CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.14

(Submission #: HQA-G8P3-HWK2C, version 1)

Details

Site: St. Herman Harbor Infrastructure Replacement Project

Submission ID HQA-G8P3-HWK2C

Form Input

Form Instructions

Form Instructions

Instructions for filling out the 401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form are located on the Alaska DEC website at the link below.
401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form Instructions

Agents: For Delegation of Authority to act on behalf of the applicant in processing the application, use the following form, have signed, and upload with application.

- Delegation of Authority - 401 Application

Contact Information (1 of 2)

Required Contacts

The following **Contact Roles are *REQUIRED***. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- **Applicant** (Responsible Party)
- **Billing Contact**

Contact Role(s)
Applicant
Owner
Operator

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Josie	Bahnke

Title
Acting City Manager

Organization Name
City of Kodiak

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907.486.8649	

Email
jbahnke@city.kodiak.ak.us

Mailing Address

710 Mill Bay Road

Kodiak, AK 99615

Contact Information (2 of 2)

Required Contacts

The following **Contact Roles are *REQUIRED***. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- **Applicant** (Responsible Party)
- **Billing Contact**

Contact Role(s)
Application Preparer
Billing Contact
Agent
Consultant

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Carrie	Connaker

Title
Environmental Planner

Organization Name
Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907.929.5960	

Email
carrie@solsticeak.com

Mailing Address

2607 Fairbanks St.

Suite B

Anchorage, AK 99515

Project / Facility Site Info

Identify the applicable federal license or permit

A copy of the federal permit or license application is required to be submitted with the request for the water quality certification. (18 AAC 15.130, 18 AAC 15.180)

Federal Agency
Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Permit License Number (ex. USACE: POA-XXXX-XXXX; FERC: FERC-xxxx-xxxx; EPA: AK#######)
POA-1993-00425

Project Name or Title
St. Herman Harbor Infrastructure Replacement Project

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
St. Herman Harbor

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
04/01/2026	12/31/2030

Approximate date(s) when any Discharge(s) may commence (+/- 30 days)

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
NONE PROVIDED	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
The project would remove 12 of St. Herman Harbor's existing concrete mainwalks and slip floats (EE, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, Q, R, and S) and associated 656 steel and timber piles. These components would not be reused or repurposed as a part of this project. These components would be replaced with 14 new floats and associated piles. Other float components such as bull rails, fenders, mooring cleats, pre-cast concrete dock surface, and utilities would also be installed (note: these components would be installed out of water). The existing M and N floats and mainwalk P would remain in place and would not be modified or removed. A shallow area in the harbor near existing H and I floats would be removed by dredging approximately 1,900 cubic yards (CY) of material to an elevation of 12 feet below mean lower low water (MLLW). The dredged material is planned to be loaded onto a barge and disposed of in the adjacent quarry on Near Island.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
Because of its age, St. Herman Harbor is deteriorating. Many portions of the 40-year-old facility are in very poor condition, suffering from cracked and failing concrete, rotting walers and bullrails, and an outdated electrical system. The harbor currently accommodates 328 vessels ranging from 20 to 150 feet (ft) in length, from small recreational boats to large commercial fishing vessels. On average, the harbor is losing one boat slip per year to deterioration which results in the loss of two vessel berths and associated capacity and harbor revenue. Additionally, there is an existing capacity issue with several operators on a years-long waitlist. A shallow area in the harbor has historically caused difficulty with navigation and in one instance led to a vessel grounding. Most of the harbor features depths of at least 12 ft below MLLW; these "high spots" range from 8 to 10 ft deep. See attached project description.

The Kodiak region is one of the largest commercial fishing ports in the U.S., and the seafood industry provides income and jobs that in turn support the community of Kodiak. Kodiak residents are not only employed directly on the vessels themselves, but a large percentage of Kodiak's seafood processing workers are also residents (McKinley Research Group 2022). The City has an obligation to maintain the harbor to provide a safe and secure facility and enough capacity to support Kodiak's thriving fishing industry and recreational users in the community.

Is any portion of the work already complete?
No

Description of current activity site conditions
St. Herman Harbor is the largest of Kodiak's two boat harbors, providing safe moorage for more than 400 vessels from Alaska and the West Coast. The harbor was originally constructed in 1982 by the State of Alaska. The harbor has 15 main floats, 13 of which are the original floats installed in 1982.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) installed a rubble-mound breakwater in 1997, maintains a navigation channel through the harbor, and performs maintenance dredging as needed in the harbor to keep the harbor and navigation lane clear of obstructions and avoid vessel groundings.

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Is this a linear project? (i.e., utility line, road, etc.)

No

Project Address

289-175 Alimaq Dr

Kodiak, AK 99615

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude
DSM - Lat/Long converter

Project Location

57.778935,-152.412030

Visit the following link if you need to convert the lat/long to get the **PLSS information**
Converter for Section, Township, and Range

PLSS Location (Public Land Survey System)

State Tax Parcel ID	Borough/Municipality	Meridian	Section	Township	Range
NONE PROVIDED	Kodiak Island Borough	Seward	5, 6	28S	19W

Directions to Site

From the Kodiak Benny Benson State Airport (ADQ), turn right onto Rezanof Dr. W towards Kodiak. Take Rezanof Dr. W for 5.9 miles and then turn right onto E Rezanof Dr. Take E Rezanof Dr. for 0.2 miles and turn right on Alimaq Dr. to go over the bridge to Near Island. Take Alimaq Dr. for approximately 1 mile and it will end at St. Herman Harbor.

Federal Agency Contact (1 of 1)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?

Yes

Federal Contact Role

USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name Carolyn **Last Name** Farmer

Title

NONE PROVIDED

Organization Name

USACE

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Other	561-785-5634	

Email

carolyn.h.farmer@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?

Yes

How many acres?

0.7

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)

1,900.00

Is the dredging considered a new project, or maintenance?
New Project

Tier Analysis

A tier analysis is comprised of a layered approach to determine the need for testing the dredge material to aid in generating physical, chemical, toxicity and bioaccumulation information, but not more information than is necessary to make factual determinations. The tier analysis is a series of tiers (I – IV) or levels of intensity (and cost) of investigation. It is necessary to proceed through the tiers only until information is sufficient to make factual determinations, no further testing is required.

- **Tier I - Site Evaluation and History**. The initial tier (Tier I) uses readily available, existing information (including all previous testing). For certain dredge materials with readily apparent potential for environmental impact (or lack thereof), information collected in Tier I may be sufficient for making factual determinations.
- **Tier II - Chemical Testing** is concerned solely with sediment and water chemistry.
- **Tier III - Biological Testing (bioassay and/or bioaccumulation testing)** is concerned with well-defined, nationally accepte toxicity and bioaccumulation testing procedures.
- **Tier IV - Special Studies** allows for case-specific laboratory and field testing, and is intended to for use in unusual circumstances.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- EPA Inland Testing Manual
- USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

Has a Tier analysis been conducted of the dredged prism?
No

Note, if marked NO; A Tier analysis may be required later upon review of the request.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- EPA Inland Testing Manual
- USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?
Yes

For fill material, identify the material source
Drill cuttings from the down-the-hole drill used to install piles

Types of material being discharged and the amount of each type (cubic yards)

Type	Cubic Yards
Seafloor/drill cuttings	560

Surface area in (acres or linear feet) of wetlands or other waters filled

Surface Area	Units
0	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 2)

Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge that may result from the proposed project and the location of receiving waters

Discharge Location ID (001, 002, 003, - increment by one)
001

Location Description
Within the quarry adjacent to the harbor; dredged material approximately 1,900 CY

Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge
Uplands

NOTE: if you have a receiving water that is Wetlands, just enter the generic term "Wetlands". Do not enter "Wetlands of Tanana River", for example.

Please select 'Other' if your waterbody is not in the list below.
You can start typing the name of the waterbody to filter the list.

Receiving Waterbody / Wetlands Name
St. Herman Harbor

Discharge Location
57.777131,-152.409897

Discharge Location Information (2 of 2)

Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge that may result from the proposed project and the location of receiving waters

Discharge Location ID (001, 002, 003, - increment by one)
002

Location Description
Drill cuttings discharged during DTH drill operations at each site of drilling in the harbor

Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge
In Water

NOTE: if you have a receiving water that is Wetlands, just enter the generic term "Wetlands". Do not enter "Wetlands of Tanana River", for example.

Please select 'Other' if your waterbody is not in the list below.
You can start typing the name of the waterbody to filter the list.

Receiving Waterbody / Wetlands Name
St. Herman Harbor

Discharge Location
57.77904090058789,-152.41145300786326

Other Pollutant Sources

Contaminated Site Information

Determine if your project is **within 1,500 feet** of a known Alaska DEC Contaminated Site. See the *Alaska DEC Contaminated Web Map* below. This will help you to identify if any potential pollutants/parameters of concern may be present on your project site., see DEC's website:

- **Contaminated Sites Web Map**
- **Contaminated Sites Database Search website**

Is the project within 1,500 feet of a known contaminated site?
No

Parameters of Concern that may be present in discharge

Parameter(s) of Concern

Identify the parameters of concern that may be present in your discharge from the dredge and/or fill material.

Note, **TURBIDITY** and **SEDIMENT** are routine parameters associated with dredge and/or fill activities.

Consider if other parameters may be present from past activities in the area such as contamianted site data, impaired waters or other relevant water quality data, or other parameters of concern identified during the application process.

Parameter(s)
Turbidity
Sediment

If known, describe respective concentrations, persistence, and potential impacts to the receiving water and data on parameters that may alter the effects of the discharge to the receiving water
It is anticipated that the shoal area to be removed primarily consists of moderately hard, slightly fractured slate bedrock with little to no overlying sediments, so the potential for contamination is low. See the attached supporting documentation:

St. Herman Harbor Sub-Bottom Survey Report (2024) - eTrac
Geotechnical Findings Report (2012) - USACE
Section 404(b)(1) Reevaluation Modified Maintenance Dredging St. Herman Harbor (2013) - USACE

Impaired Waters

An ***impaired waterbody*** are those listed as a **Category 4 [304(b)] or Category 5 [303(d)]** in the current EPA approved *Alaska's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.*

For the most recently *Approved Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report (Integrated Report)*, see DEC's website:

- **Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report** https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report

Does a discharge of any parameter identified above occur to an impaired waterbody?
No

If determined necessary and requested by the Department, submit sufficient and credible baseline water quality information for the receiving water which meets the requirements of 18 AAC 70.016(a)(6)(A-C).

Avoidance & Minimization BMPs and Mitigation Measures

Describe how impacts are being avoided and minimized on the project site. Include best management practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion controls that will be implemented to minimize environmental impacts, and any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge.

Include a description of any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge
Since the only discharges into marine waters would be from the seafloor of the harbor itself, there are no known contaminated sites within a 1,500-foot radius of the harbor, and the City of Kodiak is actively working towards their Alaska Clean Harbor certification, it is unlikely that the drill cuttings would induce anything beyond temporary turbidity and sedimentation impacts while drilling is occurring.

It is anticipated that the shoal area to be removed primarily consists of moderately hard, slightly fractured slate bedrock with little to no overlying sediments, so the potential for contamination is low. See the attached supporting documentation:

St. Herman Harbor Sub-Bottom Survey Report (2024) - eTrac
Geotechnical Findings Report (2012) - USACE
Section 404(b)(1) Reevaluation Modified Maintenance Dredging St. Herman Harbor (2013) - USACE

Avoidance Measures
The project uses a design that incorporates the smallest-diameter piles practicable while still minimizing the overall number of piles. The dredged material from the harbor would be disposed of in an uplands location.

Minimization Measures
Spill response equipment will be kept on-site during construction and operation. Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to releases of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants will be developed and implemented.

Mitigation Measures
Wood that has been surface or pressure-treated with creosote or treated with pentachlorophenol will not be used. If treated wood must be used, any wood that comes in contact with water will be treated with waterborne preservatives in accordance with Best Management Practices developed by the Western Wood Preservers Institute. Treated wood will be inspected before installation to ensure that no superficial deposits of preservative material remain on the wood.

Social / Economic Importance

Social or Economic Importance

(18 AAC 70.016(c)(5): Provide information that demonstrates the accommodation of important social or economic development. The applicant shall complete either a social OR economic importance analysis (or both) for each affected community in the area where the receiving water for the proposed discharge is located.

Social Importance Analysis
Community services provided
Infrastructure improvements
Public health or safety improvements
Recreational opportunities

Economic Importance Analysis
Employment, job availability, and salary impacts
Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
The Kodiak region is one of the largest commercial fishing ports in the U.S., and the seafood industry provides income and jobs that in turn support the community of Kodiak. Kodiak residents are not only employed directly on the vessels themselves, but a large percentage of Kodiak's seafood processing workers are also residents (McKinley Research Group 2022). The City has an obligation to maintain the harbor to provide a safe and secure facility and enough capacity to support Kodiak's thriving fishing industry and recreational users in the community

Description of Social or Economic Importance, if needed

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

List of Other Permits or Certificates

*Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits.

Include a list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

Agency	Type of Approval*	Identification Number	Date Applied	Date Approved	Date Denied
USACE	CWA 404	POA-1993-00425	01/07/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
NMFS	ESA and MMPA	TBD	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
USFWS	ESA and MMPA	TBD	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
MARAD	NEPA	TBD	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 1)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Dave **Last Name** Johnson

Title

Harbormaster

Organization Name

City of Kodiak

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907.486.8086	

Email

djohnson@city.kodiak.ak.us

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)

2025_0107_COK StHermansHarbor_USACE Application.pdf - 02/18/2025 09:49 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Figures and/or Drawings/Plan Sets. To include a map or diagram of the proposed activity site, including the proposed activity boundaries in relation to local streets, roads, and highways.

St Herman Harbor Permit Drawing 20 Nov 2024.pdf - 02/18/2025 09:50 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

TMC_SHH_KODIAK_SBP_SURVEY_REPORT_20241121.pdf - 02/18/2025 09:52 AM
USACE_Geotechnical Findings Report Entrance Channel Dredging Kodiak KOD009 (Final).pdf - 02/18/2025 09:52 AM
Signed St. Herman Harbor ltr 404B1 Mod.pdf - 02/18/2025 09:52 AM

Comment

St. Herman Harbor Sub-Bottom Survey Report (2024) - eTrac
Geotechnical Findings Report (2012) - USACE
Section 404(b)(1) Reevaluation Modified Maintenance Dredging St. Herman Harbor (2013) - USACE

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

StHermanHarbor_delegation-of-authority-401-application dfj.pdf - 02/18/2025 10:49 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Agreements and Signature(s)

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Signed By Robin Reich on 02/18/2025 at 10:50 AM