

**Department of Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF HABITAT

FISH HABITAT AND TIMBER FACT SHEET

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Habitat participates with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, to implement the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations.

Under the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and Regulations, the land owner retains buffers along the edge of water bodies with anadromous fish, and where applicable high value resident fish, to protect riparian areas from the significant adverse effects of timber harvest on fish habitat and water quality. If a land owner is unsure whether a water body is fish bearing and if the fish are anadromous or resident, a habitat biologist will survey the stream. Habitat biologists also provide the Division of Forestry recommendations to ensure important fish and wildlife habitat is maintained during timber harvest on state land.

When a land owner proposes to conduct work in fish bearing water bodies,[[1]](#footnote-1) the Division of Habitat is responsible for issuing fish passage and fish habitat authorizations to ensure fish passage and fish habitat is maintained during timber harvest. These authorizations are required by Alaska Statutes 16.05.841 and AS 16.05.871. To apply, please provide the information necessary to evaluate the effects of a proposed activity on fish in the Forest Practices Notification, or fill out a fish habitat permit application at this link –

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=uselicense.fish_habitat_permits_apply>

The Division of Habitat issues Fish Habitat Permits in a timely manner. Please contact the Division of Habitat in your area at this link with any questions –

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=uselicense.contacts>

1. Culvert and bridge installation, low water stream crossings, water withdrawals, docks, ramps, and bank stabilization, among others. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)