

Water resources

A. Water intake structures and fish protection

When issuing water rights for waters providing fish habitat, DNR will require installation of practical water intake structures that avoid entrainment, entrapment, or impingement of fish. The simplest and most cost-effective technology that accomplishes the goal may be used to implement this guideline.

Water intake structures should be screened, and intake velocities will be limited to prevent entrapment, entrainment, or injury to fish. The structures supporting intakes should be designed to prevent fish from being led into the intake. Structures must not impede fish migration. Screen size, water velocity, and intake design will be determined in consultation with DFG. Other effective techniques may also be used to achieve the intent of this guideline.

B. Avoid alteration of the riverine hydrologic system

To the extent feasible and prudent, uses and activities in water bodies will avoid channeling, diverting, or damming that will have a significant adverse impact on habitat important to aquatic furbearers, such as land otter, mink, and beaver; waterfowl; moose; bald eagles; and fish; and on other public interest benefits derived from a natural hydrologic system.

C. Maintain hydroelectric potential

DNR may maintain locally significant hydroelectric potential, including potential microhydro development, by placing conditions on permits to appropriate water from streams with this potential. DNR's intent is to achieve maximum public benefits from the stream without loss of water rights to the initial water user.

D. Commercial glacier ice harvest and competing uses

Commercial harvest of glacier ice in mapped seal haulout or pupping areas will not be allowed during the period of use by seals. Applicants for commercial glacier ice harvest activities near seal haulout or pupping areas should consult the National Marine Fisheries Service.

DNR will minimize conflicts between commercial glacier ice harvest and established uses such as fish and wildlife habitat, harvest and recreation. Timing, seasonal, or other restrictions may be used to minimize conflicts.

E. Instream flow reservations

Under AS 46.15.145 and 11 AAC 93.141, state agencies, federal agencies, or private citizens may apply to reserve instream flows for these purposes:

1. Protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation.
2. Recreation and park purposes.
3. Navigation and transportation purposes.
4. Sanitary and water quality purposes.