

# Ouzel Expeditions, Inc.

## Alaska Fishing & Wilderness Adventures



2011 is our 34th year  
In Business in Alaska

**OUZEL EXPEDITIONS, INC.** Ouzel runs the highest quality raft trips in Alaska and Russia. We provide fishing and wilderness vacation experiences. Paul and Sharon Allred started this company in 1978. 1998 marks our 20th season in Alaska. To date we have run over 40 different rivers in Alaska, dozens in the continental U. S., a few in Canada and 11 in Russia.

In 1969 Paul started working as a river and fishing guide on the Middle - Fork of the Salmon in Idaho, later it was designated the first *Wild and Scenic River* in the United States. He has worked every summer since as a professional guide, that's 30 years experience. Today many rivers we run in Alaska are nationally recognized as *Wild and Scenic Rivers*.

Sharon is an avid birder, fly fisher and an expert on travel and culture in Alaska & Russia. Since 1981 she has worked professionally in the river business. She plans the menus, organizes food purchasing and shipping, runs the office, takes reservations and guides on some of our adventures in the summer. Ely our son works for the company too.

### RESERVATIONS

We arrange our vacations from June into October on a first come first served basis for groups of fishing friends, couples, families and individuals. Flexibility to best fit your fishing desires and vacation times is one of our major concerns.

Group sizes vary from 4 to 9 guests. We have 1 guide and raft for every 2 or 3 guests. Trips are normally 6 to 8 days. Trips 10 days or longer can be arranged, 6 days is our shortest trip. Individual fishermen or pairs are accommodated within our existing groups.

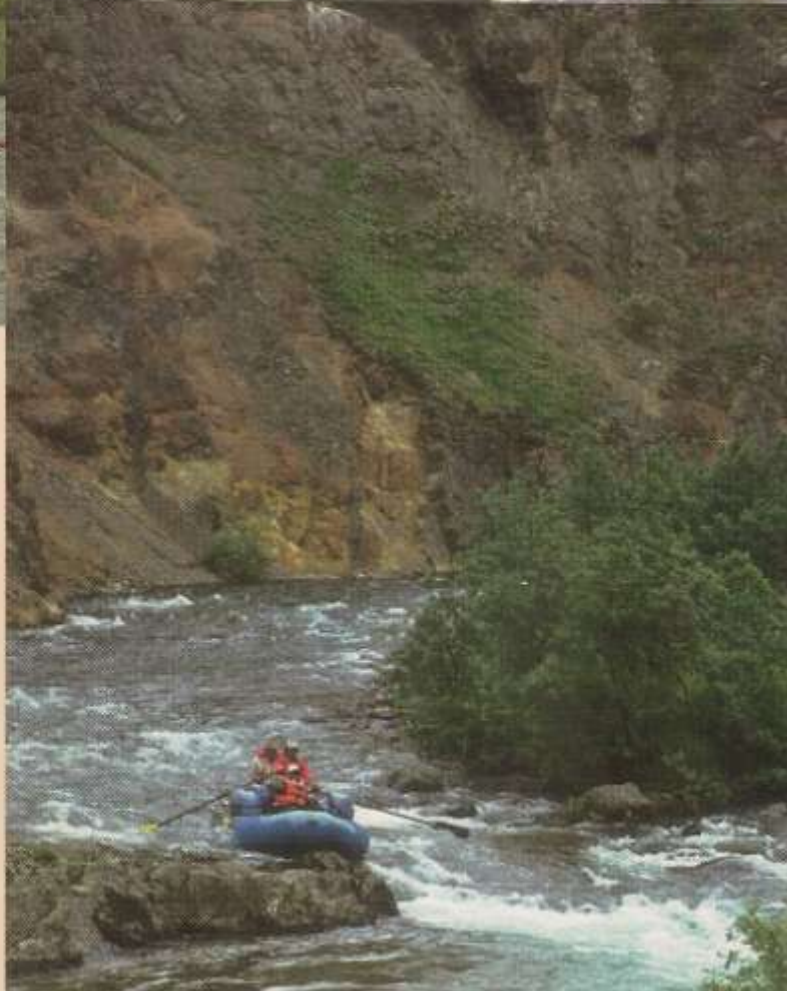
Early reservations are advised. Please call our TOLL FREE number for space availability and more details. Your phone call will hold your reservations for 14 days. A 50% deposit per person is required after that. Final payment is required 60 days prior to your trips departure.

We make airline reservations for you from Anchorage to King Salmon, Dillingham, Bethel or wherever your trip requires. (Jet flight prices to our jump off points are controlled by the airlines and are subject to change.) You pay us directly for these flights. Payments for jet flights are due with the final payment.



**Wilderness Fishing Rivers** • We operate in 5 basic areas across Alaska: Bristol Bay, Western Alaska, the Alaska Peninsula, Upper Cook Inlet and the Brooks Range.

We float the rivers of **Bristol Bay & the Alaska Peninsula** out of King Salmon Alaska.



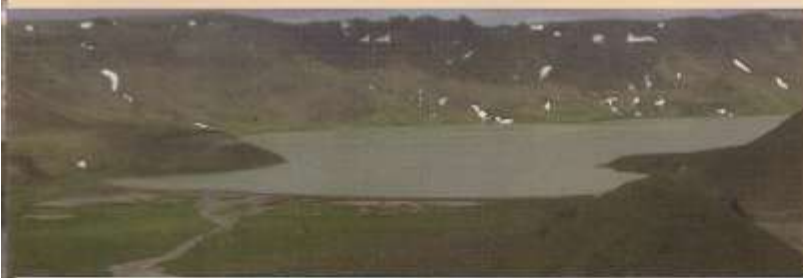
The **RAINBOW RIVER** has Grizzlies and Rainbows in great numbers. It's a low water, rock dodging challenge in **Katmai National Park**. It flows through beautiful deep canyons with rocky, mossy waterfalls, deep pools, and very little water so, it's easy to wade. We have lots of time for fishing this tiny, short river. It's nice here all summer. It has an abundance of wildlife, great bird watching too. One trip in early spring we saw 17 bull moose. We've seen a wolf chase a Caribou right through camp.

In June right after the Rainbows have spawned Sockeye smolt migrate to the ocean. After not eating for a month these Rainbows are pretty hungry and ready to take anything that looks like a smolt or black leech. It has incredibly large runs of Arctic Char. We catch Lake Trout and Arctic Grayling here too. July has excellent dry fly fishing. The last of July or the first of August, Sockeye fill the river, approximately 1 million. We saw 60 grizzly bears in one trip! This is a great time. You can't go a few casts without catching a fish on your fly rod. By September the Salmon, Char & bears are gone, only Rainbows remain.

The **ALAGNAK RIVER** was Alaska's first river to receive national status as a **Wild and Scenic River**. It flows through **Katmai National Park**. It's famed world wide as **Alaska's Trophy Trout Region**. The first three weeks of July it has the freshest most fishable Sockeye run of any river in Alaska, which numbers in the millions each year! They run up both sides of the river and once you get the knack with a fly rod, you can catch so many it can make your hands hurt.

Through the upper river and the thousands of islands in the middle river called the braids the Alagnak or "Branch" River has a healthy population of Rainbow Trout. Rainbows grow big here. Sockeye smolt stay in freshwater 2 years so the trout have plenty to eat all year long.

The "Branch" consistently supports excellent Silver Salmon fishing from late August through September! It supports massive runs of Chums and Pinks. The king run peaks the last of July and the first of August, real late. It's a tundra stream with tall grass banks, alders, birch and spruce. It's climate is cool. July and August we see Grizzly Bears.



The **ANIACHAK RIVER** lays 400 miles southwest of Anchorage, far out on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula in **Aniakchak National Park and Preserve**. It's the United States most remote and least visited National Park. We land right in Surprise Lake inside the 6 mile wide caldera of Aniakchak Volcano! The lake is emerald green, colored by the warm springs' algae. The stay inside the caldera is magnificent. Some caribou, grizzly and moose live right inside. The desert like interior affords excellent hiking and photographic opportunities. Once across the lake in our rafts, the river flows fast down the side of the volcano. Rapids have boulders the size of a VW bus on end. Along the lush river banks grow alders and high grasses, no big trees.

It supports large populations of all it's sea run fish including Char to 30 inches. Chums come first in late June. Kings and Sockeye arrive in July. Late July the Humpies pour in. By mid August the place is full of Silvers. This trip is a real expedition into the most pure wilderness Alaska has to offer! It received national status as a **Wild and Scenic River** in 1980.

The hillsides are open, trotting foxes, migrating caribou herds and bears are not hidden from sight. The Aniakchak has high densities of the largest Brown Bears in the state, and an incredible moose population. It's Caribou herds number in the thousands. We have seen 30 Bald Eagles at a time. This river has a wide variety of bird species. It's exceptional for photography and hiking from top to bottom. All bush flights included from King Salmon.



Flying into Aniakchak Crater through the "gates"



## We operate the rivers in **Western Alaska** out of Dillingham & Bethel.

The **KANEKTOK RIVER**, referred to as the "Chosen River" in **Togiak National Wildlife Refuge** flows through the beautiful Ahklun Mountains during it's upper half. We begin our journey by float planing to the headwaters where we land in Kagati Lake. It has strong runs of all the Pacific Salmon, especially Kings & Silvers sea run Char and Rainbow. The second half the river flows onto the coastal plane through willow, alder and cottonwood forests.

It flows as a clear water river with prolific bird life, hawks and eagles abound. At our trips end you are 2 miles from the ocean. Salmon are full of zip and fight hard when they're right out of the ocean. The river pours into the Pacific at Quinahak our take out point. Bush flights included from Dillingham.



Blake Spondering



Beginning high in treeless, lichen covered mountains, the **SALMON RIVER** is one of the Greatest rivers in Alaska! Through it's 90 mile course we enjoy 8 days of floating and fishing. It's extravagant changes in terrain delight the eye as it flows through canyons lush with forests of spruce and birch, then onto open permafrost laden Arctic tundra. Next it flows through braided river channels with hundreds of islands, becoming very large at it's end.

Large birds of prey abound. We've seen Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, Great Gray Owls and many Bald Eagles. Black and Grizzly or Brown Bears are prolific and in equal numbers. Caribou are seen on the upper river while moose are often seen from midway down. Once we found two enormous moose racks entwined together, the result of a mating season battle to the death. We've seen wolves; their tracks are on it's many beaches, an indication of true wilderness.

It's native Cutthroat Rainbows are older and therefore larger. Lots of mature spawning age rainbows are in this river. We've hardly caught any under 18 inches. Most of them are 20 to 22 inches and generally weigh about 4 to 6 lbs. We've caught them up to 28 inches here.

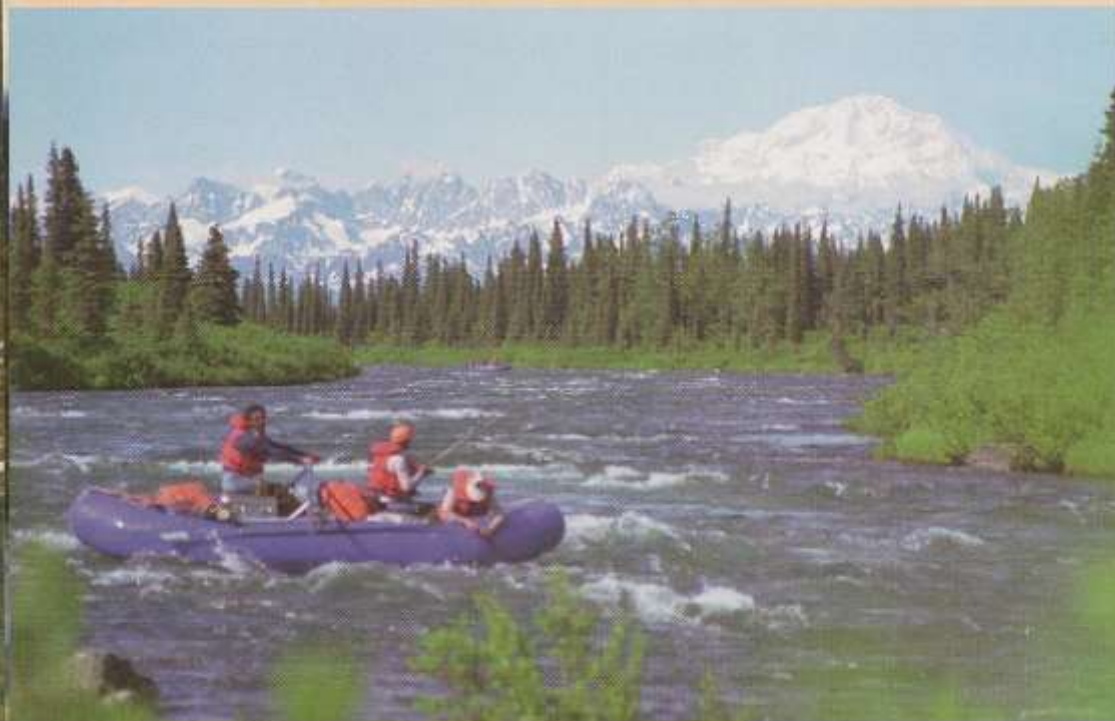
All it's fishing is fantastic! The first couple of days is has excellent Grayling and Char fishing. Then come lots of Salmon and large Rainbows. July is the best month for variety in species of fish. It has excellent runs of Kings and Chums and small run of Sockeye. Late July the Rainbow fishing really heats up! Mid August through September it's full of Silvers. It has extraordinary Char & Grayling fishing all the way down river. All float plane flights included.



## UPPER COOK INLET

**LAKE CREEK** a small scenic white-water river is 60 miles long. It begins with a breathtaking 1 hour float plane flight directly toward Mt. McKinley where we land in Chelatna Lake. It's location is in the Alaska's interior so it's often called our warm weather river. Large numbers of Kings, Silvers and Sockeye return each year to spawn.

This river is unique. It moves through the lateral moraine of Kahiltna Glacier as it flows off Mt. McKinley. Chelatna Lake has a filtering effect on Lake Creek, so it's almost always clear. Gravel beds combined with such a constant supply of clear water make it an excellent resource for salmon spawning. During it's upper half, you have fantastic views of Mt. McKinley, 20,280 ft. and Mt. Foraker, 17,400! The second half the river flows swiftly through a gorgeous canyon covered with class II and III rapids. Moose, eagles, grizzly and black bears are commonly seen.



The **TALACHULITNA RIVER** was the first stream in Alaska to be designated exclusively catch and release for Rainbow Trout. Now all the streams we float have this designation. The perpetually snow capped peaks of the Alaska Range rim the 'Tal'. Judd Lake, the float plane access point of our trip is closely encircled by the perpetually snow capped peaks of the Alaska Range! Excellent opportunities abound for seeing wildlife, like black and grizzly bears, moose and caribou.

It's runs of 5 Pacific Salmon are very strong. It also has healthy populations of Rainbow Trout, Arctic Grayling and Char. Kings, Sockeye and Silvers are it's strong suits. During the Silver run which peaks in mid to late August there is also a very strong run of Sockeye and Chum Salmon.





Rich Neubauer



Blake Senderling



Blake Senderling



Hiking on the Kongakut



**BROOKS RANGE** 8 days Plus additional flights to Arctic Village from Fairbanks where trips begin and end.

The **north slope** is home to the largest caribou herd in North America and the wolves that follow them. We've seen: lots of Musk Oxen, Grizzlies, Moose, hundreds of Dahl Sheep, nesting birds and wildflowers in profusion along with thousands of Caribou! Photographic opportunities are boundless. We've seen: Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcons, Golden Eagles only to name the tip of the iceberg. There are hundreds of wildflowers tiny and so delicate. We take easy hikes across alpine tundra, fabulous surroundings, where we will see lousewort, saxifrage, lichens, grasses, sedges, mountain avens, dwarf birch, dwarf cottonwood and dwarf fireweed. The mountains appear to go almost straight up. The Arctic Char fishing can be superb. In June the sun circles us and never goes down. This is wilderness at it's best!

The **KONGAKUT RIVER** lays 450 miles north of Fairbanks on the north slope of the Brooks Range. We cross the Yukon River and the Alaska pipeline. It takes 3 1/2 hours going 130 mph by small plane to get there. Situated in the north eastern most reach of Alaska, it's near the Canadian border and the Arctic Ocean. It is the crown jewel of the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**.

The **HULA HULA** is also on the north slope of the Brooks Range and is excellent for white-water, wildlife viewing and hiking. It flows deep within a beautiful narrow canyon with lots of rapids. The trip then takes you to the arctic coastal plain, calving grounds of the caribou and feeding grounds of the grizzlies and wolves. Mt. Michelson 8,855 ft (pictured below) is highly glaciated, so much so, it looks like it belongs in the Saint Elias Range! Awesome country.



Char for dinner



Arthur Clark



Spooking a herd of Musk Ox with our raft

Mt. Igikpak in the Arrigetch Peaks 1



## WILDERNESS RIVER TRIPS

A wilderness river trip is a superior low impact vehicle for hiking, photography and for watching animals as well as fishing. Our Eco-Tourism float trips are a great way to access remote country that is uncontaminated. The subtleties of raw nature while meandering silently down remote rivers are difficult to capture in words or photographs. Spectacular sunsets at midnight, storms moving in and out are unforgettable experiences amongst Alaska's long summer days. Memories are formed that will vividly shape your view of the world forever. River trips are so magical. We'd love to have you join us for a truly rejuvenating vacation, one you'll never forget.

**Hiking** We go in small groups on short hikes and tailor them to what you want, observing and photographing. Spectacular scenery is enhanced by knowing you are one of the few people ever to see this raw wilderness. While hiking we are greeted with views of wildflowers, birds, awesome geographic formations and a myriad of animal species.

Light weight, waterproof hiking boots are the best to bring because we are occasionally crossing areas of water.

**Bird watching** Bird watching is one of the most rewarding barometers of nature. Sharon Allred has been a birder for 26 years. "I have been fortunate in life to have seen birds all over the US, Mexico and Russia." I recommend water-proof binoculars and for a field guide Birds of North America by Golden Press. Ouzel provides many other bird, wildflower, mushroom, plant, tree, geology and Alaska field guides for reference upon request.

**White-water** Ouzel has years of experience running white-water. You'll learn to love whitewater too. Ouzel has many medium class white-water rivers with extraordinary scenery and wildlife to choose from.

**Wildlife Viewing** The river is a panorama of silent beauty as we float by grizzly bears, black bears, moose, caribou, dahl sheep, mountain goats, porcupines, beaver, birds, wolves and foxes.

(All photos taken on Ouzel's Expeditions. No stock photography used.)



Hula Hula in high water going onto the arctic coastal plain.



\*Looking South on the Brooks Range at 2 am from the Arctic Coastal Plain on the Hula Hula River.



## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO? & ON WHICH RIVER?

Ouzel has operated trips on over 40 different rivers in Alaska since 1978. Our goal is: "To take you to the best stream at the best time to be there." We match your fishing interests to the wide variety of rivers in Alaska. All summer long we have fantastic rivers with fresh runs of salmon, Rainbows, Char & Grayling! Give us a call!



Hank Mosakowski



## WHY IS A FLOAT FISHING TRIP BEST?

1. The fishing is better on a wilderness float trip because we follow peak Salmon runs across the state. We offer you the best fishing river at it's peak. We aren't confined to one geographic area.
2. You have increased fishing time. You couldn't be any closer to the fishing. We camp at hot fishing holes. At 5 o'clock you don't have to stop fishing. Many die hard fishers join us for this reason alone!
3. A raft can cross or hold in water that stops a pair of chest waders cold. We can put you on the hot fishing holes, one after another all day long.
4. You can present your hook to a fish in the most effective way from a drifting raft.
5. Our rafts give you a huge range. We go where jet boats and airplanes can't. We float about 10 miles a day, just the right balance of drift fishing from the boat and wade fishing from the bank. We stop at hole after hole, all day long. It is impossible to just wade the enormous area we cover.
6. Solitude. This quiet way of traveling offers more opportunities for relaxing and seeing wildlife in it's natural surroundings. Our trips take you on a journey through the most wild and beautiful country in Alaska!
7. The "experience" shared by a group of people on an adventure through remote, breath taking wilderness is something that you will remember forever. Many of our guests re-join their new found friends on other vacations with Ouzel. 70% of our guests each year have been with us previously.

**SALMON RUN TIMING** Some fishers want to catch certain species. Our experience on a wide variety of rivers gives us knowledge of many Salmon runs across Alaska. King season, our busiest time, starts in late June and runs through July. Silver season, next busiest, runs from August through September. Our variety of rivers extends the season on these two most popular Salmon. Sockeye are the third most popular salmon and run from early July through August and into September on some streams.

**Rainbow Grayling and Char** More discriminating fishers join us each year for Rainbows. The season opens June 8th in Bristol Bay, an excellent time to go. Late July and early August is a real hot time for Rainbows on a variety of rivers. Grayling and Char fishing is excellent all summer long. The best time of all is September and October. The fat Rainbows start running out of eggs and have to look a little harder to get something to eat.

**Catch & Release Fishing** We have practiced catch & release fishing on all our streams for years, now it's the law for Rainbow Trout everywhere we go. We fish with single hooks only and keep enough fresh Salmon or Char for dinner and breakfast. We're an ecologically minded company and have believed in the conservation of our countries natural resources since the 60s.

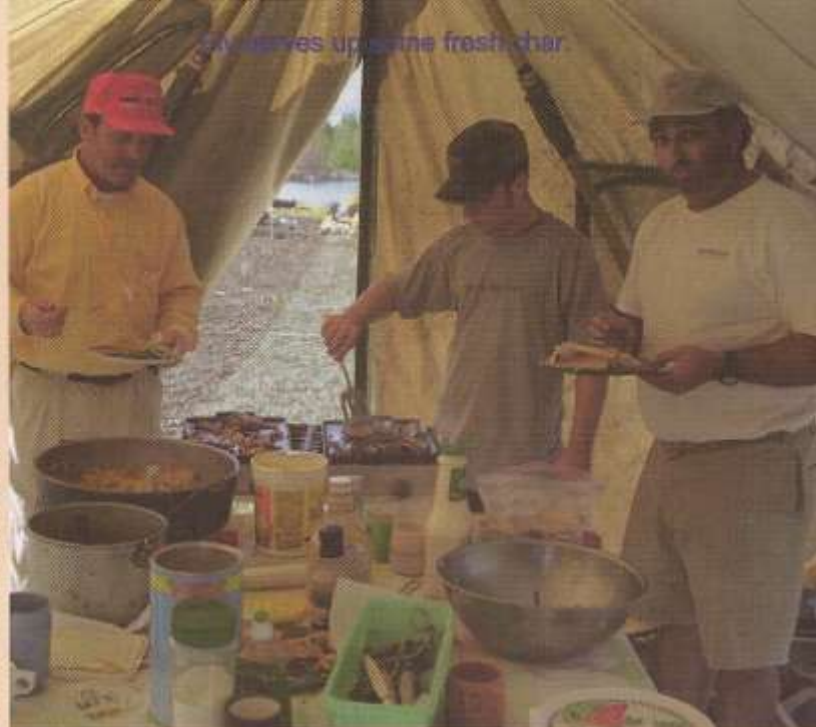
Hunter Fisher Taxidermy in Anchorage does an excellent job of trophy fish mounting (907) 561-1466. Their fiberglass casts are excellent.

# ON THE RIVER

**Moveable Camps** We have complete moveable camps. Our large KITCHEN TENT affords us shade and shelter. In late September & October it's heated. We have folding directors chairs with back rests in camp & a dinner table. During the day you can sit in these chairs in the raft. We camp right at great fishing holes. It's a wonderful way to see the country, wildlife, fish and enjoy the wilderness in comfort. We have portable shower for your use. Each night a toilet is set up outside camp. We also have a sauna tent using river rocks heated on the fire.

**Guides** Our ORVIS ENDORSED guides are there to help you get the most out of your vacation. They do the cooking and camp chores. Our oarsmen have experience on white-water as well as calm rivers. They are skilled fishermen and can help you with knots, flies, casting, spinning and where and how to fish. Many of our guests are expert fishers and don't want much help. Our guides can hike with you so you can photograph and learn about the flora and fauna.

**Meals** We serve fresh meats and vegetables cooked in dutch ovens on gas stoves and over fires. Sumptuous meals like char broiled steak, spaghetti, fresh broiled salmon, turkey and mexican food are served family style for dinner. Breakfasts offer a variety of things: pancakes, hot cereal, fresh fish, bacon, eggs, coffee and juice. Lunches are sandwiches, chips, and candy. We serve hors d'oeuvres before dinner. We also serve heart healthy meals. Please make special requests 1 month ahead of time to Sharon.



**Communications** We go out into very remote wilderness on our trips. We cannot be reached by phones anywhere. In case of emergency we carry hand held aviation radios. We can talk to overflying airplanes to ask for help if needed.

**Fishing Equipment** We can provide spinning rods & reels for King Salmon for a \$20 rental fee. An 8 weight fly rod works well for all the salmon in Alaska except Kings. We do not provide any other type of spinning or fly rods and reels. Detailed information on all types of fishing tackle will be sent to you when we receive your deposit for your trip. If you would like an Orvis catalog, call 1-800-548-9548. I highly recommend all their equipment, especially their rods, reels, gortex waders and wading shoes.

**Licenses** You can get your Alaskan fishing license at many drugstores, sporting goods or convenience stores. Last season Sport fishing licenses cost \$30, & a King Salmon Tag cost \$35 for non-residents.

**Waders or Hip Boots** This is really a matter of personal choice. Orvis Gortex waders work well anytime of year. Hip boots are still nice when it's really hot in July or late June. Neoprene waders work very well when it's colder. Wading wet works well too, when it's warm.

**The Last Day** We recommend people spend the night of the last day of the trip in Anchorage. Some trips don't return to Anchorage until 7pm or later. It's better to get a good night's rest and fly home early the next morning.



**Sleeping Tents** We provide Northface tents for your sleeping comfort. They are roomy 3 person expedition, mountain climbing tents used on Mt. McKinley and are extremely water & wind proof. You stay dry and warm in them. 2 people share a tent.

**Waterproof Gear Bags** We provide waterproof camera bags and waterproof bags for your personal gear. We also provide sleeping bags, pillows and self-inflating sleeping pads. Some people prefer to bring their own; others don't want to carry extras on the airlines.

**Rafts** Our SOTAR rafts are American made in 14 and 16 foot lengths. SOTAR rafts are the best professional quality river rafts. These comfortable rafts are oar powered by our experienced guides. We use aluminum boat boxes rowing frames and large ice chests. You fish from these oar powered rafts with skilled oarsmen drifting you through beautiful holding waters and scenery.





Mike Sheldon,  
owner of Mepp's Inc.  
with a nice Rainbow.

**Hotels** We recommend the Barratt Best Western Hotel, 1-800-221-7550. Over the years we have found them to have consistently the best service. They provide free shuttle service to and from the airport and they can store your extra suitcases and unwanted things while you are on the river. It also works well for us if everyone going on the trip stays at the same place. Be sure to ask for the 'Ouzel Special' for a discount on your room rate.

### **Day before the trip in Anchorage**

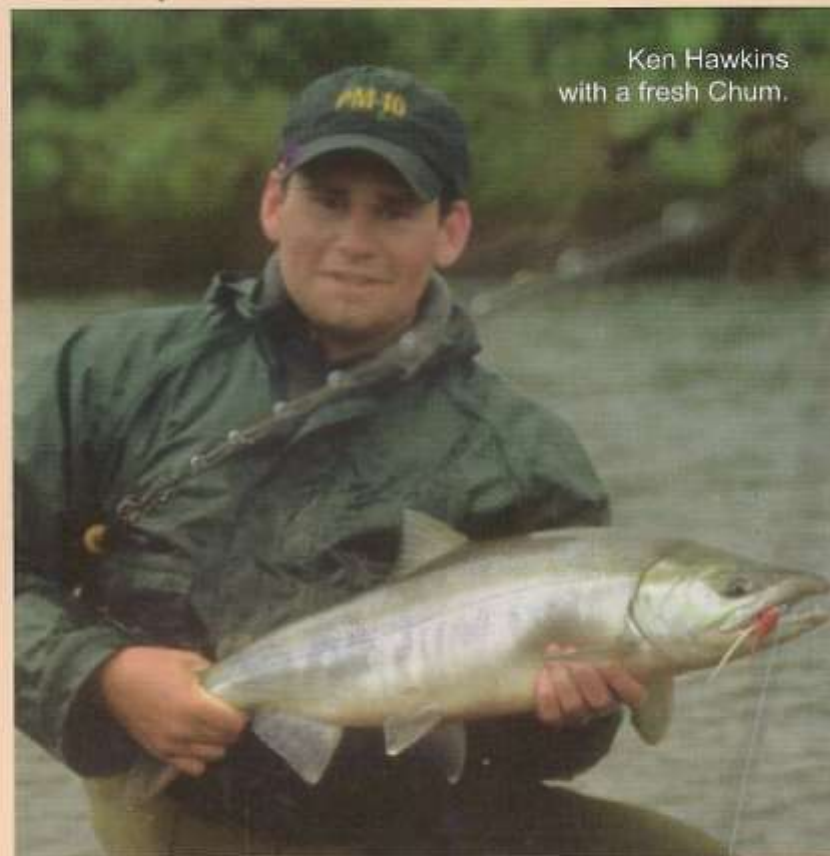
1. Alaska trips originate in Anchorage. 2. Spend the night before the trip in Anchorage. Arrive sometime around 3 pm the day before the trip. 3. Take your hotel's free shuttle service. When you get to your room, call us. We'll arrange to meet you and give you your gear at around 5 pm. 4. Have a good breakfast the morning your trip departs. We travel a long way the first day. 5. The first morning take the hotel shuttle to the airport or to Lake Hood. Ouzel will meet you there one hour before your flight departs.

**Exploratory Trips** Every year we like to explore a new river or two. Alaska has places you can explore where no one else or few others have seen. We have found that the further off the beaten path you get, the better the fishing is! You also see more animals and less people. Imagine the excitement of being the first of only a handful of people who have ever floated a remote wild river! At last count we have floated over 40 different rivers Alaska, dozens in the continental US, a few in Canada and 11 in Russia. Normally, we set up exploratory trips at our past clients requests, but anyone can join in. Remote river explorations cost may be high due to additional air freight and logistical costs, but the payoff is yours in excitement! These trips prices vary with the additional costs involved.

**Areas of Operation** We operate our vacations on Alaska's various rivers. Some are on State or Federal land. Here are some of the places we are licensed: Aniakchak National Park & Preserve, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Chugach National Forest, Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve, Katmai National Park & Preserve, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Wrangle St. Elias National Park & Preserve, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve.

**Disclaimer** Ouzel Expeditions will not be responsible for additional meals, lodging or other expenses due to delayed flights, weather or other delays. We will not be responsible for natural acts such as but not limited to: weather, storms, rain, floods or salmon run timing. We reserve the right to change the trips itineraries and to change the river at our discretion.

**Cancellation Policy** A complete refund (minus \$100 per person service charge) will be given if written notice is received by us more than 60 days prior to your trip's departure, or you can apply your deposit to a future expedition. 60 days or less prior to your trip's departure no refunds or credits will be given. After trips completion no refunds or credits will be given for any reason. Trip Insurance from Travel Guard International is available and we encourage you to buy it. We can fill out their policy for you and take your credit card information over the phone and send it in.



Ken Hawkins  
with a fresh Chum.

**Call Paul or Sharon Allred:**

**Phone (907) 783-2216 or Toll Free 800 825-8196**

**Fax (907) 783-3220 or e-mail [ouzel@alaska.net](mailto:ouzel@alaska.net)**

**Web Site <http://www.alaska.net/~ouzel>**

**Mailing Address: Ouzel Expeditions, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 935**

**Girdwood, AK 99587**