

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Updated Notice of Availability for the Aleut Corporation Port of Adak Pier 5

Improvements Project Section 4(f) Determination

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comment.

WEB POSTING DATE: August 4, 2025

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is proposing to fund the Aleut Corporation Port of Adak Pier 5 Improvements Project, which would repair and rehabilitate Pier 5 at the Port of Adak in order to enable goods to once again be safely and efficiently loaded and unloaded at the Port of Adak, while also allowing for the safe embarking/disembarking of vessels' crews. MARAD has preliminarily determined that the Pier 5 Improvements Project will have a *de minimis* impact on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and invites public comments on this determination.

DATES: All comments are due on or before September 3, 2025. MARAD will consider comments filed after this date to the extent practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Email any comments or questions to

MARAD.NEPA.comments@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Maritime Administration awarded funds to The Aleut Corporation (TAC) under the Fiscal Year 2022 Port Infrastructure Development Program for repair and rehabilitation of Pier 5 within the Port of Adak. The project is located in the Port of Adak

on Adak Island in the Aleutians West Census Area of the Unorganized Borough, Alaska.

The project proposes to conduct the following maintenance/repairs to Pier 5:

- Removal of the existing timber pile fender system, timber wale top rail, steel egress ladders, and under-deck catwalk system;
- Repair/replacement of two damaged prestressed concrete piles and pile caps on the southwest outboard section of Pier 5;
- Installation of a modern high energy absorbing fender system with rubber cylindrical fenders, designed around the mooring requirements for 58-foot commercial fishing vessels;
- Installation of inset egress ladders in the face of the fender assemblies;
- Installation of anodes on support piles below water; and
- Installation of new sewer, including upland replacement, potable water, and firewater on Pier 5.

MARAD has defined the Project's area of potential effects (APE) as the boundary of project activities, including the areas proposed for maintenance and repair to Pier 5 and the land adjacent to Pier 5 for utility installation.

Section 4(f) Discussion and Preliminary Determination

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1980 to preserve certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations. The MARAD-funded Pier 5 Improvements Project proposes basic repairs and maintenance to

Pier 5, which has been a part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge since its inception. The construction and operation of the proposed project are not anticipated to result in any adverse impact to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Furthermore, completion of the proposed project will not result in altered operations at the site. Therefore, in reviewing the scope and information related to this project, MARAD has preliminarily determined that this project will not result in any adverse effects to the “benefit, use, education, and inspiration” of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge; the natural, scenic, geological, wilderness, and wildlife values it possesses; or the activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4(f) property.

Based on this, MARAD has preliminarily determined that this project would result in a *de minimis* impact and does not require further Section 4(f) analysis.

Public Participation

How long do I have to submit comments?

We are providing a 30-day comment period.

How do I prepare and submit comments?

To ensure that your comments are correctly filed, please include the title of this document in your comments. If you are submitting comments electronically as a PDF (Adobe) File, MARAD asks that the documents be submitted using the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) process, thus allowing MARAD to search and copy certain portions of your submissions. Please note that pursuant to the Data Quality Act, for substantive data to be relied upon and used by the agency, it must meet the information quality standards set forth in the OMB and DOT Data Quality Act guidelines.

Will the agency consider late comments?

We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments received after that date.

How can I read the comments submitted by other people?

MARAD may make the comments it receives publicly available by posting them to its website after the comment closing date. Anyone can request the comments received under a Freedom of Information Act request. For information on DOT's Privacy Program and compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit

<https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.