

# Interagency Press Release



**Press Contact:**

Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Coordinator  
(907) 288-7739 office (907) 362-1527 cell

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## **Fish Carcass Disposal on the Russian River for 2009**

*Agencies ask for angler assistance this season to minimize negative bear encounters.*

*Kenai Peninsula*~ The Russian River Interagency Coordination Group (RRICG), comprised of state, federal and tribal entities whose logo appears above, is modifying the “Stop, Chop, and Throw” campaign that began in 2006. The intent of the changes is to minimize negative human-bear interactions. The biggest challenge of the campaign is to develop effective techniques that minimize carcasses from collecting along the banks and slack sections of the river and to reduce the resulting public safety hazards.

**To minimize the attainment of fish carcasses from bears during the 2009 field season, anglers are being asked to help by:**

- 1) Not filleting fish on the Russian River; instead take fish out whole (gutting entrails and gilling are ok).
- 2) Processing and disposing of fish carcasses properly:
  - Take home and follow appropriate local solid waste disposal standards (freeze if possible and dispose of in a bear resistant container or closed building until garbage pick up day)
  - Use a professional processing facility in your local area
- 3) If anglers prefer filleting harvested fish they are encouraged to take the fish to the Kenai-Russian River’s confluence, chop the carcasses into NUMEROUS small pieces, and throw the carcass pieces into fast moving currents.
- 4) Do not clean and dispose of fish carcasses at:
  - Nearby lakes and small streams
  - Roadside pull-outs
  - Campgrounds and other developed recreation sites
  - Toilet facilities, drinking fountains, or in bear resistant food storage lockers

Public participation is needed to minimize fish carcass presence in the area and determine what of various options employed to reduce carcass presence is most effective. The agencies are committed to the development of an effective management strategy that will maintain a safe and accessible fishery.

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