

TO: **Andrea Lapointe**, Project Manager
Dept. of Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

FROM: Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROJECT REVIEW

PROJECT: DEP Application #: L-19377-4P-B-N
Applicant: City of Belfast
Location: Belfast Harbor (Passagassawaukeag River)
Type of Project: Float System Expansion and Realignment

The above proposed project has been carefully reviewed and considered by DMR personnel.

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to reconfigure existing floats and access ramps over the subtidal at the City Public Landing. This would involve the removal of 16 piles and the installation of 20 new piles. The existing system orientation would be rotated toward the north with eight additional floats (an increase of 972 sq. ft. of float area). Two gangway ramps would be repositioned and one added. The entire system would extend approximately 18 ft. further north to be ~ 25 ft. from the navigational channel. East and West extents would not change. The fixed solid fill pier is to the south.

The proposed project site is located at the city landing on the southerly shore of Belfast harbor. The upland is a developed with parking and loading/unloading area. The intertidal is fill behind bulkhead extending into the subtidal. This bulkhead defines the high and low water lines. The area is currently closed to the harvesting of shellfish. Rockweed is described as "common". Eelgrass is described as being "absent". Most of Maine's diadromous fish species utilize the Passagassawaukeag as a migratory pathway, nursery, and foraging area, including the federally listed endangered Atlantic salmon.

This project as proposed should not cause any significant adverse impacts to traditional fishing, recreation, navigation, or riparian access. DMR recommends that pile removal and driving be done during the period between October 15 to March 15 in order to minimize potential adverse impacts to diadromous fish.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: October 1, 2012