



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District
Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-6898

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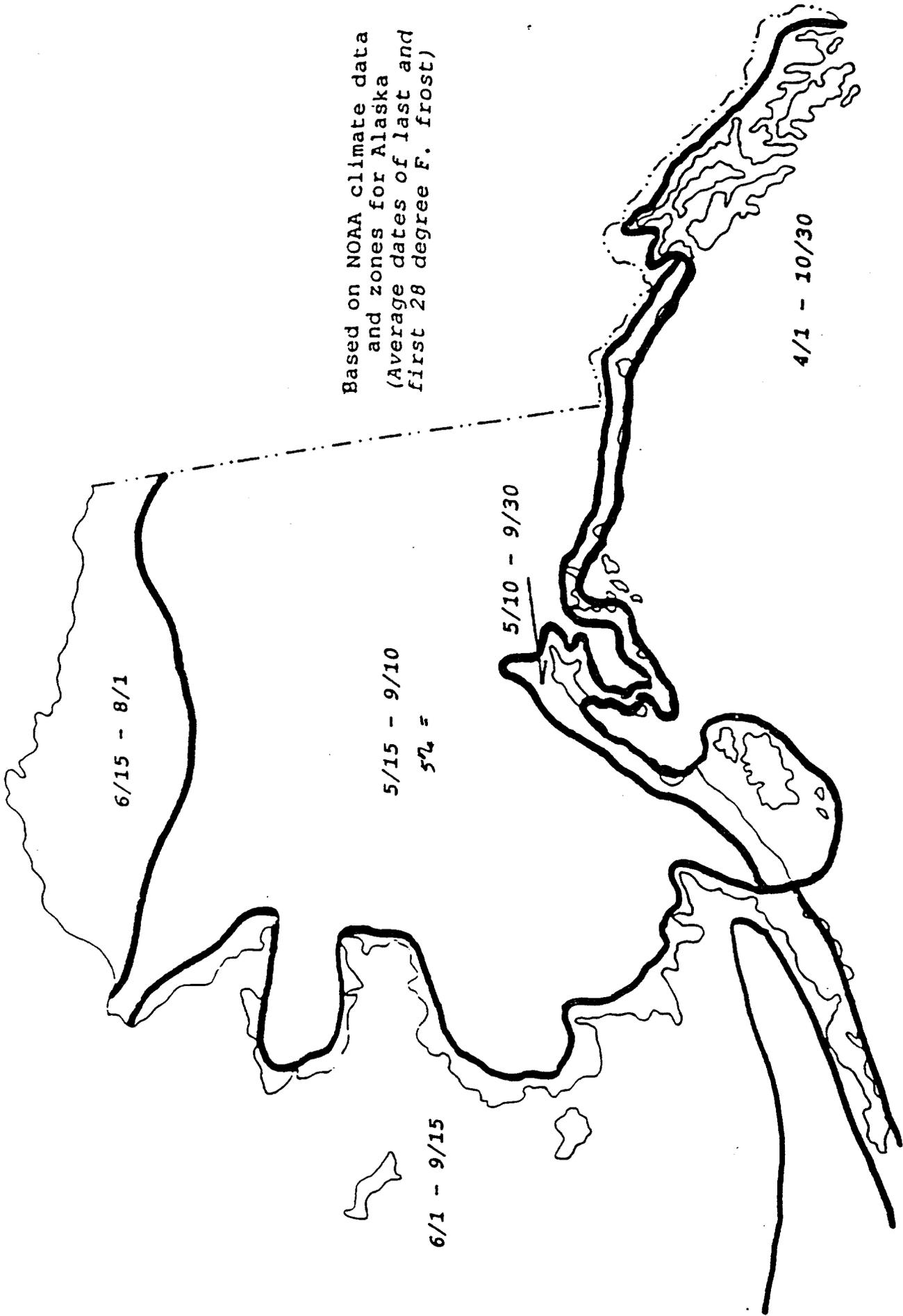
WETLAND DELINEATIONS
GROWING SEASON

On July 17, 2003, the Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Headquarters (HQ) issued a memorandum confirming the Alaska District's practical interpretation of "growing season" as described in the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual (Manual). In the October 7, 1991, clarification guidance issued by HQ which addressed several Questions and Answers regarding the 1987 Manual, the first question asked, "What is the definition and practical interpretation of growing season...". The last sentence of the answer to this question reads as follows: "In certain parts of the country where plant communities in general have become more adapted to regional conditions, local means of determining growing season may be more appropriate and can be used." As mentioned in the Manual, the number of frost-free days based on 28 degree Fahrenheit air temperature may be used to approximate the growing season. The Alaska District working closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) found that use of the "28 degree air temperature" best fits the observed growing season in most parts of the State. A map with the estimated dates of the growing season is attached for use in determining the growing season for both wetland hydrology and hydric soils. Local Corps and NRCS Offices may have more regionally specific information on this subject.

This notification does not change the procedures described in the Manual nor does it change the requirement for making a determination based on the three-parameter approach to wetland delineation described in the Manual. A copy of these documents may be viewed/downloaded from our website at www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/default.htm or obtained at the following locations: Alaska District Office, 2204 Third Street, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska 99506-6898. The map of Alaska with approximate growing season boundaries and dates is attached to this notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

GROWING SEASONS FOR WETLAND HYDROLOGY



Based on NOAA climate data
and zones for Alaska
(Average dates of last and
first 28 degree F. frost)

6/15 - 8/1

5/15 - 9/10

574 =

5/10 - 9/30

6/1 - 9/15

4/1 - 10/30