TO: **Beth Callahan,** 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-25238-4P-A-N
Applicant:	Sleepy Hollow Farm, LLC (Daniel Tishman)
Location:	St. George (Caldwell Island, St. George River)
Type of Project:	Pier, Ramp, Float & Float Haul-Out Reconstruction

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

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to construct a 6 ft. x 72 ft. pier to extend from above the Highest Annual Tide (HAT) to just above Mean Low Water (MLW). This would be supported on ledge above HAT and by a 12 ft. x 12 ft. granite block pier constructed in "open" fashion just above Mean Low Water (MLW). The pier would have an E - W orientation with an average deck height of ~ 15 ft. above the intertidal substrate. A 3½ ft. x 42 ft. ramp would connect to a 16 ft. x 26 ft. float to provide ~ 5 ft. of water at MLW according to the permit application. Granite blocks and chain seaward of the float would secure it. The applicant also proposes to rebuild an existing 17½ ft. x 77 ft. float haul-out to the south of the proposed pier location. The current haul-out that extends ~ 40 ft. seaward of Mean High Water (MHW) would be rebuilt with 12, 2 ft. x 2 ft. permanent granite and wood footings, and Glu-Lam beams and pressure-treated lumber.

The proposed project sites are on the easterly shore of Caldwell Island (a 108 acre island at the mouth of the St. George River). Upland of the proposed pier site is currently wooded (the applicant has plans for future development). The supratidal is ledge. The intertidal, ~ 35 ft. wide, is ledge/boulder with abundant rockweed. The subtidal area just beyond MLW contains a band of eelgrass, ~ 35 ft. wide, that the proposed ramp would bridge. The upland area of the float haul-out contains freshwater wetland and a small freshwater stream with cattails and sedges. The upper intertidal here is sandy gravel with *Spartina alterniflora*. Below this the intertidal is rock/cobble/gravel with moderate to scattered rockweed.

The proposed pier, ramp and float should not cause significant adverse impacts to marine resources, traditional fishing, recreation, navigation, or riparian access. Consideration should be given to installing the proposed granite block pier support further from the eelgrass (closer to the shore) to minimize potential adverse impacts to the eelgrass from reflected wave energy. Alternative sites with less marine vegetation and stream and wetland habitat for a float haul-out should be explored (e.g., the northern beach area).

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: March 9, 2011