



May 19, 2009
PR# 09-048

Speed Limit Lowered to 45 on Seward Highway for Hooligan Fishery

(**Anchorage, Alaska**) – Alaska State Troopers are working in conjunction with the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities in an effort to keep pedestrians and motorists safe this hooligan fishing season. Alaska State Troopers will enforce the 45 mph speed limit posted by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities from milepost 80 to 84 of the Seward Highway to ensure motorists slow down while passing through an area that sees increased pedestrian traffic during the yearly hooligan fishery. The limit lowers the speed from 65 to 45 in that area throughout the season. The speed limit will remain in place until the season ends at midnight on May 31.

The fishery, which began in April, dramatically increases the number of cars parked alongside the road and pedestrian traffic north of the 20 Mile River. During the high tide, dipnetters of all ages park and walk around and in between vehicles and then climb over the guardrail to reach accessible channels in the Turnagain Arm. The stretch of roadway that is of concern runs the four miles between the primary entrance point for the hooligan run at the 20 Mile River and the Peterson Creek Bridge.

Troopers and DOT urge motorists to keep a look out for foot traffic along the road. Similarly, pedestrians should be mindful that drivers' vision is often blocked by the parked cars along the road.

As always, please pay attention to the road, avoid talking on the cell phone or texting while driving, slow down, wear your seatbelt and don't drive impaired.

For more information, contact Beth Ipsen at 351-5191.