



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

February 26, 2007

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

Re: POA-2007-396-1  
Tongass Narrows

Attn: Mary Leykom

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced application from the Loyal Order of Moose, Ketchikan Lodge 224 to remove and replace a pile-supported building, pier, and parking deck, and to move an existing seaplane float on Tongass Narrows in Ketchikan. The ageing and deteriorating creosote piles currently supporting these structures will be used to build a retaining wall at an upland site. Phase I of the project includes removing existing parking deck and 30 timber support piles and replacing with a pre-cast concrete decking and 12 18-inch diameter steel piles and 4 16-inch diameter steel batter piles; removing existing pier and 14 support pilings in front of the lodge building and replacing with new timber decking supported by 7 18-inch diameter steel pilings; moving an existing seaplane float at the water-ward edge of the property and locating it flush with the lodge and parking area. Phase II includes Removing the lodge building and pier, and 64 timber support piles and replacing with a three story commercial building supported by 12 18-inch diameter steel piles and 4 16-inch batter piles. The new parking area/building and seaplane float will be 1,030 and 1,090 square feet larger, respectively, than the existing structures. The float will be constructed of pressure treated timbers floating on 24-inch diameter HDPE pipe floats.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make EFH Conservation Recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. Juvenile salmon in Tongass Narrows use nearshore habitat during spring and early summer for feeding and predator avoidance prior to migration out to sea. Tongass Narrows is also utilized by Pacific herring and other fish species that are important prey for MSA species. Finally, Tongass Narrows is within the known or historic range of the Steller sea lion and the endangered humpback whale. In accordance with Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the MSA, NMFS makes the following EFH Conservation Recommendations:

1. No in-water work should be permitted from March 15 through June 15 of any year to protect juvenile salmon and herring.



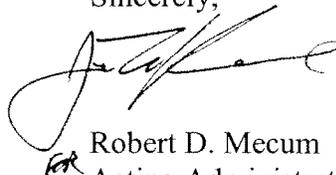
2. No docks, ramps, or other structures that block sunlight should be placed in or over eelgrass beds.
3. The use of any wood that has been surface or pressure-treated with creosote or treated with pentachlorophenol should be prohibited. If treated wood must be used, any wood that comes in contact with water should be treated with waterborne preservatives approved for use in aquatic and/or marine environments. These include, but are not limited to: Chromated Copper Arsenic (CCA) Type C, Ammoniacal Copper Zinc Arsenate (ACZA), Alkaline Copper Quat (ACQ), Copper Boron Azole (CBA) or Copper Azole (CA). Use wood treated with waterborne preservatives in accordance with Best Management Practices developed by the Western Wood Preservers Institute. Treated wood should be inspected before installation to ensure that no superficial deposits of preservative material remain on the wood.
4. Drive piles with a vibratory hammer. Pile driving can generate intense underwater sound pressure waves that can injure or kill fish (Longmuir and Lively 2001, Stotz and Colby 2001). Vibratory hammers produce less intense sounds than impact hammers (NMFS 2005). Fish have been observed to avoid sounds similar to those produced by vibratory hammers and to remain within the field of harmful sound associated with an impact hammer (Dolat 1997). If an impact hammer is required because of substrate type or the need for seismic stability, piles should be driven as deep as possible with a vibratory hammer before the impact hammer is used.
5. Drive piles during low tide when they are located in intertidal areas. Potentially harmful sound pressure waves are attenuated more rapidly in shallow water than in deep water (Rogers and Cox 1988).

Additionally, to reduce the possibility for harassment or injury to marine mammals, pile driving should not occur if any marine mammals are observed within 200 meters of the platform. Prior to driving piles, the operator should scan the area for the presence of marine mammals. If marine mammals are sighted within 200 meters of the sound source or are observed to be disturbed by the activity at any distance, pile driving should cease until the animals leave the immediate area.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendations for this project, please contact John Hudson at 907-586-7639 or [john.hudson@noaa.gov](mailto:john.hudson@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mecum", written over a horizontal line.

Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

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

\* e-mail PDF

## Literature cited

Dolat, S.W. 1997. Acoustic measurements during the Baldwin Bridge Demolition (final, dated March 14, 1997). Prepared for White Oak Construction by Sonalysts, Inc., Waterford, CT/34 pp + appendices.

Longmuir, C. and T. Lively. 2001. Bubble curtain systems for use during marine pile driving. Report by Fraser River Pile & Dredge Ltd., New Westminster, British Columbia. 9 pp.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2005. Final Environmental Impact Statement, Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation in Alaska, Vol. 2, Appendix G; National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce. April, 2005.

Rogers, P.H. and M. Cox. 1988. Underwater sound as a biological stimulus. pp. 131-149. *In* Sensory biology of aquatic animals. Atema, J, R.R. Fay, A.N. Popper, and W.N. Tavolga, eds. Springer-Verlag. New York.

Stotz, T. and J. Colby. 2001. January 2001 dive report for Mukilteo wingwall replacement project. Washington State Ferries Memorandum. 5 pp. + appendices.