US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	**August 22, 2025**
EXPIRATION DATE:	**September 22, 2025**
REFERENCE NUMBER:	**POA-2025-00373**
WATERWAY:	**Expedition Inlet**

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact John.C.Sargent at (907) 347-1801 or by email at John.C.Sargent@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: City of Unalaska, Department of Public Works, Mr. Scott Brown

AGENT: PND Engineers, Incorporated, Ms. Lisa Lee

LOCATION: The project site is located at the Robert Storrs Harbor, Expedition Inlet, Latitude 53.87796º N., Longitude 166.55354º W.; in Unalaska, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The project is intended to extend the life of the existing facility which is important to the seaside community of Unalaska. The project would perform improvements at the Robert Storrs Harbor to include the demolition of existing moorage structures, installation of new floats, and upgrades to access and parking to improve public safety and accessibility for recreational vessels.

PROPOSED WORK:
The proposed improvements include the demolition of the existing A & B Floats, expansion of the shoreline to construct a new parking facility, new pile and float installation, and installation of new utilities. Project construction is anticipated to begin in April 2026 and will have a duration of approximately 12 months and 95 days of pile driving.

DEMOLITION

Project site work would begin with demolition of existing A & B Floats. All existing concrete headwalk floats, mainwalk floats and finger floats would be removed. The existing steel gangway and concrete abutment would also be removed. Existing harbor floats are moored with steel piles and removed with a vibratory hammer. Demolition materials would be recycled or disposed of as necessary in accordance with all applicable regulations or will be salvaged/reused by the local community. Quantities of demolition elements are on page 9 in the attached plan drawings.

UPLANDS PARKING FACILITY

A new parking facility would be constructed in uplands to accommodate users. Approximately 0.13 acre of shot rock fill (2,400 cubic yards), armor rock (450 cubic yards) and base course rock (8 cubic yards) would be placed below the high tide line to create the embankment for the expanded parking lot facility. Along the fill slopes, geotextile fabric and armor rock would be placed to protect the uplands parking facility and keep the shot rock fill in place.

All rock fill for the project is expected to be sourced from one of several hard rock quarry sources located on Unalaska Island. The exact quarry source would not be known until a contractor has been awarded the project. Upon completion, 37 parking spaces would be available to harbor users along with a loading zone, dumpster location, and a 20-foot by 20-foot restroom area. Stormwater improvements consisting of storm drain catch basins with oil water separators and associated piping would be installed in accordance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation standards to control stormwater within the expanded uplands. The uplands parking area would be graded to facilitate stormwater drainage towards the catch basins installed in various locations throughout the site. Potable water would also be installed. Between the parking area and the armor rock wall, an 8-ft-wide concrete sea walk, equipped with curbs and gutters would be installed for pedestrian access.

FLOAT INSTALLATION

New floats covering about 0.30 acre of harbor, would be mobilized to the site on a barge and offloaded directly into the water. The float surfaces would be metal grating over fiberglass supported by foam filled high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe pontoons. Individual float modules would be connected together into manageable sections for installation. To ensure floats are installed accurately, the contractor would install temporary template piles to moor the

floats in the proper position and removed using vibratory methods. Following float installation, the contractor would install all float appurtenances such as water and electrical utilities, and a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)--compliant 80-foot (570 square foot) aluminum gangway.

PILE INSTALLATION

Once floats are in position, permanent float piles would be driven with a vibratory hammer to the greatest extent possible to achieve the specified minimum embedment. Pile quantities and installation methods are summarized on page 9 of attached plan drawings.

DRILLING & ROCK SOCKETS

Due to the suspected presence of near-surface bedrock within the project site, some permanent float piles may require drilled rock sockets if the minimum specified pile embedment is not obtained. If determined to be necessary, sockets a minimum of 8 feet deep would be drilled into bedrock through the pile shaft to the width of the associated pile via down-the-hole (DTH) drilling methods. Prior to DTH drilling, an impact hammer would be used to secure the pile tip into the bedrock.

UTILITIES

Following the installation of the new harbor floats, the installation of water, fire suppression, and electrical utilities would be installed. Both the fire suppression piping (4-inch) and potable water piping (3-inch) would be mounted directly to the floats. Fire and water standpipes would be installed throughout the new harbor. Fire extinguishers and life ring cabinets will also be installed at regular intervals along the new harbor floats. 50 linear feet of 3-foot-high density polyethylene pipe would be trenched in below the high tide line. Additional trenching would occur in the uplands above high tide line. An electrical system consisting of luminaires and power pedestals will be installed to provide adequate lighting and power for harbor vessels.

DEMOBILIZATION

Project equipment would be demobilized to the port of origin. Unused materials would be recycled or disposed of as necessary in accordance with all applicable regulations or would be salvaged/reused by the local community.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan sheets 1-9, dated May 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: U.S. Endangered Species Act Incidental take statements from National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental harassment authorizations from National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: Impacts to waters of the United States (WOTUS) could not be entirely avoided for this project because the nature of the project is dependent on maritime

access. There are no wetlands or other special aquatic sites that would be impacted by the project.

b. Minimization: The project was designed to have the least amount of fill possible to meet its purpose. The fill being placed for the installation of utilities will be clean fill with relatively few fine sediments which will limit sedimentation. The contractors will comply with local, state, and federal water quality standards. The incorporation of best management practices and mitigation measures will minimize impacts to the marine ecosystem to the extent possible.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The project would fill only about 0.13 acre of tidal waters below the high tide line in an existing boat harbor, would not impact any rare or unique habitats, or wetlands, and the project is being constructed in a previously disturbed area. As such, no compensatory mitigation is proposed.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are cultural resources in the permit area and within the vicinity of the permit area. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at this time. USACE has not made an effect determination for the proposed project at this time. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, other consulting parties, and ACHP may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*,(threatened Mexico DPS and endangered Western North Pacific DPS) and critical habitat (Mexico DPS and Western North Pacific DPS); blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus* (Central North Pacific stock and eastern North Pacific stock); sei whale, *Balaenoptera borealis (*Alaska stock*)*; sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus (*Gulf of Alaska*)*; fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus* (Northeast Pacific stock); gray whale, *Eschrichtius robustus* Western North Pacific stock); North Pacific right whale, *Eubalaena japonica* (Eastern North Pacific stock); Steller sea lion, *Eumetopias jubatus* (endangered Western DPS) and critical habitat (Western DPS); proposed threatened sunflower sea star, *Pycnopodia helianthoides*; northern sea otter, *Enhydra lutris kenyoni* (threatened Southwest Alaska DPS) and critical habitat (Southwest Alaska DPS); Steller's eider, *Polysticta stelleri* (threatened Alaska-breeding population), and critical habitat (Alaska-breeding population; and short-tailed albatross, *Phoebastria albatrus* (endangered worldwide).

We have determined the described activity may affect the threatened Mexico DPS Humpback whale, and endangered Western North Pacific DPS humpback whale and their designated critical habitats; endangered Central and Eastern North Pacific stocks of blue whale; endangered Alaska stock sei whale; endangered Gulf of Alaska sperm whale; endangered Northeast Pacific stock fin whale; endangered Western North Pacific gray whale; endangered Eastern North Pacific right whale; endangered Western DPS Steller sea lion and its critical habitat; proposed threatened sunflower sea star; the threatened Southwest Alaska DPS northern sea otter and its critical habitat; and the threatened Alaska-breeding population Steller's eider. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect to the critical habitat for the Steller's eider; critical habitat of the North Pacific right whale; and to the short-tailed albatross under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required for this species and critical habitats. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within mapped EFH for Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*); Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*); Chum salmon (*O. keta*); Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*); and Chinook salmon (O. tshawytscha); a variety of groundfish species to include: Skate complex; Bering skate (*Bathyraja interrupta*); Alaska skate (*Arctoraja parmifera*); Arrowtooth founder (*Atheresthes stomias*); Atka mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*); Dark rockfish (*Sebastes ciliatus*); Dusky rockfish (*Sebastes variabilis*); Northern rockfish (*Sebastes polyspinis*); Harlequin rockfish (*Sebastes variegatus*); Shortraker rockfish (*Sebastes borealis*); rockfish complex; English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*); Flatfish complex; Flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*); Kamchatka flounder (*Atheresthes evermanni*); Northern rock sole (*Lepidopsetta polyxystra*); Southern rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*); Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*); Walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*); Pacific ocean perch (*Sebastes alutus*); Yellow Irish lord (*Hemilepidotus jordani);* bigmouth sculpin (*Hemitripterus bolini*)*;* sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*); and Weathervane scallop (*Patinopecten caurinus*).

We have determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area for the species listed above. EFH consultation will be initiated with a separate consultation letter to the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: USACE fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with USACE, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in USACE's final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:
(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures