TO: **Erle Townsend,** Project Manager
Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Bureau of Land and Water Quality Control

FROM: Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROJECT REVIEW

PROJECT:

DEP Application #:	L-25510-4D-A-N
Applicant:	Katherine Bartlett
Location:	Belfast (Passagassawaukeag River)
Type of Project:	Rip-rap Stabilization

The above proposed project has been carefully reviewed and considered by DMR personnel. The following are DMR's comments:

DMR personnel visited the site on January 10, 2012 at 1200 (at approximately high tide).

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to remove existing rip-rap stone and install 24 to 36 inch diameter boulders along approximately 100 ft. of shoreline over blasted ledge and geo-textile fabric. This would vary in height from 6 to 15 ft. and slope from 1:1 along the lower elevation to 1:1¾ higher up, with a 1:2½ slope in one section. The voids between the stones in the upper portions of the rip-rap would be planted with salt tolerant shrubs. Access to the intertidal by construction equipment would be from the abutting property to the north. Equipment would operate on protective mats while the area is drained by the tide. The applicant also proposes to install rip-rap stone along ~ 45 ft. of upland drainage swale to the north of the proposed shoreline stabilization. Work lasting approximately 1 to 2 weeks is proposed for late January into February.

The site of the proposed project is along the easterly shore of the Passagassawaukeag River. The upland contains a house ~ 5 to 6 ft. from the top of the supratidal bank at its nearest point. The supratidal bank varies in height from ~ 20 ft. in front of the house to almost nothing at the northerly end of the proposed project. Existing stone rip-rap that is along most of the proposed project area does not appear to be particularly stable. The upper intertidal along the toe of the supratidal bank contains salt marsh that includes *Spartina alterniflora* and Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*).

This proposal should not cause any significant adverse impacts to traditional fishing activity, navigation and recreation, or riparian access. The proposed time of year of activity, use of protective mats and work during low tides would help to reduce adverse impacts to fringing salt marsh. There would likely be some adverse impacts, the extent of which would be difficult to predict. If significant impacts are observed after completion of the project consideration might be given to requiring compensation.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: January 11, 2012