Compatibility Determination

Station Name: Alaska Maritime NWR  Date Established: 12/2/80


Purpose(s) for which Established:

A) To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity including, but not limited to, marine mammals, marine birds and other migratory birds, the marine resources upon which they rely, bears, caribou and other mammals;

B) To fulfill the international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats;

C) To provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents;

D) To provide a program of national and international scientific research on marine resources;

E) To ensure water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge.

Description of Proposed Use:

Afognak Native Corporation will construct, use, and maintain a log transfer facility, as outlined in the "Final EA of Alternative Transfer Facilities, Afognak Island, Alaska", dated August, 1987. The facility will be a steel rail slide for transferring logs from the sort yard into refuge waters for transport to a ship. It will consist of 3 steel pipe rails and rock fill approximately 250 feet long and 40 feet wide, 2 permanent ship mooring buoys and raft boomsticks.

Anticipated Impacts on Refuge Purpose(s):

Bottom areas will be covered with fill and/or bark resulting in the loss of benthic life. Runoff from the sort yard could drastically increase turbidity and sedimentation on the bottom. However, the proposal does include the following stipulations to mitigate such problems.

1) All runoff from the sort yard that goes into refuge waters must meet Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation water quality standards.

2) Afognak Native Corporation will transplant eelgrass to another site to replace eelgrass lost to the transfer facilities.
3) Afognak Native Corporation will construct a gabion around the end of the transfer facility to contain the bark and prevent it from spreading.

4) Afognak Native Corporation will construct an artificial reef to provide a substitute for algae growth. Area of reef will be equal to that area adversely affected by the facility and its operation.

**Determination:** This use is compatible X. This use is not compatible____.

**The following stipulations are required to ensure compatibility:**

Afognak Native Corporation will ensure runoff meets Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation standards before it enters refuge waters. Afognak is required to plant eelgrass in a new site and replace that lost to transfer facility. Afognak will construct an artificial reef for algae growth and replace algae lost and bark accumulated, and they will construct an underwater gabion to limit the spread of bark at the transfer site. In addition, other mitigative measures (such as monitoring schedules) are outlined in the Afognak EA.

**Justification:** The permit application is for a right of way permit under Title II of ANILCA. ANILCA guarantees that applicants shall receive "adequate and feasible access for economic and other purposes." A log transfer facility would not normally be compatible except that:

1) Afognak has the right to "adequate and feasible" access.

2) The Service has required stipulations to reduce damage and replace habitats lost to the facility. These stipulations constitute "...reasonable regulations issued by the Secretary to protect the natural and and other values of such lands" (ANILCA 1110).

Additional information is available in the "Final EA of Alternative Transfer Facilities, Afognak Island, Alaska."

**Prepared by:**

[Signature]

**Reviewed by:**

[Signature]