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Submission Information:

Submission ID: 34
Date Submitted: 3/11/2013
Submission Format: Web Comment Form
File name:

Date Received: 3/11/2013
Venue:

Submission Text:

The success of the Donlin Mine project is dependent on the use of the Kuskokwim River. The project includes the construction of infrastructure to receive large barges. What is more important than the impact of this port is the potential impacts of barge traffic on the Kuskokwim River. Increased barge traffic leads to increased risks of the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species are carried in the ballast water and many ports have put regulations in place to keep these species out of sensitive areas. Invasive species can be devastating to native species of fish and wildlife and are extremely difficult to remove from a system once they have been introduced. What monitoring programs will be in place to better protect the Kuskokwim River from invasive species? Where will these ships release their ballast water? The subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Kuskokwim River are among the most important fisheries in rural Alaska. Subsistence fishing is vital to life in many of these villages and the commercial fishery is no less important. Unlike other regions in Alaska, the proportion of local residents who hold commercial fishing permits in the Kuskokwim remains extremely high. The potential devastation to these fisheries from the introduction of invasive species is too high to ignore.

Comments:

Comment # 1 Comment ID: **40** [Delete](#)

The success of the Donlin Mine project is dependent on the use of the Kuskokwim River. The project includes the construction of infrastructure to receive large barges. What is

Category: BARG -- Barge Issues:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

Comment # 2 Comment ID: **41** [Delete](#)

[Increased barge traffic leads to increased risks of the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species are carried in the ballast water and many ports have put regulations in place to keep these

Category: MON -- Monitoring:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

Comment # 3 Comment ID: **42** [Delete](#)

[Increased barge traffic leads to increased risks of the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species are carried in the ballast water and many ports have put regulations in place to keep these

Category: BARG -- Barge Issues:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

Comment # 4 Comment ID: **43** [Delete](#)

[Increased barge traffic leads to increased risks of the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species are carried in the ballast water and many ports have put regulations in place to keep these

Category: FISH -- Fish - Impacts:

☒ Substantive ☐ Non-Substantive

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