

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

## CHAIRPERSON

Andy Couch

## VICE CHAIR

Pete Probasco

## MSB STAFF

Maija DiSalvo



## BOARD MEMBERS

Howard Delo

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio:* Jim Sykes

## Regular Meeting

January 11, 2024

### Supplemental Handout – Table of Contents

- 1 = Assembly Memo Re: RS 21-128
- 2 = Upcoming Assembly Legislation Re: BOF/Booklet
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- 26 = Susitna Basic Rec Rivers - DNR Presentation
- 42 = WA Proposes AK King Salmon - ESA
- 45 = Army Corps Permit re: Proposed Development

Physical Location of Meeting: Assembly Chambers,  
DSJ Bldg, Palmer. Remote Participation: See agenda.

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

<http://www.matsugov.us> • [planning@matsugov.us](mailto:planning@matsugov.us)

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer AK 99645 Ph.907.861.7865

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*Ex officio:* Jim Sykes**MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION****Memorandum**RE: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 FWC Report per RS 21-128

During the fourth quarter of 2023, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) met four times as follows:

- October 19: Regular meeting
- November 16: Regular meeting
- December 7: Special meeting – Fishing Season Summary with Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- December 14: Regular meeting

The FWC did not discuss game issues in these meetings and has instead been focused on preparations for the 2024 Board of Fisheries (BOF) Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting that will be held February 23-March 6, 2024. The Commission developed a work plan, hired a consultant, and created and printed the new 2024 It Takes Fish To Make Fish booklet. In conjunction, the FWC also submitted comments regarding the Eklutna Hydro project, presented at the 2024 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, prepared for and held the 2023 Fishing Season Summary meeting with ADF&G (listed above), and submitted formal comments regarding Federal Management of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Cook Inlet. At their first meeting in 2024, the FWC will begin discussing plans for a 2023 Game Season Summary meeting with ADF&G in the first half of 2024.

Maija DiSalvo

Long Range Planner – Planning &amp; Land Use Division

[maija.disalvo@matsugov.us](mailto:maija.disalvo@matsugov.us)

907-861-7865

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

**IM No. 24-034**

**SUBJECT:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION EFFORTS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2024 IT TAKES FISH TO MAKE FISH BOOKLET AT THE 2024 BOARD OF FISHERIES UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH MEETING.

**AGENDA OF:** January 16, 2024

**Assembly Action:**

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	<div style="text-align: right;">1 / 3 / 2 0 2 4</div> X      K i m   S o l l i e n _____ Signed by: Kim Sollien  Recoverable Signature
Department Director	X      A l e x   S t r a w n _____ Signed by: Alex
Finance Director	<div style="text-align: right;">1 / 4 / 2 0 2 4</div> X      C h e y e n n e   H e i n d e l _____ Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel
Borough Attorney	<div style="text-align: right;">1 / 4 / 2 0 2 4</div> X      N i c h o l a s   S p i r o p o u l o s _____ Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos  Recoverable Signature
Borough Manager	X      M i c h a e l   B r o w n _____ Signed by: Michael Brown  Recoverable Signature
Borough Clerk	X      L o n n i e   M c K e c h n i e _____ Signed by: Lonnie McKechnie  Recoverable Signature

**ATTACHMENT (S):** Resolution Serial No. 24-020 (3 pp)  
 2024 It Takes Fish To Make Fish (32 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) was created to advise the Assembly, Borough Manager, and/or any state or federal agencies, departments, commissions, or boards possessing jurisdiction in the area of fish, wildlife, and habitat on the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat. The FWC utilizes science-based standards and forward-looking policies to help protect fisheries in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet, and to enhance harvest opportunities for all users.

The FWC has approved six goals to support their efforts:

1. Long-term salmon conservation and protection of salmon habitat.
2. Maintain and enhance the Conservation Corridor in the drift gillnet fishery management plan.
3. Clarify or strengthen conservative management practices which provide protection for current and formerly identified Stocks of Concern.
4. Increase inriver returns of coho and sockeye salmon to Northern Cook Inlet river systems.
5. Adjust existing king salmon management plans and strategies to more adequately address conservation concerns for king salmon returning to Northern Cook Inlet drainages.
6. Maintain or extend personal use fishing opportunity for Alaskan residents fishing Northern Cook Inlet drainages.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) is a group of seven members appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature. The BOF makes final decisions on proposed fishing regulations, relying heavily on the local perspective and input of members of the public, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Advisory Committees, and other interested organizations and advisory groups, such as the MSB FWC. The BOF meets on a three-year cycle and will be holding the 2024 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting in Anchorage from February 23-March 6, 2024.

In preparation for the 2024 BOF meeting, the FWC submitted only one proposal, to amend the Lower Susitna River personal use fishery to run one week later on Saturdays and Wednesdays from July 17-August 7, in order to better match the salmon run timing. Instead of submitting additional proposals, the FWC is focused on maintaining the previously established regulations protecting the Conservation Corridor.

The Conservation Corridor concept is covered in depth in the 2024 *It Takes Fish To Make Fish* booklet. In short, harvesting Upper Cook Inlet salmon stocks, primarily where directed harvests can best match individual stock production and abundance level, minimizes inseason restrictions and closures. This management approach will maximize the benefit for the state, the fishing economy, and the health of the fishery. The Conservation Corridor should be maintained and enhanced to continue making positive impacts.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:** Respectfully request approval.



Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 24-020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION EFFORTS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2024 IT TAKES FISH TO MAKE FISH BOOKLET AT THE 2024 BOARD OF FISHERIES UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH MEETING.

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WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) was created to advise the Assembly, Borough Manager, and/or any state or federal agencies, departments, commissions, or boards possessing jurisdiction in the area of fish, wildlife, and habitat on the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the FWC utilizes science-based standards and forward-looking policies to help protect fisheries in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet and to enhance harvest opportunities throughout the season for all users; and

WHEREAS, local fishing opportunity is an important economic driver for the Northern District and provides immeasurable benefits to visitors and residents who rely on summer salmon runs each year; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) is a group of seven members appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature, which makes final decisions on proposed fishing

regulations; and

WHEREAS, the BOF relies heavily on the local perspective and input of members of the public, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Advisory Committees, and other interested organizations and advisory groups, such as the MSB FWC; and

WHEREAS, the BOF meets on a three-year cycle and will be holding the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting in Anchorage from February 23 - March 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the FWC is focusing its BOF efforts on maintaining the current regulations in place that protect the Conservation Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the FWC has developed the 2024 It Takes Fish To Make Fish booklet, which provides an in-depth description of the Conservation Corridor concept, along with additional successes and challenges within Northern District fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the FWC supports conservative fishery management to maximize the benefit for the state, the fishing economy, and the health of the fishery; and

WHEREAS, additional intent and rationale for this resolution are found in the accompanying Informational Memorandum No. 24-034.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly hereby supports the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission efforts and policy recommendations identified in the 2024 It Takes Fish To Make Fish booklet at the 2024 Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet

Finfish meeting.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day  
of -, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

**From:** [Andy Couch](#)  
**To:** [Maija DiSalvo](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Change in Alaska's Commercial Salmon Industry  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 4:00:51 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sorry,

It took a while for me to find this --- last item in this email chain -- for consideration at Thursday's FWC meeting.

Andy Couch  
Fishtale River Guides  
(907) 746-2199  
[fishing@fish4salmon.com](mailto:fishing@fish4salmon.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Gruening** <[Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov](mailto:Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov)>  
Date: Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 1:32 PM  
Subject: RE: Change in Alaska's Commercial Salmon Industry  
To: Andy Couch <[fishing@fish4salmon.com](mailto:fishing@fish4salmon.com)>  
Cc: Rep. DeLena Johnson <[Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov)>

Thanks for the article Andy. Very interesting and alarming.

As we enter the budget process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly regarding Mat-Su's needs for additional weir time, surveys, staffing, etc. I was the fisheries committee aide for a number of years, have an extensive personal background in sports and commercial fisheries, and am always excited to talk fish.

Sincerely,

**Matt Gruening**

Chief of Staff

Office of Rep. DeLena Johnson

Work: 907-465-1032

Cell: 907-209-0280

## 5 AAC 96.625. JOINT BOARD PETITION POLICY

*(effective September 19, 2019)*

(a) Under AS 44.62.220, an interested person may petition an agency, including the Boards of Fisheries and Game, for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a regulation. The petition must clearly and concisely state the substance or nature of the regulation, amendment, or repeal requested, the reason for the request, and must reference the agency's authority to take the requested action. Within 30 days after receiving a petition, a board will deny the petition in writing, or schedule the matter for public hearing under AS 44.62.190--44.62.210, which require that any agency publish legal notice describing the proposed change and solicit comment for 30 days before taking action. AS 44.62.230 also provides that if the petition is for an emergency regulation, and the agency finds that an emergency exists, the agency may submit the regulation to the lieutenant governor immediately after making the finding of emergency and putting the regulation into proper form.

(b) Fish and game regulations are adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. Annually, the boards solicit regulation changes through regulatory proposals described in 5 AAC 96.610(a). Several hundred proposed changes are usually submitted to each board annually. The Department of Fish and Game compiles the proposals and mails them to all fish and game advisory committees, and to other interested individuals.

(c) Copies of all proposals are available at local Department of Fish and Game offices and on the boards support section's website. When the proposal books are available, the advisory committees and hold public meetings in the communities and regions they represent, to gather local comment on the proposed changes. Finally, the boards convene public meetings, which have lasted as long as six weeks, taking department staff reports, public comment, and advisory committee reports before voting in public session on the proposed changes.

(d) The public has come to rely on this regularly scheduled participatory process as the basis for changing fish and game regulations. Commercial fishermen, processors, guides, trappers, hunters, sport fishermen, subsistence fishermen, and others plan business and recreational ventures around the outcome of these public meetings.

(e) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize the importance of public participation in developing management regulations, and recognize that public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes. The boards find that petitions received under (a) of this section can detrimentally circumvent this process and that an adequate and more reasonable opportunity for public participation is provided by regularly scheduled meetings.

(f) The Boards of Fisheries and Game recognize that in rare instances circumstances may require regulatory changes outside the process described in (b) -(d) of this section. It is the policy of the boards that a petition will be denied and not scheduled for hearing unless the problem outlined in the petition justifies a finding of emergency under AS 44.62.250(a). In accordance with state policy expressed in AS 44.62.270, emergencies will be held to a minimum and are rarely found to exist. Except for petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future. Petitions dealing with subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing will be evaluated under these criteria:

(1) the petition must address a fish or game population that has not previously been considered by the board for identification as a population customarily and traditionally used for subsistence under AS 16.05.258; or

(2) the circumstances of the petition otherwise must require expedited consideration by the board, such as where the proposal is the result of a court decision or is the subject of federal administrative action that might impact state game management authority.

(Eff. 9/22/85, Register 95; am 8/17/91, Register 119; readopt 5/15/93, Register 126; am 2/23/2014, Register 209; am 9/19/2019, Register 231)

**From:** [Mary Tullius](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Leave the Eklutna dam as it is  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:01:27 AM

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Please leave the Ekluta dam as it is. The electric co-op utilities have/are spending millions of dollars enhancing water flow in the river at the expense of cheap electricity and drinking water for Anchorage. Do not give away this fossil fuel free, power on demand, environmental friendly part of our electric grid. The utilities recently received a 50 year extension to their permit from the federal government.

This is a valuable asset owned by all the co-op electric utility members in the rail belt area and it is the cheapest supply of electricity in the rail belt area. Do not trade it for the several hundred fishermen who might catch a fish in this river. There should be a cost analysis for dollars to remove and energy lost versus each fish that could be caught.

The governor has committed to Alaska to have 50% non fossil fuel free electrical grid by 2050 This asset is already constructed and upgraded and will cost millions of dollars to remove. Lets evaluate dam removal the next time the dam is up for permit renewal.

What's next? Remove dams at Bradley Lake and the dams in Southeast Alaska?

Michael and Mary Tullius  
1334 N Street  
Anchorage 99501

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com](mailto:mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com) on behalf of [Katherine Spangler](#)  
**To:** [owen@mcmjac.com](mailto:owen@mcmjac.com)  
**Subject:** New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:28:09 AM

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CAUTION: This email was received from an external source

I support the removal of the eklutna dam



**From:** [mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com](mailto:mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com) on behalf of [Brad Meiklejohn](#)  
**To:** [owen@mcmjac.com](mailto:owen@mcmjac.com)  
**Subject:** New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:41:48 PM

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CAUTION: This email was received from an external source

THE POWER COMPANIES WANT YOU TO BELIEVE THAT WE MUST SACRIFICE SALMON TO SAVE THE PLANET. THAT IS A FALSE CHOICE.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE HYDROPOWER THAT DOES NOT KILL SALMON. THAT MEANS GIVING THEM ENOUGH WATER AND ALLOWING THEM TO REACH THEIR SPAWNING GROUNDS. THE PLAN PROPOSED BY THE POWER COMPANIES AT EKLUTNA FAILS ON BOTH COUNTS. THE POWER COMPANIES PROPOSE TO DELIVER A TRICKLE OF WATER VIA A SPIGOT THAT CREATES A DEAD-END RIVER, LEAVES A DRY RIVERBED FOR ONE MILE, AND REQUIRES SALMON TO WALK TO THEIR SPAWNING GROUNDS IN EKLUTNA LAKE. THE POWER COMPANIES' PLAN ALSO WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE ANCHORAGE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM.

THE ORIGINAL IMPACT, 93 YEARS AGO, WAS THE LOSS OF A SOCKEYE SALMON RUN TO EKLUTNA LAKE. THE RETURN OF THAT SOCKEYE RUN WOULD BE A BOON TO SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA. BUT IF WE LET THE POWER COMPANIES HAVE THEIR WAY NOW WE WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE FOR 35 MORE YEARS.

THE POWER COMPANIES ARE PEDDLING FEAR OF CLIMATE CHAOS, DWINDLING GAS SUPPLIES AND RISING ELECTRIC RATES. ALASKANS ARE SMART ENOUGH TO SEE THROUGH THIS SMOKESCREEN.

RATHER THAN RUSH TO SPEND \$60 MILLION NOW TO BUILD A FLAWED AND RISKY GUTTER THAT KILLS SALMON, WE PROPOSE WAITING TO DO THE JOB RIGHT ONCE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES COME ON-LINE TO REPLACE EKLUTNA HYDRO. THEIR PLAN WOULD REDUCE EKLUTNA HYDROPOWER NOW, RAISE YOUR RATES NOW AND FAIL TO HELP SALMON. OUR PLAN WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY, HAVE NO IMPACT ON RATEPAYERS, AND WOULD RESTORE THE EKLUTNA RIVER AND ITS SALMON.

SALMON ARE THE ULTIMATE RENEWABLE RESOURCE IN ALASKA. IF WE GET OUT OF THEIR WAY, THEY KEEP COMING BACK TO US.

**From:** [Ed Czech](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Eklutna River Restoration  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:39:41 PM

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Please restore flow to the entire Eklutna River so that all 5 Species of Salmon can return and thrive in its waters. No more diminished flows or degraded salmon habitat. Turn this stream into a world class fishing destination and we will all prosper off of the money it will bring in.

Edward Czech  
Anchorage, Ak  
907-599-0025  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Morgan](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Eklutna lake damn  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 10:25:00 PM

---

I am in strong opposition of the proposal to remove the eklutna damn as it will impact both awwu and chugach electric.

**From:** [mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com](mailto:mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com) on behalf of [TOdd Russell](#)  
**To:** [owen@mcmjac.com](mailto:owen@mcmjac.com)  
**Subject:** New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US  
**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:30:10 PM

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CAUTION: This email was received from an external source

I'm curious as to who will be able to access and fish in the Eklutna River once salmon have been rstored- will this only benefit the Eklutna tribal members or will the general public be ABLE TO benefit from this project? It appears that Eklutna Inc. owns most of the affected access to this river in it's fishable area.

**From:** [mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com](mailto:mail=eklutnahydro.com@wpdatacenter.com) on behalf of [Manda Gershon](#)  
**To:** [owen@mcmjac.com](mailto:owen@mcmjac.com)  
**Subject:** New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US  
**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 3:36:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email was received from an external source

TO DEPRIVE aLASKANS OF POWER WHILE WE'RE ALREADY STRUGGLING FOR ENERGY IS  
OUTRAGEOUS AND COULD LEAD TO DEATH FOR PEOPLE. IS THIS REALLY WHAT EKLUTNA  
WANTS TO BE KNOWN FOR?

**From:** [Randy Brown](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Damn Dam  
**Date:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 8:13:23 AM

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Good morning and thank you for taking the time to review my comment. I am a voting Chugach Electric member and homeowner in Anchorage.

With dwindling natural gas supplies, rising electricity costs, a warming planet, and hundreds of undammed rivers across this state, it's incredulous to me to think that we're seriously considering removing a reliable source of renewable energy from our electricity portfolio.

I generally support the Anchorage Assembly, but do not on this topic. I grew up in Washington State which has 80%+ of its power coming from renewable energy AND has some of the lowest power costs in the nation. It is because of its hydroelectric resources that it can accomplish is.

Furthermore, the Municipality has a Climate Action Plan that has been sitting on a shelf, collecting dust, not being acted on or taken seriously while the Assembly and Mayor squabble over homelessness. I find it offensive that our "progressive" elected leadership is taking time and effort to weigh in on this issue without offering any reasonable alternatives AND acting upon them.

It feels to me like this yet another example of "playing politics." Let's return the salmon to the stream without removing the dam. Let's build more dams that do not block salmon runs. And let's quit burning fossil fuels. Real leadership would accomplish this.

-Randy Brown  
Fairview Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Alaska Salmon Research Task Force (AKSRTF)

Agenda January 25, 2024, 9:30-12:00 Theme: Report and Research Needs		
Time (AKDST)	Topic	Speaker/Lead
9:30-9:40	Agenda review	Laura Dwinnell
9:40-9:55	Updates, Overall Progress and Schedule	Ed Farley, Chair
9:55 - 11:20	Update on Report	Ed Farley, Chair
	Review of (Draft) Executive Summary	Task Force Discussion
	Updates to Research Needs & Priorities	
	<a href="#">Research Prioritization Template</a> Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reach agreement on template use</li> </ul>	
11:25-11:30	February 13 (9am-5pm) <b>Task Force</b> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In person &amp; hybrid attendance</li> <li>● ADFG (333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage)</li> <li>● Objective: Research projects</li> </ul>	Laura Dwinnell
11:30-11:50	Questions and Comments	Public
11:50- 12:00	Next Steps, Actions and Wrap up	Jacob Ivanoff, Vice Chair

**Website:** [Alaskan Salmon Task Force](#)



**DRAFT - UPDATED 12/22/2023****DRAFT Agenda SCHEDULE – Seattle, WA****Feb 2024**

**NOTE: Agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear, and timing is subject to change as necessary. All meetings are open to the public, with the exception of Executive Sessions.**

<i>All meetings 8am – 5pm</i>	<b>SSC February 5-7 Courtyard Ballroom</b>	<b>Advisory Panel (AP) February 6-9 North/West Room</b>	<b>Council February 8-12 Courtyard Ballroom</b>
<b>Monday Feb 5</b>	8:00 am Election of officers Administrative issues C1 NSRKC, Crab PT		
	1:00pm C2 BBRKC closures D5 E-logbooks EFP C3 Cook Inlet Salmon		
<b>Tuesday Feb 6</b>	8:00 am C3 CI Salmon (cont)	8:00 am AP member training 10:30 am Election of officers Administrative issues C1 NSRKC, Crab PT	
	1:00 pm C3 CI Salmon (cont) D6 Sm. sablefish DMR	1:00 pm C2 BBRKC closures	
<b>Weds Feb 7</b>	8:00 am D4 AFA Review workplan D7 Research priorities D8 SCS8 case studies	8:00 am C2 BBRKC (cont)	
Trawl EM public meeting, 6-7:30pm North/West Room	1:00 pm <i>Continue as necessary/ Report writing</i>	1:00 pm C2 BBRKC (cont)	
<b>Thursday Feb 8</b>		8:00 am D1 Pelagic trawl gear (T) C3 Cook Inlet salmon	8:00 am B Reports
Industry Reception		1:00 pm C3 C. Inlet salmon (cont) D2 GOA Tanner crab	1:00 pm B Reports (cont) C1 NSRKC, Crab PT
<b>Friday Feb 9</b>		8:00 am D2 GOA Tanner (cont) D3 Programmatic policy	8:00 am C2 BBRKC closures
		1:00 pm D4 AFA Review workplan D5 E-logbooks EFP E Staff Tasking	1:00 pm SSC report in full C2 BBRKC closures (cont)
<b>Saturday Feb 10</b>			8:00 am C2 BBRKC closures (cont) C3 Cook Inlet Salmon
			1:00 pm C3 C. Inlet Salmon (cont) D1 Pelagic trawl gear (T)
<b>Sunday Feb 11</b>			8:00 am D2 GOA Tanner crab
			1:00 pm D3 Programmatic policy D4 AFA Review workplan D5 E-logbook EFP
<b>Monday Feb 12</b>			8:00 am E Staff Tasking
			1:00 pm E Staff Tasking (cont)

**DRAFT - UPDATED 12/22/2023****DRAFT AGENDA****268th Plenary Session, North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
February 5-12, 2024, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, WA**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet in early February, at the Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, WA. Other meetings to be held in close conjunction are:

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Dates</u>
SSC Informational meeting on Cook Inlet salmon Scientific and Statistical Committee	January 19, 2024, 8 am – 12 pm, virtual
Advisory Panel	February 5-7, 2024, 8 am – 5 pm, Courtyard Ballroom
Council	February 6-9, 2024, 8 am – 5 pm, North/West Room February 8-12, 2024, 8 am – 5 pm, Courtyard Ballroom

**Red = SSC items**

	<i>Council staff lead</i>	<i>Approx TIMING</i>
<b>A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER</b>		
A1 Approve agenda	<i>David Witherell</i>	
<b>B. Reports – written presentations unless noted</b>		<b>5</b>
B1 Executive Director’s Report ( <i>oral</i> )	<i>David Witherell</i>	
B2 NMFS Management Report (including annual cost recovery update) ( <i>oral</i> )		
B3 NOAA General Counsel Report		
B4 AFSC Report ( <i>oral</i> )		
B5 ADF&G Report		
B6 USCG Report		
B7 USFWS Report		
B8 IPHC Report ( <i>oral</i> )		
<b>C. Major Issues/Final Action Items</b>		<b>14</b>
C1 NSRKC ABC/OFL – Set specifications, Crab PT report	<i>Sarah Rheinsmith</i>	2
C2 BBRKC closure areas – Initial Review	<i>Sam Cunningham</i>	8
C3 Cook Inlet Salmon – Status Determination Criteria, TAC-setting	<i>Nicole Watson</i>	4
<b>D. Other Issues</b>		<b>11</b>
D1 Pelagic trawl gear definition changes – Review NMFS report (T)	<i>Sam Cunningham</i>	3
D2 GOA Tanner crab protections – Review discussion paper	<i>Nicole Watson</i>	4
D3 Programmatic evaluation of management policies – Council direction and workshop planning	<i>Sara Cleaver</i>	2
D4 AFA Program Review – Review workplan	<i>Kate Haapala</i>	1
D5 E-logbooks Exempted Fishing Permit – Review application	<i>Anna Henry</i>	1
D6 Small sablefish release – Identify sablefish DMR for analysis (SSC only)	<i>Sara Cleaver</i>	
D7 Research priorities – Plan Teams reports (SSC only)	<i>Nicole Watson</i>	
D8 Case studies for SCS8 workshop – discuss candidates (SSC only)	<i>Diana Stram</i>	
<b>E. Staff Tasking</b>		
E1 Committees, New Business, and Tasking – Review	<i>Diana Evans</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL HOURS (including SSC report in full)</b>		<b>35</b>

## Pre-Meeting Review Documents for February 2024 Council Meeting

**As of 12/21/2023**

Below is a list of documents that will be available through our [eAgenda](#) prior to the meeting, along with the Council staff contact, and estimated date they will be posted.

*To receive a hard copy of any document by mail, please email [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov)*

### **3 Weeks in Advance, posted by 1/12**

- C2 BBRKC Closure Areas – Sam Cunningham
- C3 Cook Inlet Salmon – Nicole Watson
- D2 GOA Tanner Crab – Nicole Watson
- D7 Social Science Planning team research priorities report – Sarah Marrinan
- D7 Scallop Plan Team research priorities report – Sarah Rheinsmith

### **2 Weeks in Advance, posted by 1/19**

- C1 NSRKC SAFE Report chapter – Sarah Rheinsmith
- C1 BSAI Crab Plan Team report – Sarah Rheinsmith
- D1 Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition Changes (T) – Sam Cunningham
- D3 Programmatic evaluation of management policies discussion paper – Sara Cleaver
- D4 AFA Program Review workplan – Kate Haapala
- D6 Small Sablefish Release DMR discussion paper – Sara Cleaver
- D7 BSAI Crab Plan Team research priorities report – Sarah Rheinsmith
- D7 Bering Sea FEP Team research priorities report – Diana Evans
- D7 SSC Subgroup research priorities report – Nicole Watson

### **1 Week in Advance, posted by 1/26**

- D5 E-Logbooks Exempted Fishing Permit – Anna Henry (1/22)
  - D7 Joint Groundfish Plan Team research priorities report – Sara Cleaver
- Action memos for all agenda items except B reports and E staff tasking (all staff)

### **Week before the Meeting (1/29-2/2)**

- B reports (including Executive Director's Report) – David Witherell
- E Staff Tasking memo – Diana Evans

For definition of acronyms and abbreviations, see online list: <https://www.npfmc.org/library/acronyms/>



**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
(<https://www.npfmc.org/>)

[HOME \(/\)](#)

[LOGIN \(/Account/Login\)](#)

## NPFMC Council/AP February 2024 - 268th

[Download Attachments](#)

[Printable Agenda \(/Meeting/PrintableAgenda/3029?includeAttachments=False\)](/Meeting/PrintableAgenda/3029?includeAttachments=False)

[Printable Agenda with attachments \(/Meeting/PrintableAgenda/3029?includeAttachments=True\)](/Meeting/PrintableAgenda/3029?includeAttachments=True)

**Comment period begins at 01/12/2024 06:00 AM AKST**

0 Comments

All comments are part of the public record.

Meeting Time: 02/05/2024 07:00 AM AKST

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**Council, February 8-12, 2024; Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, Washington; 8am-5pm**

**Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81451130091>  
(<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81451130091>)**

**Meeting ID: 814 5113 0091**

Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

**Advisory Panel, February 6-9, 2024; Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, Washington; 8am-5pm, except Tuesday Feb 6th 10:30am-5pm**

**Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88671612019>  
(<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88671612019>)**

**Meeting ID: 886 7161 2019**

Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

### **Public comment:**

Please submit written comment for the Council and Advisory Panel by clicking on the 'Comment Now' links next to the relevant agenda item, below. **The comment period will open on**

**January 12, 2024, and the deadline for written comments is Friday, February 2nd at 12pm AKT.** Submitted comments will be reviewed then visible online after the deadline closes, as per the Council's comment policy (<https://www.npfmc.org/public-comment-policy/>).

The AP and Council will also take in-person and remote oral testimony during the meetings. During the meeting, you will be able to click on the applicable 'Sign-up' link next to each agenda item below, and indicate whether or not you'll be testifying remotely or in person.

The AP and the Council meetings will be broadcast on zoom. If you intend to give oral testimony remotely, you must be connected to the meeting, either through zoom on your device or using a call-in phone number above. **All information provided through the eAgenda or during testimony is part of the public record.** We are recording the meeting and will post the recordings shortly after the meeting is over.

If you'd like to receive **text alerts** on Council timing, text the word "NPFMC" to the number 1-833-237-1598.

*Related meetings:*

**Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), February 5-7, 2024; AGENDA (3030)**

## A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### A1

#### Approval of Agenda

Attachments:

Schedule (LINK) ([https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/meetings/SCHEDULE\\_0224.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/meetings/SCHEDULE_0224.pdf)) -Uploaded: 12/21/2023 09:43 AM AKST

Review Document Schedule (LINK) ([https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/meetings/ReviewDocSchedule\\_0224.pdf](https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/meetings/ReviewDocSchedule_0224.pdf)) -Uploaded: 12/21/2023 09:43 AM AKST

## B. REPORTS

### B1

#### Executive Director's Report (oral)

### B2

#### NMFS Management Report (including annual cost recovery update) (oral)

### B3


#### NOAA General Counsel Report

### B4




#### AFSC Report (oral)

### B5





#### ADF&G Report

- B6** **USCG Report**
- B7** **USFWS Report**
- B8** **IPHC Report (T)**
- B9**  0 Comments **Public Comment on B1 through B8 agenda items**
- B10** **SSC Report**
- B11** **AP Report**

### **C. MAJOR ISSUES / FINAL ACTION ITEMS**

- C1**  0 Comments **C1 NSRKC – Set ABC/OFL specifications, Crab PT report**
- C2**  0 Comments **C2 BBRKC closure areas – Initial Review**
- C3**  0 Comments **C3 Cook Inlet Salmon – Status Determination Criteria, Harvest Specifications**

### **D. OTHER ISSUES**

- D1**  0 Comments **D1 Pelagic trawl gear definition changes – Review NMFS report (T)**
- D2**  0 Comments **D2 GOA Tanner crab protections – Review discussion paper**
- D3**  0 Comments **D3 Programmatic evaluation of management policies – Council direction and workshop planning**
- D4**  0 Comments **D4 AFA Program Review – Review workplan**

- D5** 0 Comments **D5 E-logbooks Exempted Fishing Permit – Review EFP application**
- D6** 0 Comments **D6 Small sablefish release – Identify sablefish DMR for analysis (SSC only)**
- D7** 0 Comments **D7 Research priorities – Plan Teams reports (SSC only)**
- D8** 0 Comments **D8 Case studies for SCS8 workshop – discuss candidates (SSC only)**

## **E. STAFF TASKING / COMMITTEES**

- E1** 0 Comments **E Committees, New Business, and Tasking - Review**



(<http://www.akfin.org>) Website hosted by Alaska Fisheries Information Network



**From:** [Jim Sykes](#)  
**To:** [Maija DiSalvo](#)  
**Subject:** NOAA/NMFS Draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 1:47:05 PM

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hi Maija--

I learned today that NMFS and/or NPFMC is supposed to post it's Draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation by CoB Jan 12th. It will be the subject of the informational meeting of the Scientific Committee of NPFMC on January 19th noted on page 98 in our packetI . I think it's important to at least monitor the meeting on the 19th.

It's a backgrounder for what the committee will consider at the NPFMC meeting on Feb 6  
The NPFMC Advisory panel will also consider it Feb 8th and the full council on Feb 10, (if the current agenda schedule holds) Written comments are due by Feb 18th or can be submitted live or written on the days that the SSC, AP, and Council consider the agenda item. (Probably Feb 6, 8 and 10 respectively)

It might be good to at least file a copy of our letter to NMFS and It Takes Fish 2024 with the NPFMC, as they don't necessarily read our comments to NMFS. We may wish to make additional comments or ask additional questions about the the science and the process, and any shortcomings that could be a problem.

We can participate with the SSC, AP and Council remotely as well as submitting public comments live and/or in written form (probably good to do both if possible) at the Seattle NPFMC meet starting Feb 6. What a good warmup for the BoF!

Jim  
907-354-6962



# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

## Public Review Draft





# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

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Recreation Rivers Act of 1988  
(AS 41.23.400-510):

The primary purpose for the establishment of the six recreation rivers is their maintenance and enhancement for recreation





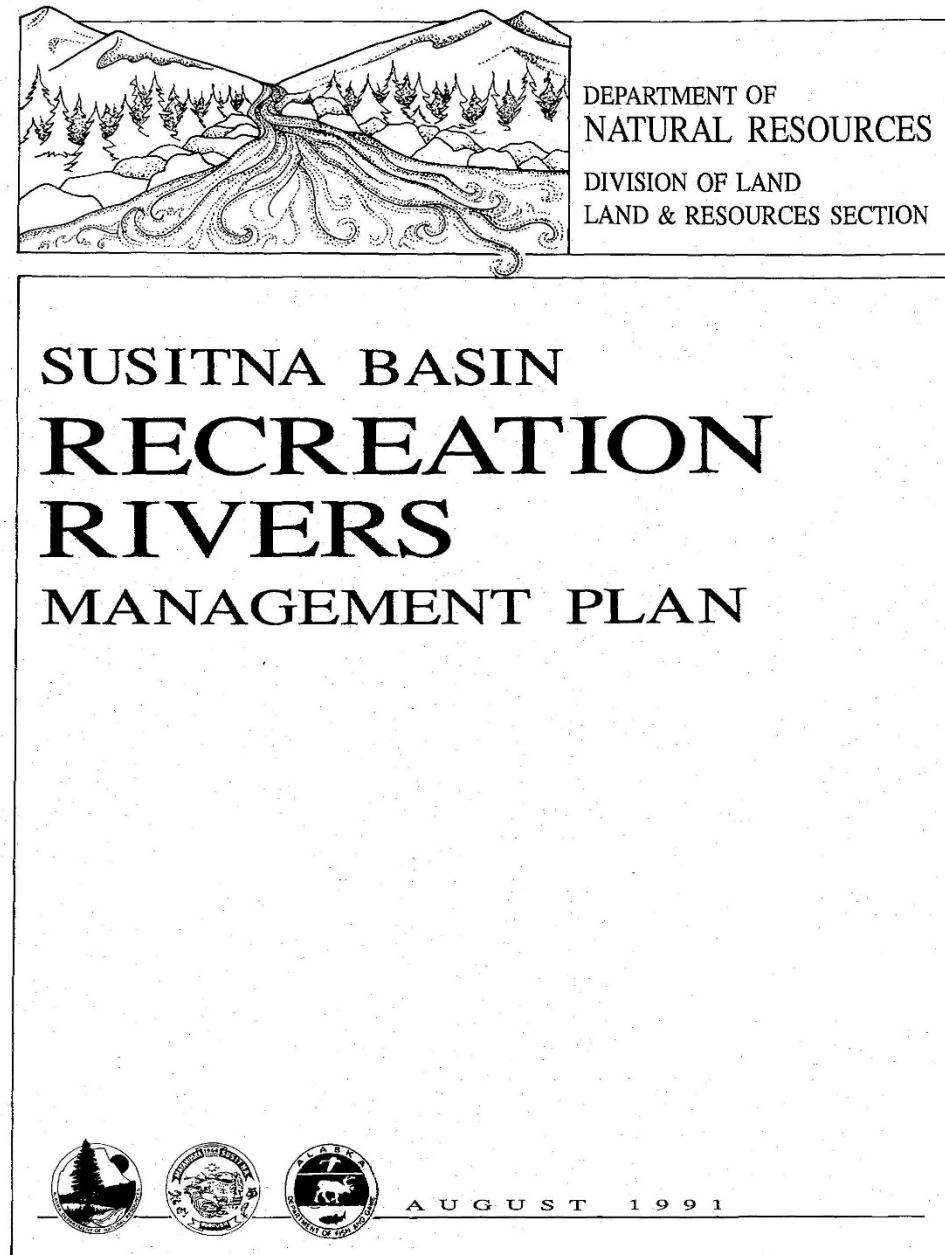
# Recreation Rivers Management Area



- Six Rivers
  1. Little Susitna River
  2. Deshka River (Moose/Kroto Creeks)
  3. Talkeetna River
  4. Lake Creek
  5. Talachulitna River
  6. Alexander Creek
- 460 River Miles
- Mile-wide corridors totaling 260,000 acres

# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

- Original plan adopted in 1991
- This revision kicked off with scoping in May of 2022 after the board was reconstituted at the end of 2021



# Planning Process



# What The Plan Will Do:



- Provide for the maintenance and enhancement for recreational uses on the six Recreation Rivers.
- The plan determines how these six rivers will be managed over the long term by providing guidelines to land managers for issuing authorizations.
- Recommends actions to meet the current and future needs of the public.
- Provides relevant resources and information on which DNR can base decisions.



# What The Plan Will Not Do:



- Affect methods, means, and allocation of fish and wildlife harvest.
- Address oil and gas leasing.
- Affect subsurface resources except through mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders.
- Change laws and regulations.
- Address non-state lands.

# How The Plan Is Organized



Chapter 1: Introduction & Background

Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies

Chapter 3: Land & Water Management Policies for Each  
Management Unit

Chapter 4: Implementation

# Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies

## Examples:

- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Riparian Management Areas
- Recreation
- Commercial
- Boat Access
- Shoreline Development



# Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies



## Examples:

- Adjusted dock standards
- Barrels will no longer be permitted in dock construction
- Updated erosion control guidance

# Chapter 3: Land & Water Management Policies for Each Management Unit

---

Specific management intent & guidelines for each unit and subunits

Major changes include:

- Updated data to reflect changes in the corridors
- Changes to public use sites & special management areas

# Example: 6c. Alexander Lake Subunit

## 6c. Alexander Lake Subunit

### Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 38.3 to RM 44.0

Alexander Lake is about 2.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide. The terrain around the lake is flat. Contiguous wetlands make up at least 90 percent of the area within the subunit. Well-drained sites are mostly in private ownership.

### Land Ownership

State	5,007 acres
Private & Other	95 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,102 acres</b>

### Wildlife

In recent surveys, trumpeter swans have been observed along Alexander Creek and adjacent lakes/ponds. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

### Invasive Species Concerns

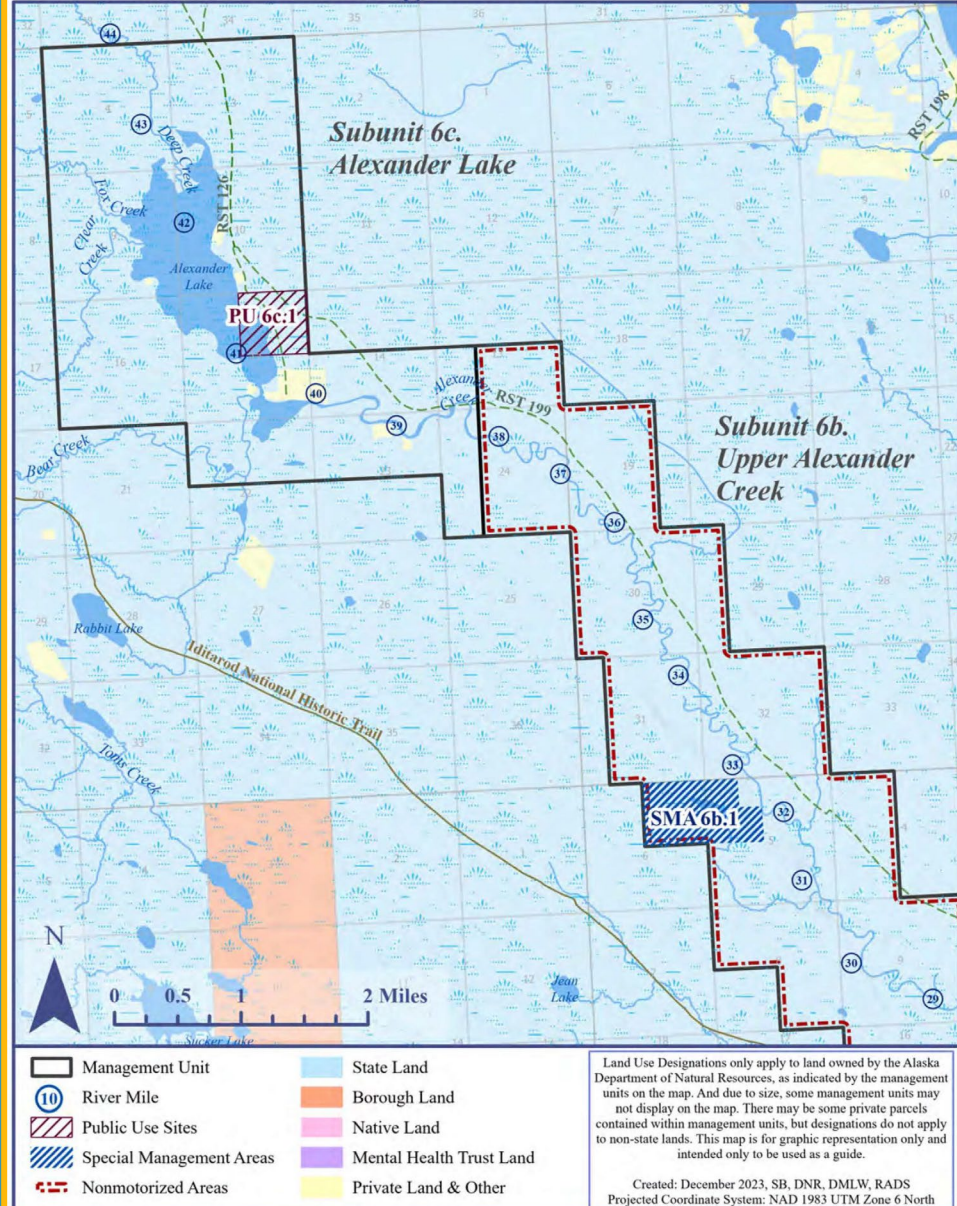
The Division of Agriculture has been working to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant, *Elodea* from Alexander Lake since 2018. Full eradication in Alexander Lake is challenging due to the many inflows into the lake that make maintaining a specific concentration of herbicide difficult. Reintroduction is also a challenge from the inflows but also from anthropogenic sources such as boats, floatplanes and gear. The Division of Agriculture anticipates full eradication in the next few years.

ADF&G began a northern pike suppression program in 2011. Crews have been gillnetting side sloughs in the spring, targeting, and removing northern pike. To date, ADF&G has removed over 30,000 northern pike from Alexander Creek. Unfortunately, Alexander Creek provides ideal habitat for pike, and Alexander Lake/Sucker Lake at the headwaters are completely dominated by northern pike. ADF&G plans to continue implementation of aggressive pike removal in the watershed.

### Development

## Alexander Creek Management Unit

MAP 3



Land Use Designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on the map. And due to size, some management units may not display on the map. There may be some private parcels contained within management units, but designations do not apply to non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and intended only to be used as a guide.

Created: December 2023, SB, DNR, DMLW, RADS  
 Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6 North



# Chapter 4: Implementation

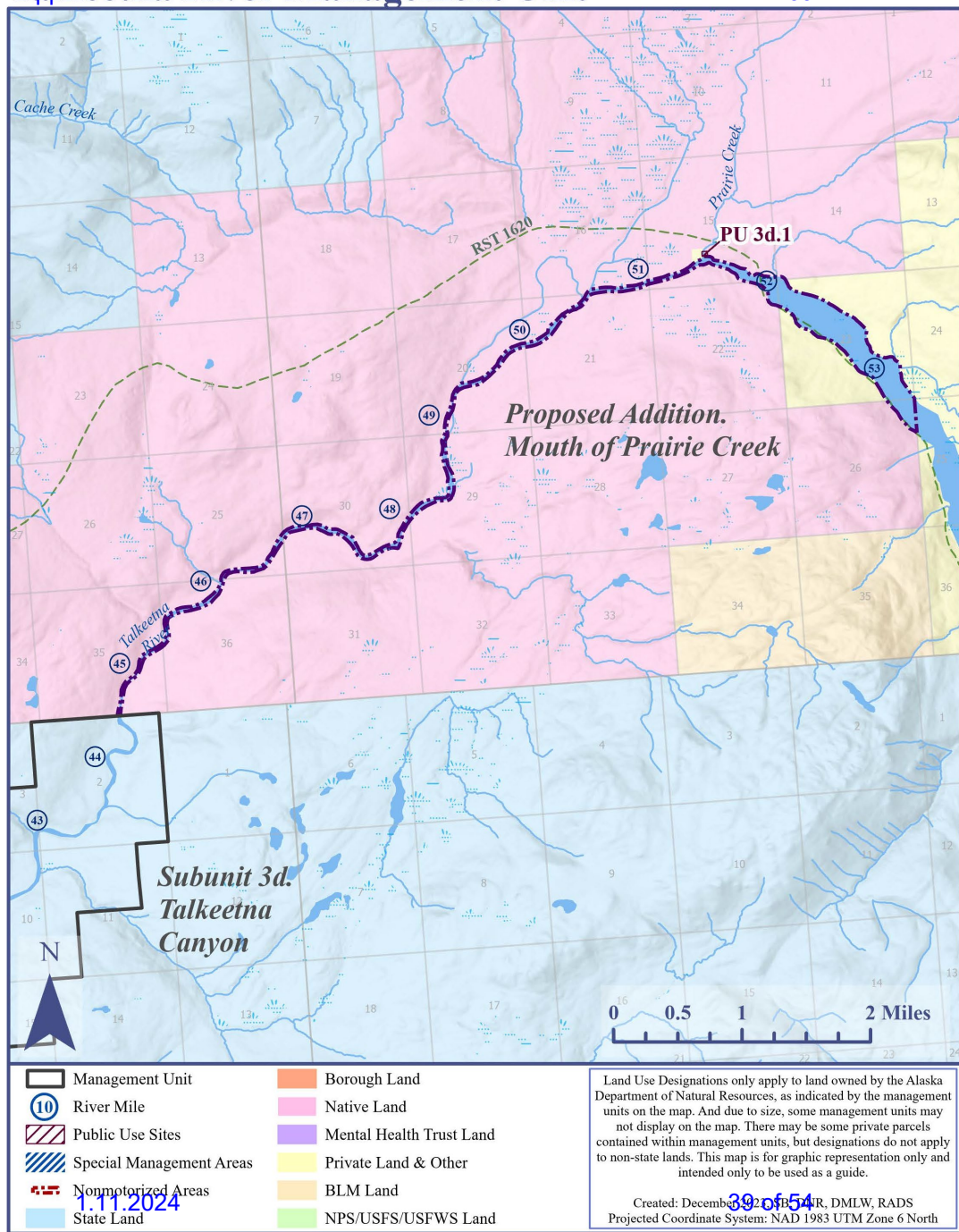
- Updated agency implementation responsibilities based on current and future actions.
- Changed proposed additions.





# Proposed Additions

- Removed some proposed additions due to changes in land ownership and use
- Retained recommendations to:
  - Correct overlap between Nancy Lake State Rec Area and the Recreation Rivers Corridor
  - Proposed addition at Mouth of Prairie Creek



1.11.2024

39 of 54



# Public Meetings

<u>AREA</u>	<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b>Talkeetna</b>	Tuesday, January 30, 2024 5:00-7:00 PM	Talkeetna Public Library
<b>Anchorage</b>	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 12:00-2:00 PM	Robert Atwood Room (104) Robert B. Atwood Building
<b>Virtual</b>	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:30-7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams (see project webpage for more info)
<b>Wasilla</b>	Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:15-6:45 PM	Wasilla Public Library

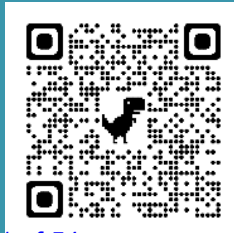
# Send Comments To:

Recreation Rivers Planning  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1050  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Email: [recreationrivers@alaska.gov](mailto:recreationrivers@alaska.gov)

To receive full consideration, comments must  
be received by **Tuesday, March 5, 2024.**

For more information visit:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/susitna-revision>



# Washington conservation group proposes listing Alaska king salmon under Endangered Species Act

The chinook are threatened by climate change and competition from hatchery-raised fish, and existing state and federal management are failing to stem their decline, says the Wild Fish Conservancy.



NATHANIEL HERZ

JAN 11, 2024



4



2



Share



A Chinook salmon. (Ryan Hagerty/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

*This is a breaking news story — I'm likely to update it as comments and statements come in, so check the online version of this post throughout the day at [northernjournal.com](https://www.northernjournal.com).*

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A Washington state-based environmental group says it's filing a petition asking the Biden administration to list southern Alaska king salmon as an endangered species — following through on notice of intent [it filed last year](#).

The Wild Fish Conservancy's [68-page petition](#) says that the king salmon, also known as chinook, are threatened by climate change and competition from hatchery-raised fish, and that existing state and federal management are failing to stem their decline.

The petition targets all populations that use the Gulf of Alaska, including fish that spawn in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers outside Anchorage, in the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers in Southeast Alaska and in the Alaska Peninsula's Chignik River.

“While Alaska is often perceived as having abundant salmon populations, scientists have been sounding the alarm for decades that Alaska’s Chinook are in dire trouble,” the conservancy said in a statement emailed to supporters Thursday. “Despite existing management plans and years of efforts by state resource managers, Alaska's own data shows the majority of Chinook populations throughout the state have experienced significant decline, not only in abundance, but also in size, diversity, and spatial structure.”

In a press release, a conservancy biologist and petition co-author, Conrad Gowell, added: “Ironically, certifiers and the seafood industry are leading concerned consumers to believe Chinook from Alaska are sustainable, when in fact they are disappearing before our very eyes. No one wants to be eating the last wild Chinook from any river.”



The conservancy's executive director, Emma Helverson, did not immediately respond to a request for additional comment.

The organization's petition is likely to be politically polarizing: It could lead to sharp restrictions on fishing for chinook, and Alaska's state government has previously fought the listing of many other species, citing the potential for impacts on development.

The conservancy [has already drawn intense criticism](#) from Southeast Alaska small boat troll fishermen and some Alaska-based conservation groups for [a federal lawsuit](#) it filed in 2020.

The lawsuit, which is still playing out on appeal, challenged a key federal authorization that was needed for state managers to open the troll chinook harvest each year.

The conservancy says the lawsuit aims to protect an endangered population of orca whales. But the Alaska trollers and their allies say it could force an economically devastating closure of their fishery.

The conservancy's petition will start what could be [a lengthy review process](#).

The National Marine Fisheries Service has 90 days to decide whether or not to accept the petition, which would happen if it deems the conservancy's request to present "substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted."

If it accepts the petition, the service will begin a comprehensive review of the Alaska king salmon's status, analyzing the "best available scientific and commercial information" on the species' biology, population trends and threats.

Within a year, the agency will decide whether that review supports listing the salmon as threatened or endangered, and if so, it will publish a proposed rule and request for public comments before making a final decision, typically within another year.

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

ANCHORAGE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>15 December 2023</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>15 January 2024</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2023-00398</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Little Meadow Creek</b>

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to [regpagemaster@usace.army.mil](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Estrella Campellone at (907) 753-2518, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil](mailto:estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

**APPLICANT:** Sterling Cook, 4051 E. Brenda Avenue; Wasilla, Alaska, 99654. Telephone: (907) 841-5771. Email: [sscook78@yahoo.com](mailto:sscook78@yahoo.com)

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 27, T. 18 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Anchorage C-7; Latitude 61.623021° N., Longitude 149.622168° W.; Matsu Borough Account Number 57331000L004 (Lot 4-Parcel ID 523619) and Account Number 57331000L003 (Lot 3-Parcel ID 523619), MooseyBou Properties, in Wasilla, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to provide the much-needed space for private seaplane operations in the Matanuska-Susitna valley. Currently there are only few locations that do provide floatplane slips, and all are backlogged with over a seven (7) year waiting

period for an opportunity to obtain a floatplane use space. The proposed project would relieve existent demand for floatplane slips on local lakes that support anadromous fish species, which are already congested with recreational boat traffic.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant is proposing to construct a seaplane base by building 31 floatplane slips, each 25-foot wide by 30-feet long deep. Each floatplane slip would be connected to Island Lake through three (3) 75-foot-wide access channels and one (1) 150-foot-wide main channel. To maintain water flows in Meadow Creek, the applicant proposes to reroute a section of Meadow Creek through the seaplane base. Hydrology would be directed through a trench into a 60-foot long by 12-inch diameter culvert under existing runway. The proposed project would require the excavation of 13,398 cubic yards of organics from 3.11 acres of palustrine wetlands to create the seaplane base basin and filling and/or modifying at most 3.30 acres of palustrine wetlands around the excavated area to provide access and operate seaplane base activities. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1, 2, and 4 dated December 7, 2023, sheet 3 dated August 23, 2023, and sheet 5 dated August 29, 2023).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The applicant would be contacting the following State and local agencies: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

**APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The applicant would minimize impacts on wetlands as much as possible by designing the project to fill only wetland areas needed for accessing and operating the seaplane base.

b. Minimization: The seaplane base channels would only be dug out 3-4 feet to minimize the amount of excavated material proposed for discharge on the sides of floatplane slips and on the edges of channels. Banks and edges of the channels and slips would be planted with grass to stop the erosion process and stabilize the edges of the seaplane base perimeter. Seeding of slip sides would occur during the first growing season after construction and would continue during two more growing seasons or as necessary until disturbed ground has been stabilized. All construction and excavation work would take place in winter, while peat is frozen. The seaplane basin would be connected to Island Lake once construction of slips and connecting channels are completed to minimize sediment transport outside project footprint and/or downstream to reaches that provide habitat to salmon. Excavated peat material that is not used to create access areas would be discharged in uplands. Hydrology would be maintained by constructing an outbound trench connected to a culvert underneath existing runway; this for the purpose of allowing water flows from Island Lake to move freely through the seaplane basin and into Little Meadow Creek's lower reaches.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant did not propose compensatory mitigation.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). On October 19, 2023, the Corps provided information to the applicant regarding the process required to obtain a Water Quality Certification from ADEC.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the area of wetlands and uplands within Lot 3 and Lot 4 as shown in Sheet 3 attached. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Potential to Cause Effects determination for the proposed project. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties is not required. However, any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Although the proposed project site is not within mapped EFH, Little Meadow Creek is an anadromous creek (AWC Code: 247-50-10330-2050-3050-4027-5061) and provides rearing habitat to coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) up to the culvert across Pitman Road (approximately 550 feet downstream from the project site).

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government.



Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:  
(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

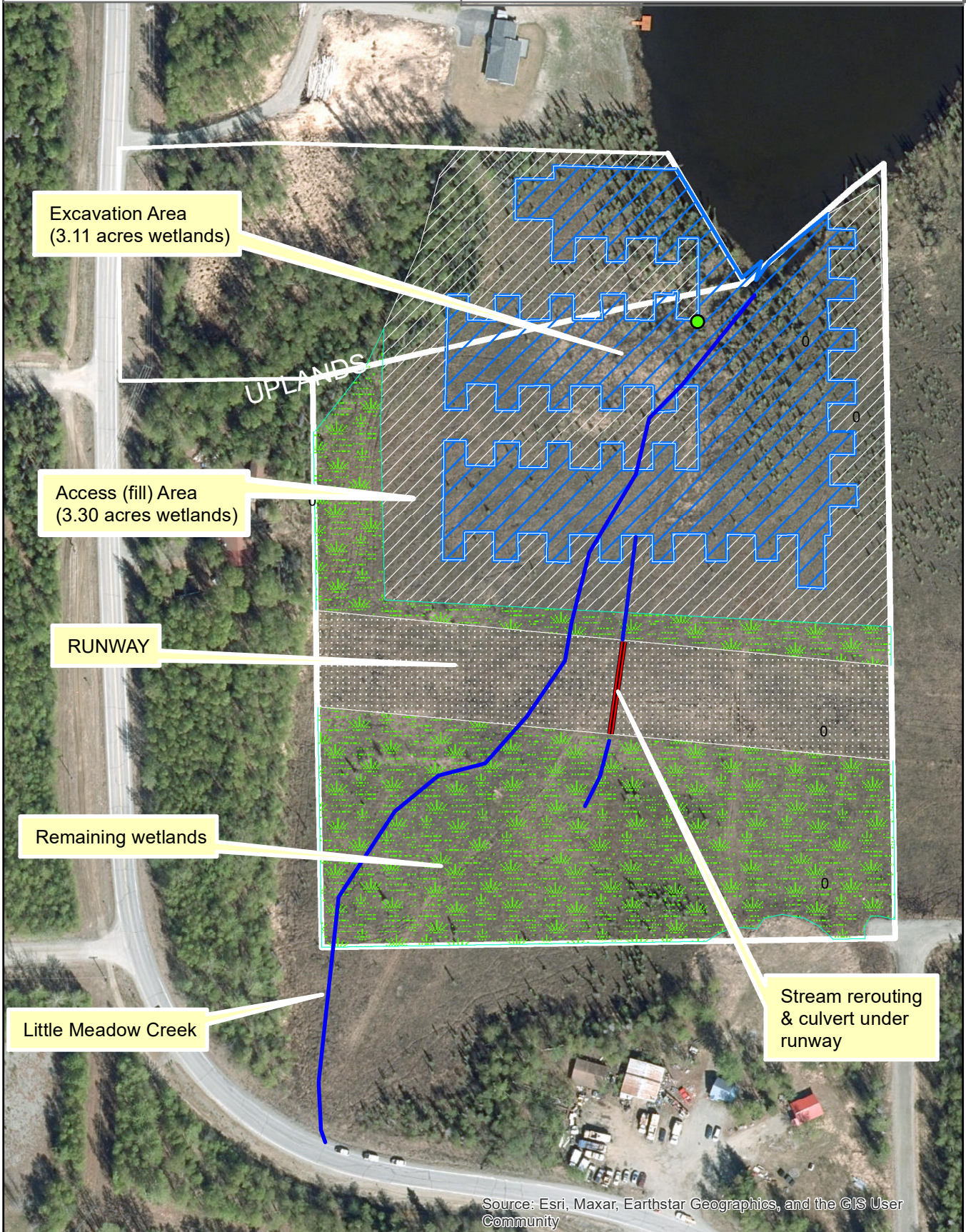
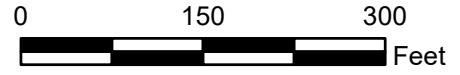
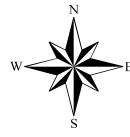
District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

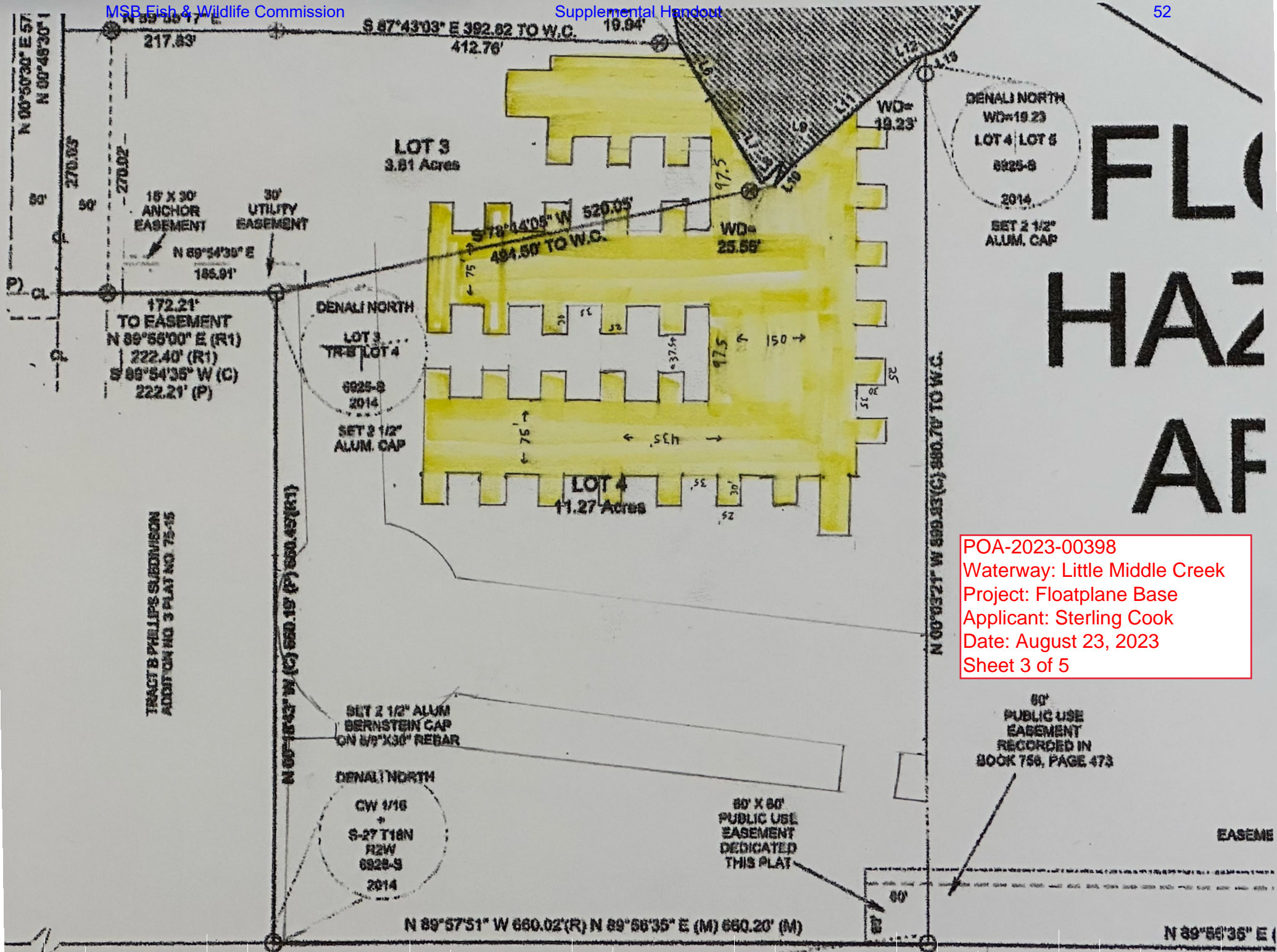




POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Seaplane Base (31 floatplane slips)  
December 7, 2023  
Sheet 2 of 5







**FLC**  
**HAZ**  
**AF**

DENALI NORTH  
WD=19.23  
LOT 4 LOT 5  
6925-8  
2014  
SET 2 1/2"  
ALUM. CAP

POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Floatplane Base  
Applicant: Sterling Cook  
Date: August 23, 2023  
Sheet 3 of 5

SET 2 1/2" ALUM  
BERNSTEIN CAP  
ON 5/8" X 30" REBAR

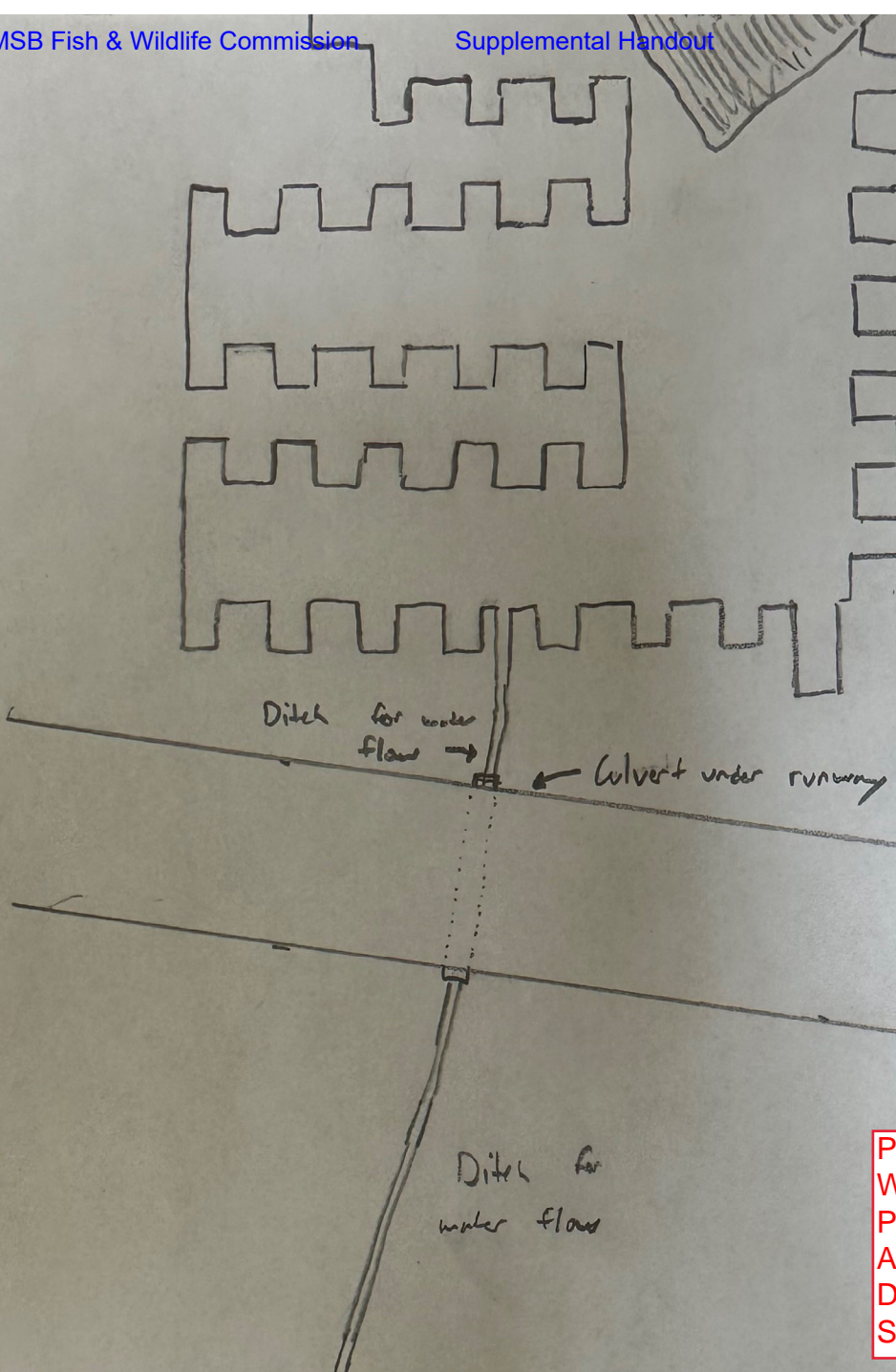
DENALI NORTH  
CW 1/16  
+  
S-27 T16N  
R2W  
6928-8  
2014

80' X 80'  
PUBLIC USE  
EASEMENT  
DEDICATED  
THIS PLAT

80'  
PUBLIC USE  
EASEMENT  
RECORDED IN  
BOOK 756, PAGE 473

EASEME





POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Floatplane Base  
Applicant: Sterling Cook  
Date: December 7, 2023  
Sheet 4 of 5



Island Lake float plane base

POA-2023-00398  
Waterway: Little Middle Creek  
Project: Floatplane Base  
Applicant: Sterling Cook  
Date: August 29, 2023  
Sheet 5 of 5

