

Fisheries

Are there any streams in or near the project area?

Yes

Do these streams need a buffer?

No buffer necessary

Are there fish in the streams?

Yes

If yes anadromous or resident fish?

Both anadromous and resident fish are present

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Statement for Decision Notice

Section 305 (b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act requires that federal agencies consult with National Marine Fisheries Service when any project may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). An analysis of this project determined that with mitigation measures, EFH will not be adversely affected. Before any instream work is to commence, the entire work area will be dewatered with a sandbag cofferdam and diverted past the construction site with a pump. A short term sediment pulse could occur when the cofferdam is removed but is expected to be very minimal due to the amount of alluvial fines found in the stream channel upstream of the proposed construction site. This minor sediment release is not expected to incur negative impacts to EFH. Following Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) recommendations, the cofferdam should not be installed before late May to allow passage to outmigrating coho smolt. Removal of the cofferdam should occur as promptly as practicable in order to allow these fish access to salt water.

Remarks:

The primary concern would be continuing unfettered fish passage at most stream flows. Recommendations have been given to the landowner proposing the project, including the addition of a small-scale fishpass-like structure. Another recommendation was to move the proposed intake pool upstream and into the stream channel of the mainstem, instead of at the confluence of the mainstem and tributary. Moving the intake pool upstream 40 feet into the channel of the mainstem would allow near permanent flow to continue through the bypass reach for everything but the lowest flows of the year. Based upon field surveys of the upstream habitat, it has been determined that there is limited to negligible amounts of preferred spawning habitat for coho salmon available. The minnow trapping effort conducted by ADFG in early June, 2018 documented Dolly Varden char, cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. The coho salmon trapped were all young of year fry and it is expected that these fish may have migrated from Coho Creek and then down along the RR side of Petersburg Creek, and then back up into Doug Leen's unnamed stream.

Following a request to the regional Alaska Department of Natural Resources office, it has been determined that there are no existing water rights or any public or domestic water uses on this stream. Adhering to Forest Plan direction, sufficient flow will be provided so that summer water temperatures will be between 50-68 degrees F. In the area of the proposed site extending from the settling pond to the end of the bypass reach, the process group is Moderate Gradient/Mixed Control. The process group objectives will be retained and overall fish habitat will not be affected. The only changes that might occur in the bypass reach would be the addition of a few large woody debris in the floodplain that might end up below bankful in places which would slightly increase percentage of pool area and the stream width-to-depth ratio.

List any key public contacts that need to be made:

ADFG Habitat Division - Greg Albrecht

Signature/Date:

/s/ Eric R. Castro @ 06/27/18

Name :

Eric Castro

Title:

Fisheries Biologist