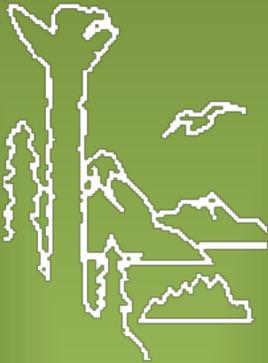


Fish Waste Disposal

August 2011



Solid Waste Program

*Division of
Environmental Health*

**Department
of
Environmental
Conservation**

Anchorage Office:

555 Cordova St
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Fairbanks, AK 99709
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Juneau Office:

410 Willoughby Ave, Ste 303
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-5318 or
(907) 465-5353
Fax (907) 465-5362

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw>

The Solid Waste Program regulates the disposal on land of fish and fish waste from commercial operations. It does not regulate the disposal of such waste in waters, harbors, or tidal zones (including beaches).

Disposal of Commercial Fish Waste In or Near Water

For information on the disposal of commercial fish waste placed in coastal waters, tidal areas, or beaches, please contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Water Discharge Program at (907) 269-7504. This program should also be contacted for information about commercial fish waste placed in lakes, rivers, beaches, or other fresh water areas.

For information on the disposal of commercial fish waste in federal waters (within approximately 3 nautical miles from shore), please contact the Alaska EPA office in Anchorage at (907) 271-5083.

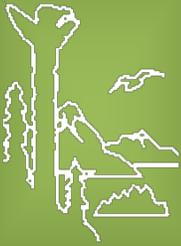
Disposal of Commercial Fish Waste on Land

There are three methods for disposing of commercial fish waste on land:

- **Landfill Disposal:** Commercial fish waste may be disposed in a permitted landfill, provided the landfill is authorized to receive the waste and agrees to accept it.
- **Land Application:** The solid waste regulations (18 AAC 60.010(e)) all fish and fish waste to be used as fertilizer for agricultural or silvicultural purposes provided the waste is processed and treated as prescribed in the regulation.
- **Composting:** Although not really disposal, fish waste can be composed to create a useable product. Depending on the volume of waste involved, a composting operation may be subject to either a solid waste treatment permit or plan approval.

Land application =
Tilling organic waste
into agricultural land
for use as fertilizer.





Solid Waste Program

All of the above options must be carefully managed to minimize pathogens, odors, animal attraction, contamination of water resources, and other hazards and nuisances. If you would like more information on the land disposal of commercial fish waste, please contact the Solid Waste Program office in your area.

Sport Fishing Waste

For information on the disposal of sport fishing waste, please contact the nearest Fish and Game office.

Residential Fish Waste

For residential disposal of fish waste, DEC recommends disposal at a state approved landfill. Prior to disposal, care should be taken to minimize odors which could attract animals.

If landfill disposal is not available, residential fish waste may be buried but the following requirements must be met:

- Check with local authorities to ensure that burial of fish waste does not violate local ordinances.
- Obtain the landowner's permission.
- Ensure the burial site is at least 100 feet from any drinking water well, stream, lake, or other water body.
- Cover the fish waste with lime before burying, particularly when needed to control odors.
- Cover the fish waste immediately with at least 12 inches of soil.

Residential composting of fish and fish waste is not recommended because it causes strong odors; may attract scavengers including bears, foxes, birds, or even pets; and also attracts disease vectors such as flies.

