

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADFG)
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES—OFFICE OF
HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING**

Anadromous Fish Streams

A search of the ADFG *Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* identified two anadromous fish streams in the Allakaket area: the Koyukuk River (ADFG Stream #334-40-11000-2125), and the Alatna River (ADFG Stream #334-40-11000-2125-3661). Both rivers support populations of king and chum salmon, sheefish, and whitefish. The Koyukuk River flows past the village of Allakaket. Although the airport itself is not adjacent to the Koyukuk River, the proposed material site is (see Figure 2), thus any proposed activities at that site that affect the river bank or result in dredge/fill would require a permit (Title 41). The Alatna River is located about 0.75 miles upstream from Allakaket and the airport and material site and is unlikely to be affected by project activities.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The list of federally listed threatened and endangered species maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was consulted to determine if listed species are of concern in the Allakaket area. No species on the list occur within the project area.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) website (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/default.htm>) was visited to determine if any species under their jurisdiction might be affected by the proposed project. No threatened or endangered marine species occur in the project area. The Koyukuk River supports anadromous fish populations and thus any activities that may involve the river, such as gravel acquisition at the material site, would fall under the regulations for Essential Fish Habitat (www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat.efh.htm).

Bald Eagles

Bald eagles are protected under the Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Surveys along the upper Yukon and its tributaries suggest that Bald Eagles are uncommon and dispersed in this region. The Koyukuk River probably does support some nesting Bald Eagles, but a search of the USFWS database did not find any records of nests in the vicinity of Allakaket (Mike Jacobsen, USFWS, pers. comm.). No Bald Eagle nests were seen in the project area during the wetlands survey.

Wetlands

A wetlands survey of the project area was conducted in summer 2004 and a draft report was completed in December 2004 and submitted to ADOT&PF for review. The preliminary results of that survey (see Figure 3) indicate that wetlands of various types do occur in the project area. Wetlands, dominated by Open Mixed Shrub Scrub, accounted for 78% of the mapped area, with uplands, primarily Open Tall Scrub and Open Broadleaf Forest, accounting for the remaining 22%. The Koyukuk River which is located within the study area mapped for wetlands, is of high value because it provides

anadromous fish habitat. Should any dredge/fill be required in wetlands for this project, the appropriate permits would be acquired before construction.

State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries

A review of the ADFG publication, *State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries* found that there are no State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, or Sanctuaries in the proposed project area.

National Wildlife Refuges

The USFWS refuge website (www.r7.fws.gov/refuges.cfm) indicates that the village of Allakaket is near the northwestern boundary of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), but is not within the refuge.

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Wild and Scenic Rivers

National Park Services website (www.nps.gov/carto/PDF/AKPAAMap1.pdf) was reviewed to determine if any National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist in the proposed project area. No sites were indicated.

Coastal Zone Management

According to the ADNR's Coastal Zone and Coastal District Boundaries Map (www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/GIS/boundary.htm), the project area is not located within the coastal zone for Alaska.

Flood Plain Management

Allakaket does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, but some flood hazard information is available for the project area from the USACE flood hazard webpage (www.poa.usace.army.mil/en/cw/fld_haz/allakaket.htm). That information indicates that the last recorded flood event was in 1994 and that flood events in the area are primarily caused by rainfall. The 100-year flood level elevation is 499 ft at the upstream end of town and 497 ft at the downstream end of runway. The elevation datum is assumed, and is consistent with the 1991 ADOT&PF topographic map. An apparent 80 ft difference exists between this map and the USGS 1:63,360 Scale topographic map (Bettles C-6). National Weather Service datum can be obtained by subtracting 462.53 ft. The airport was constructed with a freeboard of 1 foot above the 100-year flood level, therefore, it is above the 100-year floodplain.

Navigable Waters

The USACE Navigable Waters web page (www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/NavWat.htm) lists the Koyukuk River (544 miles) as a navigable water. The Corps of Engineers defines navigable waters to include "...those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce." The Alatna River is not listed as navigable.

Additional Information

In addition to identifying any concerns and/or issues your agency might have with the proposed project, the following information is requested:

1. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) *An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* has been searched and any findings are identified above. If you have any other information and/or data on anadromous or resident fish streams in the vicinity of the proposed project, including spawning/rearing habitat and migration corridors please provide that information.
2. Identify any fish species within the project boundaries that may be used for subsistence.
3. The ADFG *State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries* publication has been examined and any findings are identified above. If these special areas exist in the project vicinity, would normal activities of these areas be affected by the proposed project?
4. Provide information on wildlife other than fish in the vicinity of the proposed project.
5. Would the project affect wildlife migration or bisect/segment wildlife habitat?
6. Please identify any permits and/or clearances to be obtained from your agency for the proposed project.

Email response to banderson@abrinc.com