

US Fish and Wildlife Service Comments – Pebble Project Preliminary Draft EIS, Section 4.6 – Commercial and Recreational Fishing

Agency	Comment No.	Section, Paragraph, and Page #	Cooperating Agency Comment (and Purpose of Comment)	Proposed Resolution (Additions or Deletion of Text)	Response
USFWS	1		Please specify which section or sections this statement refers to: "Section 4.24, Fish Values indicate Alternative 1 would not reduce the returning adult salmon to the Kvichak and Nushagak river systems as a result of the project operations." It is unclear where the numbers of returning adult King Salmon under different conditions are discussed in Section 4.24 Fish Values. Rather, Section 4.24 provides information describing changes to the quantity of King Salmon spawning and rearing habitat occurring within the project area. Please provide a citation or documentation that correlates the quantity and quality of existing, and future, King Salmon habitat within the project area to numbers of returning King Salmon adults.	See Response.	The language was clarified; the information from Section 4.24 is consistent with this statement.
USFWS	2		Several Service comments provided on the pre-draft chapter by letter dated August 31, 2018, were not addressed by the USACE in this version. We continue to recommend incorporation of the following information into the DEIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of King Salmon productivity in the Mulchatna River system. • The extent of the project area located within each of the watersheds described within this section. Even if detailed in another section of the DEIS, this information would allow the reader to more clearly understand the affected environment in this section.	See Response.	ADF&G treats the Susitna and Mulchatna as one system for the purposes of management. The information requested is neither available nor essential to make a reasoned choice among alternatives. It has not been included in the Draft EIS.
USFWS	3		The pre-draft chapters previously reviewed for this section had placeholders for discussion on the economic contribution of lodges by drainages. No new information on the economic contribution from lodges by drainages is included in the most recent chapter of the DEIS. We recommend future versions include this information.	See Response.	Text edited to add counts of businesses reporting logbook book data by river system.

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USFWS	4		Please specify which section or sections this statement refers to: "Section 4.24, Fish Values indicate Alternative 1 would not reduce the returning adult salmon to the Kvichak and Nushagak river systems as a result of the project operations." It is unclear where the numbers of returning adult King Salmon under different conditions are discussed in Section 4.24 Fish Values. Rather, Section 4.24 provides information describing changes to the quantity of King Salmon spawning and rearing habitat occurring within the project area. Please provide a citation or documentation that correlates the quantity and quality of existing, and future, King Salmon habitat within the project area to numbers of returning King Salmon adults.	See Response.	The language was clarified; the information from Section 4.24 is consistent with this statement.