



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 9, 2007

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

Re: POA-2007-1117-1
Klawock Inlet

Attn: Nicole Hayes

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the “after the fact” referenced application from Astoria Seafoods, LLC, to install an outfall line that would discharge 1.3 million pounds of seafood processing waste into 30 to 36 foot deep water of Klawock Inlet from its mooring location at Ward Cove’s dock in Craig, AK. NMFS has no objection to this proposal as long as the processor complies with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit No.AK-G52-0000 regulations pertaining to seafood processors in Alaska.

Concerning Section II (A)(1)(a,b), of NPDES AK-G52-0000, Authorized Discharges, the applicant indicates that the discharge is no more than 0.5 inches in size and the discharge is less than the authorized 10 million pounds per year.

Concerning Section III (A)(6), Excluded Areas, there are no known haul outs or rookeries for the threatened Steller sea lion (*Eumotopias jubatus*) within a three mile radius of the site.

Concerning Section III(A)(10), Living Substrates, a mapping project conducted by the City of Craig in 1998 indicated there was no eel grass presence 400 feet from shore.

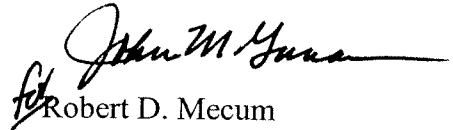
However, concerning Section III (B)(1), being as the discharge area is in water ≤ 60 feet MLLW, what is not known is the current velocity of the discharge site which optimally, according to the permit, should be more that 0.33 knots to permit flushing of the waste material.

NMFS recommends that a current analysis be conducted to verify that the current at the discharge site is appropriate for adequate dispersal of fish waste. If the applicant does not continue to use this location and the discharge site is found to be impacted we recommend mitigation and clean up of the area be conducted.



If you have any questions regarding our recommendations for this project, please contact Timothy Wilkins at 907-586-7643 or Timothy.Wilkins@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Mecum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant
Agent
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade*
ADNR, Mark Minnillo*
USFWS Juneau, Richard Enriquez*
ADEC Juneau, Brenda Krauss*
OHMP, Erin Allee*

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