



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

October 17, 2006

Colonel Kevin J. Wilson  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-2006-1474-1  
Little Naukati Bay

Attn: Serena Sweet

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced proposal by Mr. Gregg Parsley to construct a floating dock and associated access ramps in Little Naukati Bay, Prince of Wales Island. The floating portion of the dock would consist of one 10-foot by 90-foot section, one 10-foot by 60-foot section and six 4-foot by 20-foot finger floats. The floating sections would be held in place with four 200-pound anchors and four 12-inch diameter steel piles. NMFS offers the following comments and recommendations pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens 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. Some of the Magnuson-Stevens Act species that occur near Little Naukati Bay include pink, chum, and coho salmon; Pacific cod; walleye pollock; Pacific sand lance; and Pacific herring (Johnson et. al. 2005, ADFG Anadromous Waters Catalogue).

We offer the following EFH Conservation Recommendations pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act:

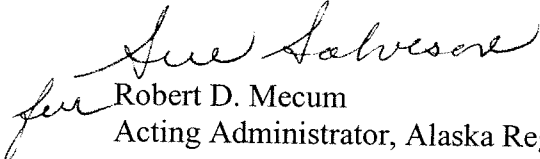
1. Pile driving could produce sound pressure waves and high levels of turbidity that are harmful to juvenile salmonids. Drive piles at a time of year when juvenile salmonids are not present. No pile driving should be permitted from March 15 to June 15.
2. Drive piles with a vibratory hammer. If an impact hammer is required because of substrate type or the need for seismic stability, piles should be driven as deep as possible with a vibratory hammer before the impact hammer is used. Vibratory hammers generally produce less intense sounds than impact hammers (NMFS 2005). Further, fish have been observed to avoid sounds similar to those produced by vibratory hammers and to remain within the field of harmful sound associated with an impact hammer (Dolat 1997). A hammer cushion should be used to minimize vibration impacts to marine life.



Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH Conservation 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 questions regarding our comments and Conservation Recommendations for this project, please contact John Hudson (907-586-7639).

Sincerely,

  
for Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

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

\*e-mail

Literature and web pages cited

ADFG Anadromous Waters Catalogue:

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/SARR/FishDistrib/anadcat.cfm>

Dolat, S.W. 1997. Acoustic measurements during the Baldwin Bridge Demolition (final, dated March 14, 1997). Prepared for White Oak Construction by Sonalysts, Inc., Waterford, CT/34 pp + appendices.

Johnson, S. W., A. D. Neff and J. F. Thedinga. 2005. An atlas on the distribution and habitat of common fishes in shallow nearshore waters of southeastern Alaska. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-AFSC-157. 98 pp.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2005. Final Environmental Impact Statement, Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation in Alaska, Vol. 2, Appendix G; National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce. April, 2005.