

State of Alaska
Coastal Impact Assistance Program
December 2010 Amendment

APPENDIX E

Summary of Comments Received

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ALASKA COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COMMENTS ON FALL 2010 AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA CIAP PLAN, PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DNR/DCOM) received the following comments on the Fall 2010 Amendment to the Alaska CIAP Plan, Public Review Draft.

Comment Summary

1. **Commenter:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Nature of Comments: The FWS provided comments on the Municipality of Anchorage's proposed Tier 2 project, Ship Creek Fishing Access Improvements for Stream Bank Protection. FWS noted some of the work proposed in the draft plan has already been completed or may be in conflict with the interest of the land owner. FWS proposed variations to the project to protect the Ship Creek stream bank.

Consideration of Comments: The Municipality of Anchorage revised the project description to remove project components already completed and to incorporate some of the suggestions from FWS. The budget for this project was increased accordingly. The focus of the project remains the same as represented in the Public Review Draft: protect Ship Creek from high impact use of foot traffic on steep, wet banks by redirecting traffic to designated, easy to use pathways and assist in revegetation of banks to improve bank stability and resistance to erosion.

2. **Commenter:** Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE)

Nature of Comments: BOEMRE requested additional information describing how the following projects meet a CIAP authorized use.

AKCIAP_NR_AEB_T2-02
AKCIAP_WASC_T1-01
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-01
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-03
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-06
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-07
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-10
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-12
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-15
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-17
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-18
AKCIAP_PUB_T2-01
AKCIAP_PUB_T2-04
AKCIAP_PUB_T2-07
AKCIAP_PUB_T2-09

AKCIAP_PUB_T2-10
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T1-02
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T1-04
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T1-08
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T2-01
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T2-03
AKCIAP_NR_BSCRSA_T2-04
AKCIAP_NR_CBY_T2-01
AKCIAP_NR_MOS_T1-01
AKCIAP_CPS_NAB_T1-12
AKCIAP_CPS_NSB_T1-11
AKCIAP_CPS_NSB_T1-12
AKCIAP_SOA_T1-18
AKCIAP_SOA_T1-27

Consideration of Comments: Project AKCIAP_NR_AEB_T2-02 (Aleutians East Borough Resource District – Baseline Water Quality data Collection and Assessment) was removed from the final plan in response to comments. AKCIAP_WASC_T1-01 (Western Alaska Salmon Coalition Chum and Sockeye Genetic Identification Program) was removed from the amendment. This project was approved as part of the March 2010 Amendment to the Alaska CIAP plan and will remain in the program unchanged. Modifications to the budget proposed in the draft plan will be addressed through the grant process. Project descriptions for the other noted projects were revised to include additional clarification or justification. No projects were materially changed from the Public Review Draft.

ALASKA COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BOEMRE COMMENTS ON FALL 2010 AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA CIAP PLAN

On December 1, 2010, BOEMRE responded to the State's submittal of the Fall 2010 Amendment to the Alaska CIAP Plan.

Nature of Comment: BOEMRE identified the following projects as not approvable as written:

AKCIAP_PUB_T1-07
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-12
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-17
AKCIAP_PUB_T1-18
AKCIAP_PUB_T2-10
AKCIAP_NR_CCRSA_T1-03
AKCIAP_CPS_NSB_T1-11
AKCIAP_CPS_NSB_T1-12
AKCIAP_SOA_T1-18
AKCIAP_SOA_T1-27

Consideration of Comments: DCOM removed all of the projects considered not approvable from the Alaska CIAP Plan. They are not included in the December 2010 Amendment. The State will use its entire CIAP allocation by increasing the budget of approved Tier 1 projects, or proceeding with Tier 2 projects. Such changes will be addressed during the grant process and will be reflected in the Administrative Plan Amendment as required by BOEMRE.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

DEC - 1

Randy Bates, Director
Division of Coastal & Ocean Management
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
302 Gold Street, Suite 202
P.O. Box 111030
Juneau, AK 99811-1030

Dear Mr. Bates:

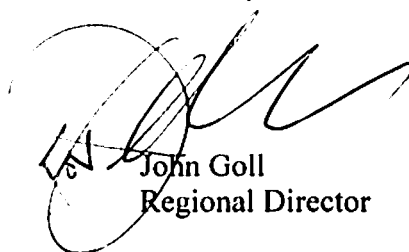
In response to the submittal of the CIAP 2nd Plan Amendment on September 30, 2010, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement is providing the enclosed comments.

We have reviewed the general Plan Amendment information, as well as the project descriptions, and have found both to be primarily complete, adequate, and consistent with the identified authorized use. We have provided individual comments on some of the project descriptions, which, as currently written, do not meet an authorized use.

In response to BOEMRE comments, the State may revise the project descriptions and re-submit the proposed Plan Amendment. Or, as an option, the State may remove projects and substitute Tier 2 projects.

If you have any questions concerning CIAP requirements, or wish to discuss in more detail how a project may meet the requirements, please contact Mr. Bill Gissel, CIAP Program Coordinator for the Alaska Region, at 907-334-5231. We will be happy to meet with you in person or via teleconference.

Sincerely,



John Goll
Regional Director

Enclosure



State of Alaska's List of Projects not approved CIAP Fall 2nd Amendment

1. Health Assessment of Alaskan Marine Mammals PUB T1-07

This project proposes to collect information about marine mammals, primarily harbor seals and sea otters, to evaluate their health and obtain samples to identify contaminants and conditions of concern, producing data which identifies coastal areas requiring restoration, and recognize which animal populations are experiencing damage and have need of increased protection. The data, analysis of significance, and the interpretation of findings will be provided to regulatory agencies at the state and federal level in order to better inform resource managers to help identify coastal areas needing restoration.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment

2. Stream Temperature Monitoring Network for Cook Inlet Salmon Streams and Wetland Areas PUB T1-12

This project proposes to identify specific watersheds, and their unique characteristics, with the greatest functional ability to buffer coastal areas from rising air and water temperatures. Results from the Temperature Network will also identify coastal habitat that requires enhanced protection or restoration due to thermal stressors and provide a regional perspective on temperature patterns for conservation planning.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment

3. What is in Store for Pacific Salmon PUB T1-17

The goal of the proposed study is to characterize age-specific condition of Chinook and chum salmon during their marine migration phase, testing hypotheses that disease agents and trace elements are associated with physiological indices of condition.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. As written the project description does not clearly articulate existing damage to a coastal area as required by AU#2.

4. Regional Monitoring of Coastal Waters through Community-Based Partnerships PUB T1-18

This project proposes to create a baseline water quality library that will analyze 15 years of water quality data and present it such that it will be an invaluable resource for decision-makers in the coastal zones of South-central Alaska.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. Benefits appear to be indirect at best since the project will only repackage existing information.

5. Movement and Growth of Juvenile Salmon in an Upland and Wetland Stream PUB T2-10

This project is designed to increase understanding of juvenile salmon movements and growth rates into and among different stream types common within South-central and Western Alaska.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment.

6. Developing a North Slope Borough Prioritized Plan for Protection of NSB Coastal and Marine Resources CPS NSB T-11

This project is a planning effort for gathering information that might be used to protect NSB coastal and marine resources. The proposal states that its primary objective is to address how Alaskan arctic OCS resources could be used to help satisfy local and national short and long-term energy and socio-economic needs as well addressing issues of environmental justice, incorporating local scientific and traditional knowledge and concerns. The concerns and issues addressed in the previous statement do not meet the CIAP criteria.

The stated uses of the CIAP funds is to gather pertinent information, conduct analyses, and through a stakeholder inclusive process, generate a local comprehensive prioritized OCS plan that balances energy development, subsistence resource protection, ecological protection, and other values for the Chukchi and Beaufort coastal areas. These objectives do not meet the criteria of AU#1 of directly conserving, protecting or restoring a specific coastal area or wetlands. The statement that this project 'meets the AU#1 criteria because it will provide the NSB as well as state and federal regulators with critical information to protect specific high priority coastal areas during future planning processes, with the intended outcome of improving the stewardship of Arctic marine resources' is, at best, an indirect benefit to a coastal area and does not meet the criteria for indirect benefits under AU#1.

The areas described within the proposal of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas appear to be largely outside of the Alaska Coastal Zone and therefore do not meet the intent of the CIAP funding.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. In addition, both Department regulations and the CIAP State Plan

Guidelines indicate that the program will not support litigation or fund publicity or lobbying efforts for purposes of influencing or attempting to influence a member of the U.S. Congress or an agency of the Federal government. As written, this project could run counter to those principals.

7. Protecting Coastal and Marine Resources through an Inter-Borough Offshore Study Group CPS NSB T1-12

This project is described as a study group that will provide a final report that will identify specific actions boroughs may take to conserve, protect, and restore offshore areas. This does not fall within the statutory criteria of AU#1 of coastal areas which are defined by the State's Coastal Zone.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. In addition, both Department regulations and the CIAP State Plan Guidelines indicate that the program will not support litigation or fund publicity or lobbying efforts for purposes of influencing or attempting to influence a member of the U.S. Congress or an agency of the Federal government. As written, this project could run counter to these principles.

8. Identification of critical habitat areas: caribou calf survival, weight gain, and recruitment in relation to habitat use SOA T1-18

This project's primary objective is assessing calf survival in relation to the use of habitats within and around the coastal zone. This project allows for objective assessment of critical habitats used by caribou within the coastal zone to improve the usefulness and effectiveness of conservation plans.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. In addition, both Department regulations and the CIAP State Plan Guidelines indicate that the program will not support litigation or fund publicity or lobbying efforts for purposes of influencing or attempting to influence a member of the U.S. Congress or an agency of the Federal government. As written, this project could run counter to these principles.

9. Environmental Contaminant Monitoring in Coastal Ecosystems SOA T1-27

This project proposes to assess the impact of environmental contaminants on selected coastal and marine ecosystems in Alaska by analyzing fish (finfish and shellfish) tissue, and environmental samples (water, sediment and precipitation).

Proposal seems to have three separate goals – one is continue collecting and analyzing fish tissue samples in the western Aleutian Islands, the second is to sample fish and shellfish in wastewater discharge sites around the Gulf of Alaska, and the third is to evaluate fish and shellfish from historic mining sites around coastal Alaska.

Continued studies and analysis of data do not, alone, provide a direct benefit to the coastal environment in terms of conserving, protecting, or restoring a coastal area. Indirect benefits may be considered such as public access to the natural coastal & marine environment, public recreation in the marine and coastal environment, and cultural (including subsistence) and archeological restoration, protection and education, and safety.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not meet the requirements of AU#1 as it does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. This proposed effort appears to be duplicative of a current award grant for Environmental Contaminants/Fish Monitoring and the project as written, does not describe any additional benefit beyond the existing grant award.

10. "Our Living Lands and Waters" - *Unguwalrea Nunavut Meqllu* Coastal Services Strategic Partnerships Initiative NR CCRSA T1-03

This project proposes to implement the Coastal Management Plan (CMP) objectives that call for the creation of scientific and agency partnerships to further the purposes of the plan.

BOEMRE determination: Not approved. The project, as written, does not clearly articulate a direct benefit to the natural coastal environment. In addition, both Department regulations and the CIAP State Plan Guidelines indicate that the program will not support litigation or fund publicity or lobbying efforts for purposes of influencing or attempting to influence a member of the U.S. Congress or an agency of the Federal government. As written, this project could run counter to some of these principles. Finally, as written, the project summary describes activities and items that would likely not be allocable or allowable under Federal procurement law and OMB cost principles.