

**Dave Duncan & Sons Orientation**  
**Invitation Creek - Fall Steelhead Base Camp**

Please take some time to read this Orientation as it is designed to give you a better understanding about your week in our Fall Steelhead Camp. We recommend that you keep this letter and re read it just prior to your trip.

**You will be around small charter aircraft in Kodiak, camp and at the lagoon. Please keep your safety in mind at all times. Stay away from aircrafts unless you are getting on or off the aircraft and always listen to the pilot and the guides!! You NEVER want to walk on the floats of the DE Havilland Beaver beyond the doors towards the front section (prop area) of the aircraft!! You will also be flying on a helicopter, never ever walk behind the helicopter towards the rear rotor. When you land in camp you will be met by a DDS guide. Climb out of the helicopter and listen to where the guide tells you to walk to. The guide will unload the helicopter and bring your bags to you. You as a guest DO NOT unload or load the helicopter. Again, you never want to walk towards the rear of the helicopter. When leaving camp in the helicopter the guides will personally assist you in walking to the helicopter and loading up for your flight back to Kodiak or to the Beaver sitting in the lagoon.**

If you haven't already done so, it is time to get your Land Use Permit to be on Koniag lands. They want each person to personally fill out the form and pay fifty dollars and agree to the terms (waiver) on permit. We think it is their way of making sure that everyone reads signs and pays for the permit. Once you open the link you will add your start and end dates for your trip, then check Guided Land Access Permit then select Dave Duncan & Sons and Andrew Air for transporter. Then fill out Applicant information, credit card info and agree to the terms. We know this is an inconvenience but it is well worth it for the privilege of fishing on Koniag lands. You can buy your permit by control clicking on the link below. Please do not forget to do this as it is very important to have these on you this season while fishing.

<http://www.koniag.com/our-lands/land-use-permit-form/>

They will be checking for land use permits before you fly to the river so have your permit handy. It is a good idea to put the land use permit with your fishing license so you always have it on you and know where it is.

We practice trace free camping; this means leaving absolutely nothing behind. If you smoke, we ask that you put the cigarette butts in your pocket or give them to one of the guides. Because we practice these techniques you will see very little litter in the wilderness area and anything you see you should pick up or point it out to one of the guides. This includes monofilament fishing line or anything else that is foreign to the area.

We practice catch and release fishing, using debarbed hooks and have found that it's much better to debarb all of your hooks prior to fishing so that you don't have to debarb each hook while

fishing. This way it reduces the chance of someone forgetting to debarb a hook and unnecessarily harming a fish, themselves or someone else.

Although we (the guides) will try to release all the fish there will be times when guests will have to release their own. This usually happens when the guide or guides are busy releasing another guest's fish. You may also want to release some of your own fish. When practicing catch and release techniques the angler should try to get the fish in as soon as reasonably possible so that the fish is not too tired. In most cases the fish should be able to be released without touching the fish by simply removing the hook.

You should gently grasp the fish by the tail and under the belly, making sure not to squeeze the fish. You should never grab a fish by the tail and hold him vertically as this separates their vertebrae. The gills on a fish are very delicate and you should take special care not to touch them. Always keep the fish in the water. You should gently take the hook out and hold the fish facing into the current until it swims away.

You should keep the fish in the water at all times, and always release the fish in at least one foot of water. We allow fish to be photographed but discourage excessive photographing of fish.

When photographing a fish, you should gently hold the fish in the water until the photographer has the camera focused and has the light aperture set. Then quickly raise the fish from the water about six to eight inches and once the picture is taken, immediately lower the fish back to the water and release it.

We will rotate guides each day amongst the guests so that everyone gets to know one another. Each day you should let your guide know if you have any special interest in a specific species or techniques.

The cook will get up at 6:00 A.M. each morning and will have coffee ready by 6:30 A.M. We usually serve breakfast at 7:00 A.M. and are on the river at day light which is about 8:00 A.M. We bring along a deli-style lunch and have lunch on the river at 12:00 P.M. and usually get back to camp at about sunset which is between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

We recommend that guest do not drink the water from the river and provide purified water in camp for you to drink. We also have several varieties of soft drinks available.

We would like to mention how to react if you encounter a bear. We quite often see bears but rarely see them up close. We have never had a serious problem with a bear in all the years of fishing Alaska. You should always talk loud so that you don't surprise a bear, and when you see one you should give it plenty of room to do what it wants. If you spot a bear it is a good to yell "Hey Bear" while waving your arms. Never run. This will let the guides and other people in your group know that you have spotted a bear and will usually result in the bear moving off in a different direction. Because these bears are hunted in the spring and fall, they are usually afraid of people. We have found that a little common sense goes a long way in dealing with Bears.

**We are often asked what an appropriate tip is for the guides. This is a touchy issue for us as we feel that tipping is a personal subject. One guest's idea of a good tip can vary greatly from another. We do not want you to feel obligated to tip a certain amount. With that said we can tell you that tips seem to average about \$600.00 to \$700.00 per guest, with some guests tipping more. You can decide what you feel is appropriate and you can leave it with the camp manager at the end of your stay.**

**We want you to understand that we are there to help you in any way possible and we would appreciate you letting us know if there is anything, we can do to make your trip more enjoyable. We can repair leaky waders, broken zippers or anything else that might go wrong and that you should not put up with any discomforts as we have the necessary equipment to fix or replace most items.**

**If you have any questions after reading through all of this information, or simply want to talk fishing, please do not hesitate to give us a call.**