FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, has assessed the environmental effects of the following action:

Navigation Improvements
Haines, Alaska

The project will expand the existing harbor in Haines, Alaska, by incorporating the features of alternative 4 in the environmental assessment. The north breakwater will also function as a causeway with vehicle access to a dock proposed for future construction on the outside of the breakwater. The mooring basin will accommodate a fleet of 279 boats ranging in length from 5.5 to 42.7 meters.

Harbor Basin. The new north harbor basin will be dredged to depths of –4.3 meters to -4.9 meters Mean Lower Low Water. The larger vessels are expected to moor closest to the entrance channel and the smaller vessels in the shallower section. A total combined mooring basin and maneuvering area of approximately 6.60 hectares is required for this action. The existing harbor's entrance channel will be dredged to accommodate the new breakwater configuration.

Approximately 163,200 cubic meters of material will be dredged consisting of silt/sand/clays/gravels and boulders. The dredged material will be disposed in a marine water site approximately 1.2 kilometers off shore from the harbor. The deep-water disposal area has depths of up to 62 fathoms.

Breakwaters. The new harbor will be protected by a series of breakwaters: a 103-meter-long north spur breakwater, a 154-meter long first portion of the main breakwater, and a 316-meter-long second portion of the main breakwater. Alternations to the existing breakwater will consist of a 46.7-meter-long stub breakwater, a 51.2 meter-long extension to the south, and a 33.3-meter-long south spur breakwater.

Construction activities and use of the harbor will not result in significant adverse environmental effects. No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or cultural resources will be adversely impacted by the project. Mitigative design and construction measures are: (a) to reduce turbidity, breakwaters will be constructed prior to dredging, and silt curtains or timing windows will be implemented to minimize potential adverse impacts to migrating salmonids, (b) the breakwaters will be breached to facilitate near-shore migration of fish and (c) a harbor management plan will be prepared to address water quality and shoreline pollution prevention. Compensatory mitigation will include fish habitat restoration work on the Sawmill Creek drainage flowing through the city of Haines.

The accompanying environmental assessment supports the conclusion that the project does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The action is consistent with State and local coastal zone management programs to the maximum extent practicable. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to construct the navigation improvements in Haines, Alaska.

G. L. Gunyan LTC, EN
FOR Steven T. Perrenot
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29 Nov 02
Date