

River Watch Program



NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) monitors ice breakup conditions throughout Alaska to assess flood threats and navigational hazards. The River Watch Program is a voluntary program that is asking pilots to report observed river ice conditions that can be obtained without deviation from the normal route or flight level. The purpose of the program is to assist the NWS in providing accurate forecasts, warnings, and navigation information.

Supplemental aerial observations from aircraft flying at low to mid-level altitudes significantly enhance the information on ice conditions. Since ice conditions can be significantly different along a river and can change rapidly during the breakup process, numerous observations are needed statewide to assess the status of breakup.

River and lake ice observations can be provided to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) by the following methods:

- Radio AFSS who will encode as a remark in a PIREP
- Call the APRFC at 1-800-847-1739
- E-mail the APRFC at nws.ar.aprfc@noaa.gov

River Watch Program website address is:

<http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/resources/rivwatch/rwpindex.php>

The program website provides more information about the program and the breakup process, training materials, and ice breakup status maps and observations.

NWS River Watch Program contacts:

Scott Lindsey (266-5152) scott.lindsey@noaa.gov - Anchorage

Brad Sipperly (458-3713) brad.sipperly@noaa.gov - Fairbanks

Ed Plumb (458-3714) edward.plumb@noaa.gov - Fairbanks

Harry Lind (442-3231) harry.lind@noaa.gov - Kotzebue

Jerry Steiger (443-2321) jerry.steiger@noaa.gov - Nome

Ralph Morgan (524-3205) ralph.morgan@noaa.gov - McGrath

Pete Garrison (543-2236) pete.garrison@noaa.gov - Bethel

Debra Elliott (246-3303) debra.elliott@noaa.gov - King Salmon