



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

SITKA FIELD OFFICE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 16  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:** June 28, 2013  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** July 29, 2013  
**REFERENCE NUMBER:** POA-2005-2047  
**WATERWAY:** Port Frederick

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

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact **Linda Speerstra** at (907) 747-0658, or by email at [linda.speerstra@usace.army.mil](mailto:linda.speerstra@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: City of Hoonah - Post Office Box 360, Hoonah, Alaska 99829.  
Point of Contact: Marlene Duvall

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 28, T. 43 S., R. 61 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Juneau A-5; Latitude 58.10601° N., Longitude 135.44227° W.; Hoonah Boat Harbor; in Hoonah, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to replace the Hoonah harbor boat launch ramp facility to improve safety and increase public access.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed work is described in four components: replacement of the boat launch, bank stabilization, dredging and reconstruction of a divergence dike.

## Boat Launch Replacement

The applicant proposes the following work below the plane of the high tide line (HTL) approximate elevation +19.3 feet above the 0.0 foot contour) and the mean high water mark (MHW) (approximate elevation +13.9 feet above the 0.0 foot contour):

- Remove existing concrete planks (16'x160'), timber floats (6'x200'), concrete abutment (6'x8') and five timber piles 12-inch diameter,
- discharge 600 cubic yards (cy) of concrete planks measuring 18' wide x 185' long to reconstruct the ramp,

- discharge 33 cy of riprap material to construct a 10' long by 44' wide x 2' deep approach apron at the toe of the boat ramp,
- discharge 50 cy of concrete to construct a 44' x 40' abutment and apron at the approach of the boat ramp,
- moor a 8' x 240' wooden floating dock
- install six 12.75-inch steel piles to support the dock

The proposed boat launch replacement would result in the discharge of 688 cy of fill material and impact 0.17 acres of waters of the U.S.

#### **Divergence Dike**

The applicant proposes to reconstruct a 420' long x 20' wide x 8' tide flow divergence dike by discharging 1,100 cy of riprap fill material below the HTL and MHW into 0.19 acres of waters of the U.S.

#### **Dredging**

The applicant proposes to dredge 11,000 cy of dredged material from 0.47 acres of sub-tidal marine substrate from below the Mean High Water (MHW) (approximate elevation +13.9 feet above the 0.0 foot contour). The area would be dredged to a minus 12-foot elevation. The applicant has identified four upland locations for the disposal sites.

#### **Bank Stabilization**

The applicant proposes to discharge 1,530 cy of riprap and shot rock fill material below the HTL and MHW to stabilize 240 linear feet of the shoreline near the launch area.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-7), dated May 2013.

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

a. Avoidance: The applicant states the following: "The project has been designed to utilize the existing ramp location and avoid construction in other locations. A marine mammal observer will be assigned to the project during pile driving operations to avoid impacts to marine mammals."

b. Minimization: The applicant states the following: "The project will incorporate best management practices (BMPs) during construction to prevent erosion and runoff from entering the basin. BMPs would include installing temporary erosion control measures."

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states the following: "Due to the project scope, size and perceived benefit to the community coupled with the avoidance and minimization efforts planned, the City of Hoonah doesn't propose any further compensatory mitigation measures for this project."

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** For project specific information please contact the City of Hoonah at 907-945-3663.

The Hoonah harbor was originally constructed by the Corps in 1979. A permit was issued by the Corps in 2006 for improvement and expansion work.

The applicant has identified four disposal sites in upland locations adjacent to the project site (page 7 site plans). These disposal sites do not require a DA permit.

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 no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (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: The project area is within the known or historic range of the endangered Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the threatened Steller Sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). 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). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 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 salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*); Adult,
- King salmon (*O. tshawytscha*);
- Pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*);
- Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*); and
- Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*)
- Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) Adult, rearing and spawning

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area. This Public Notice is being coordinated with NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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 Public Notice 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 of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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 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-2005-2047, Port Frederick, 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.