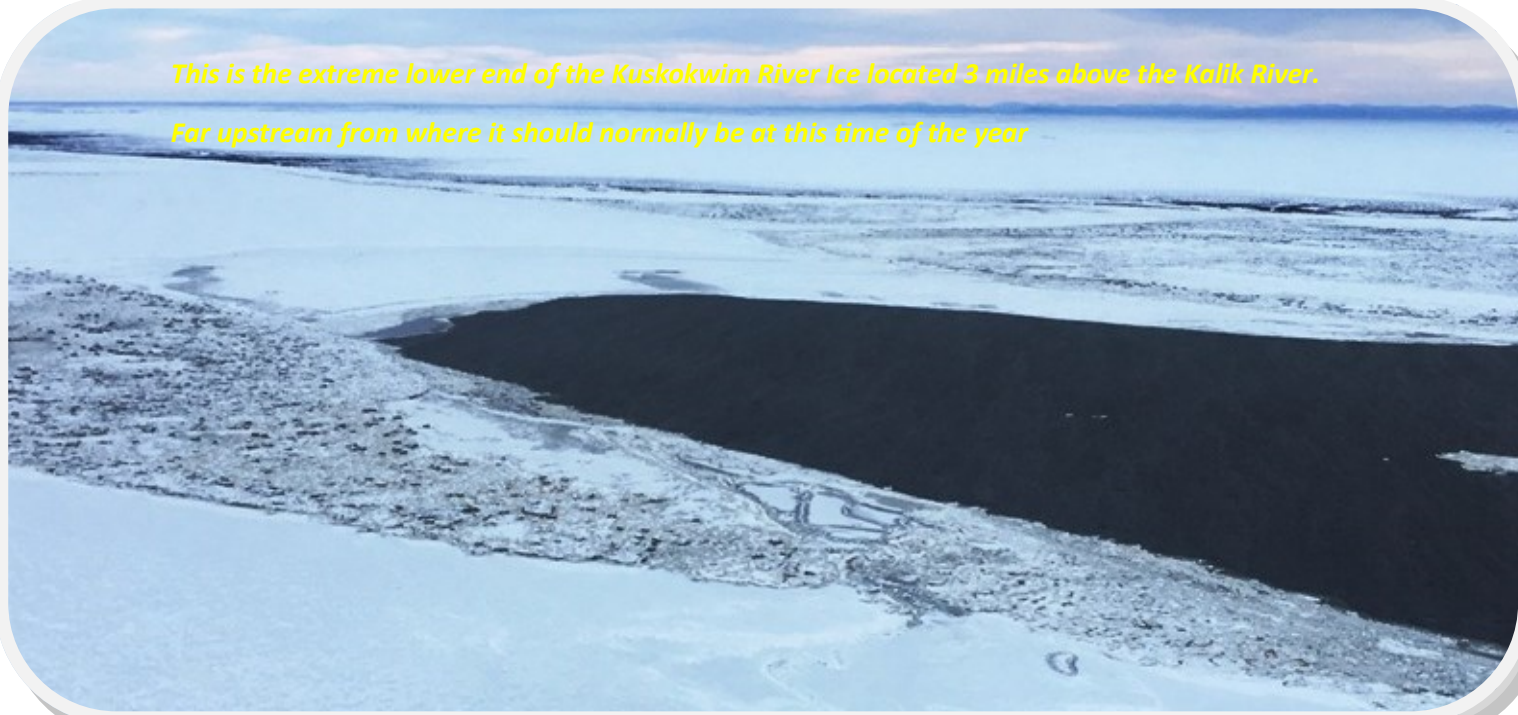


To Report a Missing or Overdue Person Call 911 or 907-545-HELP (4357)

*This is the extreme lower end of the Kuskokwim River ice located 3 miles above the Kalik River.  
Far upstream from where it should normally be at this time of the year*



## 1.5.18 Special BSAR Slavia River Report:

### *"The End of the Ice"*

#### **Summary:**

***After a long night and morning of back-to-back searches, BSAR members had the opportunity to fly the River once again with U.S.F.W.S. pilot Robert Sundown. Our flight had three goals:***

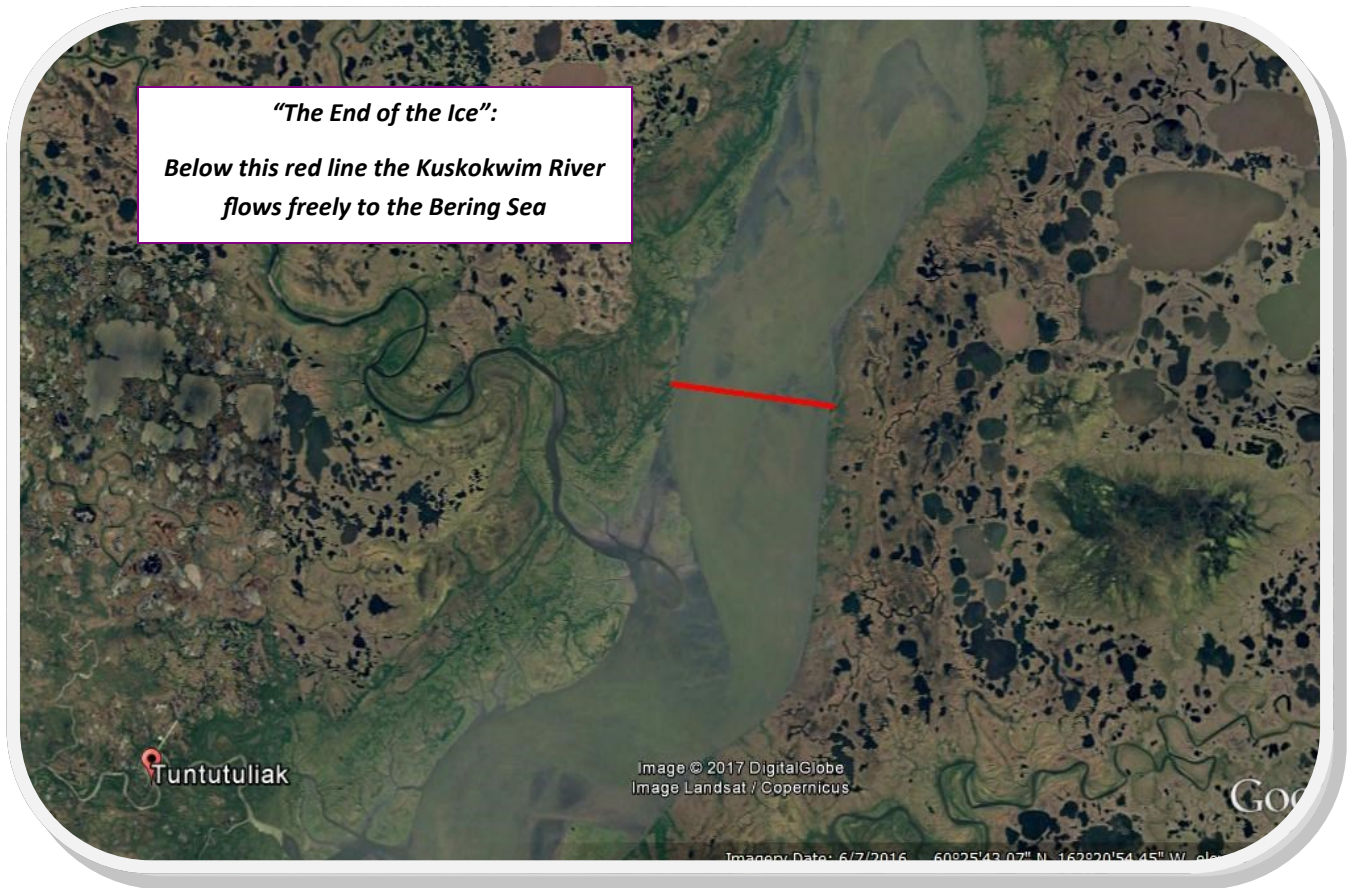
- 1. Locate the lower end of the Kuskokwim River ice somewhere near the Bering Sea***
- 2. Observe the condition & number of open holes that we had previously located on our 12.5.17 aerial survey***
- 3. Take a look at all of the recent good work being done by Lower Kuskokwim Search & Rescue Groups***

***The area covered was from Tuntutuliak to the Bluffs below Kalskag—about 140 miles. Our flight was shortened due to weather.***

***What we saw regarding goals #1 & #2 was very concerning—maybe even historical.***

***For goal #3 were we smiling.***

***Here is what was observed:***



***Above the red line there are large areas of rough ice that looked like it had been shifted, broken, and refrozen.***

***Also large low lying areas that had seen flooding during this winter's storms.***



***It was unsettling to see so much of our River still unfrozen—when in 2017 there was a marked truck road on the ice all the way to Tuntutuliak by January 9th.***



**Condition and number of open holes above Bethel:**



*There has been little change in the number and size of open holes. A few of the smaller ones have frozen. Some have partially frozen creating several smaller holes. Most have shrunk a little but there are still several of these “monster” holes like this one just below the mouth of the Tuluksak River. There are some slight improvements here and there. But a whole month of winter has passed since our last flight.*

**The Good Work Being Done by Our Lower Kuskokwim Search & Rescue Groups:**



*Tuluksak SAR installing hundreds of willow open water markers around that same hole from the top picture.*

***Good Job Guys!***



***It made us smile to see that every open hole between Bethel and Akiak have been marked in some way and quite a bit of trail marking has been done.***

***Above Akiak all the way to Kalskag there is still a lot of work to be done.***



***The always well-marked Eek Trail***



***The Kusko Highway: well marked truck road***

***From Napakiak to Napaskiak***





**Closing:**

There are a lot of good People out there working hard to keep our winter travelers safe. Many are volunteers using their own equipment and gear—even their own gas. Yet there are still problems. It's very disheartening when we still lose People or see disrespect for our work.

BSAR wishes everyone a safe and happy Slaviq!

Thank you.



***Left picture: blatant disregard for open water marking at the same open hole where we just lost some one. We actually observed someone from the air today driving through the markers!***

***Right picture: Successful rescue this morning of another intoxicated traveler. This person was hurt badly and severely hypothermic. Just a few hours before this a BSAR team completed an all night search successfully for another intoxicated person. This picture is only a snap shot of the dozens of similar searches BSAR has had to do in recent weeks since the trails started opening up.***

***Please Don't Drink & Travel***