

## Cold Water Kills

Cold water immersion plays a significant role in the majority of boating fatalities in Alaska. Without a life jacket, most drown long before they become hypothermic.



WEARING A LIFE JACKET COULD BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SURVIVING A COLD WATER IMMERSION EVENT.



## Creature Comforts

Upriver on the Chena, there are many access points near toilets, public-use cabins, campgrounds, and picnic facilities. Most of these amenities are very rustic and you should plan on taking your own food and gear.

As you get closer to Fairbanks, such amenities as hotels, restaurants, and flush toilets become more readily available. However, you can still experience Alaska's rustic charm on the downstream portions of the river as campgrounds and picnic areas are scattered throughout its entire course.



### For more information:

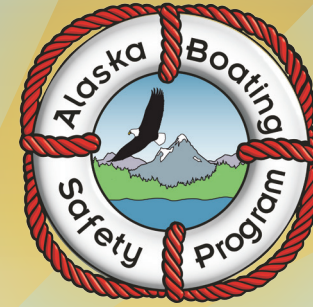
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# Your Guide to the Chena River



## A Supplement to the Alaska Boater's Handbook

## Chena River

The Chena River flows from the confluence of North Fork Chena River and West Fork Chena River, near Chena Hot Springs, to its confluence with the Tanana River. It is 100 miles long and provides boaters with relatively slow-moving water and exceptional views of forested hills, gravelly banks, wildlife, and bustling Fairbanks.



The Chena River does not have rapids but is ranked as Class II on the international scale of river difficulty due to hazards. Upper portions of the river are typically more difficult than the lower portions. Paddlers looking for an easygoing day can push off downstream of the Moose Creek Dam.

## Navigating the Chena River

The Chena River hosts many types of users. Through safe navigation practices, tragic collisions can be avoided.

The International Navigation Rules on Steering and Sailing apply on the Chena River. The "Rules" help vessels stay clear of each other. Knowing and applying the rules is important. Boaters must be constantly vigilant of the circumstances. All boaters at all times should:

- Maintain a proper lookout
- Proceed at a safe speed, so that proper and effective action to avoid collision can be taken
- Keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway which lies to the starboard side as is safe and practicable
- Be prepared to depart from the "Rules," if necessary to avoid a collision

The Rules confer responsibilities to all boaters, never entitlements. For more details on the navigation rules, reference the Alaska Boater's Handbook, available online [www.alaskaboatingsafety.org](http://www.alaskaboatingsafety.org)

## Prepare For Cold Water Immersion



**Wear** a life jacket—ALWAYS. By law, children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket in an open boat or on the deck of a boat.

**Wear a life jacket**  
—ALWAYS—



**Carry** some communication devices (i.e. marine VHF radio, cell phone, satellite phone\*) and signaling devices (i.e. emergency locator beacon, whistle, signal mirror, pencil flares) ON YOUR PERSON.



\*Note: A satellite phone is more dependable than a cellular phone along the Chena River.

ALASKA REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY				
Requirements	Boats under 16 feet	Boats 16 feet to less than 26 feet	Boats 26 feet to less than 40 feet	Boats 40 feet to less than 66 feet
Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)	One USCG-approved Type I, II, III or V PFD for each person on board. Must be in serviceable condition. Persons under 13 must wear a PFD when in an open boat, on the deck of a boat or when waterskiing.			
Throwable Devices (Type IV)	Recommended but not mandatory.	Except for canoes and kayaks, one USCG-approved Type IV (seat cushion or throw ring) device must be carried.		
Sound Producing Devices	Boats less than 39.4 feet (12 meters) in length must be able to make an efficient sound signal (such as that made with a whistle or horn) to signal intentions and to signal position in periods of reduced visibility.			Boats 39.4 feet (12 meters) or more in length must carry on board a whistle or horn.
Visual Distress Signals	USCG-approved night signals required between sunset and sunrise.	USCG-approved visual distress signals for both day and night time use must be carried. Exception: boats and open sailboats not equipped with mechanical propulsion and under 26 feet in length are <u>not</u> required to carry day signals. <i>Note: Pyrotechnic devices, if used to meet this requirement, must be current, serviceable and readily accessible. At the minimum, a total of three day/night combination devices or three day and three night devices must be carried.</i>		
Fire Extinguishers	At least one USCG-approved B-I required for boats with inboard engines, living spaces, permanent fuel tanks or enclosed storage areas or hull voids not sealed or filled with flotation material.		At least two B-I or one B-II USCG-approved fire extinguishers.	At least three B-I or one B-I and one B-II USCG-approved fire extinguishers.
Navigation Lights	Display required between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. International configuration required (varies with length and mode of operation). See the International Navigation Rules.			
Backfire Flame Arrestors	One USCG-approved backfire control device on each carburetor of all inboard gasoline engines.			
Ventilation	Boats with permanently installed engines, closed compartments or permanent fuel tanks must have efficient natural or mechanical ventilation.			
Registration	Undocumented boats equipped with mechanical propulsion (gas, diesel or steam engines, and electric motors) and any undocumented vessel used in sport fishing charter activities must be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Certificate of Number must be carried onboard. Registration numbers and validation decals must be properly displayed on hull of boat.			

**File** a float plan. Describe the boat and equipment, names of persons on the boat, planned destination and route, expected date and time of return, when and who to contact if overdue. Leave it with a responsible party. Visit [pledgetolive.org](http://pledgetolive.org) to file an electronic float plan.



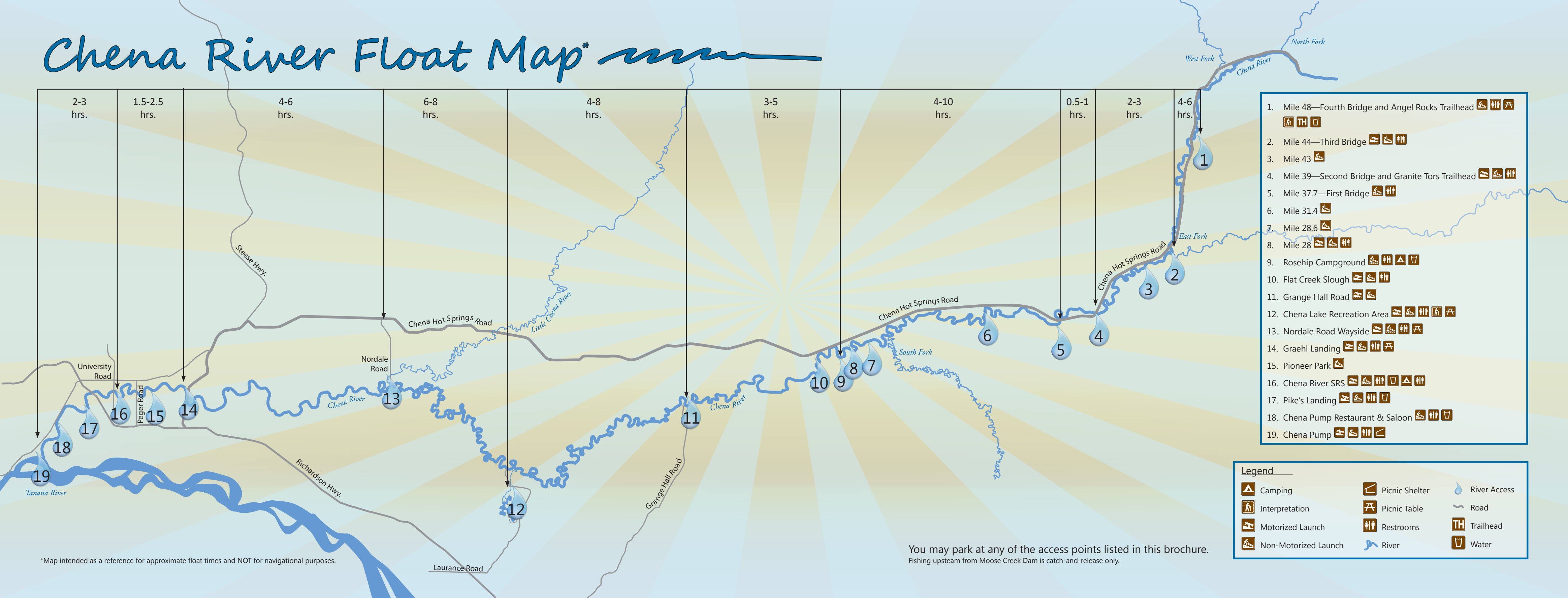
Take the pledge at [www.pledgetolive.org](http://www.pledgetolive.org)

**Avoid** alcohol. Many of Alaska's boating fatalities involve alcohol. In Alaska, the laws that define driving while intoxicated and the penalties upon conviction apply to boat operators too.





# Chena River Float Map\*



\*Map intended as a reference for approximate float times and NOT for navigational purposes.

You may park at any of the access points listed in this brochure.  
Fishing upstream from Moose Creek Dam is catch-and-release only.

Legend

Camping

Interpretation

Motorized Launch

Non-Motorized Launch

Picnic Shelter

Picnic Table

Restrooms

River

River Access

Road

Trailhead

Water