



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
813 D Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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RECEIVED JUN 7 1973
Juneau, Alaska
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Colonel Amos C. Mathews
District Engineer
Alaska District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 7002
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Re: NPACO-OP-P
Gastineau Channel 274

Dear Colonel Mathews:

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has reviewed the subject public notice concerning a fill in Gastineau Channel at Salmon Creek, Juneau, Alaska. The fill would provide additional space for a non-water dependent retail sales agency which currently is selling trailer homes.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game records show that peak salmon counts in Salmon Creek during 1971 and 1972 consisted of 108 pink and 70 chum salmon; and 211 pink and 170 chum salmon, respectively. Total counts of 2,000 pink salmon and 2,500 chum salmon have been recorded in previous years. Also, some sport fishing for Dolly Varden occurs; an annual children's fishing derby is held during the Dolly Varden immigration. A borough park is planned directly across the stream from the project site and sport fishing in the stream is expected to increase.

Placement of a fill at Salmon Creek would probably alter the existing stream course to some extent. Active filling and subsequent erosion of the fill by stream and tidal currents would cause siltation and turbidity in the vicinity of Salmon Creek which would tend to smother salmon eggs and food organisms important to fishes, including juvenile salmonids in the mouth of Salmon Creek. Suspended materials also tend to cause physical injury to the delicate membranes of eyes and gills of fishes. Turbidity from suspended materials often prevent game fishes and other predators from seeing their prey, thereby reducing the efficiency of food utilization. In addition, waterfowl use the area at the mouth of Salmon Creek during spring migration and winter months as a feeding area.

The project as proposed contributes to the piecemeal diminution of the valuable Juneau wetlands. Because of the potential harm to sport fishing, fish spawning activities, and waterfowl use, and because the enterprise for which this fill is intended is not water dependent, we recommend that a permit for this project not be issued unless it can be demonstrated that there are no alternative uplands locations for this type of enterprise in the Juneau area, and that the proposed project is in the broad public interest.

Please advise us what action the Alaska District plans to take regarding this recommendation on this permit application.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by
Gordon W. Watson

Area Director

cc: ADF&G, Juneau
NMFS, Juneau
EPA, Anchorage
ADEC, Juneau
Area Fish & Wildlife Admin., Anchorage
Fred Robards, GMA, Juneau
SERBS, Juneau

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