

From: [Pilot Desk](#)
To: [DNR RADS SSP \(DNR sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [David Lund](#); [Dave Lund](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Notice - Release of the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft and Open Comment Period
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 8:37:41 AM

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Good morning Andrea,

I am with Alaska Marine Pilots, and the area of Dutch Harbor and Unalaska Bay denoted below is our primary port where we navigate and anchor numerous vessels on a daily basis. I am writing you to confirm if the below proposed classification will affect our ability to do our state mandated job within this area?

I am available to answer any specific questions you may have about our utilization of this waterway.

I look forward to hearing back from you,

Jay Boyer

Dispatch
Alaska Marine Pilots
pilotdesk@ampilots.com
907-359-1240 (C)
907-581-1240 (O)

Begin forwarded message:

From: AM Pilots <amp@ampilots.com>
Subject: FW: Public Notice - Release of the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft and Open Comment Period
Date: March 25, 2024 at 13:47:31 AKDT
To: Pilot Desk <pilotdesk@ampilots.com>

Teresa Martin, Accountant

Alaska Marine Pilots, LLC

3705 Arctic Blvd. #107

Anchorage, AK. 99503

accounting@ampilots.com

907-444-7969

From: Guzenski, Shawana K (DNR) <shawana.guzenski@alaska.gov>

Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 4:43 AM

To: DNR RADS SSP (DNR sponsored) <dnr.rads.ssp@alaska.gov>

Subject: Public Notice - Release of the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft and Open Comment Period

PUBLIC NOTICE

Release of the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft Public Comment Period Open

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft (PRD) for public review and comment. Following a 30-day public review period, which may result in changes to the PRD, the planning team will review the comments and prepare an Issue Response Summary (IRS). The IRS provides a summary of issues raised during the comment period, a response to those issues, and a list of recommended revisions to the plan. The PRD and the IRS will be made available for public review. Once adopted, this plan will serve as the basis for the management of state-owned tide and submerged lands within the planning area.

The planning area includes nearly 89,000 acres of state-owned tide and submerged land in Unalaska Bay. Stretching from Cape Cheerful in the west to Erskine Point in the east, the planning area includes Nateekin Bay, Captains Bay, Iliuliul Bay, Summer Bay, Kalekta Bay, and runs north to the three mile seaward limit, where it abuts the boundary of the Bristol Bay Area Plan. The Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan (UBSSP) proposes to classify the tide and submerged land within the planning area as Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation Land, and Waterfront Development Land.

Comments may be submitted by email to dnr.rads.ssp@alaska.gov, fax at 907-269-8915, or mailed to the following address:

DNR, DMLW
ATTN: RADS
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1050
Anchorage, AK 99501

Comments on the Unalaska Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft must be received on or before April 22, 2024.

To review the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft, visit <http://notice.alaska.gov/214706> or scan the QR code below to be taken to the online public notice webpage.



Please contact Andrea Gramckow at dnr.rads.ssp@alaska.gov for more information.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aides, services, or special modifications to submit a comment or participate in a meeting, should contact a person indicated above or contact the state TDD number (907)269-8411 seven days (7) in advance of meetings to arrange accommodations.

Shawana K. Guzenski

Natural Resource Manager
Resource Assessment and Development Section
Division of Mining, Land, and Water
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907)269-8536 Fax: (907)269-8915

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Re: Public Notice - Release of the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft and Open Comment Period

O'Claray, Heather S (DOT) <heather.oclaray@alaska.gov>

Mon 4/22/2024 3:15 PM

To:Guzenski, Shawana K (DNR) <shawana.guzenski@alaska.gov>;DNR RADS SSP (DNR sponsored) <dnr.rads.ssp@alaska.gov>
Cc:Mills, Andy J (DOT) <andy.mills@alaska.gov>

Shawana,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has concerns regarding Unit #U-02, which contains the Unalaska Airport. As noted in the proposed Plan document, Unalaska is a community off the road system with "limited road access" and only seasonal "monthly Alaska Marine Highway ferry service from May through September". The State's needs to protect the traveling public and maintain the area's primary transportation node outweigh the needs to dispose of or encroach upon adjacent areas that affect the airport's continued safe operations and access.

DOT&PF notes that the proposed plan, if adopted as drafted, would designate Unit U-02 "Waterfront Development (Wd)" defined by "11 AAC 55.215 Waterfront development land. Land classified waterfront development is tideland, submerged land, or shoreland that is suitable to be used for commercial or industrial activities such as fish processing, aquatic farming, mineral and log transfer facilities, or commercial recreation." DOT&PF notes the plan includes the following items for consideration:

- "The Wd designation is applied in tidelands with intensive commercial or industrial uses, where such uses can be expected, or where tidelands are adjacent to uplands with a residential land use pattern, or where such uses can be anticipated. Tidelands may be conveyed to municipalities, but not to private individuals."
- The stated management intent is "to accommodate tideland commercial and industrial uses" and although "it is unlikely that all of the area within this unit will be used for future commercial and industrial tideland uses" "a large area of tidelands is designated Waterfront Development given the uncertainty of the exact location of future facilities needed to support this community."
- Resources and Uses note the area contains "important anadromous waters supporting spawning and rearing for Dolly Varden and pink coho, sockeye, and chum salmon [including] Shaishnikof River, Iliuliuk River, Unalaska Lake, Pyramid Creek, and Shop Creek", "northern sea otter critical habit[at]", "Unalaska Naval Defense Sea Area (NDSA)", "munitions that pose an explosive hazard", and "known heritage sites and cultural resources [identified by] Alaska Heritage Resources Survey". In addition, DNR notes intent to "Consult with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) [sic] prior to issuing authorizations adjacent to the airport."

DOT&PF asserts:

- Obstructions near the airport affect height restrictions and other hazards to air traffic and airport security. This airport is already very constrained and nearby obstructions (including off-shore activities) force higher approaches for aircraft, which would normally increase the need to extend the runway. Unfortunately, at this site there is no additional land available to extend the runway to compensate and maintain safe distances. In addition, departure obstructions further limit aircraft takeoff weights and aircraft sizes available to serve the community, especially during inclement weather events that occur frequently in this area.
- Certain uses of offshore areas near the airport increase bird and wildlife attractants that already pose dangers to aircraft and related activities. The Unalaska Airport currently has a serious problem with bird strikes, owing in part to established seafood processing and related developments occupying adjacent and nearby uplands and occurring offshore. When bird strikes occur, the crew of the aircraft has very limited options for a return for landing or an off/nearby airport emergency landing, which is further exacerbated by local terrain and weather.
- The Unalaska Airport is a critical State-managed facility and interruptions to air service are detrimental to the community, both economically and demographically. The last time the airport experienced an extended

interruption in air service, it spurred a chain reaction of departures of several teachers, families, businesses, and laborers.

- As long as the airport is held in State ownership/management, adjacent lands should also be held in common ownership/management. As such, DOT&PF needs to be the primary agency to approve or reject relevant decisions affecting the airport.
- DOT&PF has continuous projects in the works and a master plan to expand the airport to maintain safety, support commerce, and improve service to the community overall. In the coming years DOT&PF will install Engineered Material Arresting Systems (EMAS) on both runway ends, fortify defenses against shore erosion, and expand the runway safety areas and ramp into the shallow areas of the sea, affecting shorelines and nearby submerged lands.
- Stated intent to “consult with” DOT&PF is insufficient to protect safety, public needs, and the ongoing key uses of these vital lands, existing facilities.

DOT&PF opposes further development by others around the Unalaska Airport within Unit #U-02. DOT&PF recommends DNR designate the airport and a protective buffer separately from the remainder of the Unit and reclassified/re-designated the airport and buffer to a more restrictive classification/designation intended exclusively for government purposes, such as Transportation Corridor (11 AAC 55.205) or Reserved Use (11 AAC 58.100) with the express restriction to allow only DOT&PF Inter-agency Land Management Transfers ([11 AAC 58.910](#) (21)) and uses where DOT&PF is necessarily the lead agency for relevant decisions affecting the unit. This recommended action is consistent with DNR’s stated Resources and Uses already contained within the proposed Plan. To locate and define the appropriate airport unit, please see the airport property boundary depicted in the Airport Layout Plan available online at: https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/airports_public_southcoast.shtml (use EXISTING and ULTIMATE pages for the best boundary restriction). Please coordinate with the following staff for further consultation:

Paul Khera, A.A.E., ACE

Aviation Planner
Juneau, Alaska
907.465.4445
paul.khera@alaska.gov

Dale Ruckman

Unalaska (DUT) Airport Manager
Unalaska, Alaska
907.581.1786
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Sharon Clark

M&O Superintendent, Kodiak Aleutian District
Kodiak, Alaska
907.487.4952
sharon.clark@alaska.gov

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to collaborate in managing this important facility,

H. O’Claray
Statewide Real Estate/Right-of-Way Chief
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Juneau, Alaska
907.465.6954

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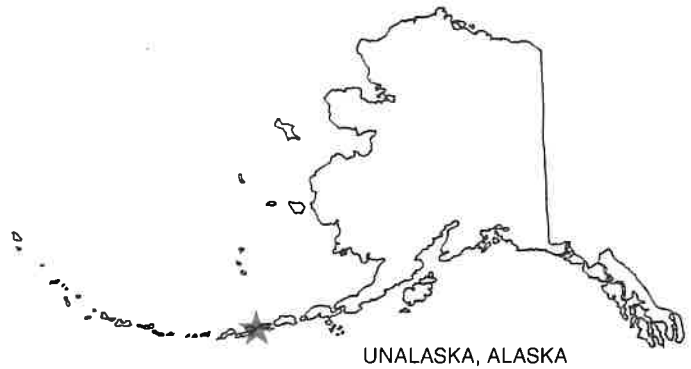
Shawana K. Guzenski

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CITY OF UNALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
P.O. BOX 610
UNALASKA, ALASKA 99685-0610
(907) 581-3100 • FAX (907) 581-4181



April 22, 2024

DNR, DMLW
ATTN: RADS
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1050
Anchorage, AK 99501

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan Public Review Draft Land Classification Order SC-24-001. I am writing on behalf of the City of Unalaska Planning Commission and Planning Department. The Planning Department and Planning Commission agree with the plan in its majority, however we have some small changes that would be more appropriate to local uses and plans.

Firstly, the area of Unalaska Lake and its river (Iliuliuk Creek) are designated U-02. This is solely a recreational area, the depth of the river precludes any real industrial use, and surrounding zoning prevent uses more intensive than housing. As such, Unalaska Lake should be classified U-01.

Secondly, the interface of U-01 and U-02 at the head of Captains Bay should move north to match the Developable Tideland zoning of the parcel. The boundary is the southwestern-most tip of ATS 1432, maximizing the recreational area of the shallows and islands at the head of the bay. This is in line with current uses and local zoning practice. (see Attachment A)

Thirdly it is recommended that Broad Bay should have an area of U-02 Waterfront Development matching the City's Developable Tideland zoning for ATS's 1449 and 1351 (see Attachment B). This is in line with current uses and intended use for a landing site for future geothermal development of Makushin Volcano, at the head of the valley.

Finally, the easy corrections:

- Page 1, line 22: "Iliuliul" should read "Iliuliuk"
- Page 1, line 27: "Adak" should read "Amaknak"
- Page 3, line 28- 44: dashes/hyphens are inconsistent.
- Page 3, line 33: "issued to" is missing in line with the rest of the items in the list.

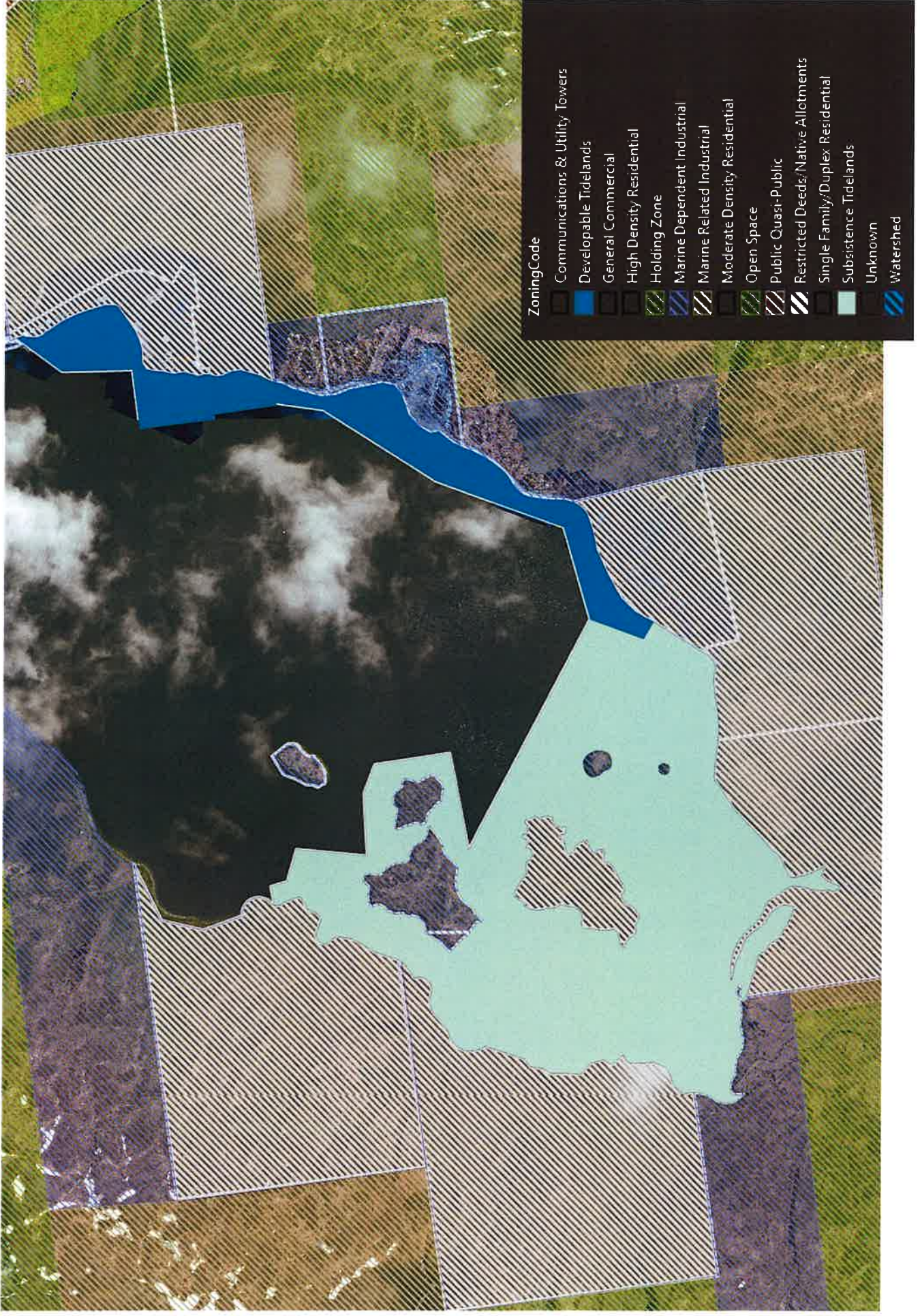
We appreciate the opportunity to make comments and participate in this discussion. Further, for the information of the Planning Department and the Planning Commission, we would like to see a summary of comments made by other members of the community, to better guide our development goals in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TRoufos', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Thomas Roufos
Associate Planner
City of Unalaska

Attachment A: Head of Captains Bay



Attachment B: Broad Bay



1 STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2 DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

3
4 **Public Review Draft**
5 **Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan**
6 **Land Classification Order SC-24-001**
7

8 **Introduction**
9

10 The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received multiple applications for
11 private non-exclusive easements¹ on unclassified tide and submerged lands in Captains Bay and
12 Unalaska Bay. 11 AAC 55.040(i) requires that land classification precede disposing of or issuing
13 authorizations on state land, which is the purpose of this Site Specific Land Use Plan (SSP). In
14 addition to land use designations, the SSP also contains an inventory and analysis of resources
15 and uses for state land in the planning area and provides management guidelines for use of state
16 land. These management guidelines form the basis for classification of approximately
17 89,000 acres of state-owned tide and submerged lands. The classification for state-selected lands
18 would become effective on the day this SSP is adopted by the Commissioner of DNR.
19

20 The planning area includes state-owned tide and submerged land in Unalaska Bay. Stretching
21 from Cape Cheerful in the west to Erskine Point in the east, the planning area includes Nateekin
22 Bay, Captains Bay, Iliuliul Bay, Summer Bay, Kalekta Bay, and runs north to the three-mile
23 seaward limit, where it abuts the boundary of the Bristol Bay Area Plan.
24

25 Unalaska’s tidelands account for most of the economic activity in the community as well as
26 having culturally significant subsistence uses. Existing authorizations are concentrated in the
27 area between East Point Road on Amaknak Island and Pyramid Creek Road on Unalaska Island.
28 Public and commercial docks, boat harbors, and other tideland facilities in support of the fishing
29 industry are prevalent in the planning area. Tideland facilities also support shipping and water
30 transportation. In addition to the fishing industry, Unalaska serves recreational visitors and is a
31 ferry stop on the Alaska Marine Highway.
32



33
34

¹ ADL 225530, ADL 233422, ADL 233909, ADL 75671, ADL 201113 and ADL 225155.

1 **Background Information**

2

3 **Location**

4

5 **Geographic**

6 The proposed Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan (SSP) is located within the tidelands and
7 submerged lands of Unalaska Bay and Captains Bay, adjacent to the communities of Dutch
8 Harbor and the City of Unalaska.

9

10 **Borough/Municipality**

11 Unorganized borough.

12

13 **USGS Map Coverage**

14 Unalaska C-2

15

16 **Legal Description**

17 The areas subject to this plan include all state-owned tide and submerged land within:

18

19 T 71S, R 115W, SM, Sections 6-8, 10-11, 14-23, and 26-35

20 T 71S, R 116W, SM, Sections 1-36

21 T 71S, R 117W, SM, Sections 1-36

22 T 71S, R 118W, SM, Sections 24-25

23 T 72S, R 115W, SM, Sections 2-11 and 18

24 T 72S, R 116W, SM, Sections 1-2, 4-9, 11-14, 16-20, and 29-32

25 T 72S, R 117W, SM, Sections 1-5, 7-25, and 27-36

26 T 72S, R 118W, SM, Sections 13, 24-25, and 36

27 T 73S, R 118W, SM, Sections 1, 3-11, 14-17, 19-21, and 29-30

28 T 723, R 119W, SM, Sections 1 and 12

29

30 See attached maps.

31

32

33 **Title and Land Status**

34

35 **Classification**

36 This plan classifies all state-owned tide and submerged land within the plan boundary. State land
37 is classified under the authority of AS 38.04.065, AS 38.05.300, and 11 AAC 55.010 - .280,
38 according to the management intent stated in this plan. See attached Land Classification Order
39 (LCO) SC-24-001.

40

41 **Title Status**

42 The State of Alaska holds title to the tide and submerged lands within the plan boundary under
43 the Submerged Lands Act of 1953.

44

45

1 **Mineral Status**

2 Open to mineral entry except for those portions of the planning area closed to mineral entry
3 under Mineral Closing Orders 656, 658, 659, and 680.

4
5 **Adjacent Landowners, Native Corporations, or Borough:**

6 The planning area is within the unorganized borough. The adjacent tidelands are owned by the
7 City of Unalaska and the adjacent uplands are owned by the Aleutian Development Corporation.
8 The ANCSA Regional Corporation is the Aleut Corporation. Unalaska is currently served by
9 Ounalashka Corporation, an ANSCA Village Corporation, and Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, a
10 Federally Recognized Tribe.

11
12 **Third Party Interests**

13 ADL 220377 – Management right to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for
14 the Unalaska Airport.
15 ADL 217395 - Management agreement with the Department of Transportation and Public
16 Facilities for expansion of the Unalaska Airport.
17 ADL 75671 – Private non-exclusive right of way easement issued to Alyeska Seafoods.
18 ADL 215282 – Public easement, tideland right-of-way for vehicular bridge at 5th Street issued to
19 the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
20 ADL 227548 – Public easement, tideland right-of-way for pedestrian bridge at 5th Street issued
21 to the City of Unalaska.
22 ADL 201113 – Public access easement for the Unalaska Bridge issued to the Department of
23 Transportation and Public Facilities.
24 ADL 225155 – Public easement for a submarine water line issued to the City of Unalaska.
25 ADL 233422 – Public easement for installation of a fiber optic cable issued to GCI
26 Communication Corporation.
27 ADL 23762 – Tidelands conveyance to the Aleutian Development Company
28 ADL 225803 – Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
29 ADL 226101 – Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
30 ADL 226102 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
31 ADL 226105 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
32 ADL 225816 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
33 ADL 225817 – Tidelands conveyance to the City of Unalaska.
34 ADL 225790 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
35 ADL 226087 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
36 ADL 226101 – Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
37 ADL 226102 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
38 ADL 226104 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
39 ADL 226197 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
40 ADL 226198 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
41 ADL 226199 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
42 ADL 226200 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
43 ADL 226201 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
44 ADL 226202 - Tidelands conveyance issued to City of Unalaska.
45 ADL 225793 – Permit issued to Offshore Systems, Inc for a commercial mooring buoy.
46 LAS 31676 – Permit issued to Alaska Marine Lines for two commercial mooring buoys.

1 LAS 28534 - Permit issued to the City of Unalaska for a commercial mooring buoys.
2
3

4 **Climate**

5

6 The climate of Unalaska is sub-polar ocean climate with moderate temperatures and heavy
7 rainfall. The mean annual temperature for Unalaska is approximately 38 °F (3.4 °C), with mean
8 winter temperatures around 30 °F (-1.1 °C) and summer temperatures around 52 °F (11.1 °C).
9 Unalaska experiences approximately 250 rainy days a year, with mean annual precipitation of
10 approximately 58 inches. Fog is most common during the summer, and gales and williwaws are
11 most frequent during the fall and early winter. Wind, rain, fog, and overcast conditions make
12 navigation difficult and can cause hazardous conditions.
13
14

15 **Resource Inventory**

16

17 **Topography**

18 Unalaska is the second-largest island in the Fox Islands group and the Aleutian Islands. The
19 coastline of Unalaska is markedly different in appearance than other major Aleutian Islands, with
20 numerous inlets and peninsulas. The irregular coastline is broken by three long deep bays,
21 Beaver Inlet, Unalaska Bay, and Makushin Bay, as well as by numerous smaller bays and coves.
22 Unalaska's terrain is rugged and covered with mountains, and during the greater part of the year,
23 the higher elevations are covered with snow.
24

25 **Minerals**

26 Aleutian Islands Mining District. There are currently no active mining operations within the plan
27 boundary, multiple mineral occurrences have been documented on adjacent lands.
28

29 **Soils**

30 The land surrounding the planning area consists of volcanic islands with naturally sloping dirt,
31 rock, and boulder shorelines. The tide and submerged lands consist of primarily volcanic rock
32 with some stratified silty, sandy, and cindery volcanic materials.
33

34 **Vegetation**

35 The uplands near Unalaska Bay are characterized as moist tundra. The moist tundra consists of
36 tall grass meadows, low heath shrubs, mosses, lichens, and tufted hair grass. Extensive kelp beds
37 exist along the nearshore area.
38

39 **Habitat**

40 The planning area includes two types of marine habitat: nearshore (from mean low tide to about
41 65 feet depth) and the shelf (from 65 to 650 feet depth). Nearshore habitat is the water column
42 between the sea surface and seafloor in water depths up to 65 feet. It includes the subtidal area
43 adjacent to the intertidal zone. Nearshore areas have greater variability in salinity, temperature,
44 suspended sediment concentrations, and ice scouring than shelf or oceanic habitats. Wave energy
45 is generally higher in the nearshore than in the deeper ocean because of breaking waves. Winds,
46 freshwater input, ice current patterns, and tides drive seasonal cycles of mixing turnover in the

1 water column. Where waters with contrasting density, salinity, and other characteristics meet,
2 floating debris and kelp may mark a rip line. Such boundary areas often contain a greater
3 abundance of fish, birds, and marine mammals.

4
5 Shelf habitat refers to the continental shelf that lies at the edge of the continent; it includes
6 waters greater than 65 feet but less than 650 feet deep. Continental shelves are nearly flat borders
7 of varying widths that slope very gently toward the ocean basins. The width of the continental
8 shelf varies. Shelf widths are typically greater in areas of passive continental margins, where
9 there is little seismic or volcanic activity, because these areas are where continents are rifted
10 apart, creating an ocean basin between them.

11
12 Shelf habitats are characterized by high productivity that supports a wide range of animals. The
13 habitat of the sublittoral zone environment can be soft-bottom (mud, sand, shell, gravel) shell
14 debris or rocky. Benthic communities include infauna, which are organisms that live within
15 sediments, and epifauna, which are organisms that live on sediments. Benthic habitats are
16 diverse. Prominent species in the planning area include barnacles, king crab, tanner crab, shrimp,
17 sea pens, gastropods, and urchins.

18 19 **Marine Mammals**

20 The waters in the planning area support a wide variety of marine species
21 including: Steller sea lions; fin, gray, Western North Pacific gray, North Pacific right, humpback,
22 minke, Steiniger's, beaked, Baird's beaked, blue, sperm, and killer whales; harbor and ribbon
23 seals; Northern fur seals; harbor and Dall's porpoises; Pacific white-sided dolphins; and Northern
24 sea otters. Fin whales, humpback whales, and
25 killer whales feed in the nearshore and offshore waters in the summer.

26
27 Steller sea lions occur in the northeastern part of the planning area, foraging long distances from
28 shore and can dive to 1,300 feet. They use land
29 habitat (ledges, beaches) for periods of rest, molting, and rookeries for mating and pupping
30 during the breeding season. Cape Kalekta serves as both a rookery and a haul out concentration
31 area. Steller sea lions in the planning area are
32 members of the western Distinct Population Segment¹¹
33 (Endangered Species Act [ESA] listed endangered,
34 Marine Mammal Protection Act [MMPA] classified
35 strategic). The planning area contains critical habitat.
36 The blue, fin, North Pacific right, sperm, and Western
37 North Pacific gray whales are also listed as endangered
38 under the ESA.

39 The Northern Sea otters forage in the relatively shallow coastal
40 waters of the planning area. There is an established population along the northeastern coast from
41 Erskine Point stretching into English
42 Bay. Northern sea otters in the planning area are members of the Southwest Alaska Distinct
43 Population Segment² (ESA listed threatened, MMPA classified strategic). Critical habitat
44 throughout the planning area was designated based largely on the presence
45 of shallow, rocky areas, the presence of nearshore waters to serve as refuge, the presence of kelp
46 forests, and sufficient prey resources to support the sea otter

¹ [5-Year Review for the Endangered Western Distinct Population Segment of Steller Sea Lion | NOAA Fisheries](#)

² [SEA OTTER \(Enhydra lutris\): Southwest Alaska Stock \(fws.gov\)](#)

population. 37

38 There are three Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of humpback whales that range throughout
39 the planning area, the endangered Western North Pacific DPS, the threatened Mexico DPS, and the
Hawaii DPS (not listed).

40 The planning area is a biologically important area for humpback whale feeding June through
41 September as well as designated critical habitat.

42
43 There are 10 non-key (<50 seals) harbor seal haulouts within the planning area. A vessel
disturbance study (Jansen et al. 2010) indicates remaining a distance of 500 meters offshore when
traveling near haulouts will help reduce disturbances to hauled-out animals. Haulout locations are
publicly accessible at:

http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=https://services2.arcgis.com/C8EMgrsFcRFL6LrL/ArcGIS/rest/services/pv_cst_haulout/FeatureServer&source=sd. In Alaska, single pups
are born between May and mid-July (covers lactation period). Young pups are able to swim
almost immediately after birth. They normally remain with their mothers for about one month,
after which they are weaned and separate. Harbor seals molt annually, usually in summer; timing
of molt depends upon sex and age class but typically occurs during May 1 through October 1.
During these sensitive seasons harbor seals are most vulnerable to disturbances.

44
45 All marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and in some cases also
the Endangered Species Act, and federal take permits may be required-

46

47 References

48 Refer to links for National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] managed species [[ArcGIS Web
Application \(noaa.gov\)](#)] and US Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] species [[Northern Sea Otter
\(Enhydra lutris kenyoni\) | Map | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | FWS.gov](#)].

49

50

51

52

43 **Fisheries**

44 The planning area is within the ADF&G Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Area which
45 supports some of the largest and most valuable commercial fisheries in the United States. All
46 five species of Pacific salmon (Chinook, chum, coho, pink, and sockeye), Dolly Varden, several

1 species of crab including red king crab, Dungeness crab, tanner and opilio, rockfish, halibut, and
2 Pacific cod, are
3 found throughout the planning area. The bays are fed by anadromous waters such as the Nateekin
4 River, Makushin River, Iliuliuk River, Summer Bay Creek, Morris Lake, and Unalaska Lake. All
5 of which have been identified as important for spawning and rearing.

6 **Birds**

7 Emperor geese are present on Unalaska Island. Bald eagles occur in high numbers with
8 documented nests along the shoreline. Tufted and horned puffins are frequently seen in
9 the waters around Unalaska along with species of gulls, murrets, scoters, shearwaters, mergansers,
10 phalaropes, ducks, eiders, kittiwakes, murrelets, loons, and
11 grebes. Seabird colonies are found in Captain’s Bay, on Hog Island, and north of Eider Point. Federally
12 listed birds occurring in the planning area include the short-tailed albatross and Steller’s eider. Several
13 other species of conservation concern include Kittlitz’s, marbled and ancient murrelets, Aleutian
14 tern, black oystercatcher, whiskered auklet, and the
15 yellow-billed loon, among others.

12 **Subsistence**

13 The planning area is located within the Unalaska District of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area
14 for subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishing harvest primarily consists of sockeye salmon and
15 typically occurs within Reese Bay near McLees Lake, Broad Bay, Front Beach (all Unalaska Bay
16 waters south of a line from a point near the Bishop’s House to a point on the Unalaska Bay
17 Shore), and the vicinity of Nateekin River. Other species harvested for subsistence fishing
18 include Chinook salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, chum salmon, Dolly
19 Varden, herring, Pacific cod, walleye pollock, lingcod, Atka mackerel, black
20 rockfish, and halibut. Subsistence fishing is defined in the Alaska Statute (AS 16.05.940(32)) as
21 “the taking of, fishing for, or possession of fish, shellfish, or other fisheries resources by a
22 resident domiciled in a rural area of the state for subsistence uses with gill net, seine, fish wheel,
23 long line, or other means defined by the Board of Fisheries”.

25 **Recreation**

26 Unalaska provides many outdoor activities including hiking, halibut and salmon sportfishing,
27 kayaking, marine wildlife viewing, and birding. There are several hiking trail options including
28 Mount Ballyhoo, Bunker Hill Trail, Mount Newhall, and Goose Lake Trail. Most trails venture
29 into land that is privately owned by the Ounalashka Corporation and require a recreation permit
30 to access. There are two federal conservation areas on the island, the Alaska Maritime National
31 Wildlife Refuge and the Aleutian Islands Wilderness, as well as multiple historic and culturally
32 significant sites that are open to the public.

34 **Historic and Cultural Resources**

35 The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and
36 prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by the Office of History and
37 Archaeology (OHA). The AHRS is used to protect cultural resource sites from unwanted
38 destruction. There are 68 historic and cultural sites within, or immediately adjacent to, the plan
39 boundary that have been recorded in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey. The Dutch Harbor
40 Naval Operating Base is also listed on the National Historic Register.

41
42

1 **Land Use and Economic Conditions**

2
3 **Access**

4 Unalaska can be reached by scheduled daily air service from Anchorage, air taxis, and monthly
5 Alaska Marine Highway ferry service from May through September. There is limited road access
6 to portions of the planning area in Dutch Harbor and the City of Unalaska.
7
8

9 **Historical and Present Uses and Activities**

10
11 Unalaska, home to the Port of Dutch Harbor, sits in the heart of the North Pacific and Bering Sea
12 fisheries. Its status as the only natural deep-water port in the Aleutians has made Dutch Harbor
13 an important port since the arrival of Russian fur traders in the 18th century. The United States
14 started fortifying Dutch Harbor in 1940, resulting in the construction of the Dutch Harbor Naval
15 Operating Base and Fort Mears. After World War II, the king crab fishery in the Bering Sea
16 began to develop and the first crab processing plants opened in Unalaska in the 1960s, starting
17 the community’s evolution from a quiet village of 400 people to a busy and prosperous port town
18 of approximately 4,000.
19

20 In the mid-1980s, the current pollock/Pacific cod fisheries began to build large processing plants
21 in Unalaska and are now the nation’s largest and most valuable fishery. Dutch Harbor has been
22 the largest fisheries port in the United States in terms of volume of seafood caught almost every
23 year since 1981. While seafood industry is still the main source of revenue, the City has taken
24 steps to diversify its economy. Now, Unalaska is also the home of the western-most container
25 terminal in the United States and is one of the most productive ports for transshipment of cargo
26 in Alaska.
27

28 Unalaska’s tidelands are dual purpose; they are a major driver of economic activity in the
29 community, and they have culturally significant subsistence uses. This dual purpose is reflected
30 in historic and present land use patterns. Most of the tideland development is concentrated on
31 the shoreline of Amaknak Island and along Captains Bay Road, while the primary
32 subsistence activity is on the Unalaska side, particularly along Front Beach and the Summer Bay
33 area. Tideland development in support of the fishing industry is likely to continue in the vacant
34 tidelands along Captains Bay Road.
35

36 **Local Government and Zoning**

37 City of Unalaska. The City of Unalaska’s Planning Department has identified the tidelands in
38 this area as Subsistence Tidelands.
39

40 **Economic Conditions in the Subject Area**

41 Communities near the planning area have mixed economies in which households rely on cash
42 income and subsistence resources. With the tremendous increase in commercial fishing and fish
43 processing in Unalaska, the community has been rapidly evolving over the past five decades. The
44 local economy has diversified, but that growth is limited to not only its captive markets, but also
45 by the uncertainties of opening businesses in a community with unproven demand for certain

1 goods and services. Future economic growth will depend heavily on the success of the fishing
2 and support services industries, and the availability of developable land.

3 4 5 **Designations Used in this Plan**

6
7 State tidelands are to be managed to: 1) protect sensitive tideland resources; 2) maintain
8 opportunities for commercial, recreational, and subsistence harvest; and 3) ensure the
9 continuation of important recreational activities. They will also be managed to allow for
10 shoreline development in areas adjacent to communities where residential or
11 commercial/industrial uses are considered appropriate by the local unit of government or
12 appropriate land manager, or at specific sites where some form of development occurs or is
13 planned.

14
15 **Habitat (Ha).** State tidelands designated Habitat (Ha) will be managed to protect sensitive
16 habitats and areas important as fish and shellfish habitat, marine mammal concentration sites,
17 wildlife movement corridors, and subsistence areas. Habitat designations are often applied to
18 estuarine areas, the mouths of anadromous streams, special management areas that contain a rich
19 diversity and concentration of fishery and wildlife resources, and to certain rocks and islands
20 used for marine mammal rookeries and haulouts. They are also used as a co-designation with
21 Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed for tidelands and tide and submerged lands adjacent to
22 federal conservation system units. The Habitat designation is also applied to areas within
23 Critical Habitat Areas (CHAs). Development authorizations may be granted in areas designated
24 Habitat, but their sensitive fisheries or wildlife resources must be protected. Development
25 authorizations within CHAs must meet the specific standards identified in AS 16.20.530. Land
26 designated Habitat is to be retained by the state.

27
28 **Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd).** State tidelands designated Public Recreation
29 and Tourism-Dispersed (Rd) applies to areas that are widely used for recreation by either
30 commercial recreation operators or the public, and are usually associated with the use of fisheries
31 or the viewing of a unique or scenic area. Use patterns are dispersed over a fairly large area, and
32 few public facilities are provided other than boat launches, docks, and mooring buoys.
33 This designation is applied as a co-designation with Habitat in the for tidelands and tide and
34 submerged lands adjacent to federal conservation system units. Development authorization may
35 be granted in areas designated Rd but must ensure that public trust doctrine resources and public
36 recreation values are maintained. Prior to issuing an authorization, DNR should consult with
37 federal agency staff. Land designated Public Recreation and Tourism-Dispersed is to be retained
38 by the state.

39
40 **Waterfront Development (Wd).** State tidelands adjacent to communities will be managed to
41 accommodate that development considered appropriate in local land use plans or zoning maps
42 and are designated Waterfront Development (Wd). The Wd designation is applied in tidelands
43 with intensive commercial or industrial uses, where such uses can be expected, or where
44 tidelands are adjacent to uplands with a residential land use pattern, or where such uses can be
45 anticipated. Tidelands may be conveyed to municipalities, but not to private individuals.

1 **Classification**

2
3 To implement the plan on state lands, ADNR must classify state lands to reflect the intent of land
4 use designations made by this plan. State law requires that land classification precede most
5 conveyance or leasing of state uplands or tidelands. According to state statute, classification
6 means the designation of lands according to their apparent best use. It identifies the primary use
7 for which the land will be managed, but all other uses are initially presumed as compatible with
8 the primary use. For this reason, all plan classifications are intended for multiple uses. In some
9 instances, more than one designation is identified; these are termed co-designations and indicate
10 that two (or more) uses are considered to be compatible within a specific management unit of
11 state land. Compatibility of uses should be able to be achieved through separation, or siting and
12 design techniques that should reduce or preclude the undesirable effects of a particular use.

13
14 Following is a list of land classifications, and their associated definitions in Alaska regulations
15 (the Alaska Administrative Code – AAC), which apply to state lands in the planning area as a
16 result of plan adoption. ADNR will manage state lands and resources consistent with these
17 classifications and with the management directions given in the Resource Allocation Table for
18 specific management units of state land.

19
20 **11 AAC 55.160. Public Recreation Land**

21 Land classified public recreation is land that is suitable for recreation uses, waysides, parks,
22 campsites, scenic overlooks, hunting, fishing or boating access sites, trail corridors, or greenbelts
23 along bodies of water or roadways.

24
25 **11 AAC 55.230. Wildlife Habitat Land**

26 Land classified wildlife habitat is land which is primarily valuable for: 1) fish and wildlife
27 resource production, whether existing or through habitat manipulation, to supply sufficient
28 numbers or diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an
29 optimum sustained yield basis; or 2) a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species
30 of regional, state, or national significance.

31
32 **11 AAC 55.215. Waterfront development land**

33 Land classified waterfront development is tideland, submerged land, or shoreland that is suitable
34 to be used for commercial or industrial activities such as fish processing, aquatic farming,
35 mineral and log transfer facilities, or commercial recreation.

1 **Resource Allocation Table**

2

Unit #	Designation(s)	Acres	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-01	Ha, Rd	86, 570	<p>This unit is to be managed for a variety of uses, including protection of fish and wildlife habitats, harvest opportunities, dispersed recreation, and commercial fishing.</p> <p>Tidelands adjacent to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Aleutian Islands Wilderness are to be managed to protect sensitive habitat values, fisheries and wildlife resources, and the public recreation resources of the National Wildlife Refuge.</p> <p>Intensive development is not intended within this unit. Authorizations related to recreation, public safety, utilities, communication lines, and other projects providing a public benefit may be appropriate, subject to protections for critical habitat and threatened and endangered species. Retain in state ownership.</p> <p>ADNR shall consult with ADF&G, USFWS, and NOAA regarding critical or sensitive habitats and threatened or endangered species prior to issuing an authorization.</p> <p>ADNR should consult with USFWS prior to issuing authorizations adjacent to either the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge or the Aleutian Islands Wilderness.</p> <p>Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.</p>	<p>This tideland unit covers the area between the western portion of Captains Bay to the three mile seaward limit of state-owned submerged land in Unalaska Bay. Most of the tidelands in this area adjoin Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Aleutian Islands Wilderness. The tidelands along the coastline within the unit are utilized for commercial and subsistence harvest as well as public recreational activities marine harvest. Commercial harvest occurs more frequently in the vicinity of bays and lagoons that support the densest population of marine life. Portions of this area have been identified as important as shallow water anchorage positions.</p> <p>This large unit contains multiple threatened and endangered species and critical habitat. Cape Kalekta serves as both a rookery and a haul out concentration area for the endangered Stellar Sea Lion. The threatened northern sea otter has established population along the northeastern coast around Erskine Point. The endangered Western North Pacific DPS humpback and threatened Mexico DPS humpback whales range throughout the unit.</p> <p>Shrimp, groundfish, herring, red king crab, and tanner crab are distributed throughout the unit. Important anadromous waters supporting spawning and rearing for Dolly Varden and pink, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon include the Nateekin River, Makushin River, Summer Bay Creek and Morris Lake Creek.</p> <p>The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) indicates cultural resources within the unit.</p>
U-02	Wd	2,188	<p>This unit is to be managed to accommodate tideland commercial and industrial uses. It is unlikely that all of the area within this unit will be used for future commercial and industrial tideland uses. A large area of tidelands is designated Waterfront Development given the uncertainty of the exact location of future facilities needed to support this community.</p> <p>Consult with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) prior to issuing authorizations adjacent to the airport.</p> <p>A portion of this unit is located within the Unalaska Naval Defensive Sea Area (NDSA) and in an area potentially impacted by munitions that pose an explosive hazard. Adjudicators should contact the Former Used</p>	<p>Unit is situated east of Dutch Harbor and stretches from the Unalaska Airport to the mouth of the Shaishnikof River. Established seafood processing or related types of development occupy adjacent and nearby uplands. Tideland use includes private tideland facilities to support the fishing industry.</p> <p>Important anadromous waters supporting spawning and rearing for Dolly Varden and pink, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon in the unit include the Shaishnikof River, Iliuliuk River, Unalaska Lake, Pyramid Creek, and Shop Creek.</p> <p>Northern sea otter critical habit exists throughout the unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)	Acres	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			Defense Site (FUDS) program prior to issuing an authorization within the Unalaska NDSA.	The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) indicates cultural resources within the unit.
			Protect known heritage sites and cultural resources.	Portions of this unit are closed to mineral entry under Mineral Closing Orders 656, 658, 659, and 680.

1

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
3 DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
4
5

6 **Land Classification Order No. SC-24-001**
7

8 I. Name: Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan
9

10 II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained the following plan:
11

12 Site Specific Plan: Unalaska Bay
13 Adopted () Revised () Dated _____
14
15

III. Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this Action
See plan map2.	88,758	Tide and Submerged Land Act of 1953	None	See plan map2.




16
17 IV. This order replaces and supersedes all existing land classification orders within the Unalaska
18 Bay Site Specific Plan boundary.
19

20 V. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the
21 Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above-described lands are
22 hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of
23 these lands if warranted in the public interest.
24
25
26

27 Classified: _____ Date: _____
28 Christianna Colles, Director
29 Department of Natural Resources
30
31

Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan LCO SC-24-001

Plan Boundary & Units

-  Plan Boundary
-  U-01 Wildlife Habitat,
Public Recreation
Dispersed (Ha, Rd)
-  U-02 Waterfront
Development (Wd)






Land use designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on this map. There are other parcels contained within these units but the designation does not apply to these non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and is intended to be used only as a guide.

Created: March 22
KH, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



Unalaska Bay Site Specific Plan LCO SC-24-001

Plan Boundary & Units

-  Plan Boundary
-  U-01 Wildlife Habitat,
Public Recreation
Dispersed (Ha, Rd)
-  **U-02 Waterfront
Development (Wd)**



Land use designations only apply to land owned by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, as indicated by the management units on this map. There are other parcels contained within these units but the designation does not apply to these non-state lands. This map is for graphic representation only and is intended to be used only as a guide.

Created: March 22
KH, DNR, DMLW, RADS
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 6 North



SAIL Comments and Information for Unalaska Site Specific Plan

Kelly, Kyrstyn M (DNR) <kyrstyn.kelly@alaska.gov>

Fri 4/19/2024 3:40 PM

To:Guzenski, Shawana K (DNR) <shawana.guzenski@alaska.gov>;Gramckow, Andrea L (DNR) <andrea.gramckow@alaska.gov>;DNR RADS SSP (DNR sponsored) <dnr.rads.ssp@alaska.gov>

📎 1 attachments (7 MB)

26071_LBJV-5006-4156-0021_Final_LUCIP_Unalaska_20230331 (2).pdf;

Hi Andrea and Shawana,

This email is split into two parts: the first is additional background information on the Unalaska Naval Defensive Sea Area, the second is SAIL comments for the Unalaska Site Specific Plan. The background information provides a grounding for the comments that SAIL is providing on the USSP.

Background information and resources:

The Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol Final Scoring Tables include information of interest for the Unalaska NDSA. Below are excerpts from several tables.

Table 1: "Preliminary Assessment dated May 2013: The use and handling of ordnance and the Japanese attack on two consecutive days at Unalaska resulted in waste entering the marine NDSA by the following mechanisms:

- Ordnance fired over water from CDA and AA gun batteries during target training and gun function testing that did not detonate as intended.
- Ordnance lost into the water during transfer from transport ships to the shore, either at a fixed dock or at an explosive anchorage situated in the harbor away from shore installations.
- Excess ordnance deliberately disposed of (referred to as DMM) into the marine environment at the conclusion of hostilities.
- In the case of Dutch Harbor, ordnance deliberately dropped or fired by Japanese forces during the June 1942 attacks that did not detonate as intended."

Table 5: "Though the Navy has given up operational control of the NDSA there are no barriers to prevent entry by receptors."

Table 11: "PA dated May 2013 page 2-18; In January 1987 local divers working on the former Captains Bay ammunition dock (Captains Bay Dock in Figure 2-5) discovered four metal containers washed up on the shore. Each container measured about 5 inches in diameter and 30 inches long and contained a total of 44 glass vials. The containers were turned over to the Unalaska Police Department, which notified the 176th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, Fort Richardson, Alaska. Ordnance specialists identified the vials as elements of the M1 War Gas Identification Set, which was a World War II training kit used to teach soldiers how to identify chemical warfare agents by odor and immediate effects. The Explosives Ordnance Detachment repacked and transported the vials to the disposal facility at Johnston Atoll. The Technical Escort Unit conducted an additional underwater search and shoreline survey at the ammunition dock in February 1987. More containers with vials were found in the water and on the shore. A total of 469 additional vials were found, repacked, and transported to Johnston Atoll (U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization 1996)."

The below excerpt from the 2013 Preliminary Action report provides a good synopsis of past DoD activities that led to the creation of the NDSA.

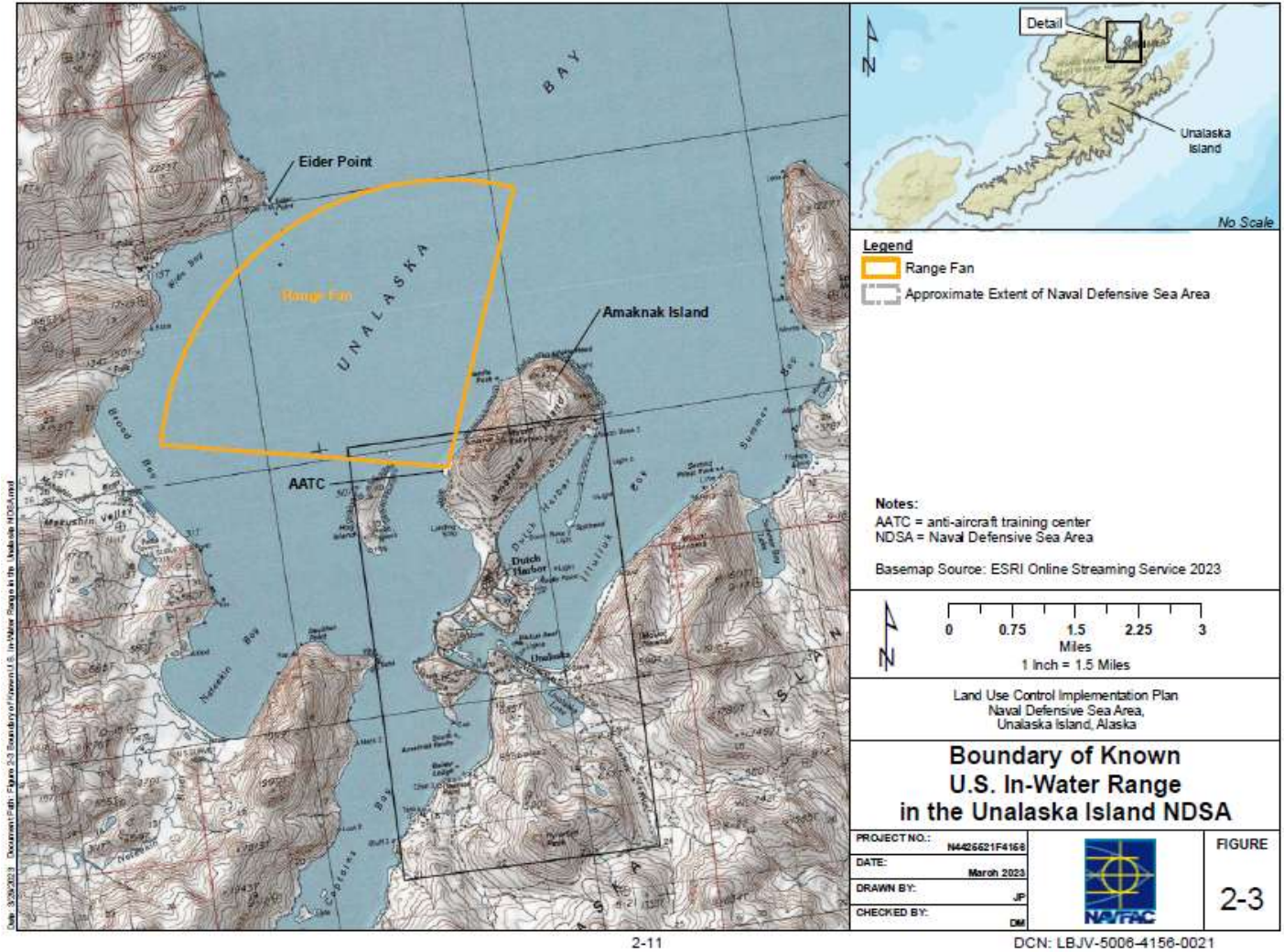
"The U.S. Navy established a significant presence in the Unalaska-Dutch Harbor area during the World War II era, from approximately 1940 through 1944. Prior to World War II, the Navy established a communications facility (in 1911) and weather station (in 1939) in the Dutch Harbor area. Construction of military facilities began in July of 1940 and continued through 1944. A Naval Section Base, the Naval Air Station (NAS), and Fort Mears, all located in the Dutch Harbor area, were commissioned in 1941. The Japanese bombed the military facilities at Dutch Harbor on June 3 and 4, 1942. After the Japanese attacked in June 1942, the rate of construction increased and on January 1, 1943, the Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base (NOB) was commissioned. As part of the defensive operations, the military maintained several coastal defense artillery (CDA) guns, anti-aircraft (AA) guns, and air defense squadrons. The military performed target practice at a minimum of one in-water range and handled ordnance over water at several locations in the Dutch Harbor and Chernofski Harbor areas. As World War II ended, all military activity decreased at Dutch Harbor, and the NOB was decommissioned in 1947. The Naval Defensive Sea Area (NDSA) at Unalaska Island was established on March 22,

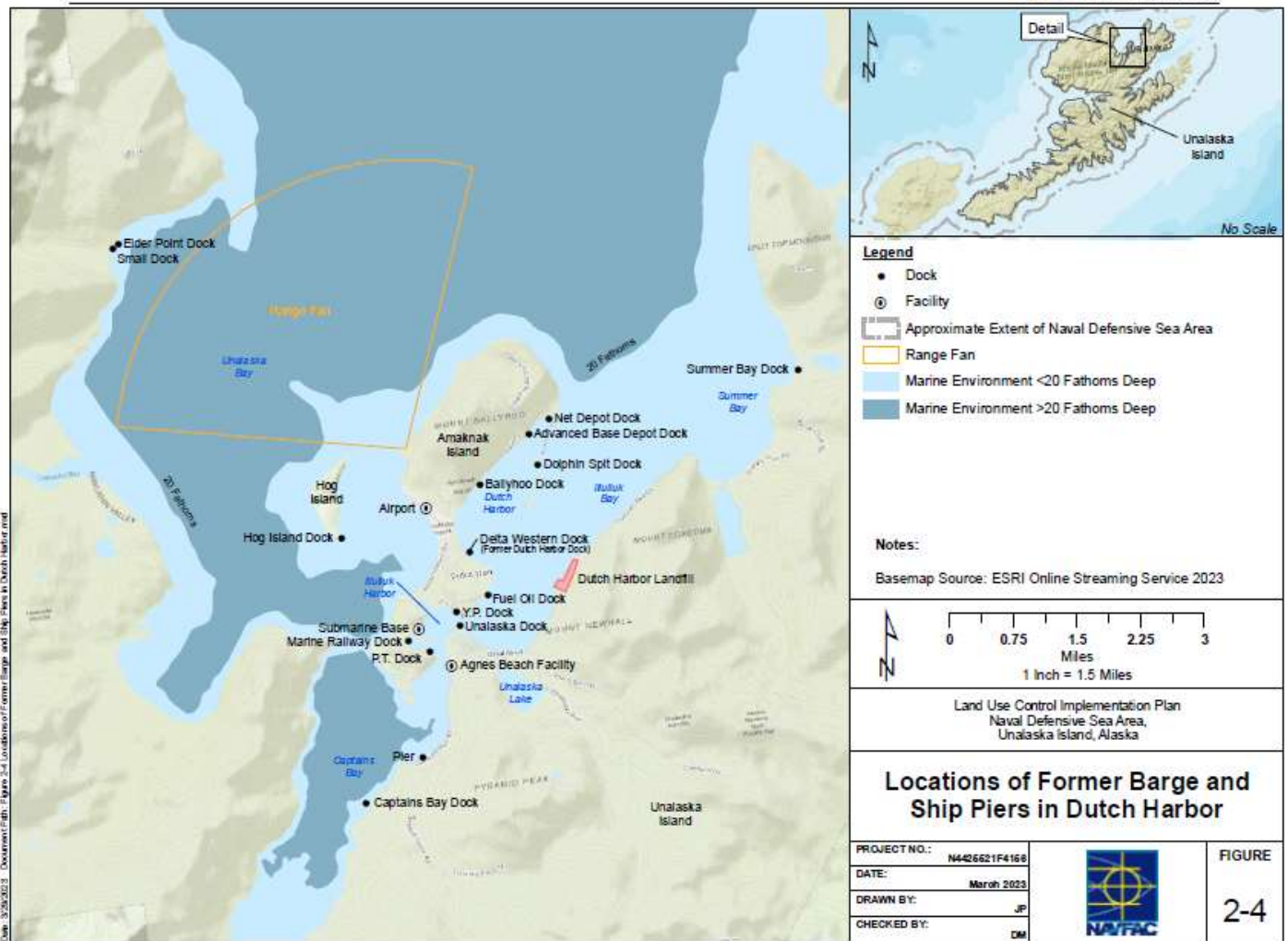
1941 by Executive Order 8680. A NDSA is a water area set aside by executive order of the President of the United States because of its strategic nature, or for purposes of defense. The NDSA at Unalaska Island includes the territorial waters between the extreme high-water marks and the 3-mile marine boundaries.”

Both of these documents and more are available in the partial administrative record located here: <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/Facilities-Engineering-Commands/NAVFAC-Northwest/Our-Services/Environmental-Stewardship/Environmental-Restoration/Kodiak-and-Unalaska/>

The Final Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUC-IP) issued in March of 2023 is attached.

Figures 2-3 and 2-4 from the LUC-IP display the known locations of historic docks, ranges, and off/on loading areas.





2-13

DCN: LBJV-5008-4156-0021

Additionally, the screenshot below lists the responsibilities of the Navy for time sensitive actions.

- The Navy will provide the informational devices ("Follow the 3Rs [Recognize, Retreat, and Report]" brochure and a one-page MEC Fact Sheet) to increase public awareness that MEC may be present in the Unalaska Island NDSA. The intended audience is potential visitors to Unalaska Bay, Dutch Harbor, Captains Bay, Iliuliuk Harbor, Chernofski Harbor, Otter Point, and other former in-water ranges at Unalaska Island NDSA. These devices will be posted in public facilities on Unalaska Island and Dutch Harbor, such as airports, ports, town halls, post offices, and camping and recreational areas frequented by residents of and visitors to Unalaska Island. At the beginning of the visitor high-traffic season, MEC awareness announcements will also be posted in newspapers in Anchorage and Bristol Bay, Alaska, and to the website of KUCB Unalaska Community Broadcasting, for one week annually.
- The Navy will provide the informational devices to companies and organizations that are likely to use and visit the waters of the Unalaska Island NDSA. These organizations are likely to include local shipping/barging fleets, commercial fishing companies, and charter vessels providing transport for research, recreational activities, and diving.
- The Navy will provide the informational devices to local construction permitting agencies and land management agencies for distribution with permits/information requests for nearshore or in-water construction activities. These agencies would include the City of Unalaska, the Ounalashka Corporation, the State of Alaska, the USCG, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the USFWS.

SAIL comments on the Unalaska Site Specific Plan:

Third Party Interests: Please include the 901 file, ADL 234320

Stipulation to include under management intent in the Resource Allocation Table for both the U-01 and U-02 section:

“This unit is located within the Unalaska Naval Defensive Sea Area (NDSA) and in an area potentially impacted by munitions that pose an explosive hazard. Adjudicators should work with the SAIL Section to contact the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest prior to issuing an authorization within the Unalaska NDSA. All authorization holders shall be sent a copy of the 3Rs document provided by the DoD and found here: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo/>”

Please delete: “A portion of this unit is located within the Unalaska Naval Defensive Sea Area (NDSA) and in an area potentially impacted by munitions that pose an explosive hazard. Adjudicators should contact the Former Used Defense Site (FUDS) program prior to issuing an authorization within the Unalaska NDSA.”

Please include this advisory that has been updated in NOAA Charts for the region:

Advisory from NOAA Charts, updated 4/7/2024: https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/files/cp9/CPB9_C07_WEB.pdf

Caution Certain areas of the marine environment in the Aleutian Islands may contain munitions and explosives of concern (unexploded ordnance). Specifically, these are along the northeast end of Unalaska Island (including Unalga Island and part of Akutan Island), the southwest end of Unalaska Island, the northeast end of Umnak Island and the northwest and southeast sides of Kiska Island. These areas are within the dashed black lines shown on charted regions of Unalaska Island and Kiska Island. Mariners are cautioned against anchoring, dredging or trawling within these areas. Mariners should follow the “3Rs”– Recognize, Retreat, and Report; <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo/home/>. Recognize possible munitions such as mines, torpedoes, depth charges, artillery shells, bombs, and missiles. Mariners should avoid military and former military ranges and disposal areas, and explosive hazard areas identified on navigational charts. Retreat by staying as far away as possible, not bringing munitions onboard or into port, minimizing disturbance (i.e., not touching or bumping munitions), and safely jettison, if possible. Report immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard, VHF-FM Channel 16, 156.800 MHz, if an encounter with possible munitions and provide vessel position, activity being conducted (anchoring, fishing, dredging), description of munition item, and action taken (i.e., munition stowed or jettisoned). For additional information: phone U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety at 918-420-8919 or visit the U.S. Army’s UXO Safety Education website at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/mmrp/index.html> and the Navy’s website for specific documents related to the Aleutian Islands at https://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/pacific/fecs/northwest/about_us/northwest_documents.html

SAIL suggests including the following information in the Historical and Present Uses and Activities section:

“The Naval Defensive Sea Area (NDSA) site is composed of the underwater areas surrounding Unalaska Island where Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) were historically deposited/disposed as a result of DoD activities. Prior to and during WWII military facilities were established in the vicinity of Unalaska Island. Japanese forces attacked Unalaska in June 1942. By the end of the war facilities on or near Unalaska Island included: Coastal Defense Artillery positions, Anti-Aircraft Artillery positions and a training center, docks and moorages, etc. All are potential sources of MEC in the marine environment.”

Internally, SAIL will ensure that adjudicators receive the most recent 3Rs guidance from NAVFAC. SAIL is working with DEC and NAVFAC to update Alaska Mapper to reflect the areas of concern.

Please reach out if there are any questions or if clarification is needed.

Thank you,
Kyrstyn

Kyrstyn Kelly
Natural Resource Specialist
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water - Statewide Abatement of Impaired Land (SAIL) Section
907-269-8528