



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
Marc Luiken, Commissioner

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February 12, 2018

The Honorable Louise Stutes  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building, Room 406  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Stutes:

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) permitting processes for those projects which include fish passage during the February 8, 2018, meeting of the House Fisheries Committee. In response to questions posed by committee members, the following information is provided:

- ***Is baseline data or scientific evidence available to suggest that productivity levels of man-made habitat is as effective as naturally occurring habitat in a fish stream?***

The department relies upon the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) expertise in this area. The ADF&G has conducted extensive research and published a plethora of studies on this subject. Their Division of Habitat posts technical report on its website at [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=habitat\\_publications.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=habitat_publications.main).

- ***Does DOT&PF maintain a list of culverts that need to be replaced or improved?***

With funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration, the DOT&PF and ADF&G developed a database and map to monitor the state's culvert inventory. DOT&PF continues to expend funding and staffing resources as available to the department to maintain these culverts. Please see a link to the aforementioned, interactive inventory map immediately below and note the large number of green dots designating the most favorable fish passage rating referenced on the map's legend. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishpassage.database>.

- ***Please provide a list of DOT&PF projects currently in the process of permitting with the National Marine Fisheries Service.***

- Sand Point City Dock Replacement
- AMHS Haines Ferry Terminal Alaska Class Modifications
- AMHS Gustavus Ferry Terminal Improvements
- AMHS Tenakee Ferry Terminal Improvements
- Auke Bay Ferry Terminal Modifications & Improvements

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*

- Ketchikan Revilla New Ferry Berth & Upland Improvements
- New Gravina Island Shuttle Ferry Berth/Related Terminal Improvements
- Revilla Refurbish Existing Ferry Berth
- Gravina Ferry Layup Facility
- Gravina Refurbish Existing Ferry Berth Facility (not re-aligned)
- Gravina Freight Facility

➤ ***Please explain DOT&PF's post-construction monitoring process for those projects which involve fish passage?***

Enclosed please find a sampling of monitoring plans implemented over the past few years. The Sitka Airport project Monitoring Plan was just completed and the final monitoring report is currently being reviewed. The Hoonah Airport project Monitoring Plan is in its last year. The Haines Highway project Monitoring Plan is in draft status and is currently being reviewed by agencies. (The department can provide additional monitoring plans upon request.)

If you or your committee members have further questions, please feel free to contact Mike Lesmann at (907)465-4772.

Sincerely,

  
Marc Luiken  
Commissioner

Enclosures

Cc: Mike Lesmann, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF  
Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor