



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

HABITAT SECTION
Southcentral Region Office

514 Funny River Road
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8255
Main: 907.714.2475

FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH25-V-0193

ISSUED: November 6, 2025
EXPIRES: December 31, 2030

City of Homer Public Works Department
Aaron Yeaton
435 Heath St.
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Maintenance Dredging

Beluga Slough – Stream No. 241-12-10100
Section 20 & 29, T 6S, R 13W, S.M.
Location: 59.6358°N, 151.5356°W
Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel No. 177-140-17

Dear Aaron Yeaton:

Pursuant to the Anadromous Fish Act at AS 16.05.871(b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Section, has reviewed your request to conduct annual maintenance dredging of the mouth of Beluga Slough at the referenced location. The project will take place below the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation of Beluga Slough and within the boundaries of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (KBCHA). This project was most recently authorized by ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit FH24-V-0142 and is concurrently authorized by ADF&G Special Area Permit SA25-V-0194.

Project Description

Periodically, storm berms created from seasonal tidal shoaling block the outlet of Beluga Slough and impound water. The resulting high water levels in Beluga Slough can compromise City of Homer infrastructure, including major storm drain outfalls and a sewer lift station, as well as increase flood potential for adjacent private properties. Routine re-establishment of the slough outflow has been conducted at this site multiple times since 2004, allowing for tidal flushing and contributing to feeding and resting habitat for migratory shorebirds. The most recent outlet maintenance project occurred in 2024.

One excavator and one bulldozer will be used to excavate accumulated storm berm material and construct a new outlet channel. A new channel will be constructed to measure approximately 40 feet wide at the peak, with banks constructed at 1:1 side slopes tapering to 20 feet wide at the base of the channel. The new slough outflow will facilitate efficient draining of the slough and

tidal exchange. Materials excavated to form the new channel will be deposited in the naturally formed storm channel, including material placed to direct flows into the newly constructed channel and used to restore a dike along the east side of the straightened outflow channel. Up to 2,600 cubic yards of beach sand and gravel will be redistributed as part of this project annually.

All work will be conducted at low tide while the site is dewatered. To access the site, the excavator and bulldozer will travel from Bishop's Beach parking area to the Beluga Slough outflow, traveling on the beach surface just below the mean high tide line (MHT) to avoid impacts to vegetation. It is anticipated that equipment will cross the Beluga Slough channel below mean high tide a total of two times per maintenance event, once on arrival and once to demobilize, to access the project site and conduct dredging operations. Public access and use of Bishop's Beach will not be obstructed as part of regular project duties. Dredging of the Beluga Slough outlet will occur only as needed based on overwinter tidal shoaling.

Your permit application and all materials, maps and drawings are hereby adopted by reference into this permit.

Anadromous Fish Act

Beluga Slough has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). Beluga Slough provides migration, spawning and rearing habitat for coho and pink salmon, and other species of resident fish.

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

1. ADF&G, Habitat Section shall be contacted at dfg.hab.infosxq@alaska.gov, or (907) 714-2475, for notification of work three days prior to project initiation and again at project completion.
2. Maintenance dredging activities shall occur between November 1 and April 15 annually to mitigate impacts to migratory bird populations. Dredging at other times may be permitted only by written authorization from ADF&G, Habitat Section.
3. The bottom of the outlet channel shall be sloped to drain to Kachemak Bay. All depressions and potholes created by material removal shall be leveled to avoid fish entrapment.
4. No materials or debris shall be discarded or abandoned in Beluga Slough. Any apparatus or equipment placed in the waterway shall be removed upon completion of the project.
5. Streambanks, including streambank vegetation, shall not be altered to facilitate access for dredging operations.
6. No equipment leaking fuels, oils, hydraulic, or cooling fluids shall be operated below the ordinary high-water level of Beluga Slough.

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 Habitat Section regulated activities; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other state, federal, or local permits. 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 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 stipulation 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 a Habitat Section responsibility. Therefore, it is recommended you consult the Habitat Section immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

For the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit, you shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access, at safe and reasonable times, to the project site. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information as 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 Wayne Haimes at (907) 714-2478 or e-mail at wayne.haimes@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By: Kaitlynn Cafferty; Kenai Peninsula Area Manager

cc:

KRC File
C. Jaime, AWT
USACE Pagemaster
Permits, DNR SCRO
A. Dubour, ADF&G WC

S. Matsuoka, ADF&G WC
T. Massie, ADF&G WC
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