

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Steve Hayes, Area Management Biologist
Eric Newland, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 267-2105
Fax: (907) 267-2442

Anchorage Regional Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
Date Issued: 10/12/11
Time: 12:00 p.m.

**2011 Yukon River Fishery News Release # 60
2011 Lamprey Fishery Outlook, Regulations, and Management Strategies**
Districts Affected: Yukon River

The department has issued a permit to one buyer/processor, Kwik'pak Fisheries, to commercially target Arctic lamprey (*Lampetra camtschatica*) in the lower and middle Yukon River. The purpose of this permit is to provide commercial opportunity in areas of the river where lamprey are typically harvested. The department will also use the fishery to better understand lamprey distribution and abundance, to test market conditions, and to evaluate operational and catch characteristics of gear. The buyer has indicated that it anticipates operating from October 31 to December 10. However, the actual commercial harvest is expected to occur when conditions become suitable for fishing. If conditions are favorable, the harvest is limited to 20 metric tons (44,080 pounds) of lamprey.

The department will be contacting Yukon River communities to monitor the subsistence fishery, to track lamprey migration, and to coordinate the commercial fishery. Subsistence fishermen are encouraged to report river conditions as well as catch and effort information to the department.

Kwik'pak Fisheries plans to operate buying stations in Mountain Village and Grayling. Commercial fishermen intending to participate in the lamprey fishery should contact Jack Schultheis with Kwik'pak Fisheries at (907) 644-0326 to ensure they have a market prior to fishing.

The department would like to remind fishermen and Kwik'pak Fisheries of the following requirements:

- Only fishermen with a current 2011 Freshwater Commercial Fishing permit may fish in the commercial lamprey fishery;
- Commercial fishing gear is restricted to one hand dip net per Freshwater Commercial permit holder;
- An individual who possesses a valid 2011 Crewmember's License or a 2011 limited entry commercial fishing permit may assist the Freshwater Commercial Fishing permit holder with fishing activities (such as operating the dip net gear and/or transporting the lamprey);

- Fishermen are responsible for completing a Commercial Lamprey Dip Net Fishery catch log each time they fish. The catch log can be obtained from Kwik'pak Fisheries prior to fishing and must be returned to the processor at each delivery. Kwik'pak Fisheries representatives will assist fishermen in completing the catch logs as needed.

Compliance by fishermen and Kwik'pak Fisheries with the above requirements will be considered when reviewing commercial permit applications in the future.

Additionally, a subsistence lamprey survey postcard will be mailed in November to residents located in Yukon River communities from Mountain Village to Grayling. The intent of this survey is to better inform fishery management decisions in future years. Fishermen are encouraged to complete and return the prepaid postcard to the department once they finished subsistence fishing.

The department appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with fishermen and Kwik'pak Fisheries during the 2011 Arctic lamprey commercial fishery. To report river conditions as well as catch and effort information to the department, please contact Mick Leach at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Anchorage at (907) 267-2121. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Eric Newland at (907) 267-2217.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-