

To Report a Missing or Overdue Person Call 911 or 907-545-HELP (4357)



Blue Reflective Tape Means Open Water or Thin Ice—STAY AWAY!

*12.10.19 BSAR River Update—Report 2019-03**

“The Danger of Blue”

URGENT—DANGER—PLEASE PASS ALONG

Summary:

Although the 2019 Kuskokwim Freeze Up has been better than last year's there is actually more open water remaining in the immediate Bethel area than in previous years. BSAR has been working to get the open water in our area marked. On Saturday, 12.7.19 BSAR marked an open hole by the Bethel Bluffs. Today a BSAR ground team did additional reconnoitering and some open water marking. There is much more to be done and we will be reaching out this weekend for additional help. This is what was observed today:

- ⇒ **STRAIGHT SLOUGH MUST NOT BE USED AT THIS TIME—THE UPPER HALF IS STILL OPEN— BSAR BLOCKED OFF THE LOWER END WITH WILLOWS & BLUE REFLECTORS**
- ⇒ **THERE IS A GIANT OPEN HOLE IN THE MAIN KUSKOKWIM OUT SIDE THE UPPER END OF STRAIGHT SLOUGH - THE BETHEL AC STORE CAN EASILY FIT INSIDE THIS OPEN HOLE**
- ⇒ **THERE IS AN OPEN HOLE RIGHT BELOW JOE PETE'S FISH CAMP ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER—BSAR MARKED THIS ONE TODAY WITH WILLOWS & BLUE REFLECTORS**
- ⇒ **ICE MEASUREMENTS IN THE ROUGH ICE RANGED FROM 18" TO 24"**

12.10.19 KNOWN OPEN WATER IN THE BETHEL AREA

RED CIRCLES ARE UNMARKED OPEN WATER

BLUE CIRCLES ARE MARKED OPEN WATER

Legend
Bethel
Path Measure



*Panoramic View of "AC Store" Sized **UNMARKED** Open Hole in the Main Kuskokwim Between Straight Slough and Schwabe Island*



*Looking Across the Open Water to Straight Slough— Marking this one will be a big job requiring 100's of willows & **BLUE** reflectors*

BSAR will need help



Marked Open Hole by Joe Pete's Fish Camp



17 Year-old Neil Japhet has been helping BSAR mark open water since he was 8

Freeze Up Pictures from Our Neighbors Along the River:



A well marked open hole just below the Akiachak Tank Farm. Akiachak SAR & Tribal Transportation Department always do a good job taking care of their area. Thanks KKI!

Photo courtesy Willie Ekamerak

The River at Crooked Creek. The ice in the Middle Kuskokwim has just stopped running in recent days. 12" of fresh snow on top of the new ice may make it hard to thicken and get safe for travel

Photo courtesy Rebecca Wilmarth





Closing:

Freeze up on the Kuskokwim was late but when it did finally come conditions improved quickly. With the recent pattern of warm stormy weather things have slowed down but we are still slowly getting there. Our job now it to take care of marking the remaining open water in the Bethel area and reach out to help our neighboring vil-lages with the work they have to do keeping travelers safe in their areas. BSAR is always glad to share our equipment, supplies, and our mem-bers go where ever help is needed.

If you are willing and able to help mark the big open hole above Bethel this weekend please call the number at the top of this report or 545-2877

“Working Together So Others May Live”

Happy Holidays & Safe Travels From BSAR



****Please Note: this is not an advisory that it is safe to travel. It is for informational purposes only.***