US Army Corps of Engineers

EXPERIMENTAL REMOTE CHUM RELEASE SITE

ALASKA DISTRICT

BRIEFING

AGREEMENT 2012-010

BETWEEN

CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT

AND

ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SIGNED

JULY 23, 2012

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AGREEMENT

ALASKA DISTRICT

Authorization: Sections 1 &3 of 1936 Flood Control Act, Public Law 74-738; section 3 of 1938 Flood Control Act, Public Law 75-61; as amended by the 1996 Water Resources Development Act

Cost Shared 50/50 with non-Federal sponsor

Allowable Work:

Studies Only

No Design, No Construction, No Mitigation Activities

Funding:

Total Study Cost (est) = $1,940,000

Federal Share = $ 970,000

Local Share = $ 970,000

Local Cash $ 588,500

Local In-Kind $ 181,500

Local In-Kind is work required by the study that is performed by the local sponsor, or on behalf of the local sponsor; which has been accepted by the Corps as work usable by the study, of an acceptable quality, and which value is backed up by receipts and other evidence, and which does not exceed the cost the Government would have expended to perform the same work.

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STUDY ACTIVITIES

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MULTI-PRONGED STUDY

- Determine probable impacts of an overflow flood into the Situk River
- Update and improve the hydraulic model of the Yakutat Foreland
- Identify and assess measures to protect the Situk River
- Identify and assess measures to protect the Yakutat Airport
- Repair the monitoring station at the Hubbard Glacier terminus and identify requirements for an early warning system for dam development and overflow flood
- Identify and assess measures to diversify the Yakutat economy to reduce economic impacts from an overflow flood
- Identify additional studies with probable value
- Write the feasibility study to identify any project that has a Federal interest for construction

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STUDY COMPONENTS

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FISHERIES RELATED DATA GATHERING

- Salmon Genetics on Commercial catch – ID source
- Situk River Habitat analysis
- Experimental Remote Chum Release Site
- Crab Research in Yakutat Bay
- Shellfish Experiments

PURPOSE FOR CHUM RELEASE STUDY

- Determine if this action is environmentally acceptable
- Determine if this action would be an economically feasible mitigation to reduce economic loss from flood damage to Situk River habitat
- Obtain sufficient data to determine that present restrictions to chum salmon propagation in existing streams will not be removed by introducing chum by this mechanism
- Obtain sufficient data to determine that chum salmon introduced by this mechanism will be viable within the confines of the planned fishery.
- Identify probable limits for development of an economic and environmentally responsible fishery enhancement.

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PROCESS

ALASKA DISTRICT

- Data Gathering uses existing information whenever possible
- Additional field work performed only if insufficient existing data exists
- Additional field work will be defined by the Corps biologist working with a variety of stakeholders
- An Environmental Assessment will be used to identify potential impacts using alternatives developed from the data gathering phase, and determine environmental limits
- An economic analysis will be used to determine the appropriate size and specifics to provide mitigation or partial mitigation for loss of fisheries from the Situk River flooding
- The product for the feasibility study will be a determination of the feasibility of using this mechanism as a mitigation measure for reduction of economic loss
- A secondary product will be input for a rewrite of the Yakutat Comprehensive Salmon Management Plan
- Development of an operating plan and a business plan are potential products depending on the determination of environmental and economic feasibility