

**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 one anadromous fish stream in the Chalkyitsik area: the Black River (ADFG Stream #334-45-11000-2001-3050-4040). The Black River supports populations of three anadromous fish species: king, chum, and coho salmon. The Black River flows past the village of Chalkyitsik, but the airport is actually located near an old oxbow that is not directly connected to the river itself, except during high-water flood events. Thus, proposed activities at the airport are unlikely to directly affect the Black River.

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 Chalkyitsik 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 Black River supports anadromous fish populations and thus any activities that may involve the river, such as gravel acquisition, would fall under the regulations for Essential Fish Habitat (www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat.efh.htm). If such activities are deemed necessary, the NMFS will be contacted for consultation.

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. Nevertheless, a number of active (failed) and inactive eagle nests were identified along the Black River in 1994 (Ritchie, R. J., S. M. Murphy, and M. Smith. 1998. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) surveys and noise monitoring in Yukon MOAs 1-5 and along the Tanana River, Alaska, 1995–1997. A compilation of final annual reports, 1995–1997, prepared for U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, Alaska Cooperative Wildlife and Fisheries Research Unit, Fairbanks, AK, and Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Corvallis, OR, by ABR, Inc., Fairbanks, AK. 26 pp.). No evidence of active bald eagle nests was observed in the project area during the wetlands survey.

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 Chalkyitsik lies within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The village, as well as the Native regional corporation, Doyon Ltd., owns land within the Yukon Flats Refuge. These lands were conveyed to the Native peoples under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

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 4](#)) indicate that wetlands of various types do occur in the project area. Wetlands, dominated by Sedge-Scrub Bob, accounted for 31% of the mapped area, with uplands, primarily white spruce and aspen forests, accounting for the remaining 69%.

Coastal Zone Management

According to the ADNRS'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

Chalkyitsik 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 1997 and that flood events in the area are primarily caused by ice jams. Significant flooding occurred in 1937, 1947 or 1948, and 1967. The 100-year flood level elevation is estimated at 110 ft, which is about 3 ft higher than that recorded for the 1967 flood event. The elevation datum is based on the Bench Mark #1, elevation 100.0 ft, of the NWS slope gage.

Navigable Waters

The USACE Navigable Waters web page (www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/NavWat.htm) does not list the Black River 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 webpage lists waterways considered navigable based upon results of navigability studies. In the past, the village of Chalkyitsik was serviced by barges carrying goods up the Black River (www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CIS.cfm), which suggests that the river likely would be considered navigable under the ASCAE criteria listed above.

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.

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