



**EYAK LAKE**  
**OUTLET STRUCTURE**  
And Access Road Culvert  
60.531974, -145.645399

Scan For  Project Information



# What is the Eyak Lake Outlet Structure?

Eyak Lake is centered between Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska. After the 1964 earthquake uplifted Cordova nearly 6 feet, the outlet structure was installed by the State of AK to maintain lake levels and keep the nearshore Sockeye Salmon habitat underwater. Over 50 years later it is failing and the lake is starting to drain.

## Eyak lake:

## Eyak Lake Supports Healthy Fisheries and Provides Drinking Water

- Provides habitat for ten fish species
- Provides drinking water that is critical in summer months when salmon processors are on line
- Is home to subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers whose livelihoods rely on the intact habitat of this freshwater ecosystem
- Healthy salmon habitat directly impacts our region's economic sustainability
- A multi-million dollar lake - Alaska Department of Fish & Game estimated the overall ex-vessel value of commercial harvest of Sockeye and Coho Salmon returns to Eyak Lake at \$1,742,050 to \$2,917,210

## The outlet structure:

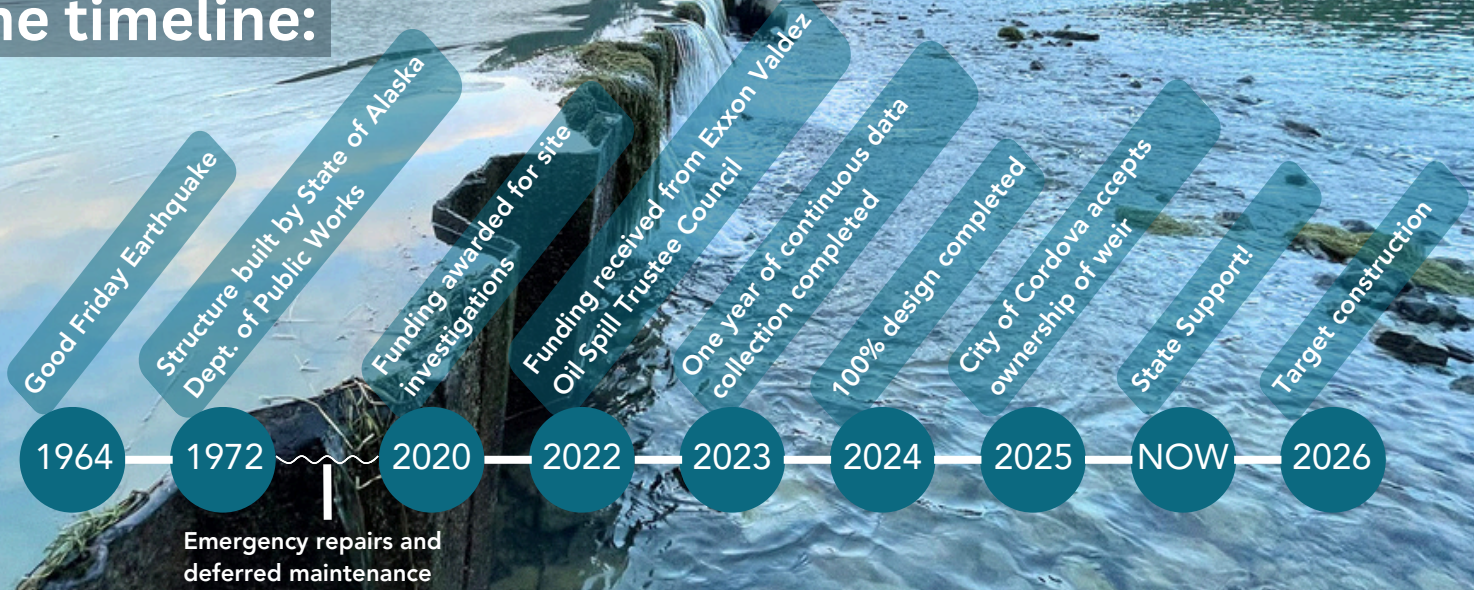
- Complete failure will result in most of the lake draining, exposing spawning beds, reducing lake habitat for aquatic organisms, and impacting water availability for the community and canneries during drier months when salmon processors are online.
- Project goals are to:
  - Upgrade outlet structure to improve fish passage up and downstream
  - Maintain current water levels to protect nearshore spawning sites for salmon
  - Maintain current lakeshore property lines
  - Maintain availability of lake as a drinking water source
  - Improve safety around the structure
  - Install a low to no maintenance structure so history doesn't repeat itself

# What have we accomplished?

## The work:

- Convened 13 partners including local, State, Federal, and Tribal organizations
- Secured over \$9 million dollars for design and construction
- Completed final design
- Completed a competitive RFP process, with 3 proposals received, evaluated, scored and CRWP is ready to issue an Intent to Award
- Worked with City of Cordova to establish clear ownership and future maintenance plan going forward

## The timeline:



## Why we need a hero.

Construction in rural Alaska in winter months faces significant logistical challenges. We are working to raise up to 20% contingency so that nothing interferes with project implementation that we can't cover. We are seeking State Funding to fill the funding gap and move this key project to completion. This is an opportunity to throw a touchdown pass on a project that is currently poised to succeed. Without State funding now, the State will be responsible for both current and future costs in response to a catastrophic structure failure.

The current project partners are a group of 13 organizations: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Cordova Electric Cooperative, City of Cordova, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Transportation, DOWL, FEMA, NOAA, Native Village of Eyak, Prince William Sound Science Center, The Eyak Corporation, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



COPPER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

