City of Homer's Port and Harbor Best Management Practices Plan

Fish Waste Grinding & Disposal System for
APDES Seafood General Permit No. **AKG52-0518**

APPLICABILITY & IMPLEMENTATION. The City of Homer Port and Harbor, known as the City herein, operates in accordance with its BMP Plan during the term of their APDES Permit coverage. As per Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) requirements and to ensure compliance, this Plan has been submitted with the City's Notice of Intent (NOI).

FACILITY OVERVIEW. The City owns and maintains the Fish Waste Grinding and Disposal Facility, a shore-based seafood processor. Located on the Homer Spit in Homer, Alaska, its receiving waters include Kachemak Bay and the Cook Inlet and has a latitude/longitude of 59° 36.18' N/151° 24.68' W.

The Fish Waste Grinding Facility consists of a vault with macerator pump, a saltwater well, an eight inch diameter underground outfall pipe, and a small building that houses the grinding equipment. Fish waste is grinded then flushed with saltwater through the pipe to the location of its terminal end in 28 feet of water (MLLW) southeast of the City's Pioneer Dock outside the harbor. At this location, the strong tidal currents flush the waste products thus providing adequate dispersion.

PURPOSE. Through implementation of this Plan, the City shall minimize and prevent the generation and discharge of wastes and pollutants from its Fish Waste Grinding Facility to the receiving waters of Alaska.

OBJECTIVES. The City's objectives for this Plan include:

A. To minimize the number and quantity of pollutants and the toxicity of the effluents that are possibly generated and discharged.
B. To evaluate the City's Fish Waste Grinding Facility; evaluations shall include all normal operations, including raw material and product storage areas, in-plant conveyance of product, processing and product handling areas, loading or unloading operations, wastewater treatment areas, sludge and waste disposal areas, and refueling areas.
C. To ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the City's Fish Waste Grinding Facility and the control of the discharge or potential release of pollutants to the receiving water under this BMP Plan and Standard Operating Procedures included.

MATERIAL PROCESSING. The materials processed through the City's Fish Waste Grinding Facility consist solely of fish and seafood, either "in the round" (whole), or in the form of carcasses, heads, guts, viscera, bones and related materials. These materials are delivered to and/or staged by the Fish Grinder Building in covered fish totes or tubs. They are then processed (ground up) to ½" or smaller particle size and are flushed through the sump and pipe into the outfall line vault. Float switches in the vault activate the submersible maceration pump and discharge through the outfall line to the outfall terminus.

POLLUTANTS & RISKS. The City and its Operators identify risks and stay ever alert for pollutant discharges. During processing of fish waste, any foreign objects in the totes or tubs are removed before the waste enters the grinder. There are no sources of pollution in or adjacent to the building. Clean salt water from the facility's well and/or City-supplied potable water is used to grind, flush and wash down/clean up, and slurry the materials into the outfall line vault. The vault's inspection plate is regularly removed for an inspection of the water slurry/fish wastes in the vault. If any contaminants are detected, power to the outfall line's macerator pump will be shut off and a mobile Vac truck will be brought in to remove contaminates for proper disposal.

IMPROVEMENT GOALS: The City strives to not just maintain but to also improve its Standard Operating Procedures and management practices outlined in this Plan. The City works toward a more efficient, less water consumptive system that results in minimum introduction of pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The City maintains a clean Fish Waste Grinding Facility that processes only fish/seafood.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. After each grinding period, the building and all equipment is thoroughly washed down with approved cleansers and clean water.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE. The outfall line and vault are maintained by the City's Public Works Department as per a Preventative Maintenance (PM) Plan they have established. The grinding equipment and building are maintained by the Port & Harbor Department. A contractor operates and performs some routine and preventative maintenance as per a Memorandum of Agreement established between the City and contractor.

INSPECTIONS & RECORDS. All required inspections and record keeping is done by the City. Upon delivery of the fish waste in totes and tubs to the Fish Waste Grinding Facility, the source (originator) of the fish waste, number of totes/tubs processed, and the average weight (net fish weight) of the totes/tubs are recorded in the Operator's logs. The City maintains records of all the recorded fish waste logs, any breakdowns, pollution incidents, or incidents of non compliance. An annual report is compiled and sent to ADEC, including all reported information as well as the results of the annual diving survey and report (of the outfall line terminus or discharge location).

The APDES Permit, the State DEC Critical Habitat discharge permit, and all other required postings are kept current and are posted inside the Fish Waste Grinding Facility, the contracted firm's business, and the City Harbor Office.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING. The City and contracted firm train all personnel involved with the maintenance and operation of the Fish Waste Grinding Facility appropriately to ensure the safety of the employee and the proper use of the equipment per regulations.

PLAN REVIEW. This Plan has been reviewed by the City's Port Director/Harbormaster, the contracted firm, and all Staff involved in the maintenance and operation of the Fish Waste Grinding Facility. All objectives and management practices set forth in this Plan fulfill the requirements of the Permit and are certified by the signature and date below.

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster

4-30, 2013
Date