



Izembek

National Wildlife Refuge

Land Exchange/Road Corridor

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Refuge System Mission Statement

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

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5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 Introduction

This section summarizes the consultation and coordination with agencies and the public participation program for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the lead federal agency for the EIS. Cooperating agencies are:

Federal:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps) Federal Highway Administration/Western Federal Lands
Tribal:	Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove Native Village of Belkofski
State:	State of Alaska
Borough:	Aleutians East Borough
Local/Other:	City of King Cove King Cove Corporation

Further information regarding the cooperating agencies is provided in Chapter 1.

5.2 Summary of Scoping

The Service published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on August 6, 2009, to announce the preparation of this EIS. A project newsletter was sent by the Service in January 2010 to the project mailing list that explained the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA) and EIS process and how to participate in the project. A Revised Notice was published on February 24, 2010, to announce the public scoping meetings, inviting suggestions on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS along with dates, times, and locations of upcoming public meetings.

Seven public scoping meetings were conducted in March and April 2010 in the following communities:

- Anchorage – March 4, 2010
- Washington, DC – March 11, 2010
- Sand Point – April 26, 2010
- Cold Bay – April 27, 2010
- Nelson Lagoon – April 28, 2010
- False Pass – April 28, 2010
- King Cove – April 29, 2010

Additional information on the scoping process is included in Section 1.9 and in Appendix C.

5.3 Government to Government Consultation

The Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove was designated as a cooperator for the development of this EIS in the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009* (Public Law 111-11, Title VI, Subtitle E) (Act). The Service formally invited the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove to be a

cooperator and they subsequently signed a Memorandum of Agreement in June 2010. In addition, the Service invited the Native Village of Belkofski to participate in the EIS process as a cooperator. The Native Village of Belkofski accepted the invitation and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on February 3, 2011. Government to government consultation was ongoing throughout the project, with the Service as the lead federal agency.

In compliance with Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, the Service initiated government-to-government consultation with twelve potentially affected Federally Recognized Tribes: Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove; Native Village of Belkofski; Chevak Native Village; Native Village of False Pass; Native Village of Hooper Bay; Native Village of Nelson Lagoon; Newtok Village; Native Village of Paimiut; Pauloff Harbor Village; Native Village of Scammon Bay; Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point Village; and Native Village of Unga

Letters were sent to the Federally Recognized Tribes on June 16, 2010 stating that public scoping recently occurred and the Service offered to conduct separate meetings to explain the proposal and hear their thoughts. The letters asked if the tribes had any thoughts on the topics of cultural, traditional, or religious sites that could be affected; any known graves or archaeological sites in the project area; any formal tribal positions on the proposal; any information on fish and wildlife that may be affected and any other input the tribe would like to contribute. One Tribal consultation meeting was held on August 25, 2010 with representatives from the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the Native Village of Belkofski.

In January of 2012, coinciding with the release of the Preliminary Draft EIS, the Service again sent letters to all 12 tribes plus the King Cove Corporation to re-initiate consultation. The Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and Native Village of Belkofski indicated that they wanted to consult with the Service. Therefore, the Regional Director, Alaska Refuge Chief and the Chief of Planning visited the City of King Cove for formal consultation with the two tribes on February 22, 2012. Tribal consultations were conducted with tribes in Sand Point in late October 2012.

Refer to Section 1.8 for additional information regarding government to government relationships.

5.4 Interagency Consultation

In July 2010, the Service initiated formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office for National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 and with the National Marine Fisheries Service for Essential Fish Habitat and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Service also conducted internal consultation regarding Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The initial letters notified the agencies of the proposed action for the EIS.

On November 9, 2011, the Service again contacted the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Marine Fisheries Service to present the alternative descriptions for consideration. On January 9, 2012, the Service contacted the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the proposed land exchange and the associated Area of Potential Effect. A cultural resource survey was conducted by the Service and the State Office of History and Archaeology during August of 2012 (Appendix H).

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Service is ongoing. Additional communication is anticipated at the time a preferred alternative is identified.

5.5 Public and Agency Comments on the DEIS

On March 19, 2012, a Notice of Availability and request for comments on the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register, marking the beginning of the public review period for the document. Printed copies of the entire Draft EIS were distributed to cooperating agencies and affected tribes upon release of the document. The Executive Summary and an electronic version of the Draft EIS, including the technical appendices, were distributed to all post office box holders in Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point and to organizations and individuals that had expressed an interest in receiving copies of the document. The Draft EIS and all of the appendices were also available for review or download from the project website at <http://izembek.fws.gov/eis.htm>. The public review period ended on May 18, 2012.

During the review period on the Draft EIS, comments were submitted by the public, organizations, and governmental agencies by e-mail (izembek_eis@fws.gov), mail, fax, or on the project website. In addition, public testimony was recorded at 5 public meetings held in the following communities:

- Anchorage – May 3, 2012
- Sand Point – May 7, 2012
- Cold Bay – May 8, 2012
- False Pass and Nelson Lagoon (via teleconference from King Cove)– May 9, 2012
- King Cove – May 10, 2012

All comments received were analyzed and used to craft the Final EIS.

The Comment Analysis Report, found in Appendix G, includes a representative sample of the comments on the Draft EIS received by the Service. These comments varied greatly in the level of detail provided, with some agencies, organizations, and individuals providing extended comments on dozens of topics, while others more briefly expressed support or opposition to the proposed action or particular alternatives. Comments (examples included in Appendix G) can be broadly organized into the following categories:

- Transcripts of the 5 public meetings with testimony by many individuals;
- Examples of drawings and stories submitted by local students from King Cove;
- Comments submitted by cooperating agencies;
- Comments submitted by Tribes and Alaska Native corporations;
- Examples of comments submitted by citizens and non-governmental organizations;
- Examples from organized form letter campaigns; and
- Examples of brief, non-substantive comments, typically submitted as e-mail messages.

5.6 List of Preparers

The Service contracted URS Group, Inc. to prepare the EIS. Subcontractors included Michael Baker Jr., Inc.; Northern Economics, Inc.; and R&M Consultants, Inc. Table 5-1 lists the contracted staff members who prepared the document and Table 5-2 lists the individuals from the Service who participated in the preparation of the document. Each table also lists the individual's area of expertise, years of experience, and education credentials.

Table 5-1 List of Preparers of the Draft EIS, Contracted Staff

Contributor	Area of Expertise	Years of Experience	Highest Degree/Education
URS Group, Inc.			
Kluwe, Joan	Project Manager, Social Environment	20	Ph.D., Natural Resources
Brelsford, Taylor	Deputy Project Manager, Subsistence and Traditional Knowledge	30	M.A., Anthropology
Baraff, Lisa	Marine Mammals and Threatened and Endangered Species	20	M.S., Marine Biology
Bellion, Tara	Subsistence and Traditional Knowledge; Administrative Record	16	B.S., Marine Science
Crews, Peter	Transportation Engineering	30	B.S., Civil Engineering
DePalatis, Paul	Land Use and Land Management	26	B.A., Urban Planning
Dworian, Paul	Hydrology, Geology, and Hazardous Materials	20	M.S., Geology
Easley, Bridget	Social Task Lead, Transportation	21	M.A., Psychology
Every, Dave	Wetlands, Terrestrial and Aquatic Plants	33	Ph.D., Botany
Gonzales, Bryan	GIS	1	B.S., Forestry
Harriss, Linda	Word Processing	16	A.A., Communications
Isaacs, Jon	Principle In Charge and Transportation	37	B.A., Environmental Studies
Jones, Joanne	GIS	11	B.S., Geography
Kelly, Mike	Cultural Resources	29	M.A., Anthropology
Kleinleder, Rich	Marine Mammals	27	M.S. Biology
Kling, Louise	Visual Resources	16	M.S., Fisheries & Wildlife Ecology
Kramer, Tim	Transportation and Wilderness	6	M.E.Sc., Environmental Science

Contributor	Area of Expertise	Years of Experience	Highest Degree/Education
URS Group, Inc. continued			
Krajsek, Ida	Word Processing	26	Diploma, Computer Systems Technologist Program
Kubaskie, Earl	CADD	26	
LaPlant, Dan	Biological Task Lead, Wetlands	30	B.S. Wildlife Management
Loskutoff, Bill	Hydrology, Geology, and Hazardous Materials	28	B.S., Geology
Pearson, Dautis	Climate, Air Quality, and Noise	24	B.S., Biology
Rideout, Stephen	Fish and Essential Fish Habitat/GIS	8	B.Sc. Wildlife Biology
Rosenthal, Amy	Wilderness	16	M.S., Environmental Science
Ruoff, Bill	Public Health and Public Safety	21	Ph.D., Physiology
Schmitt, Christy	Noise and Air Quality	21	M.S. Chemical Engineering and Atmospheric Science
Shepherd, Maria	Land Mammals and Migratory Birds	24	B.A., Zoology
Stegner, Michelle	Cultural Resources	15	M.A., Anthropology
Trudeau, Julie	Transportation Engineering	10	B.S., Civil Engineering
Vedagiri, Usha	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment	21	Ph.D., Environmental Science
Walker, Jeff	Terrestrial and Aquatic Plants	14	B.S., Botany
Wetzel, Kim	Public Use and Environmental Justice	9	M.S., Resource Policy and Behavior
Whiteman, Emily	Climate	6	B.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering

Contributor	Area of Expertise	Years of Experience	Highest Degree/Education
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.			
Gibson, Carol	Technical Editing	26	B.A., Urban Planning
Northern Economics, Inc.			
Hartley, Marcus	Socioeconomics	30	M.S., Economics
Palma-Riedel, Alejandra	Socioeconomics	10	M.A., Economics
R&M Consultants			
Tilton, Karen	Land Ownership	28	B.A., Geography

Table 5-2 List of Preparers of the Draft EIS, Service Staff

Contributor	Area of Expertise	Years of Experience	Highest Degree/Education
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service			
Clough, Helen Chief, Division of Conservation Planning and Policy	Refuge Planning, National Environmental Policy Act, Policy	38	B.A., Anthropology
Brady, Stephanie Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Project Lead on Izembek EIS	Wildlife Biology	20	M.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Anders, Jake Archaeological Technician	Archaeology, Cultural Resource Management	7	B.A., Anthropology
Campbell, Doug Chief, Branch of Realty Operations	Realty/Lands, Natural Resource Planning and Management	35	M.L.A., Landscape Architecture
Corbett, Debbie Regional Historic Preservation Officer	Cultural Resource Management	32	M.A., Anthropology
Hoffman, Nancy Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager	Wildlife Conservation	26	M.A., Fish and Wildlife Management
Martin, John W. Regional Refuge Ecologist	Wildlife Biology	30	M.S., Wildlife and Range Resources
Peterson, Chris Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Biologist	Avian Species, Terrestrial Mammals, Habitat	15	Ph.D., Wildlife Biology
Sowl, Kristine Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Biology	12	M.S., Wildlife Biology

**U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**<http://www.fws.gov>
<http://izembek.fws.gov/eis.htm>**

**Federal Relay
1 800/877 8339 Voice and TTY**

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