

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

ANILCA IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM Office of Project Management and Permitting

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1430
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PH: (907) 269-7529 / FAX: (907) 334-2509
susan.magee@alaska.gov

January 21, 2011

Susan Boudreau, Superintendent
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826

Dear Ms. Boudreau:

The State of Alaska reviewed the scoping notice for the proposed Bartlett River Salmon Research Sonar Installation at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The following consolidated state agency comments were compiled by the State's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Implementation Program and cover issues relative to ANILCA and other state interests. Any correspondence or response pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) will be provided separately by the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Salmon Research Sonar Installation Proposal and agree that the proposal could provide valuable baseline data. The deployment and operation of DIDSON sonar is technically demanding and experienced staff are necessary to ensure collection of accurate data. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) currently has staff with extensive expertise in field operation of DIDSON sonar. We request the Service closely coordinate with ADF&G on this project and provide a comprehensive operations plan up front so that we can assist the Service in making this a successful project. We also recommend the Service closely coordinate with the DIDSON sonar manufacturer for on-site technical assistance in operation of the equipment and site selection.

We recommend the operations plan and EA include a comparison of the DIDSON sonar unit with other available enumeration methods, such as a weir. The plan and EA also need to identify a timeframe for the proposed project and address how Service staff will access the site and retrieve data. In addition, we request the project's sampling method and regime for collecting apportionment and composition data be designed to avoid potential impacts to the Bartlett River system's Steelhead population, which is present beginning in late August.

The potential for human/bear interaction in this area is high; therefore, we recommend the EA clarify that everyone working on this project will receive human/bear interaction

and safety training. The Service currently has a good educational program that will be effective in helping to avoid negative encounters in the field.

Bartlett River (Anadromous Stream No. 114-70-10900) is specified as “important” for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a), and provides habitat for chum, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden, and steelhead. The proposed project requires a Fish Habitat Permit from ADF&G, Division of Habitat and also needs to be consistent with the ACMP, possibly under General Concurrence Determination 6 – Temporary Fish Research and Management Facilities. For additional information from the Division of Habitat, please contact Kate Kanouse at 465-4290.

Since ADF&G is the custodian of state fish resources, the collecting or handling of any fish (fish/amphibians/aquatic macroinvertebrates) outside existing Board of Fish promulgated sport, personal use, aquatic farm, and commercial regulations, requires a Fish Resource Permit. For information on how to obtain one of these permits, please contact Bob Piorkowski at 465-6109.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 907-269-7529 if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Magee', written in a cursive style.

Susan Magee
ANILCA Project Coordinator

cc: Sally Gibert, ANILCA Program Coordinator
Allison Banks, Glacier Bay NPP