



Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office *Andreafsky Science Camp*

The Andreafsky River Science Camp was initiated in 1998. The camp takes place on the Andreafsky River, located within Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. This program is a highly successful cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Yupiit of Andreafski, St Mary's School District, Alaskan Village Council Presidents, and the Lower Yukon River School District.

This annual camp is open to students ages 13 – 16 from St Mary's High School and other villages along the lower Yukon River. The students spend a week



Students help sample salmon at the weir.

Science Camp Objectives:

Camp participants will be able to:

- Describe the role salmon play in enriching entire ecosystems.
- Understand the importance of native fish to the economy, ecology, and native cultures of both Alaska and Canada.
- Describe three ways they can help manage and wisely use their natural resources.
- Understand the need to fairly allocate salmon resources and ensure adequate escapement.



Toksook Bay Elder, James Sipary, helps science camp participants identify a salmon fry.

Along with laughing, staying up late, and making new friends, campers participate in fisheries management first-hand by working alongside biologists at the weir, explore possible science careers, observe songbirds close-up through participation in a banding program, discover traditional plant uses with a Native Elder, understand the ecological connections in the river system, and learn personal actions each can make to wisely use and manage their natural resources.

Science Camp Activities

- Salmon Biology • Fish Identification and Adaptations • Fish Dissections • Fisheries Management Techniques • Wildlife Research Methods • First Aid • Outdoor Safety and Survival • Bird Banding • Water Chemistry • Aquatic Insects • Fish printing • **Camping** • **Kayaking** • **And much more!**



Participating in songbird research.



Testing the pH of the Andreafsky River.