General Public:

Re: Vehicle Stream Crossing – Unnamed Stream (Russell Creek)
Stream No. 283-34-10200
Sections 5 and 6, T. 58 S., R. 88 W., S.M.

Pursuant to AS.16.05.871(b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat has determined that the public interest would be served through the issuance of a General Permit for vehicle stream crossings of the unnamed stream, locally known as Russell Creek, near Cold Bay at the location shown on the enclosed map.

Project Description
This general permit authorizes the movement of wheeled or tracked vehicles weighing less than 10,000 lbs dry weight on the bed and banks of Russell Creek at the above referenced location. Heavier vehicles are not covered under this General Permit and would require an individual Fish Habitat Permit. The stream crossing at the existing ford identified by the legal description above and indicated by a dot (*) on the enclosed map is expected to provide adequate access to the area while minimizing adverse impacts to fish resources and habitats.

Anadromous Fish Act
The unnamed stream (Russell Creek) has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). The unnamed stream (Russell Creek) supports pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon, as well as steelhead trout in the vicinity of the stream crossing.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), authorization is hereby given for the general public to ford the unnamed stream (Russell Creek) at the identified crossing subject to the following stipulations:

1. Stream crossings shall be made from bank to bank in a direction substantially perpendicular to the stream flow.

2. Streambanks and streambeds shall not be altered or disturbed in any way to facilitate crossings.

3. Vehicles shall not be refueled or serviced below ordinary high water. Vehicles leaking oil or other hazardous substances are prohibited from crossing the creek.
The vehicle owner and the operator, or the legal guardian of minor dependents, is responsible for the actions of persons who participate in the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from this approval, the responsible party shall notify the Division of Habitat and obtain written approval in the form of individual permit before beginning the activity. Any action taken that increases the scope of the activity or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this general permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved activity. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for an individual permit is the responsibility of the Division of Habitat. Therefore, it is recommended that the Division of Habitat be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved activity is being considered.

This letter constitutes a General Permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Division of Habitat; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this General Permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. The department reserves the right to require mitigation measures to correct disruption to fish and game created by the project and which was a direct result of the failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

The recipient of this General Permit (the responsible party or permittee) shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this General Permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department’s negligence.

This permit decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Any questions or concerns about this permit may be directed to Habitat Biologist Jeanette Alas at 267-2805 or emailed to jeanette.alas@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Cora Campbell, Commissioner

By: Michael J. Daigneault
Regional Supervisor
Central Region Office

Enc: Approved Stream Crossing - Map
cc: AWT, Cold Bay
    D. Lyons, City of Cold Bay

ecc: A. Ott, ADF&G
    S. Ayers, ADF&G
    E. Fox, ADF&G
    M. Keyse, ADF&G
    D. Tracy, ADF&G
    S. Schrof, ADF&G
    D. Crowley, ADF&G
    C. Cox, ADNR
    C. Larson, ADNR
    J. Rypkema, ADEC
    D. Damberg, USFWS
    USACE, Regulatory Branch
FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH 14-II-GP58

APPROVED STREAM CROSSING – MAP

Unnamed Stream (Russell Creek) – Stream No. 283-34-10200
Sections 5 and 6, T. 58 S., R. 88 W., S.M.

Map notes: There is one approved ford of anadromous fish bearing waters within the area shown on this map, as noted by the legal description above and depicted by a dot (•) and label. Crossings are authorized only within 30 feet of the centerline of a traditional ford crossing at the referenced location. Vehicle stream crossings of other specified anadromous fish bearing waters, or other locations are not authorized, except by individual permit or other General Permits.