



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

June 12, 2003

Harry A. Baij, Unit Coordinator
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District, Regulatory Branch
P.O. Box 898
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: Campbell Lake 6
1-1988-0810

Dear Mr. Baij:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Pre-construction notification (PCN) for authorization under Nationwide Permit (NWP) #35 (Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins) and NWP 36 (Boat Ramps) of additional work originally permitted under the above referenced permit. The applicant is requesting authorization to maintain a floatplane navigation channel and individual floatplane basins. The proposed work consists of dredging approximately 375 cubic yards of material from Campbell Lake and existing floatplane slips. Material will be dredged using a backhoe and will be deposited adjacent to the lake. The applicant proposes to conduct dredging from land where possible, but also requests authorization to enter the water with the backhoe. A silt curtain will be suspended/staked in the water column surrounding the dredged area. Dredged material will be deposited on adjacent uplands and a silt curtain will be installed on the downslope half of the spoil piles.

The described construction activities could have an adverse impact on anadromous fishery resources, including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Campbell Lake provides spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat for anadromous fish. Chinook, sockeye, chum, pink and coho salmon use this portion of Campbell Lake. In 2002, during similar dredging operations authorized by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat (ADF&G) several violations of those permits occurred. The Corps has been unable to resolve the violations because of private property access issues. Therefore, NMFS has no objection to the proposed permit provided that the dredged material is not discharged into waters of the United States and the applicant adheres to the standard conditions of the Corps of Engineers permit and the following **EFH Conservation Recommendations**:

- 1) All dredging shall be completed by June 30.

Rationale - This work window will avoid impacts to anadromous fish in Campbell Lake.

- 2) Dredging equipment, including the use of a backhoe if necessary, shall not be operated within the waters of Campbell Lake. Instead, all equipment should be operated from the shoreline.



Rationale - Dredging equipment if used in flowing waters may damage or destroy spawning, nursery, and other sensitive habitats.

3) Incorporate adequate control measures to minimize turbidity where the dredging equipment used is expected to create significant turbidity. A silt curtain should be installed that completely surrounds the dredge area. The Corps and resource agency personnel should be notified 3 working days prior to starting work. The Corps should inspect and ensure that this properly installed prior to the applicant commencing dredging operations.

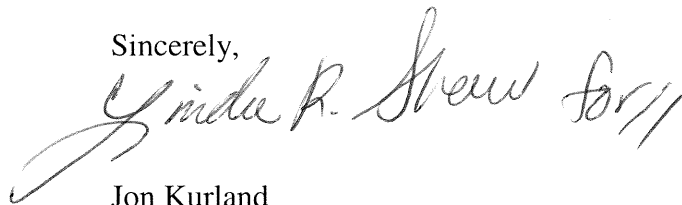
Rationale - The associated turbidity plumes from suspended particulates may reduce light penetration and lower primary productivity of an aquatic area, if suspended for an extended periods of time.

4) During dredging operations, the applicant should conduct hourly monitoring for evidence turbidity and settleable solids outside of the silt curtain, immediately adjacent to the dredged area. If at any time turbidity is observed outside the silt curtain, dredging shall be immediately suspended until turbidity is eliminated. These monitoring results shall be provided to the Corps within one month of completion of the project.

Rationale - High suspended sediments may reduced the feeding ability of fish, and cause gill injury. Dredging can also disturb aquatic habitats by resuspending bottom sediments and, thereby, recirculating toxic metals organics, pathogens, and viruses, which may subsequently become biologically available to organisms either in the water column or through food chain processes. In addition, the Corps has stated that the applicant proposes to submit an application for an Individual permit to conduct larger maintenance dredging operations over the next ten years. This information will assist resource agency and Corps personnel in evaluating the adequacy of control measures employed by the applicant.

Please note that under section 305 (b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Corps is required to respond in writing within 30 days to NMFS recommendations. If the Corps does not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS' EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided. Brian lance is the NMFS contact for this project, and can be reached at (907) 271-1301.

Sincerely,



Jon Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: USFWS, EPA, ADGC, ADFG, ADEC - Anchorage
Applicant

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