



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
4700 BLM Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

ADF&G Unalakleet Fish Enhancement Permit  
Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2015-0011-CX

Case File, FF-94019

## DECISION RECORD

### Decision

It is my decision to authorize a three year right-of-way to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to enhance Chinook salmon escapement numbers in the Unalakleet River through a cooperative project with the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) for a three year period. NSEDC and ADF&G have a cooperative agreement in place to conduct these activities (COOP-13-045).

ADF&G proposes to collect eggs from 20 female Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River and the Old Woman River. The eggs will be transported to an existing NSEDC Fish Plant in Unalakleet located on private lands, to undergo fertilization. A portion of the gametes will be harvested for pathology samples while the fertilized eggs will be transported back to the Unalakleet South River for release.

A temporary camp will be necessary during egg collection operations. The temporary camp would be composed of two 10 feet by 12 feet by 15 feet weather port tents, four sleeping tents (each of four man capacity) an outhouse for human waste approximately 2 feet by 3 feet by six feet made of plywood and a temporary gas storage area for fuel consisting of up to three 15 gallon containers (less than 50 gallons total). Propane will be used for cooking, either a twenty pound cylinder or five one pound cylinders. ADF&G requests a winter storage shed for equipment and gear to save on back hauling of equipment on an annual basis. The winter storage would be 20 feet by 20 feet and made of plywood.

Location maps are attached showing components of the camp site proposed as supplied by applicant.

### Rationale for the Decision

The proposed action has been reviewed by Anchorage Field Office staff and appropriate project Design Features, as specified, will be incorporated into the project. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

The rationale for the decision is based on the limited environmental impacts associated with the fishery enhancement project. The permit also allows for potential future increases of Chinook salmon a species of concern in the Unalakleet River. An increase in Chinook salmon may positively impact subsistence users as well as recreational fishing on public lands within the Unalakleet Wild River..

The proposed action is in conformance with the Unalakleet River Management Plan of October, 1983. The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of Federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of Federal subsistence resources, or limit Federal subsistence user access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

### **Appeal Opportunities**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Alan Bittner

9/24/2015

---

Alan Bittner  
Anchorage Field Manager

---

Date

### **Attachments**

- 1) *ADF&G Unalakleet Fish Enhancement Permit Categorical Exclusion*, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2015-0011-CX