MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game HABITAT SECTION

TO: Christy Gentemann

DATE:

July 2, 2025

Environmental Impact Analysis Manager

FILE:

58.3811, -134.6875

THRU:

Kate Kanouse

SUBJECT:

Auke Bay Ferry Terminal

Southeast Regional Supervisor

Improvements

FROM:

Dylan KrullDK

PHONE NO:

(907) 465-6160

Habitat Biologist

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists in the Habitat Section and the Division of Commercial Fisheries reviewed the proposed updates to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposed project #SAMHS00419 to improve the Auke Bay Ferry Terminal. The updated plan includes the dredging and disposing of approximately 11,000 cubic yards of material for the west berth and disposing of the material nearby in the DOT&PF right-of-way.

Based on the ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Red King Crab assessment, the proposed disposal area is within high value Red King Crab habitat and would negatively impact habitat and the crabs utilizing it. We recommend using an identified low value habitat area, approximately 1 mile away from the terminal that could be used instead of the proposed location to reduce impacts to Red King Crab (Table 1).

Table 1.-Low value habitat bounds.

Latitude	Longitude
58.3742	-134.6613
58.3742	-134.6578
58.3719	-134.6591
58.3720	-134.6614

In addition to Red King Crab, the ferry terminal is within habitat used by Pacific Herring and rearing salmonids, particularly in the spring. We recommend timing of pile driving to occur outside of the spring to protect these fishes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, please contact me with any questions.

Email cc:

Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
ADF&G Habitat Staff, Douglas
Dan Teske, ADF&G SF, Douglas
Scott Forbes, ADF&G CF, Douglas
Carl Koch, ADF&G WC, Douglas
Randy Vigil, USACE, Juneau
Andy Stevens, USFWS, Anchorage
Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS, Juneau