



End of the season Report 2014

We have finished our season, the planes are put away for the winter. Adrienne and I are sorting through the request from anglers for space in 2015. It was a busy summer, we started a week earlier than past years (June 14) and were full the entire summer. The majority of our staff returned for another summer, which made for a busy but smooth season. I have the best job in the world, I get to see anglers I have known for many years and meet new anglers each year.

Summer

Western Alaska had an unusually mild winter and Tikchik had very little snow, which left our lakes and rivers very low in the spring, in fact the water levels were the lowest I have seen in my 40 years. With low clear water, the fishing was exceptional for our fresh water species.

We had no rain in June or July, beautiful sunny days were the norm. Our best King Salmon fishing was our first 2 weeks, probably because of the early spring and warmer water temperatures the run timing was very early. Both Togiak and Kulukuk were also very low. Kulukuk River was a challenge to work with our planes. We had to use the tides for taking off.

Some highlights included excellent dry fly fishing for Rainbows on the Agulapak, because the water was so low and warmer in June, July and early August. We were able to fish Tikchik River much earlier than normal. The fishing on the upper Nushagak was outstanding for Rainbows and Dolly Varden.

Fall

The Silver (Coho) Salmon run on the Nushagak was well over 300,000 Silvers. The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game increased the bag limit from 5 to 10 Silvers per person per day. The Silver fishing at the Silver Mine camp was outstanding and the increased bag limit let our anglers harvest good numbers to take home.

The Agulapak River and the Agulawok River both provided excellent Rainbow Trout fishing and the Kvichak River was excellent for large Rainbows.

“Guiding Alaska” – 8, 1 hour episodes about Tikchik, Staff and anglers on the Travel Channel.

Orion Entertainment had a film production crew at Tikchik throughout the summer and fall producing “Guiding Alaska” for the Travel Channel. Orion Entertainment made the Wounded Warrior episode at Tikchik 3 years ago for the Outdoor Channel. It was an amazing journey to have a large film production crew at Tikchik all summer.

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My staff and I learned a lot about the film business and were surprised how much work goes into a production of this magnitude. The producers, camera men/women, sound men and everyone was very professional, polite and dedicated to the project.

<http://www.orionentertainment.com/work/reality/118-guiding-alaska>

Above is a video teaser of the series on Orion entertainments web page. I do not know when the episodes will start airing, when I find out we will post it on Tikchik Facebook page and Tikchik's **web site** www.tikchiklodge.com . If you are not on our e-mail list for our bi-monthly e-newsletters you can email us and request to be put on the list. The quality of this production, "Guiding Alaska", I can assure you, will impress all who watch it.

Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust wins the 2014 National Land Trust Excellence Award.

Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust (BBHLT) was formally the Nushagak - Mulchatna / Wood – Tikchik Land Trust. The land trust changed its old awkward name when the board elected to include the entire Bristol Bay watershed. The National Land Trust Alliance presented BBHLT with award for the work they have accomplished in Bristol Bay.

Rand Wentworth Preside of the Land Trust Alliance has this to say about BBHLT.

"Your approach in serving Native communities are unique in nature and key in protecting land resources all while still supporting their tradition and cultural practices. The creative and expansive conservation strategies that you employed have secured conservation for nearly 23,000 acres of private lands; protecting habitat in the Nushagak River Watershed, Wood-Tikchik State Park and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. This speaks volumes to what can be accomplished with a small team and limited Funding".

As president, Chairman of the Board and one of the founding Board Members, I am very proud of what we have accomplished in 12 years and I am looking forward to the next 12 years. If you would like to support the BBHLT you can join us by becoming a member or send a donation. To BBHLT, P.O. Box 1388, Dillingham AK 99576

For more information go to: <http://www.bristolbaylandtrust.org/>

The 2014 season was my 28th since purchasing Tikchik Narrows Lodge; I am looking forward to the next 10.

Think Tikchik for 2015.



Bud Hodson
Owner/Operator

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