

KENAI RIVER PROFESSIONAL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the Governor proceeds along with his appointments, KRPGA would like to welcome and congratulate the new Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang. Commissioner Vincent-Lang has a long history with the ADF&G. KRPGA looks forward to developing a professional relationship and working with Mr. Vincent-Lang, along with the leadership of the new Director of Sportfishing, Dave Rutz, and Director of Commercial Fishing Sam Rabung. All the different user groups know how complex the upper Cook Inlet fishery is to manage. KRPGA has been involved in management decisions since the early 1980s. We will continue to work with ADF&G.

During the last 15 years on the Kenai, we have changed our culture as professional guides. We have helped put in place protection tools to put big fish on the spawning beds in order to see 50, 60, and 70 lbs. kings in the future, spawning closures at tributary streams, going from treble hook to single hook, and working with the Department in season to restrict the use of bait when necessary.

Something I would like to see return is the "Release a Hog" program. This was a positive tool even though it was an expensive one. In late May and the first two weeks in June 2017, I personally experienced what I had hoped for: a solid run and some impressive size Kenai kings. However, seeing this kind of return several years over the next 10 would make us all feel better.

We also would like to welcome our new Director of State Parks Ricky Gease. Director Gease has been involved with shaping the fish history of the Kenai Peninsula for as long as I have known him. He brings a tremendous amount of knowledge to this position. Congratulations Director Gease.

Looking to the future of the 2020 Board of Fish meetings, we are ahead of the curve with our proposals. As of February 1st, we have had four meetings and they had some good turnout and good ideas on how to get more fish in the Kenai, Kasilof, and Mat-Su River systems. We will be working with Kenai River Sport Fishing and other river users to come up with some consensus on issues that we want to address regarding in-rivers. Whether you show up to the meetings or not, it is important to communicate with your fellow guides, local anglers and personal use fisherman that all want more fish in the Kenai. The value of sportfish to Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula has grown exponentially over the last 2 decades. It is time that our friends and people in this great state realize how dependent this renewable resource is.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

As president of the Association, I continue to feel it is my duty to call on all guides to pursue their clients, friends, and family to join us as sport fisherman. We all have one common goal and that is to provide a responsible opportunity to harvest fish and recreate on the Kenai Peninsula in a sustainable manner. The bottom line is the answer to a lot of problems is more fish in the river on the spawning beds.

The January 2019 meeting was well attended with past presidents, several past board members and a few other longtime fishermen. Our membership is increasing weekly and we are up to 40 professional members plus several other associate members.

Kenai River Guide Academy is looking for new board members and other people that want to be involved in teaching the Kenai River Guide Academy. We have a class coming up in mid-March. If you are available and can help, please contact a KRPGA board member.

Some new information, for those who have not heard, is starting with the 2019 season, in-river logbooks will not require the guide to record the client's fishing license number. Further, starting with the 2020 fishing season the log book program will terminate.

Thanks to all the board members and general members for the time you volunteer.

Thanks again & keep a tight line!



Ray DeBardelaben, President

Several of us have been working very diligently on coming up with a few concise proposals for the board of fish meeting. We would like any input prior to submitting the proposals and we would like to have everyone on the same page. If you want to provide any input, please contact Monte Roberts to attend the committee meetings.

-Monte Roberts, Board Member

A step in the right direction. I want to say it is great to see new guides with lots of different ideas coming together to talk about them. Alone we can do so little but together we can accomplish so much.

I'd like to see more guides at the next guide meeting.

-Tyland Van Lier, Board Member



JOIN OUR ASSOCIATION AND HELP US SUPPORT YOU AND OUR FISHERY

The Kenai River Professional Guide Association (KRPGA) is comprised of sport fishing guides, business owners and individual citizens concerned about the future of the fisheries and the guide industry.

As a professional guide, being a member of the KRPGA has many benefits. Some of these benefits can include discounts at local merchants, pro-gear suppliers and some insurance policies. The KRPGA.org website includes links to member's websites and contact information.

KRPGA's goal is promote sport fishing guide opportunity and industry on the Kenai River and the Kenai Peninsula. Additionally, it is our goal to achieve a fair and equitable allocation of salmon resources for sport fisheries and fishing guides.

2018-19 Membership

Professional Membership:

In order to be a professional member, you must hold an Alaska State Parks commercial operators permit for the Kenai River. Membership dues are \$100 per year and are good until October 31st.

Associate Membership:

Any person or non-fishing guided business may become an associate member. If you are interested in helping the Kenai Peninsula Sport Fishery, this is a great place to start! Membership dues are \$50 per year.

Please circle one: **PROFESSIONAL / ASSOCIATE** Is this a renewal? **YES / NO**

Personal Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

I am interested in these community service opportunities KRPGA is involved in:

Kenai River Clean Up Take a Kid Fishing Day Kenai River Guide Academy

Salmon Celebration Scholarship Committee

For more information and a list of our current members, please visit our website at www.krpga.org

KRPGA PO Box 3674 Soldotna, AK 99669

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2018-2019 Memberships are now due. If you have not yet done so, please return your membership form and payment to the office.

KRPGA's February meeting is on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Four D Professional Building Conference Room.

Agenda items include:

Kenai Soldotna AC - Mike Crawford

KRSA - Ricky Gease

NPF - Mike Flores

KRSMA - Monte or Joe Connors

Salmon Celebration

Kenai River Clean Up - Mark Glassmaker

Board of Fish

Charitable Fishing Days

LA LIO office - Monte Roberts

Fundraiser

Good of the order



CONTACT US

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Association

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