

Fish and Game Department Issues Fishing Regulations

There will be no gear license for commercial fishwheels this year according to a recent announcement of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fishing in Interior Alaska started Wednesday, June 1.

Fishermen who wish to sell their fish will still need a commercial fishing license and a boat license. The standard gear license fees for net fishing will still apply.

Larry Stoll of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game said that subsistence fishing may be obtained at no cost by writing or visiting the Dept. of Fish and Game office, 604 Barnette Street, Fairbanks.

Stoll stressed that the permits must be obtained. He said there will be periodic inspections of fishwheels along the river. Stoll also emphasized that the proper permit must be obtained. "Don't get caught selling your fish if you have a subsistence permit," he said.

No regulations concerning size or construction of fishwheels have been set, Stoll said. He stated that the Dept. of Fish and Game is restricting location this year to the mainstream of the Tanana and Yukon rivers (and other main tributaries of the Yukon). He said that new fishwheels would not be allowed in the Chena, Nenana and other side streams.

Net fees will be \$5.00 for each 50 fathoms of net length. (A fathom is about six feet.) No more than two-thirds of any stream may be blocked by any net, but more than one net may be used. Subsistence

fishing by net will be permitted without net fees, with the use of a subsistence permit.

The commercial fishing license for residents of Alaska costs \$10.00. The boat license for commercial fishing by fishwheel is also \$10.00. That will bring the total license fee for commercial fishing by fishwheel to \$20.00 for one fishwheel, plus another \$10.00 for each additional fishwheel.

Some fishwheels do not need a boat to reach the fish, Stoll commented. The boat license will still be neces-

sary in this case, he said. If the fishwheel is reached by a plank or other means, the boat license should be placed on the fishwheel itself.

Information concerning bag limits is available from the Dept. of Fish and Game. There are no specific bag limits for subsistence fishing, Stoll said. However, if too many fish of any kind are caught, the Dept. may announce a limit on that type of fish later in the season.

That happened last summer, when fishing for king salmon was halted in middle summer.