



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Juneau Field Office
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 22270
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2270

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: May 14, 2018

EXPIRATION DATE: 29 May, 2018

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1984-00522

WATERWAY: Indian River

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Randal Vigil at (907) 790-4490, or by email at Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Sitka Sound Science Center, Attention: Angela J. Bowers, 834 Lincoln Street, Sitka, AK 99835.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 1, T. 56 S., R. 63 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Sitka A-4; Latitude 57.049555° N., Longitude 135.323744° W.; 834 Lincoln Street, in Sitka, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is: "The Sitka Sound Science Center is about to embark on a large project to rehabilitate the old historic Mill Building. The building was built on pilings and was later filled in and has since rotted. As part of the renovation, the building will be lifted approximately two feet to fix its foundation and because of this project four of our round-ponds that are used to rear coho will be displaced. Filling in the area that is right now a rocky ramp down to our barrier net will give us additional space for coho round-ponds and will also give us a place to put the fill removed from under the Mill Building."

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant request authorization to discharge 150 cubic yards (cy) of amour rock and 950 cy of crushed aggregate fill material into 0.07 acres below the High Tide Line (approximate elevation +12.8 above the 0.0 foot contour) to expand the existing coho salmon rearing operation and visitor services.

The applicant proposes to begin this project in September, 2018.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3), dated April 13, 2018.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: "We are renovating a federally-designated National Historic Landmark. The Sitka Sawmill is a contributing structure to the Sheldon Jackson Training School National Historic Landmark. In order to keep the building intact, the renovation will require we move some critical hatchery structures from around the building. The structures are important to the operation of our organization, a nonprofit that provides critical science research and education to Alaska and is the only training hatchery in the State of Alaska. The hatchery round pounds are necessary and important to rearing salmon. We are constrained by the property that surrounds our facility. Filling in this relatively small area will allow us to continue with the renovation, meeting the Secretary of Interior recommendations for historic places and meet the needs of the workforce development, education and Alaska aquaculture industry."

b. Minimization: "Armor rock will be placed on the outside of the area to be filled to prevent erosion of fill into the water. An armor rock wall already exists on both sides of the ramp and rock from the sides will be able to be reused to go across the outer part of the area to be filled."

c. Compensatory Mitigation: "Compensatory mitigation should not be required as there will be no negative impact."

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are cultural resources in the permit area and/or within the vicinity of the permit area. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps at this time. The Corps has made a No Adverse Effect determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within the known range of the chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) salmon.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This PN serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
410 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5321/FAX: (907) 465-5274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-1984-00522, Indian River**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

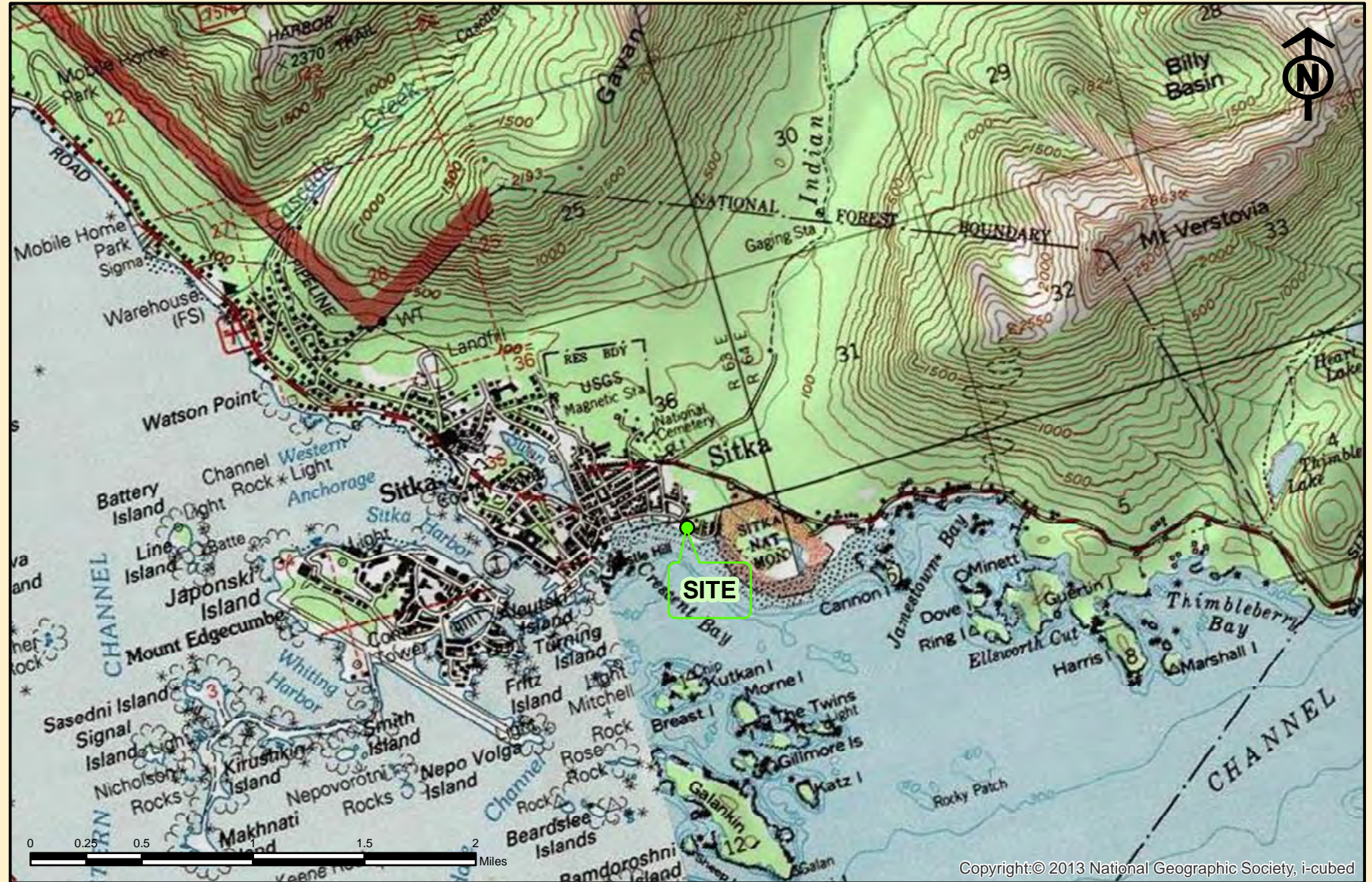
After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.

Alaska



SE Alaska



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed



Project Location USGS Quad. Map Sitka A-4

POA-1984-522, Indian River
Sitka Sound Science Center (Angela J. Bowers)
Hatchery Expansion
May 10, 2018



834
18562005
0.63 AC

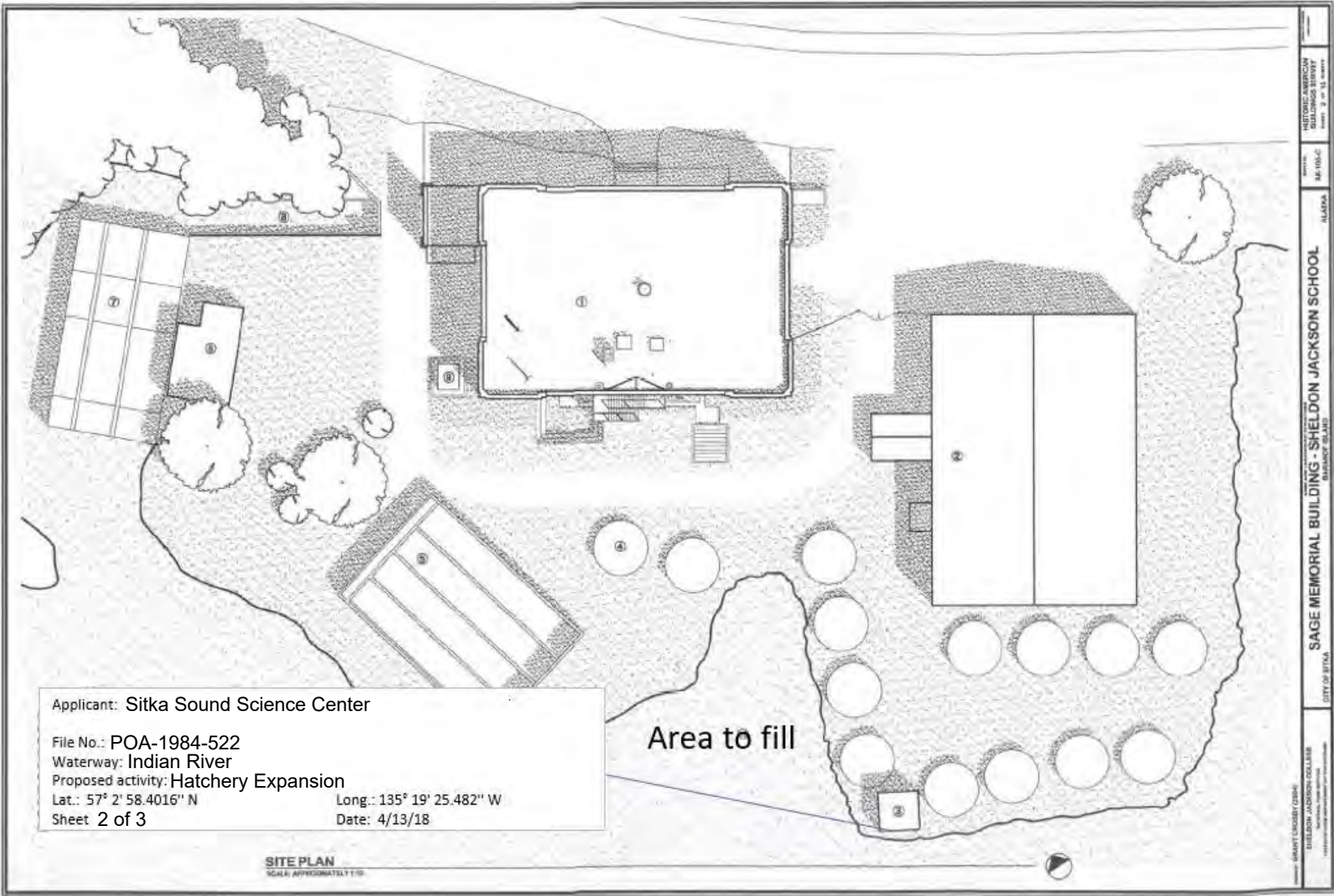
833
18562001
0.31 AC

Area to fill

Roundbonds to be replaced

Lincoln Street

Applicant: Sitka Sound Science Center (Angela J. Bowers)
File No.: POA-1984-522
Waterway: Indian River
Proposed activity: Hatchery Expansion
Lat.: 57° 2' 58.4016" N Long.: 135° 19' 25.482" W
Sheet 1 of 3 Date: 4/13/18



Applicant: Sitka Sound Science Center
 File No.: POA-1984-522
 Waterway: Indian River
 Proposed activity: Hatchery Expansion
 Lat.: 57° 2' 58.4016" N Long.: 135° 19' 25.482" W
 Sheet 2 of 3 Date: 4/13/18

SITE PLAN
 SCALE: APPROXIMATELY 1"=10'

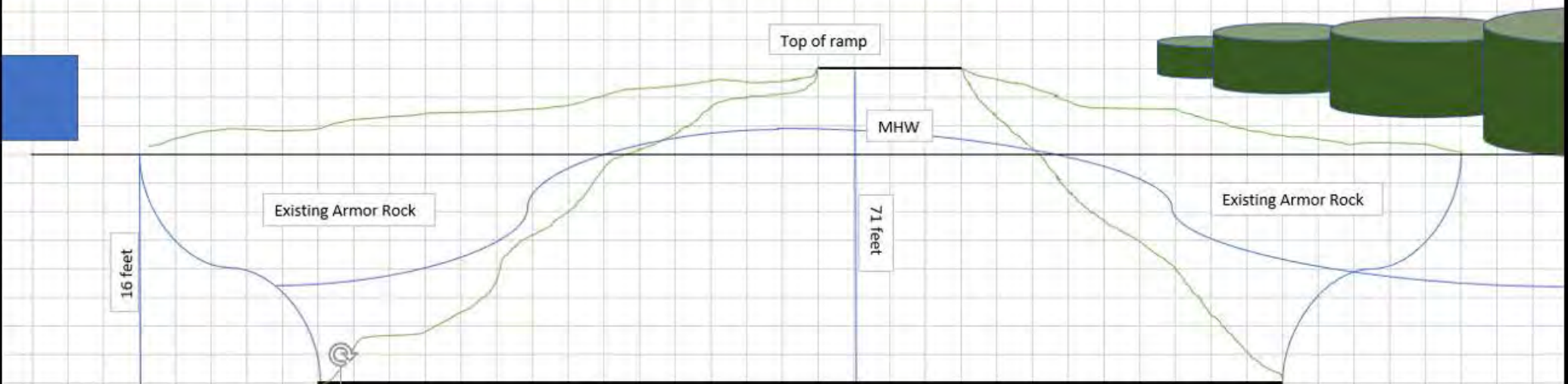
HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 1984-1985

MAP NO. 104-C
 ALASKA

SAGE MEMORIAL BUILDING - SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL
 BUILDING 01 AND
 CITY OF SITKA

SAGE MEMORIAL BUILDING
 SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL

Sage Building



Applicant: Sitka Sound Science Center

File No.: POA-1984-522

Waterway: Indian River

Proposed activity: Hatcher Expansion

Lat.: 57° 2' 58.4016" N

Long.: 135° 19' 25.482" W

Sheet 3 of 3

Date: 4/13/18