depot, Carr's/Safeway, Three Bears and other retailers in Kenai.

When properly posted that cooking and warming fires are allowed only in approved fire pits and

9/30/2004

that open ground fires are prohibited, a reduction in ground fires should be realized, and those that do occur could likely be cited, with the responsible party being charged with a KMC violation, and possibly a misdemeanor:

AS 41.15.100. Setting Fires Without Consent.

A person who sets on fire timber, brush, grass, or other inflammable material located or growing on land that is not owned, possessed, or controlled by the person, without the consent of the owner or lawful occupant of the land, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Establishing restrictions within certain distances of the bluff would also be reasonable. Other than during this fishery, most groups using the beach for picnics or gatherings request a burn permit noting the responsible party, size and duration of the fire, etc. The burn permit process prohibits fires within 25 feet of structures and wooded areas. Alaska Administrative Codes define wooded areas as being those that include trees, grass, brush or other vegetation or groundcover that may catch fire.

The sheer quantity of people using the beach during the fishery removes all feasibility of an individual permit process, and allowing each person to dig a campfire pit will create a debris field and potholes across the beach.

Establishing restricted and approved areas for camping and campfires, and providing approved fire rings would essentially create a blanket permit within the boundaries that would serve the City well all year round, and should reduce the haphazard use of the beach for camping and fires. Posting this information with signs and in pamphlets should be notice enough to allow citation and/or eviction of violators. The KMC already prohibits burning of trash regardless of where it is.

For private property, KMC 13.10.060 requires sanitary facilities for camping on private property, and specifies that users must have written permission of the owner, and requires sanitary facilities be adequate in quantity and located within a reasonable proximity of the camping area.

On public land for this fishery the City provides sanitary facilities and provides permission when a fee is paid by a user. It seems reasonable that the City could use these parameters for public property when designating camping and fire ring sites.

During the 2004 fishery, the Kenai Fire Department responded to extinguish two campfires (both on N. beach), one drowning, one broken leg, and to perform a welfare check on two Coast Guard personnel repairing NavAid equipment at the mouth of the river near the N. beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Walden, Fire Chief

9/30/2004