

# Online Public Notice

State of Alaska

## Public Notices Public Comment Period Extended; Bristol Bay Critical Habitat

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### Public Comment Period Extended; Bristol Bay Critical Habitat

**Category:** Public Notices  
**Publish Date:** 06/28/2011  
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**Department:** Fish & Game  
**Location:** Statewide  
**Coastal District:** N/A

#### Body of Notice:

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The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is extending the public comment period on the Bristol Bay Critical Habitat Areas draft management plan and will accept comments through August 12, 2011. We are extending the review in response to requests to accommodate the public who may be engaged in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery or otherwise in the field.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) seeks public comment on a Bristol Bay Critical Habitat Areas draft management plan. The management plan addresses five critical habitat areas; Egegik Critical Habitat Area (CHA), Pilot Point CHA, Cinder River CHA, Port Heiden CHA, and Port Moller CHA located on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula. The management plan and subsequent regulations will be used by department staff to guide management actions and authorize appropriate activities in the CHAs through Special Area Permitting.

Established in 1972, the five critical habitat areas include the major estuaries along the southern shore of Bristol Bay. The primary purpose of the critical habitat areas is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, particularly waterfowl; and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.

This is the second draft plan distributed for public review. This draft addresses comments received during the initial March 2010 public review and addresses management of private lands within the CHAs. The management plan will apply to state lands and waters and private lands within the CHA boundaries. The draft plan presents management goals for the CHAs and identifies policies to be used in determining which activities are compatible with the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use of the CHAs. The proposed policies address such issues as access and use of resources in the CHAs. The draft plan includes a list of proposed regulations for implementing the plan. However, proposed regulations may be revised prior to adoption based on public comment and any subsequent changes to management plan policies. ADF&G will conduct a separate regulatory review for these regulations after the management plan is finalized later this year.

Copies are available on the department website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bristolbay.draftplan> and at ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Juneau, King Salmon, Cold Bay, and Kodiak. Additional copies for review will be at local community libraries. Written comments may be submitted by August 12, 2011 via email, to [dfg.hab.specialarea@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.hab.specialarea@alaska.gov) or via postal service to:

Bristol Bay CHAs Management Plan  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Habitat  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

For more information, please contact:  
Habitat Division - (907)-267-2342

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