



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

August 15, 2005

Colonel Timothy J. Gallagher  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-2005-1148-1  
Tongass Narrows

Attn: Serena Sweet

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced proposal by Mr. Harbor Enterprises Incorporated to replace an existing wood and concrete fuel float with a new concrete float dock measuring 202-feet long by 27-feet wide, and replace eight 24-inch driven steel pilings.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. Juvenile salmon use the inshore area of Tongass Narrows during spring and early summer for feeding and predator avoidance prior to migration out to sea. The inshore area of the project location also provides important habitat for several marine species including arrowtooth flounder, Pacific cod, sablefish, sculpins, walleye pollock, yellow rockfish, and Pacific Ocean perch.

Accordingly, we offer the following EFH Conservation Recommendations pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

1. All work below the high tide line should be limited to low tidal stages to reduce turbidity.
2. No in-water work should be permitted from April 1 through June 15 of any year to protect out migrating salmon.
3. Hollow steel piles can generate underwater sound waves that are damaging and/or fatal to fish. NMFS recommends that pile driving not be conducted during the April 1 to June 15 in-water work closure, unless a bubble curtain can be installed and maintained to reduce sound energy to levels not harmful to rearing and migrating fish. Vibratory hammers produce less noise energy than impact hammers to drive piles and should be used if feasible, considering sediment types, pile design and depth.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS' EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should



provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

If you have any further questions, please contact Katharine Miller at 907-586-7643.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Salveson".

Sue Salveson  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant  
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade  
ADF&G, ADEC, AADGC, ADNR  
USFWS, Juneau