

House Resources Committee Pebble Project Update



Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Juneau, AK
February 21, 2018

ADF&G Statutory Authority

Fish Habitat Protection

- THE FISHWAY ACT
 - AS 16.05.841
- ANADROMOUS FISH ACT
 - AS 16.05.871
- SPECIAL AREA PERMITTING
 - 5 AAC 95.700
- FISH RESOURCE PERMIT

ADF&G's Role in Mining Project Evaluation

- We work with the applicant, other ADF&G Divisions, and other state agencies.
- During the pre-permitting phase of a project, ADF&G provides recommendations for environmental baseline study designs and data collection that will be necessary for evaluating project impacts.
- All available information is reviewed to conduct a thorough analysis of the project and alternatives.
- Additional data collection may be required of the applicant to allow a thorough evaluation of project impacts.

ADF&G Project Permitting

- When evaluating mine projects, Habitat must consider project site development, as well as infrastructure that supports site development.
- Infrastructure may include roads, runways, power generation and transmission facilities, dock and port facilities, gravel or rock quarries, water sources, and overburden waste rock and solid waste disposal sites.
- Depending on project elements and the affected resources, applicants will need Fish Habitat Permits with appropriate stipulations to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

ADF&G Project Permitting

Activities associated with mine project development that would typically require permits from ADF&G include:

- Fish Habitat Permits for-
 - Construction of fish barriers (i.e., dams);
 - Flow reduction;
 - Bridges, culverts, buried pipelines, etc.;
 - Water withdrawal and intake structures;
 - Stream re-alignment and diversion channels; and
 - Instream mitigation projects.
- Fish Resource Permits from the Sport Fish and Commercial Fish Divisions associated with baseline data collection and project monitoring.

ADF&G Involvement in Project Construction/Operations and Monitoring

- Once all permits are issued, construction begins
- Site inspections occur during construction and operations to ensure permit stipulations are followed
- If site conditions necessitate design changes, Fish Habitat permits can be amended
- ADF&G often conducts long term monitoring to assess impacts for large projects
- Reclamation and mitigation often require additional permits and will be monitored for effectiveness

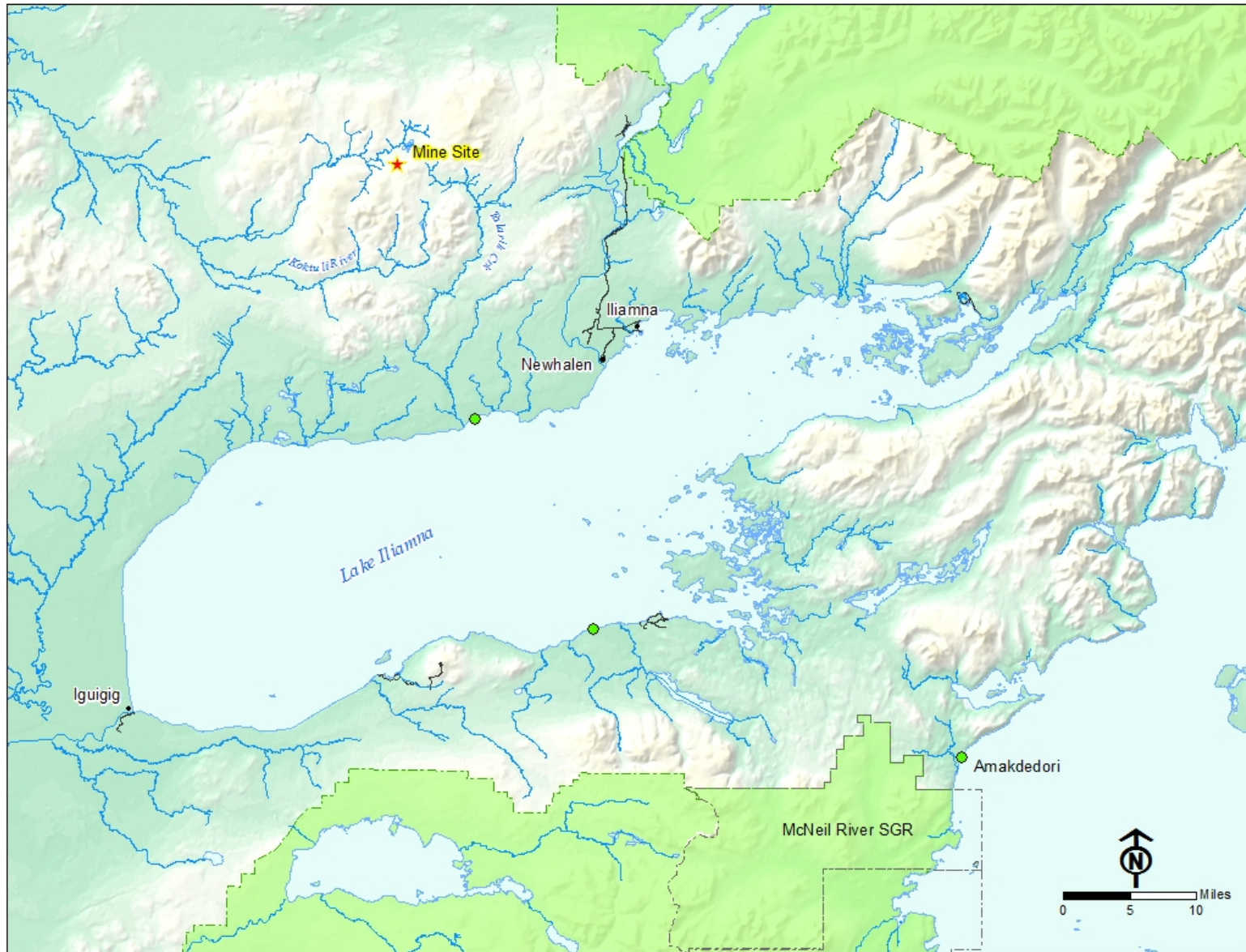
Current Pebble Information

- ADF&G has conducted a cursory review of the USACE 404c Application and Appendices which is nearly 300 pages.
- A major change in the project proposal is the new transportation corridor alignment, which includes over 200 stream crossings that need to be evaluated for fish presence.
- The road corridor will require a combination of culverts and bridges. Known bridge locations include the Newhalen, Gibraltar Rivers, and Upper Talarik Creek.
- The new road corridor and the man-camp at Kokhanok are located in close proximity to the McNeil State Game Refuge.
- The mine site is in the Kuktuli/Nushagak drainage; the transportation corridor is in the Kvichak drainage.

Fish Habitat Permits Likely to be Required for Pebble

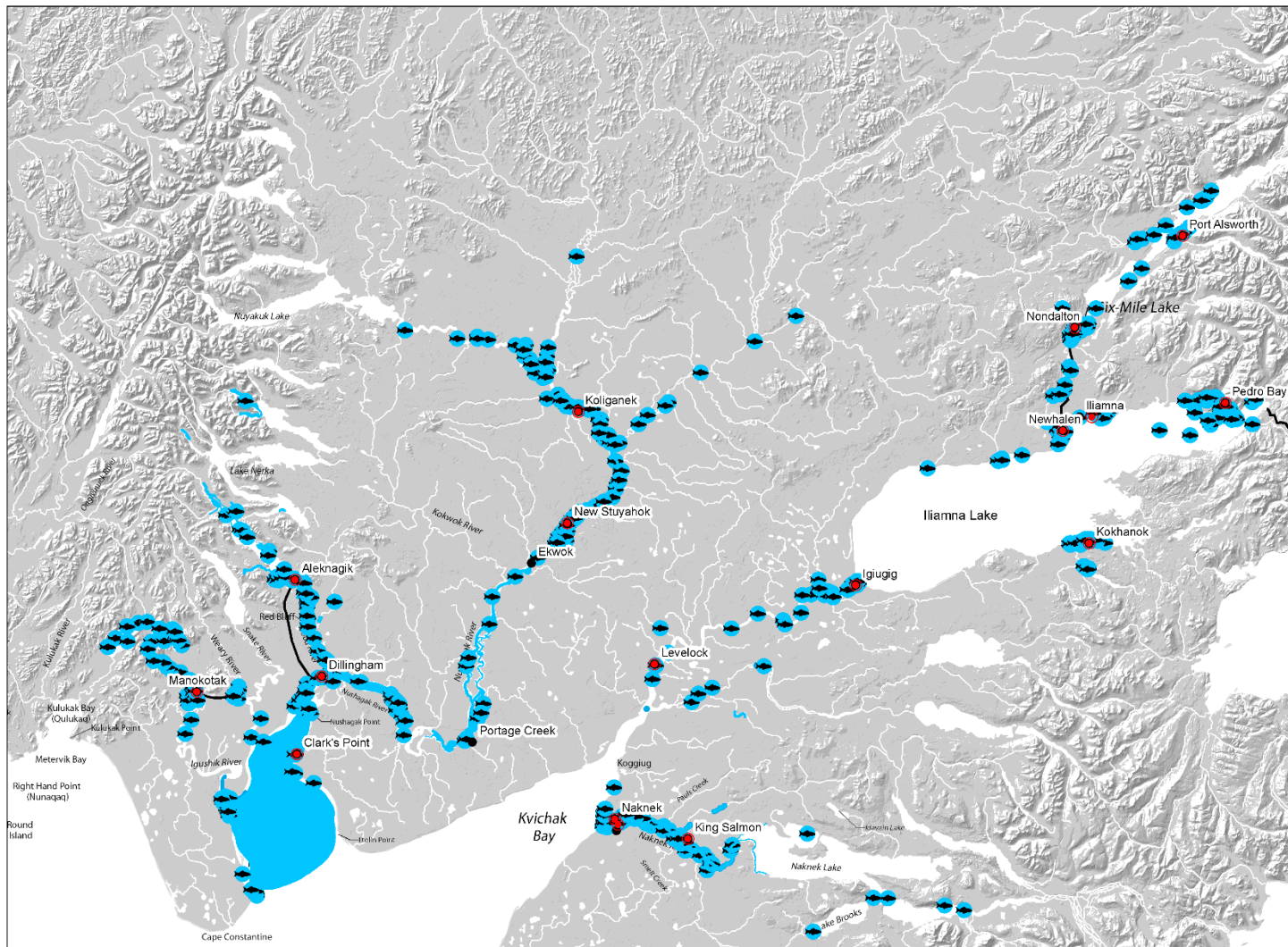
- Permits for each culvert and bridge crossings over fish-bearing water
- Permits for pipeline crossing of each waterbody along road corridor and lake
- Permits for Kenai portion of pipeline
- Permits for 2 barge landings on Iliamna Lake
- ~20 Permits for water withdrawal for road construction
- ~5 Permits for impoundments at the mine site
- Unknown number of permits for stream/waterbody removal for mine construction
- Unknown number of permits for stream crossing with equipment during construction
- Fish resource permits for fish sampling/relocation




Project Area



Subsistence Use

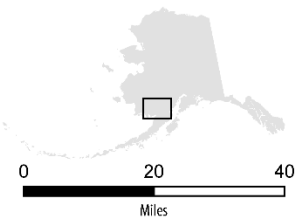
DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE - ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

All Salmon Harvest-
All Communities Combined

-  Salmon harvest areas
-  Study Communities
-  Bristol Bay Communities

This map represents the harvest of resources by 17 Bristol Bay communities. Each community harvest represented is for one calendar year. There were 5 phases of this study and the study years varied from 2004-2010. For the most recent report which documents study methods see: Sarah Evans; Malla Kukkonen; Davin Holen; David S. Koster. 2013. Harvests and uses of wild resources in Dillingham, Alaska, 2010. ADF & G Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 375.

Map produced 2/16/2018.



Studies Previously Conducted 2004-2012

- Baseline studies conducted by ADF&G 2010-2012
- Fishery studies, focus on presence/absence of fish distribution throughout the study area
- Wildlife studies, including bears distribution in the Iliamna lake area
- Hydrology/hydraulic studies
- Subsistence resource surveys
- Water quality studies
- Instream flow studies
- Geotechnical investigations

Additional Studies Needed:

- Baseline studies completed for the mine study area also need to be completed along the new transportation corridor
- Additional studies will likely need to be conducted to assess the new mine footprint and surrounding area.
- New studies should include:
 - Fish distribution and abundance
 - Wildlife distribution, abundance, and migration patterns
 - Fish and wildlife habitat characterization
 - Instream flow/water quality

Questions?

