



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

August 14, 2003

Ms. Patty McGrath  
US EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Threatened and Endangered Species List for the Greens Creek Mine NPDES Permit

Dear Ms. McGrath:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, 2003 requesting input in identifying threatened and endangered species located in the vicinity of Hawk Inlet. NMFS Alaska Region is responsible for the administration of the Endangered Species Act as it applies to certain cetaceans, pinnipeds, and marine fish. These include several species of whales, Pacific salmon, and the western population of Steller sea lions. A Threatened and Endangered Species Summary Table specific to marine waters of Alaska is enclosed.

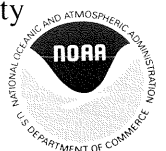
Of the threatened or endangered marine mammal species in Alaska, the following are known to occur in Hawk Inlet:

- Eastern Steller sea lion - Haul out sites for Steller sea lions occur in the vicinity of Hawk Inlet and this species has been observed foraging in Hawk Inlet for salmon and other prey.
- Humpback whale - These whales are found throughout Chatham Strait and have been observed in Hawk Inlet.

In addition, Pacific salmon likely transit through Chatham Strait. No data are available on whether these species enter Hawk Inlet.

The following marine mammals, protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, are also found in the vicinity:

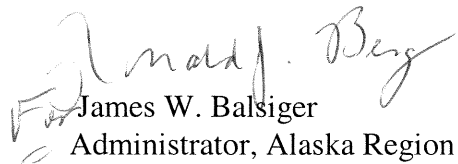
- Harbor seals - These are the most common marine mammal in Southeast Alaska and are regularly observed in the Hawk Inlet area. A Harbor seal haul-out area is located at Hawk Point. Harbor seals regularly forage on salmon within Hawk Inlet, and may also feed on other species including cod, crab and shrimp.
- Killer whales - This species has been observed in Hawk Inlet and at Hawk Point in the vicinity of the harbor seal haul out.
- Porpoises - Both Harbor and Dall's porpoises are found in Chatham Strait in the vicinity



of Hawk Inlet and have on occasion been sited within the inlet itself. It is likely that these species use Hawk Inlet for foraging.

For additional information on endangered species and marine mammals, please visit our web site at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/>. Thank you for coordinating on this project. Please contact Katharine Miller at (907) 586-7643 for any other additional information related to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: PRD - NMFS Alaska Region

Enclosure

The following species<sup>1</sup> and critical habitat occur in Alaska waters and have been provided protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*):

<i>Listed species</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Latin Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Blue whale		<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered
Bowhead whale		<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Endangered
Fin whale		<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered
Humpback whale		<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered
Right whale		<i>Balaena (=Eubalaena) glacialis</i>	Endangered
Sei whale		<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered
Sperm whale		<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered
Steller sea lion	Western population	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Endangered
Steller sea lion	Eastern population	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Threatened
Chinook salmon	Puget Sound	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened
	Lower Columbia River		Threatened
	Upper Columbia River Spring		Endangered
	Upper Willamette River		Threatened
	Snake River spring/summer		Threatened
	Snake River fall		Threatened
Sockeye salmon	Snake River	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Endangered
Steelhead	Upper Columbia River	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Endangered
	Middle Columbia River		Threatened
	Lower Columbia River		Threatened
	Upper Willamette River		Threatened
	Snake River Basin		Threatened
Leatherback sea turtle		<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered

*Designated critical habitat*

Species Group	General Reference Area
Whales	No critical habitat has been designated for the above referenced whales in Alaskan waters.
Steller sea lion	Shelikof Strait Area, Bogoslof Area, and Seguam Pass Area (50 CFR Part 226.12)
Pacific Salmon	No critical habitat has been designated for salmon species in Alaskan waters.

The short-tailed albatross, spectacled eider, and Steller's eider are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All salmon species are under the jurisdiction of NMFS, Northwest Regional Office, Seattle, Washington.

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<sup>1</sup>In its definition of species, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, includes biological species and "any subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife which interbreeds when mature" (16 USC 1532). NMFS uses the term *evolutionarily significant unit* as synonymous with *distinct population segment* and lists Pacific salmon accordingly. For the purposes of section 7 consultations, these are all "species."