



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Fish and Game

HABITAT SECTION  
Fairbanks Regional Office

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### **FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH22-III-0175-AMENDMENT 2**

ISSUED: March 11, 2025  
EXPIRES: December 31, 2028

ADOT&PF Northern Region  
Attn: Kerri Martin  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

RE: Material Extraction  
Inmachuk River (Stream Number 331-00-10750)  
Section 30, T008N, R019W, KRM (Kotzebue A-2 Quad)  
Sections 10, 11, and 16, T007N, R020W, KRM (Kotzebue A-2 Quad)  
Location: 66.0691 N, 162.7670 W

Dear Kerri Martin:

Pursuant to AS 16.05.871 (b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Section has reviewed your request to amend your permit to extract material from within the Inmachuk River floodplain. The amendment request to extend the permit expiration date was received on February 19, 2025.

#### **Project Description**

You propose to harvest gravel and sand from alluvial deposits within the Inmachuk River floodplain for use in the Deering Airport and Access Road Improvements project. Material will be harvested from eight locations in the floodplain, most of which have previously been used as material sites for community improvements. Material source development will involve excavation of gravels and sand from existing, mostly unvegetated, alluvial deposits while avoiding excavation in undisturbed vegetated areas in the riparian corridor. Material from Inmachuk River Bar #1, 2020\_06, Gravel Site 8, RMS #2, RMS #3, 2020\_09, and 9-Mile Pit will be harvested using shallow scrapes, to depths of not more than 2.5 feet below ordinary high water (OHW). Inmachuk River Bar #2 is an abandoned oxbow, and a deeper pit of up to 7.0 feet below OHW will be used for material harvest here, with a minimum 50-foot buffer zone of

unexcavated ground between the active channel and the material harvest. Three locations will require crossing the Inmachuk River (Inmachuk River Bar #2, 2020\_06, and 2020\_09). Winter crossings will involve the use of ice bridges. Open water crossings may be required outside of the winter season but will be limited to the furthest practicable extent.

### **Anadromous Fish Act**

The Inmachuk River (Stream Number 331-00-10750) has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). The water body provides spawning habitat for chum and pink salmon, and Dolly Varden are also present. Resident fish species such as Arctic grayling are also present. Your project as proposed should not have adverse effects on anadromous fish or their habitat and should not obstruct the free passage of fish.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), your project is approved subject to the project description and permit terms, with the following stipulations:

- 1) Gravel extraction operations shall be conducted in a manner that does not create depressions or cuts that will trap fish when water levels fluctuate.
- 2) Access with equipment shall be made in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of stream flow to the extent practicable, and in a manner that precludes creation of barriers to efficient fish passage (ridging and/or rutting of streambed, etc.). Stream banks shall not be mined, modified, or otherwise disturbed without prior authorization.
- 3) Open water crossings shall only occur between breakup and June 25.
- 4) If water will be withdrawn to thicken ice bridges, each water intake structure shall be designed to prevent the entrainment, impingement and/or entrapment of fish and shall be installed and maintained at each intake location. The effective screen openings may not exceed 0.25 inches (1/4-inch), and water velocity at the screen/water interface may not exceed 0.5 feet per second when the pump is operating. **This waterbody is specified as salmon spawning habitat; therefore deployed intake structures shall be suspended in the water column with a depth that prevents disturbance of streambed material from June 25 – April 30 each season.**
- 5) Intake screen(s) shall be inspected for damage (torn screen, crushed screen, screen separated from intake ends, etc.) prior to each deployment. Any damage observed must be repaired prior to use of the structure. The structure must always conform to the original design specifications while in use.

*For detailed information regarding screened intake device design please consult our webpage <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=uselicense.withdrawal> and Technical Report No. 97-8 ([http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/uselicense/pdfs/97\\_08.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/license/uselicense/pdfs/97_08.pdf)).*

### **Permit Terms**

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section of ADF&G; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

You are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved project. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify the ADF&G Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any provision contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of the ADF&G Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended that you consult the Habitat Section before considering any deviation from the approved plan.

You shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access to the permit site, at safe and reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information the authorized representative reasonably requires for monitoring and inspection purposes.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. You shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitats, or any restriction or interference with public use that the commissioner determines was a direct result of your failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

You shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department's negligence.

You may appeal this permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Chelsea Clawson at 907-459-7287 or [chelsea.clawson@alaska.gov](mailto:chelsea.clawson@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,  
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner



BY: Audra L. J. Brase, Regional Supervisor  
Habitat Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ecc: Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks  
Bill Sexton, ADOT&PF, Fairbanks  
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