



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

May 5, 2025

Col. Jeffrey Palazzini  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
Regulatory Division  
P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: Biological Opinion for Incidental Take Authorization; Port of Alaska Cargo Terminals Replacement Project, AKRO-2024-02213; POA-2003-00502-M21

Dear Colonel Palazzini:

This letter transmits the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological opinion on the Port of Alaska's proposed Cargo Terminal Replacement Project in Anchorage, and the project's effects on proposed threatened and threatened and endangered species in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

After reviewing the current status of the species, the environmental baseline within the action area, the effects of the proposed action, and cumulative effects, it is NMFS's biological opinion that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the threatened Mexico or endangered Western North Pacific (WNP) distinct population segments (DPS) humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), or endangered Western DPS Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). We have concurred with a not likely to adversely affect determination for Cook Inlet beluga whale designated critical habitat.

In formulating this opinion, we used the best available information, including information provided by your office, stock assessment reports, recovery plans, status reviews, research on the affected species, noise impacts, the updated NMFS 2024 Acoustic Guidance and the newly updated acoustics template language. Conservation recommendations are provided with the biological opinion, which are intended to mitigate potential adverse effects, consistent with the action agency's responsibilities under section 7(a)(1) of the Act. A complete record of this consultation is on file at NMFS's Juneau Alaska Office.

This opinion is attached, and will also be posted our website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/consultations/section-7-biological-opinions-issued-alaska-region>

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan M. Kurland  
Regional Administrator

cc: Kerri Hancock, [Kerri.C.Hancock@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kerri.C.Hancock@usace.army.mil)

