



Hidden Falls Hatchery Visitor Requirements

For Private and Chartered Vessels



Liability

Inherent risks include water hazards, electric bear deterrent fences, industrial operations and a large number of brown bears. NSRAA and the State of Alaska is not responsible for visitor safety.

Permit Required for Commercial Operators

Hidden Falls Hatchery is located on Tongass National Forest land and State of Alaska tidelands. Commercially guided groups must be authorized by the Forest Service **and** registered with the State of Alaska.

- 1) Contact the Sitka Ranger District at: 2108 Halibut Point Rd, Sitka, AK 99835, (907) 747-6671
- 2) Contact State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources to register at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/commrec/>

Group Limits

Visitors may be accepted between 9:00am and 4:00pm daily, with the last tour starting no later than 2:30 p.m. Site visits are limited to a maximum of 1.5 hours. Only one group with a maximum of 24 visitors may be on site at a time.

Scheduling

Available tour slots can be viewed on the Google Calendar via the NSRAA website at <https://www.nsraa.org/>. Send requests to HiddenFallsOA@gmail.com. Visitors may be turned away if another group is onsite or scheduled to visit.

Site Access

Access to the site may be limited or denied due to work occurring, site conditions, or human-bear interaction dynamic.

The front side (east face) of the dock is for float planes only, except for the loading and offloading of passengers. Visitors are not permitted on the decks/steps of staff residences and must be accompanied by hatchery staff to enter any buildings.

Group Supervision

Groups must tour the site in a safe and respectful manner. Individuals must stay with their NSRAA guide, if provided, and not separate from the group.

Visitor Safety

Hidden Falls Hatchery is a large scale salmon fishery enhancement program that is frequented by a large number of brown bears, and **NOT** a location for a bear viewing tour. Close interaction with the population of bears on site is strictly prohibited. Bear deterrence measures that may be in place during your visit include pyrotechnics and electric fences.

Please remain within the designated rope areas and **DO NOT AT ANY POINT** try to cross the weir as this area has extremely high bear activity.

Informational Handout

An informational handout is available by request from the Forest Service, Hatchery or main NSRAA office in Sitka.