



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

September 26, 2007

Colonel Kevin J. Wilson  
District Engineer, Alaska District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-6898

Re: POA-1997-210-M  
Passage Canal

Attn: Serena Sweet

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Sampling and Analysis Plan provided by PND Engineers Inc. for the City of Whittier's proposal to improve and rehabilitate the existing Whittier Small Boat Harbor. In a letter to you dated January 10, 2007, we recommended that the applicant prepare such a plan to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project.

The proposed project involves dredging within Whittier Small Boat Harbor. The sediments within the harbor are known to be contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons and have the potential, if disturbed, to cause long-term impacts to living marine resources including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Based on the modifications to the Sampling and Analysis Plan negotiated between the Corps and the applicant, the plan now provides a framework for determining the level of contamination in the sediments to be dredged. Assuming the analysis of the samples indicates contaminant levels are within acceptable limits, NMFS concurs with the Corps that the proposed project would not adversely affect EFH. However, should the sediment chemistry testing reveal elevated levels of hydrocarbons, NMFS requests further consultation to discuss dredging options and upland disposal of dredged material.

We look forward to working with you to address the issues discussed above and are willing to meet with the applicant to discuss our concerns. Additional questions regarding this project and our recommendations should be directed to LTJG Jonathan Taylor at our Anchorage field office, telephone (907) 271-5006.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region



cc: Records

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USFWS: Phil Brna: phil\_brna@fws.gov

Applicant – City of Whittier (Mr. Mark Earnest, City Manager) Post Office Box 608,  
Whittier, AK 99693: citymanager@ci.whittier.ak.us