

The Upper Kenai River

These banks are closed: Closed July 1-Aug. 15 within 10 ft. of waterline

- 23 Near JIM'S LANDING—north bank from river mile 69.7 downstream to an ADF&G marker just downstream of the boat launch.
- 24 At the RUSSIAN RIVER FERRY/SPORTSMAN'S LANDING—north bank between river miles 73.5 and 73.6
- 25 COOPER LANDING BOAT LAUNCH just past the Sterling Hwy. bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake—south bank at river mile 82.0 from bridge downstream about 1,000 ft. to an ADF&G marker.

The Kenai River supports the largest freshwater sport fishery in Alaska, with over 350,000 angler-days of effort recorded for 1996 (one angler-day is one angler making one trip to the river). Although many Kenai River anglers fish from boats, many also fish from shore, particularly when fishing for red (sockeye) salmon. No one thing causes river habitat breakdown, but constant foot traffic through important fish habitat certainly does have a negative impact on those young fish.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries is directed, through 5 AAC 56.065, to consider avoiding impacts to upper Cook Inlet river habitat related to recreational fishing. In this regulation, "river habitat" is defined as all areas within 10 feet in either direction of the waterline. The closed areas described in this brochure have been chosen mainly because of their importance in providing critical fish habitat, and/or because those areas are already heavily impacted by bank traffic.

Young fish require the slower water of nearshore areas, as well as lots of cover—trees, shrubs, and grasses—to hide from predators, and to keep cool. Overhanging vegetation also provides food

for the organisms that young salmon feed on. In Alaska, over 80 percent of young salmon can be found within 6 feet of the bank. When banks are trampled, they often erode, and faster water washes away the young fish.

Shore anglers can be part of the solution by following a few simple guidelines:.

- ❖ If you "pack in in, pack it out." Leave your fishing site as clean as you found it (or cleaner!) This includes picking up discarded fishing line that could entangle small fish and birds.
- ❖ Follow developed trails and access points.
- ❖ Leave the river at the same point you entered it.
- ❖ Get in and stay in. Stand in the river when fishing. If you "follow the fish," walk in the water, well away from the banks.
- ❖ Launch and retrieve boats only at a developed launch site.
- ❖ Become involved in land use planning efforts. Watch for notices of public meetings concerning development along your favorite salmon stream.



Seasonally-closed Banks on the Kenai River

To lessen angler impact on riparian habitat, riverbank closures are in effect July 1 - August 15. The river banks described in this brochure are closed to all fishing within 10 feet of either side of the water line.

Additional Emergency Order closures may be announced in-season.



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish
Southcentral Region

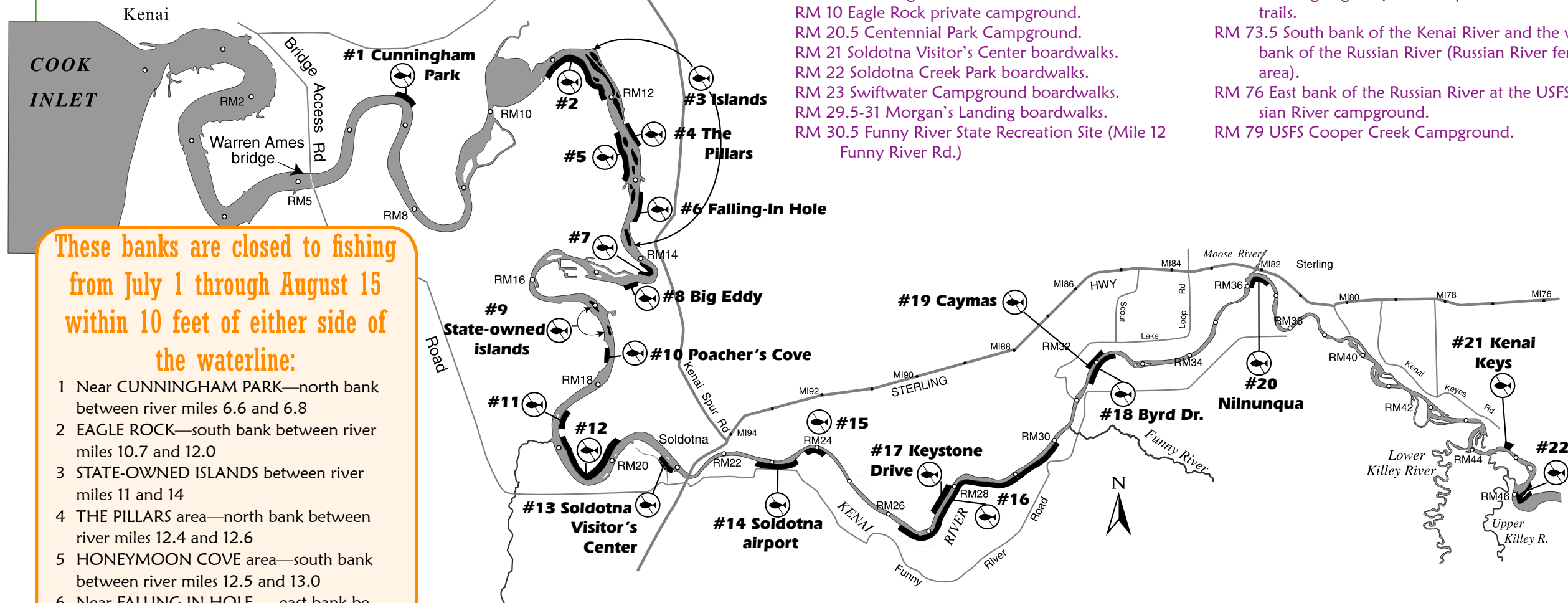
The Lower Kenai River

Where CAN anglers fish from shore July 1-Aug. 15?

Surf fishing into salt waters at the mouth of the Kenai River.

- RM 5 Kenai Flats State Recreation Site.
- RM 6.5 Cunningham Park boardwalks.
- RM 10 Eagle Rock private campground.
- RM 20.5 Centennial Park Campground.
- RM 21 Soldotna Visitor's Center boardwalks.
- RM 22 Soldotna Creek Park boardwalks.
- RM 23 Swiftwater Campground boardwalks.
- RM 29.5-31 Morgan's Landing boardwalks.
- RM 30.5 Funny River State Recreation Site (Mile 12 Funny River Rd.)

- RM 36.5 Izaak Walton State Recreation Site.
- RM 39.5 Bing's Landing State Recreation Site boardwalks.
- RM 71 Sterling Highway Mile 57 pullout hardened trails.
- RM 73.5 South bank of the Kenai River and the west bank of the Russian River (Russian River ferry area).
- RM 76 East bank of the Russian River at the USFS Russian River campground.
- RM 79 USFS Cooper Creek Campground.



These banks are closed to fishing from July 1 through August 15 within 10 feet of either side of the waterline:

- 1 Near CUNNINGHAM PARK—north bank between river miles 6.6 and 6.8
- 2 EAGLE ROCK—south bank between river miles 10.7 and 12.0
- 3 STATE-OWNED ISLANDS between river miles 11 and 14
- 4 THE PILLARS area—north bank between river miles 12.4 and 12.6
- 5 HONEYMOON COVE area—south bank between river miles 12.5 and 13.0
- 6 Near FALLING-IN HOLE — east bank between river miles 13.2 and 13.5
- 7 WEST BANK between river miles 14.0 and 14.4
- 8 Near BIG EDDY ROAD—south bank between river miles 14.4 and 14.6
- 9 STATE-OWNED ISLANDS between river miles 17.0 and 17.3
- 10 Near POACHER'S COVE — west bank between river miles 17.5 and 17.6

- 11 NORTH BANK between river miles 18.6 and 18.8
- 12 NORTH BANK between river miles 18.9 and 20.2
- 13 Near the SOLDOTNA VISITOR'S CENTER—south bank between river miles 20.9 and 21.0
- 14 Near the SOLDOTNA AIRPORT—south bank between river miles 22.7 and 23.5
- 15 SOUTH BANK between river miles 23.8 and 24.2
- 16 SOUTH BANK / FUNNY RIVER — river mile 26.4 to 30.0

- 17 Near KEYSTONE DRIVE—the north bank between river mile 27.3 (upstream edge of the boat ramp at the end of Keystone Drive) and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary at river mile 28 (near the power line)
- 18 Near BYRD DRIVE—the south bank between river miles 31.5 and 32.5
- 19 CAYMAS SUBDIVISION—the north bank between river miles 31.8 and 32.3

- 20 NILNUNQUA—the south bank of the Kenai River between ADF&G markers at river miles 36.0 and 36.6
- 21 Near KENAI KEYES—the north bank between ADF&G markers at river mile 44.6
- 22 THOMPSON'S HOLE — north bank between river miles 45.8 and 46.3

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