

Hickel Says No Permits To Take Kivalina Char

Gov. Walter J. Hickel has replied to the letter he received from Rep. William L. (Willie) Hensley regarding harvest of Arctic char from Wulik River near the village of Kivalina.

Hensley and the people of Kivalina had shown concern that permits might have been issued to commercial operators to take 200,000 pounds of Arctic char for commercial purposes and if permits had been issued,

Hensley asked the governor that they be rescinded.

"The Department of Fish and Game advises me that no permits have been issued to harvest char commercially from the Wulik River," Gov. Hickel said.

"Two permit requests," he continued, "have been received for such commercial operations in this river, but will not be acted upon until the people of

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Kivalina Char

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Kivalina have been contacted by Department of Fish and Game personnel and an appraisal made of run size and subsistence needs."

Hickel said that the long-standing policy of the Board of Fish and Game places subsistence use requirements above those of recreational and commercial utilization.

"Two staff members of the Department of Fish and Game will meet with the people of Kivalina in the near future to obtain their views on whether or not they believe a commercial fishery would be in their best interests and if so, at what poundage level they think would be satisfactory to prevent over-harvest of the runs," Gov. Hickel said.