State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Fish

ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

SEP 01 1992

REGION II HABITAT DIVISION

AWC Volume SE SC SW W (AR) IN USGS Quad NOME C-1

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 333-10-11200-2016

Name of Waterway CENTER CREEK USGS name ____ Local name ____

Addition ____ Deletion ____ Correction ____ Backup Information ____

For Office Use

Nomination # 93 030

Revision Year: ____

Revision to: Atlas ____ Catalog ____ Both ____

Revision Code: ____

Robert F. McLean, Acting — Regional Supervisor — 10/5/92 Date

Edward W. Weiss — 11/3/92

J. Krone — Drafted — 12/21/92 Date

Deletion 3/29/93 J. Krone

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration	Anadromous
COHO SALMON	AUGUST 7, 1992		✓		YES ~~✓~~
ARCTIC CHAR	AUGUST 7, 1992		✓		?
SLIMY SCULPIN	AUGUST 7, 1992	RESIDENT			NO
ALASKA BLACKFISH	AUGUST 7, 1992	RESIDENT			NO

Provide any clarifying information, including number of fish observed, location of fish survey data, etc. Attach a copy of a survey data, if available. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and upper points of each species, specific stream reaches identified for spawning or rearing, locations of barriers, such as falls.

Comments:

WE CAUGHT THE ABOVE SPECIES USING TWO MINNOW TRAPS BAITED WITH SALMON ROE AND SET FOR 24 HOURS.

entered changes

scan upload c drive k drive

ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

OCT 13 1992

REGION II HABITAT DIVISION

Date: 8-27-92

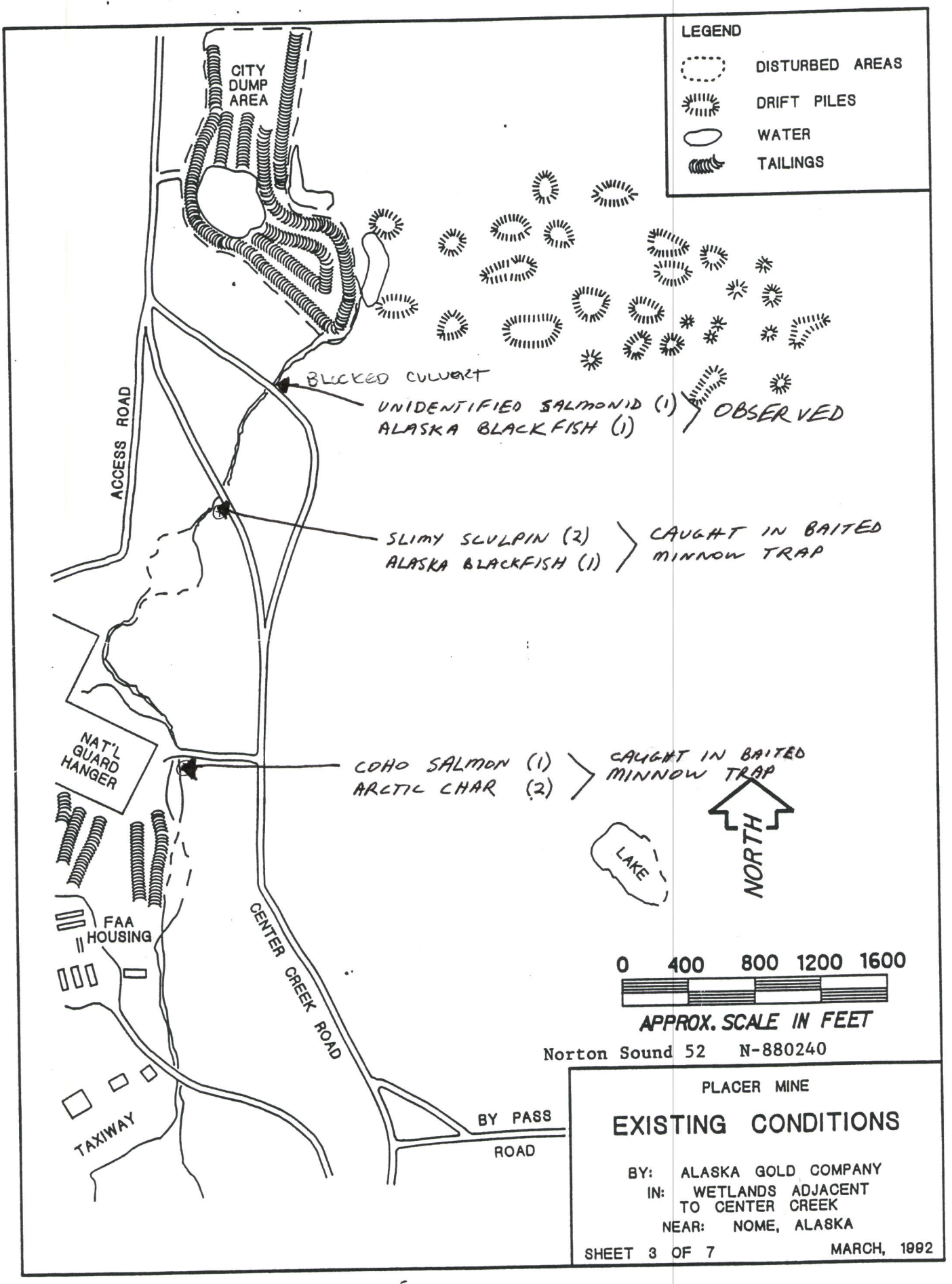
(Please print) MICHAEL R. NORTH LARRY J. DUGAN

Signature: Michael R. North Larry J. Dugan

Address: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES-ANCHORAGE
605 W 4th AVENUE, ROOM 62
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2231

Signature of Area Biologist: Robert F. McLean

Rev. 12/91



Norton Sound 52 N-880240

PLACER MINE

EXISTING CONDITIONS

BY: ALASKA GOLD COMPANY
IN: WETLANDS ADJACENT TO CENTER CREEK
NEAR: NOME, ALASKA

SHEET 3 OF 7 MARCH, 1992

11/3/92 cont.

TO: L. Augan 271-2781
NO ANSWER

11/4/92

TO: F. Sullivan
NOT IN. LFT MESS.

TO: L. Augan

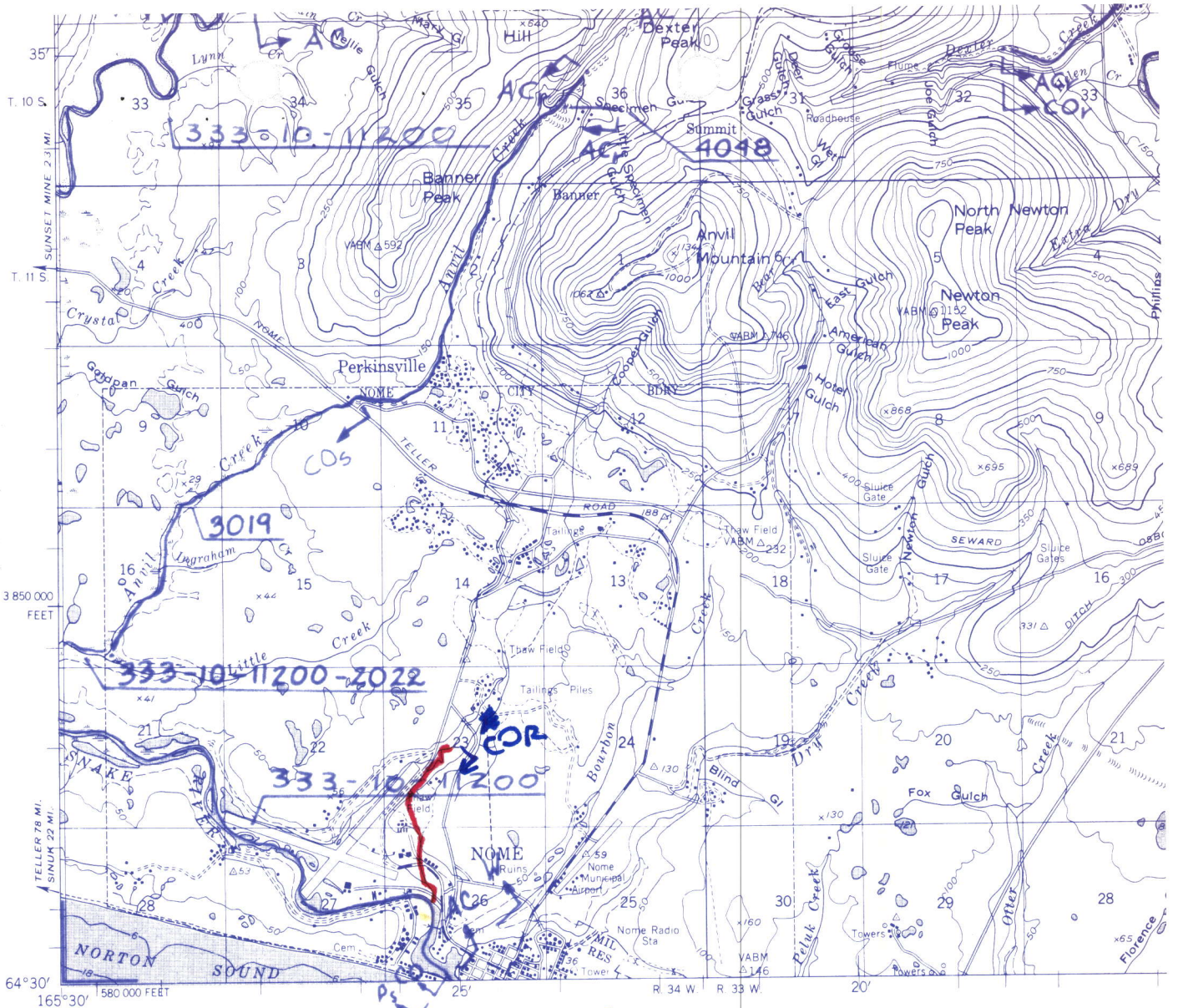
11/5/92

TO: L. Augan / Mike N.
Re
SECT 23 AR "THAW FIELD"
T11S R47W
SW 1/4 Redoe Runway
SAMPLE SITE @ T
NEXT SW 2 in
"23"

MAY NOT BE THERE
IN FUTURE
BLOCKING off FLOW
DIVERSION TO LITTLE Creek
↑ FLOW + less POLLUTION

SONCE

Stream source determined by south arm of Snake River
Phone con'd location w/ Mike North 11/5/92



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1950. Map not field checked

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Survey 7844 (1950). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Universal Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 8
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 3, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Land lines represent unsurveyed and unmarked locations predetermined by the Bureau of Land Management
Folios K-13 and K-14, Kateel River Meridian

Add Stream
333-10-11200-2010
* Center Creek
with COR

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 19

DEPTH CURVES
SHORELINE SHOWN RE
THE AVERA

MAP NO.
C-1
OF
102

LEGEND

S	Sockeye Salmon
K	King Salmon
CO	Coho Salmon
P	Pink Salmon
CH	Chum Salmon
SH	Steelhead Trout
DV	Dolly Varden
AC	Arctic Char
SF	Sheefish
W	Whitefish
CT	Cutthroat Trout

Subscript
s - Known Spawning
r - Rearing
*m - Migration

* Migration upstream is assumed for stream reaches where anadramous fish occur.

COMP	DRC
DRAWN	CB
REVISED	DRC
APPROVED	ERL
DATE	4/82
FILE NO.	

SCALE
1" = 1 MILE
1 : 63,360

PROJ. TITLE
ANAD
ANADROMO

MAP TITLE

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
HABITAT AND RESTORATION DIVISION
P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, AK 99802-5526

cc: Lance
Don
P.

FAX NUMBER: 907 465-4759

DATE: 3-22-93

NO. OF PAGES (COVER INCLUDED): 14

TO: LANCE TRASKY H+R R11/Anchorage

FROM: FRANK RUE H+R HQ/Juneau

MESSAGE:

HABITAT IS THE KEY TO WILDLIFE

March 18, 1993

Mr. Joseph F. Fisher
Vice President/General Manager
Alaska Gold Company
P.O. Box 640
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing two concerns about the designation of Center Creek as an anadromous fish stream under AS 16.05.870(a) and 5 AAC 95.010.

Your first concern is with respect to whether the proposed action was properly noticed under AS 44.62.190. According to your letter, the action was not noticed in your local newspaper the (Nome Nugget). You have further indicated concern that you were not directly notified of the proposed action. I wish to assure you that the department makes every effort to provide wide public notice of proposed revisions to the "Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish." Legal notice was published in the Nome Nugget on February 4, 1993 and the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer on February 14, 1993. In addition, legal advertisements were sent to the Tundra Drums and Arctic

Sounder for publication on February 11, 1993. We have not received confirmation copies back from the latter two publications, so I am currently unable to confirm whether they were actually published.

AS 44.62.190(a)(2) provides that notice will be mailed to every individual who has filed a request for notice with the department. ~~If you~~ I am assuming that you wish to be placed on our direct mailing list for all future notices, ~~please do not hesitate to let me know in writing.~~ so I am asking my staff to add you to that list.

Your second concern is with respect to our interpretation of the word "important" in designating a stream as anadromous. The department considers a waterway important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish if these fish are documented as being present in the waterway. There is no threshold number of fish necessary for a stream reach to be classified as being ~~used~~ important for spawning, rearing, or migration, because our surveys could not possibly be extensive enough to enumerate the populations of anadromous in all the streams found in Alaska. We estimate we have simply documented the presence or absence of anadromous fish in approximately half the streams in Alaska. The numbers of fish in our samples of a system ~~Low population levels~~ may indicate that the survey was either incomplete, designed to simply document the presence of anadromous fish; conducted at a time of the year when few fish were present in the system; conducted in a year when the fish population was naturally low; or, in some instances, that the fish population may be limited by available habitat or other factors affecting the productivity of the stream reach. On a

state-wide basis, the department must consider all waterways which contain anadromous fish as contributing to the system's total fish population. If we were to do otherwise, we ~~might~~ would ignore small production streams ~~with~~ which have local value or which cumulatively provide for the production of fish resources depended upon by a particular fishery. Having said that, we also have to use common sense in our permitting decisions. The requirements on our permits need to match the significance of the resource at risk and the significance of the impact. I believe our response to your project on Center Creek indicates how we distinguish ~~among~~ the significance of a stream in our permit actions.

Since 1983, we have been identifying waterbodies as important for anadromous fish based on the actual presence of fish within the designated reach, rather than attributing importance to the entire river system. This was precisely the intent of a 1980 amendment to AS 16.05.870. The Legislature intended for the department to specify the various rivers, lakes and streams, or parts of them, based on actual observations of fish, rather than ascribing importance on a broad drainage-wide basis.

Regardless of whether Center Creek is designated under AS 16.05.870(a), I wish to assure you that the department stands behind its July 28, 1992 field evaluation and subsequent input to the U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE) (RE: Permit N-880240) indicating our belief that Center Creek is of limited value for the overall production of the Snake River's anadromous fish resources because of ~~to~~ pollution from the old land fill. We further stand behind our recommendation to

the COE that the proposed rerouting of Center Creek into Little Creek is the ~~optimal~~ best approach for mitigating potential fisheries impacts associated with your proposed mining operation on Center Creek. ~~In the event that~~ If you ~~actually~~ proceed with your approved mining operation, complete the proposed rerouting of Center Creek, and thereby eliminate its ~~fisheries potential~~ use by anadromous fish, department staff will propose an ~~appropriate amendment to the anadromous catalog to~~ deleting ~~the current nomination.~~ Center Creek from the anadromous catalog

I hope this letter adequately addresses your concerns. If there are any questions regarding the public notice process for proposed revision to the anadromous catalog, please contact Ed Weiss of the Habitat and Restoration Division at 267-2284. If there are any questions regarding your proposed mining operations on Center Creek, please contact Regional Supervisor Alvin Ott or Habitat Biologist Mac McLean at 451-6192.

Sincerely,

Frank Rue, Director

Habitat and Restoration Division

cc: Al Ott

Mac McLean

Ed Weiss

FR:BM

D1386

File: ANS 3.0

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

TO: Marie Sansone
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
Department of Law

DATE: December 10, 1992

FILE NO.:

TELEPHONE NO.: 465-4105

SUBJECT: Department of Law Edits of Forest Practices Regulations

FROM: Frank Rue FR by KM
Director
Habitat and Restoration Division
Department of Fish and Game

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the marked up version of the Forest Practices Act regulations. While most of the changes you have made appear to make the regulations more consistent with the statute, there are several substantive changes you have made that I request you reconsider.

DENIED First; in 11 AAC 95.240(a) "other public land" should not be added to the small streamside zone for private land in Region 1. In the same section you changed the old (b) into two sections: (a)(1)a and (a)(1)b. This section should be one section that reads as you drafted (a)(1)a but with a period after the word "flow". The section would now read: "A small streamside zone is a riparian area adjacent to a Type A waterbody with a width of five feet or less as determined by actual measurement of the normal channel flow."

FIXED

The concept of other appropriate waterbodies retained in your draft was addressed by the normal channel flow measurement and the lack of any gradient limitations. This has been a very significant issue for all concerned. Commissioners Rosier and Olds agreed to apply this section of the regulations to streams five feet or less as measured by normal channel flow. Unfortunately, the draft sent to you did not reflect that agreement.

FIXED

DONE Second; please double check the changes you made to exclude University lands from the regulations so that they are only excluded where the statute clearly intended it.

DONE Third; please keep the original language of 11 AAC 95.275(a)(8). Adding "the cutting of trees" in riparian areas as an approved activity is a substantive change that we would not agree is needed.

incorporated per HQ

Fourth, your changes to 11 AAC 95.365(a) are helpful, except that there needs to be a period after "the Department of Fish and Game" in line three. Leaving the language as you had changed it may cause people to read the regulations to mean that a person does not have to get a permit from ADF&G to cross a frozen anadromous water body when in fact they do.

DENIED CLEAR AS IS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you are unable to accommodate my suggestions or if you need me to clarify my concerns.

cc: Carl L. Rosier, ADF&G
Raga Elim, DNR
Kevin Henderson, DOL

unrelated per NO

ALASKA GOLD COMPANY

MAR 1993
RECEIVED
HABITAT

March 11, 1993

To	HARD	INT	DATE
7	Director		
1	Deputy Dir.		
	Chief of Rest.		
	Admin. Ofcr.		
	Admin. Asst.		
	Secretary		
	Reg. Sup. 1		
	Reg. Sup. 2		
	Reg. Sup. 3		
FILE	ANS. 3.0		

Frank Rue, Director
Habitat & Restoration Division
Department of Fish & Game
STATE OF ALASKA
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

RE: Classification of waters important for spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fishes. Specifically *Center Creek*, a tributary of the *Snake River*, Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Rue:

Notification of your proposed actions described in your letter addressed "to whom it may concern," dated January 27, 1993, states that interested parties are to receive direct notice and it is to be advertised in major newspapers. We did not receive your notice nor has it been advertised in the local newspaper. I was made aware of the proposed action by the Sitnasuak Native Association.

From the recent involvement with permitting a mining project involving Center Creek, I find it difficult to understand how this stream is to be considered important for the spawning, rearing or mitigation of anadromous fishes. We asked an ADFG habitat biologist to survey and evaluate the stream in the summer of 1992, specifically to determine if we might be impacting a stream that may be considered an important spawning or rearing area by the ADFG. His report, Norton Sound 52 AK 920603-06F Center Creek Evaluation, dated July 28, 1992, does not indicate that this is much of a stream for the spawning or rearing of fishes. If you are using the information that I am aware of to classify Center Creek as waters **Important** for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fishes then you do not have a responsible classification system. It seems that the only criteria for classification as important waters is the sighting of a very small number of maybe juvenile Coho by someone in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. If Center Creek is to be classified as an important water for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish then you might as well just call all waters of Alaska important and not use the ruse of a classification system for waters of the state.

P.O. Box 640 • Nome, Alaska 99762 • (907) 443-5272
FAX (907) 443-5472

The proposed action raises the question as to the real intent, objectivity, and professionalism of the decision making by the staff of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. If this action is based solely on the one report by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife person, it is a great insult to the habitat biologist working for ADFG.

I would be interested in knowing the criteria used as a basis for classifying the streams in Alaska as waters important for the spawning, rearing and migration of anadromous fishes?

Sincerely,

ALASKA GOLD COMPANY

Joseph F. Fisher

Joseph F. Fisher
Vice President/General Manager

/jkh

Enclosures: ADFG Memo: AK 920603-06F Center Creek Evaluation
Page from COE permit
ADFG letter, dated July 27, 1992

cc: Commissioner, ADFG, Juneau
Alvin Ott, ADFG, Fairbanks

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game

To: FILES

Date: July 28, 1992

File No:

Telephone Number: 451-6192

From: Robert F. McLean
Habitat Division
Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Norton Sound 52
AK 920603-06/F
Center Creek
Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

A field inspection was conducted on July 7, 1992, by Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat Biologist Robert F. (Mac) McLean to evaluate the enhancement/rehabilitation potential of Center Creek, a tributary of the Snake River. This evaluation was requested by Mr. Joe Fisher (July 7, 1992 telephone request to Mr. Mac McLean) in response to comments received by the Corp. of Engineers (COE) in response to Public Notice Norton Sound 52, dated April 27, 1992.

Specifically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's May 27, 1992 response to the COE requested inclusion of the following stipulation in the COE's Section 404 authorization:

> The permittee shall evaluate whether manmade obstructions prevent anadromous fish use of Center Creek, and whether Center Creek can be enhanced for coho salmon or Dolly Varden use. A report with sufficient supporting detail shall be submitted to the District Engineer within one year of permit issuance. If Center Creek can be restored/enhanced for fish use the permittee shall prepare a restoration/enhancement plan and accomplish the work necessary to allow fish use.

RESULTS

A foot and vehicle inspection of Center Creek from its confluence with the Snake River to the dump site was conducted from 1940 to 2130 hours ADT on July 7, 1992. Photo documentation (Attachment 1) was obtained for all reaches of the stream and each cross-drainage structure. Average stream channel width ranged from 3-1/2 to 6 feet wide. Stream discharge (visual) was approximately 1 to 2 cfs at the time of inspection. Long filamentous algae was noted within the wetted perimeter of the streambed throughout the lower stretch extending up to the old dredge (third culvert). Water quality samples were not collected; however, the creek had a slight stench to it which became more pronounced closer to the dump site. The water had a slightly milky coloration which became more pronounced upstream. Heavy iron staining and milky coloration were noted upstream of the OLD Center Creek Road crossing.

No barriers to fish passage were noted below the OLD Center Creek Road bridge. A complete fish passage barrier was observed at the upstream end of the old wooden bridge

crossing on the OLD Center Creek Road stemming from a debris dam and partially collapsed footings.

Two small cross-channel weirs were noted near the Army National Guard building and appeared to be the result of children playing. Neither weir constituted a barrier to fish passage.

No fish were observed in Center Creek at the time of inspection.

DISCUSSION

The observed absence of resident and anadromous fish, both upstream and downstream of the fish passage barrier at the OLD Center Creek Road is suggestive that other factors are limiting the utilization of Center Creek by fish. Adjacent streams tributary to the Snake River similar in size and morphology were supporting coho salmon, Dolly Varden and sculpins at the time of Center Creek's inspection.

Although quantifiable data is not available, my subjective opinion is that leachate from the existing dump site and residual contamination from historic mining and military activities most probably is impacting water quality and limiting fish distribution within Center Creek. Laboratory analysis is needed to confirm or counter this hypothesis. However, discussions with the ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division Area Biologist (Charlie Lean, personal communication) provid ancillary evidence that arsenic contamination has been a problem within the Center Creek watershed. According to Lean, water quality samples were collected by a Nome resident at one of the old dredge ponds along Center Creek Road (date and location unknown) adjacent to one of the dog lots. This sample was collected to evaluate the quality of the dredge pond water as drinking water for sled dogs. Purportedly, sample results were above human health standards. A litter of puppies that were given dredge pond water prior to receipt of the laboratory results experienced neurological damage and were put down.

Long-term rehabilitation/enhancement of Center Creek will require an identification of the sources of and specific measures to isolate potential contaminate sources. Due to (1) the existence of the present dump site and extensive historic mining and military disturbances and (2) a high ground water table at the dump site, a more cost-effective approach might be to consider a realignment of Center Creek to the west of the current dump site and hopefully away from potential contaminate sources.

Enclosures (site map and photos)

cc: w/ 15 color photos
Joe Fisher, AK Gold, Nome
Pete McGee, ADEC, Fairbanks
Georgeanne Reynolds, COE, Anchorage
David McGillivary, USFWS, Anchorage
Ron Morris, NMFS, Anchorage

w/ 15 black and white photos
Al Ott, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Charlie Lean, ADF&G, Nome
Pete Velsco, ADF&G, Nome
Fred DeCicco, ADF&G, Nome
Randy Romanesko, ADEC, Nome

(x) Habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms: Center Creek, which flows through the proposed project area, was not known to support anadromous fishes until personnel from Fish and Wildlife Service caught juvenile coho salmon, sculpin and Dolly Varden char in August of 1992. Based on the capture of a few juvenile fish and review of water quality data, the USFWS has characterized Center Creek as having good water quality. However, it is the opinion of representatives of ADFG and ADEC in Nome that the water quality of the creek is degraded enough that fish use of Center Creek is limited. ADFG believes that coho salmon do not spawn in Center Creek. ADFG and ADEC stated that the creek probably does not support anadromous fish on a continual basis. A representative from ADFG in Fairbanks stated that in all the years of electroshocking the creek, he has never found any fish and that Center Creek's ability to support fish populations is considered low, due to limited overwintering and spawning habitat and the reported poor water quality of the stream. It was the opinion of ADEC and ADFG in Nome that sculpin and blackfish inhabit almost every waterbody in the area so that their presence in Center Creek is not unanticipated. As for other streams in the area, Little Creek is known to support populations of whitefish, Dolly Varden, and coho salmon and the Snake River supports these species as well as King and chum salmon.

Based on the noted recent observations and data collected in 1992, it appears that Center Creek supports limited rearing habitat for coho salmon strays, Dolly Varden, sculpin and blackfish. The proposed project would eliminate approximately 1.2 miles of stream reach in Center Creek (0.5 mile undisturbed; 0.7 mile of rechannelized stream). The applicant proposes to reroute Center Creek into Little Creek, a known anadromous fish stream used for spawning and rearing. ADFG believes the increased flows into Little Creek would improve fish utilization of Little Creek by improving upstream and downstream fish passage and increasing the availability of currently unused rearing and spawning areas. ADFG further believes that the increased flow of Center Creek can be accomodated by Little Creek and that it would not cause rechannelization of the creek. Additionally, approximately 0.75 mile of new channel would be constructed to connect Center Creek through a series of old dredged ponds to Little Creek. ADFG believes the old dredged ponds would provide rearing and possibly overwintering habitat for fish. Thus, the applicant's proposal would eliminate 0.5 mile of rearing habitat in Center Creek, create approximately 0.75 mile of new rearing and possibly overwintering habitat in the diversion

DRAFT

STATE OF ALASKA

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1300 COLLEGE ROAD
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-1599

July 27, 1992

RECEIVED
ALASKA GOLD COMPANY
AUG 4 1992
NOME

Mr. Joe Fisher
Alaska Gold, Inc.
P.O. Box 640
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Mr. Fisher:

RE: Annual Placer Mining Application No. 925992; KRM; Nome Quad; SID AK920603-06/F

Pursuant to AS 16.05.870(b) and AS 16.05.840, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has reviewed your application for placer mining in Center Creek. This stream is not known to support fish in the area of your proposed activity. Your proposed mining plan does not indicate activities will occur in waters specified by the Commissioner as important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish. Therefore, a permit from the ADF&G is not necessary for your proposed placer-mining operation.

Please be advised that this determination does not relieve you of the responsibility for securing other permits, state, federal or local and that you are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

Sincerely,

Ron Somerville, Deputy Commissioner

BY: Alvin G. Ott, Regional Supervisor
Habitat Division
Department of Fish and Game

cc: Rick Smith, ADNR, Fairbanks
Pete McGee, ADEC, Fairbanks
John Wood, ADNR/DOM, Fairbanks
Patrick Sousa, USFWS, Fairbanks
Don Kohler, COE, Anchorage
Steve Borell, AMA, Anchorage
Helen Hankins, BLM, Fairbanks
City of Nome
Chuck Degnan, BSCRSA, Unalaklect
John Coady, ADF&G, Nome
Charlie Lean, ADF&G, Nome
John Clark, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Terry Haynes, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Donna Edmonds, AST-FWP, Nome

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

DATE: March 25, 1993

TO: Frank Rue
Director
Habitat and Restoration Division
Department of Fish and Game

FILE NO.:

TELEPHONE NO.: 267-2342

SUBJECT: Joe Fisher Letter

FROM: Lance L. Trasky
Regional Supervisor
Region II
Habitat and Restoration Division
Department of Fish and Game

I read Joe Fisher's, Alaska Gold Company, March 18 letter and the backup material he provided. This includes Region III's stream report and response to a Corps public notice. After reading his letter the only logical and reasonable thing to do is write Mr. Fisher back and say, "Thank you for bringing this to my attention, the department will not specify Center Creek in the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC). Notice of the catalog update was published in the Nome Nugget and other papers. Copies of the catalog and maps are available at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Nome. The purpose of the notice and public review is to catch mistakes like Center Creek. Thank you for your help in finding this error."

Although there are no strict standards for AWC nominations, professional judgement dictates that Center Creek is not important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish. The thing that is most embarrassing about this is that Center Creek ever got through our internal review process. If department staff had shocked Center Creek for several years and never found fish, if Bob McLean surveyed it and didn't find fish, if Bob believed it to be heavily polluted and containing toxic levels of arsenic, and if we feel that the best thing is to mine the drainage and divert Center Creek into Little Creek, why did anyone in Habitat and Restoration sign the nomination form? I don't think that there is any way we could legally include this stream in the catalog even if someone thought it made sense. I also believe it would be political suicide.

Ed Weiss has been instructed to flag any questionable nominations, but we never received any of the Region III backup that was included with Mr. Fisher's letter at the time we received the Center Creek nomination. We have pulled a few questionable nominations and removed waterbodies, such as Kitoi Lake, which were already in the catalog when we had reason to believe they might not be righteous. The regions are going to have to be more careful when they submit nominations because

catalog staff are not generally familiar with stream systems or local conditions outside of Region II. We don't want to destroy our credibility by including things like Center Creek in the catalog.

cc: Don McKay
Al Ott
Ed Weiss

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

TO: Lance Trasky
Regional Supervisor
Habitat and Restoration Division

DATE: April 1, 1993

FILE NO.:

TELEPHONE NO.: 465-4105

SUBJECT: Joe Fisher Letter

FROM: Frank Rue
Director
Habitat and Restoration Division
Department of Fish and Game

We all agreed that Center Creek should not be put in the catalog. It was unnecessary and counterproductive for you to put your diatribe regarding the nomination of Center Creek in writing. I encourage debate, even heated debate; however, I have a problem with gratuitous criticism being put in writing. Please don't do it again.

cc: Al Ott
Don Mckay
Ed Weiss