

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQD-SSPQ-0RSTC, version 1)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2025.07.02 17:12:11 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Ketchikan Dock Company Berth IV Expansion Project

Submission ID HQD-SSPQ-0RSTC

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 1)

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)

Consultant
Application Preparer
Applicant
Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name

Robin Reich

Title

Environmental Planner

Organization Name

Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 9079295960

Email

solsticeak@solsticeak.com

Mailing Address

2607 Fairbanks Street

Suite B

Anchorage, AK 99503

United States

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-2006-01418-M8

Project Name or Title

Ketchikan Dock Company Berth IV Expansion Project

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

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

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Upgrades to pile supported dock-no discharge	01/01/2026	NONE PROVIDED

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

The Ketchikan Dock Company, LLC (KDC) proposes to expand Berth IV adjacent to downtown Ketchikan, Alaska in the East Tongass Narrows. The proposed Berth IV expansion would be able to safely accommodate the modern, increasingly larger in size cruise ships visiting Southeast Alaska.

The project would include the removal of 12 existing piles, the existing floating barge float, and the existing north float. The expanded berth would include the additions of a 50-foot (ft) by 285 ft floating pontoon (dock) and a 12 ft by 220 ft small boat float supported by 18 permanent piles. The project would occur in and over the waters of the United States. No fill, dredging, or blasting is proposed as part of the project.

A permit was previously issued for a very similar project in 2018 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under POA-2006-01418-M7; however, the project was not constructed.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)

The purpose of this project is to upgrade Berth IV so that it can safely accommodate a class of increasingly larger cruise ships docking in Ketchikan. Currently, Berth IV is unable to accommodate large, modern cruise ships built to support a significantly greater capacity of cruisers than those typically seen in Ketchikan at the time of Berth IV's 2007 construction.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

Berth IV is adjacent to downtown Ketchikan on the shore of East Tongass Narrows. The project area is highly developed and with considerable shoreline infrastructure, marine traffic, and use.

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

[KetchikanBerthIV Location 2.jpg - 07/02/2025 05:05 PM](#)

[KetchikanBerthIV Location.jpg - 07/02/2025 05:05 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

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

No

Project Address

105-120 Schoenbar Road

Ketchikan, AK 99901

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude

[DSM - Lat/Long converter](#)

Project Location

55.344,-131.656

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	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Copper River	25	75S	90E

Directions to Site

From downtown Ketchikan, take Tongass Avenue south until the road merges with Water Street. Take the next right onto Schoenbar Road. The dock will be at the end.

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**

Hayley

Last Name

Farrer

Title

Regulatory Specialist

Organization Name

South Section, Alaska District US Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type**Number****Extension**

Business

9077532778

Email

Hayley.M.Farrer@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
No

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 accepted 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](#)

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?
No

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

Surface Area	Units
0	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 1)

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

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

Tongass Narrows (East Channel)

Discharge Location

55.344,-131.656

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?

Yes

Contaminated Sites

Hazard ID#	Contaminated Site Name	Contaminant Type	Latitude	Longitude	In soil or groundwater?	CS Staff Contact
28018	Residence - 507 Front Street HHOT	heating fuel	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	Soil	NONE PROVIDED
26907	Salvation Army Ketchikan	#1 diesel fuel	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	Soil	NONE PROVIDED
2991	Yellow Taxi Site	diesel heating oil	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	Groundwater	NONE PROVIDED

Describe the identified contaminated site(s) or groundwater plume within 1,500 feet

Residence - 507 Front Street HHOT: About 430 feet from project area, on land, an unknown amount of heating fuel released from a 500-gallon aboveground storage tank in January 2024. Emergency actions taken.

Salvation Army Ketchikan: About 1,400 feet from project site, on land, about 75-100 gallons of #1 diesel fuel discharged to the ground beneath an aboveground heating oil tank adjacent to the Salvation Army building adjacent to the Thomas Basin Boat Harbor.

Yellow Taxi Site: about 1,400 feet from project area, on land, a 2,000-gallon underground storage tank containing diesel heating oil was removed and found to have several 1-inch holes. An unknown amount of diesel was observed in the excavation and on the groundwater at nine feet below the ground surface.

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 contaminated 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

Pile removal and driving activities can cause short-term degradation of water quality and increased siltation, turbidity, and sedimentation.

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

Piles would be removed slowly to allow

Avoidance Measures

The purpose of the project is to construct a dock that accommodates large cruise ships and their passengers during summer months. The project is needed to provide safe harbor for large cruise ships docking in Ketchikan. To meet the project purpose and need, construction must occur within waters of the United States. The project would be located within the already industrialized section of the Tongass Narrows.

Minimization Measures

The project uses the most compact design practicable (with the least number of piles and smallest pile sizes) to minimize impacts to waters of the United States.

Mitigation Measures

If contaminated sediments are encountered during construction, the contractor will immediately notify agencies and stop work until coordination on the appropriate response occurs with ADEC.

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 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.

Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to releases of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants will be developed and implemented.

Spill response equipment will be kept on-site during construction and operation.

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

Economic Importance Analysis

Employment, job availability, and salary impacts
Tax base impacts
Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

Ketchikan is a main port-of-call for cruise ships in Alaska and receives up to six ships daily between April and September. In 2024, 52 cruise ships made 667 calls in Ketchikan, bringing in 1.46 million visitors (Ketchikan Visitors Bureau 2025). Cruises continue to be one of the fastest growing sectors of tourism, and cruise ship capacity is forecast to grow 10 percent from 2024 to 2028 (Cruise Lines International Association 2024). The average length of cruise ships has increased accordingly, and Ketchikan must be able to accommodate these and larger ships to continue to support the local economy.

Expanding the dock to accommodate larger, modern cruise ships would support economic growth and development in a community dependent on tourism. Under Objective 1103.1 of the Ketchikan Borough Comprehensive Plan, which outlines community goals, objectives, and policies to guide the development of the community, the Borough, encourages the accommodation of the future growth of tourism in a manner that addresses both community and cruise ship industry concerns (Ketchikan Gateway Borough Department of Planning and Community Development 2020).

Cruise Lines International Association. 2024. 2024 State of the Cruise Industry Report Shows Cruise Tourism Has Surpassed Historical Levels, Demonstrates its Significant Economic Contribution and Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Responsible Tourism. Accessed at <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/2024-state-of-the-cruiseindustry-report-shows-cruise-tourism-has-surpassed-historical-levels-demonstrates-its-significant-economic-contribution-and-leadership-in-environmental-sustainability-andresponsible-tourism-302111983.html> on March 12, 2025.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Department of Planning & Community Development. 2020. Ketchikan Gateway Borough Comprehensive Plan 2020. Accessed at https://www.kgbak.us/DocumentCenter/View/2000/Comp-Plan-Combined-Final_4-1-09?bidId= on February 26, 2025.

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau. 2025. Telephone conversation between Tony Lewkowski, SolsticeAK, and Teya Plamondon, Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, on March 24, 2025.

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
NMFS-AK	ESA	TBD	06/12/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	MMPA/IHA	TBD	07/10/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 2)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**

Leanne Roulson

Title

Consultation Biologist

Organization Name

consultant to National Marine Fisheries Service

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**

Mobile 406-690-4223

Email

leanne.roulson@noaa.gov

Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 2)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**

Ben Laws

Title

Incidental Take Program Supervisor

Organization Name

Office of Protected Resources NOAA Fisheries

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**

Business 3014278425

Email

benjamin.laws@noaa.gov

Attachments

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

[KDC Berth IV USACE Application 05232025.pdf - 07/02/2025 05:05 PM](#)

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.

[Ketchikan Berth IV Permit Figures 06032025.pdf - 07/02/2025 05:05 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

DEC Delegation Form 07022025.pdf - 07/02/2025 05:05 PM

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)

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- 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
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Signed
By Robin Reich on 07/02/2025 at 5:09 PM