

Kenai River Guide Academy
Certification Program
April 29- May 3, 2013 Class Curriculum

Monday 8:00 - 8:30 AM: Welcome by: Steve McClure, President, Kenai River Professional Guide Association; Jacques Kosto, Kenai River District Head Ranger; and, Gary Turner, Director, Kenai Peninsula College and board chairman, Kenai R Guide Academy.

- Why this course was created – “Why are you here?” – presented by KRPGA president.
- Course requirements, permission to release contact information, testing, course evaluations (handout), and campus safety by Gary Turner.
- Public perceptions of the guide industry, your role as ambassadors for sportfishing and Alaska by Gary Turner.
- Student introductions: how many years of guiding experience, how many years on the Kenai, and who do you work for.

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Introduction to the Kenai River Special Management Area.

- River locations, popular holes and common names; river dangers in these sections and existing ownership.
- Traditional methods of fishing; back trolling, drift, etc., as they relate to river and client safety.
- -Explanation of specific Kenai River Regulations (non-fishing).
- Taught by Jacques Kosto.
- Lunch provided by Kenai River Sportfishing Association and eaten during seminar.

12:30 – 2:00 PM: Kenai River State Park Use Permits.

- Insurance and licensing requirements, Park Use Permit stipulations, use of State Park facilities
- Taught by Pam Russell, Guide Permitting Specialist, AK State Parks.

2:00 – 2:15 PM: Class Photo

2:15 – 4:45 PM: Alaska Wildlife Habits: Moose and Bear Safety.

- Taught by Larry Lewis, Regional Wildlife Biologist, AK Dept. of Fish & Game.

Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 AM: Overview of Kenai River fishing regulations.

- Taught by Sgt. Paul McConnell, Alaska State Troopers.

9:30 - 11:00 AM: Visible management tools guides and clients will see on the river: sonar, in-river Chinook netting, Coho wheels and creel surveys.

- Presented by Tim McKinley, Area Research Biologist, ADF&G
- Lunch provided by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association and eaten during seminar.

11:00 – 12:00 PM: Economics and value of participation in sport fishing industry, Kenai River watershed research and habitat/conservation projects.

- Presented by Ricky Gease, Executive Director, Kenai River Sportfishing Association.
- Lunch provided by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association and eaten during seminar.

12:00 – 1:00 PM: Alaska fishing guide licensing and proper logbook documentation.

- Presented by Dora Sigurdsson, Fishery Biologist, ADF&G Sport Fish Division.

1:00 – 2:00 PM: Middle, Upper Kenai River and Kasilof River issues.

- Paul Tornow, Upper & Middle Kenai River guide.

2:00 - 3:30 PM: What every guide should know...or questions almost every client will ask.

- Presented by Steve McClure.

3:30 - 5:00 PM: The “goods and bads” of guiding and the guide industry.

- Presented by Steve McClure, KRPGA President.

Wednesday 8:00 - 9:15 AM: How Kenai River fisheries management plans impact the movement of fish into the river, and the interface of various user groups (sport fishing, commercial fishing, personal use, subsistence, non-fishing on-the-water users).

- Presented by Robert Begich, Area Management Sport Fish Biologist, Upper Kenai Peninsula Area, ADF&G

9:15 - 10:15 AM: Borough sales tax registration and requirements.

- Presented by DeRay Jones, Kenai Peninsula Borough auditor.

10:15 - 11:00 AM: Boating safety, cold-water survival, dealing with weather and water conditions, onboard required safety items.

- Presented by the United States Coast Guard, MSD Homer.

11:00 - 12:00 PM: US Coast Guard requirements, license renewal, drug testing programs.

- Presented by the United States Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage.
- Lunch provided by Kenai River Sport Fishing Association and eaten during seminar.

12:00 – 3:00 PM: History, culture, and geology of the Kenai River.

- Taught by Dr. Alan Boraas, KPC Professor of Anthropology.

3:00 – 4:15 PM: Catch & Release: handling, measuring and releasing “trophy” fish.

- Presented by Dave Goggia, Past KRPGA president and KRGA board member.

4:15 – 5:00 PM: Caring for Your Catch.

- Taught by Dave Atcheson, Kenai Fishing Academy Coordinator and KRGA board member, and Mark Conway, Kenai River guide.

Thursday 8:00 - 9:30 AM: Board of Fisheries (BOF), local advisory committees and public process.

- Partnering with local organizations such as Kenai River Special Management Area board, ADF&G Advisory Committees, KRPGA and Kenai River Sport Fishing Association.
- Taught by Joe Connors, KRPGA master guide and KRGA board member.

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: The Ethical Guide and Angler. Angling and guide ethics observed on the Kenai River.

- Presented by Janet Schmidt, Supervisory Park Ranger, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge., and Joe Connors, KRPGA master guide.

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Panel discussion on current fisheries issues. Panel comprised of:

- Dave Goggia - Replacement guide policy and SB24, Sport Fish Guide Services Board
- Robert Begich - Subsistence issues
- Dr. David Wartinbee, Kenai Watershed Forum - turbidity

1:00 – 4:00 PM: Stream ecology and fish biology. Salmon life cycles, characteristics, and river hydrology.

- Taught by Dr. David Wartinbee, KPC Professor of Biology.

4:00 - 4:15 PM: Course Evaluations

4:15 – 5:00 PM: Test Review and study suggestions by Gary Turner.

5:00 – 6:00 PM (optional): Study/discussion groups

Friday 8:00 - 8:10 AM: Test Rules, confidentiality.

8:10 - 10:30 AM: Written certification test.

- 100-question multiple choice tests will be graded upon completion. Those that don't pass will be scheduled to retake the written exam.

8:30 a.m. – Noon

- Individual 20-minute oral examinations conducted by Kenai River guides and agency personnel. Those who don't pass the written exam will still participate in the oral exams. You are not to take the oral exam until you have received your written test score. Lunch on your own after you have completed the written and oral exams.

11 am – Noon: Written exam retakes if necessary.

12:30 – 1 PM

- Certificates of Completion and *KRGA-Certified* boat stickers distributed to those who passed the written and oral exams.
- Getting involved in the industry through the Kenai River Professional Guide Association presented by Steve McClure, KRPGA President.