

NOTICE of INTENT

1039

To be covered under the General NPDES Permit AK-G70-~~1000~~ for
Log Transfer Facilities in Alaska

Submission of this document constitutes a request that certain discharges into waters
of the United States resulting from the operation of the log transfer facility identified herein be
authorized under General NPDES Permit AK-G70-1000

1. Permit Information

Is this a new facility? NO
Date Operations Commenced: April 1992
Previously Assigned NPDES Permit Number: AK-004784-8
DNR Tideland lease or permit number: LAS 19496 (Pending)
Division of Governmental Coordination State ID No. AK 880113-09J

2. Landowner Information

Landowner Name: Sealaska Corporation **Phone:** (907) 586 1512
Address: One Sealaska Plaza; Suite 400 **Fax:** (907) 463 3897
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative: Robert W. Loescher **Title:** President and CEO

3. Operator Information

Company Name: Sealaska Timber Corporation
Address: 2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 202
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Representative: Robert L. Girt **Direct Phone:** (907) 228 7321
Title: Vice President of Operations **Fax:** (907) 225 2196
e-mail address: bob.girt@sealaska.com

4. Facility Information

a) **Facility Name:** Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Area **Phone:** (907) 225 9444
Address: 5 miles Southwest of **Fax:** (907) 225 2196
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

b) **US Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 & 404 Permit:**

Reference Number: 2-870599
Waterway Name: Tolstoi Bay 1
Date Issued: June 24, 1988

*ACMP DETERMINATION: MARCH 24, 1999
401 CERT. ISSUED MARCH 17, 1988*

c) **The physical location of the Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Project Area:**

Tolstoi Bay LTF: 55, 30, 48 North Latitude
132, 25, 56 West Longitude
T072S, R085E, NE Quarter of Section 18
Tolstoi Bay Log Storage Area: 55, 30, 48 North Latitude
132, 27, 02 West Longitude
T072S, R084E, SE Quarter of Section 13
T072S, R085E, NW Quarter of Section 18

Attachments Included (4.d., 4.e., 4.f., 4.g. and 4.m. required elements)

- ✓ **Nautical Chart and Vicinity Map**
- ✓ **Plan Drawing and Vicinity Map**
- ✓ **Ramp Elevation/ Cross Section View**
- ✓ **Most Recent Bark Monitoring Survey Report**

h) **Description of Operations**

- The existing upland sort yard is approximately 4 acres in size.
 - A truck transports round logs into the upland sort yard facility for unloading.
 - In the upland sort yard, the round logs are scaled and remanufactured into preferred lengths.
 - The scaled logs are sorted into bundles of similar characteristics.
 - The bundles are banded in the upland sort yard's banding station.
 - The log bundles are placed into the receiving water at a speed that does not exceed 3 feet per second, and at a single discharge point. This discharge point is depicted on the attached map and plan drawing.
 - ✓ During transfer ramp operations, a front-end loader of similar size to a Caterpillar 988-B is used to transfer the log bundles down the "non-violent drive-down ramp", and "set" them in the water.
 - ✓ In an effort to reduce the discharge of petroleum and lubricating products into receiving waters, the logs are set in the water while only the rubber tires are in the salt-water.
 - ✓ Next, another bundle is taken from the upland sort yard and is used to push the floating bundle out into deeper water where a boom boat can secure it within boomsticks. All logs deposited on the tidelands during a "float-off" log transfer operation are removed daily.
 - ✓ Once the bundles are in the water, they are rafted. In an effort to minimize the retention time of logs in the water, the rafts are towed to the existing Tolstoi Bay Log Raft Storage Area and then are towed to a ship loading location as soon as it is operationally practical.
 - Bark and wood debris are removed from the transfer ramp, adjacent tidelands, and the upland sort yard routinely.
 - In the event that a bark monitoring dive survey report shows a continuous coverage of bark and wood debris to have exceeded both 1.0 acre and a thickness of 10 centimeters on the ocean floor's Zone of Deposit, Sealaska Timber Corporation will submit a statement to the EPA, ADEC, and ADNR (along with the bark monitoring dive survey report) describing remedial practices that will be used to minimize additional bark accumulation. In addition, these remedial practices will be incorporated into the facility's Pollution Prevention Plan.
- i) The existing Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Area **is not** located in any of the "Protected Water Resources or Special Habitats Areas" identified in Part III.A. of the General NPDES Permit AK-G70-1000. Therefore Sealaska Timber Corporation does not need to submit any written permissions or authorizations required by Part III.A. of the General NPDES Permit AK-G70-1000.
- Tolstoi Bay 1 is **not included** on the ADEC CWA Section 303(d) list, revised May 19, 1999, of waters which are "impaired" or "water quality-limited" for residues related to log transfer or storage activities.

- j) The existing Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Area is located in an area which **meets** the Alaska Timber Task Force Guidelines. Therefore, Sealaska Timber Corporation does not need to request a waiver under Part III.D. to discharge in an excluded area.
- **Proximity to Rearing and Spawning Areas:**
 - ✓ The existing Tolstoi Bay LTF is not located within 300' of the mouth of an anadromous fish stream. It is, however, located approximately 2,800 feet northwest from the mouth of Alder Creek, anadromous fish stream catalog number 102-70-10380.
 - ✓ The existing Tolstoi Bay Log Raft Storage Area is not located within 300' of the mouth of an anadromous fish stream. It is, however, located approximately 6,000 feet west from the mouth of Alder Creek, anadromous fish stream catalog no 102-70-10380.
 - **Bark Dispersal:** Sealaska Timber Corporation does not anticipate excessive bark accumulation on the seafloor where flushing may be restricted. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources "Intent to Adopt Prince of Wales Island Area Plan" (Revised August 1998), does not make mention of any embayments with sills on the seafloor in Tolstoi Bay that would cause natural restrictions to tidal exchanges. Clarence Strait, the larger adjacent waterbody, provides strong currents into Tolstoi Bay to disperse sunken or floating wood debris. Best Management Practices will continue to be implemented to minimize discharging bark and wood debris, and the ZOD will continue to be monitored as part of Sealaska Timber's Bark Monitoring Program.
 - **Site Productivity:** According to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources "Intent to Adopt Prince of Wales Island Area Plan" (Revised August 1998), the existing Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Project Area is located in an area that has been designated for Forestry Development – Commercial/Industrial uses. Sealaska's LTF and Log Raft Storage Area in Tolstoi Bay is depicted on the map in Subunit 11c. In order for a site to obtain this type of rating, it would need to be located in an area having the least ecologically productive intertidal and subtidal zones.
 - **Sensitive Habitats:** The Alaska Department of Natural Resources "Intent to Adopt Prince of Wales Island Area Plan" (Revised August 1998), does not describes Tolstoi Bay as having any extensive kelp beds or shellfish concentration areas. A tidal flat is located at the mouth of Alder Creek; however, the LTF is approximately 2,800 feet northwest of this tidal flat. In addition, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1986 Habitat Management Guide Southeast Region Volume II (Distribution and Human Use of Fish and Community Use of Fish and Wildlife) indicates that the project area is not located in any commercial shellfish, shrimp, crab, groundfish, or herring spawn areas.
 - **Storage and Rafting:**
 - The Tidelands LTF and Rafting Authorization Area is 13.6 Acres.
 - ✓ The rafting area is located in waters that are at least –40 feet deep at MLLW. The bundles float at all phases of the tide, and never touch bottom.
 - The Tidelands Log Raft Storage Authorization Area is 29.97 acres.
 - ✓ Of the 29.97 acres authorized by the ADNR Tideland Permit, the log raft storage actually encompasses 10.9 acres of tidelands, and is situated in waters at least –40 feet deep at MLLW. The bundles float at all phases of the tide, and never touch bottom.

- k) Logging operations at the Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Area constitutes important social and economic development in the area. A ZOD is necessary to accommodate the operation of the LTF and Log Raft Storage Area for the following reasons:
- The provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) benefits more than 80,000 Alaska Natives. Profits generated from timber harvest operations on Sealaska Corporation lands are shared among other regional Native Corporations.
 - Sealaska Timber Corporation hires contractors who employ people, including Alaska Native Shareholders, living in the surrounding communities on Prince of Wales Island to work at the Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Area. Employment is very important to the people who live in communities on Prince of Wales Island. The local economy has struggled with the decline in the timber industry due to the closure of Ketchikan Pulp Mill's Thorne Bay Sort Yard.
 - This operation requires a Zone of Deposit because operationally and economically it is more feasible to store the logs in rafts. Onshore log storage with barging is infeasible for the following reasons:
 - ✓ The water beneath the drive-down ramp is not sufficiently deep enough to allow loading a barge during all phases of the tide.
 - ✓ For every log sort, the upland sort yard storage area will need to be large enough to store one barge load per sort type. This facility's sort yard is not large enough to accommodate this type of storage capacity. It is more operationally and economically feasible to sort the logs into bundles and place them into the receiving water where they can be rafted by similar sort types, and then towed to a moorage site where they are loaded onto a ship.
- l) Tolstoi Bay is the receiving waterbody of the Tolstoi Bay LTF and Log Raft Storage Project Area. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources "Intent to Adopt Prince of Wales Island Area Plan" (Revised August 1998) depicts the project area in the Thorne Bay, subunit 11c management area. The following is a list of known uses outlined in this document, and a narrative demonstration that these uses will be protected.

Human Uses:

- The DNR Plan depicts this project area to be designated for Forestry Development – Commercial/Industrial uses. Sealaska's Log Transfer and Log Storage Area are depicted on Subunit 11c's map as site numbers 11.02 LT and 11.02 LS.
- Ketchikan Pulp Company holds a ship mooring facility; site 11.10 SM, located east of Sealaska's Log Transfer site 11.02 LT.
- Ketchikan Pulp Company holds a log holding area; site 11.08 LS, located north of Sealaska's Tolstoi Bay Log Transfer and Log Storage Site 11.02 LT and 11.02 LS.
- Southeast of Sealaska's Log Transfer Site, there is an area designated for Recreational Anchorage use.
- The DNR Plan describes that State tidelands, and submerged lands at Tolstoi Bay will be managed to retain options for commercial, industrial, or public facilities including a potential state ferry terminal.

PROTECTION of Human Uses:

Painting the 5' diameter buoys white, and installing orange floats (3' diameter minimum) at the north ends of the 520' standing booms has protected these uses. Markings of this nature function as a "Private Aid to Navigation" and are necessary to protect maritime navigation into the area. The standing boom structure used for the log raft storage site is also marked appropriately to function as a "Private Aid to navigation". Upon cessation of operation, STC will remove all shoreties, cables, anchors, and all other appurtenant in-water features associated with the permitted activity.

Biological Uses:

- The DNR Plan depicts the area southeast of Sealaska's Tolstoi Bay Log Transfer Site as containing Crucial Habitat. According to the State Department of Fish and Game's "Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning and Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes", there is one anadromous fish stream (102-70-10380, Alder Creek) located within ½ mile of the LTF. The ADF&G catalog depicts Alder Creek as containing runs of chum, coho, and pink salmon.
- A Catalogued Eagle Nest tree is located approximately 450 feet west of the upland yard.

PROTECTION of Biological Uses:

- The DNR's description of fish and wildlife resources states that crucial habitat for salmon rearing and schooling at the mouths of anadromous fish streams extends to a depth of -40 feet at mean lower low water. Since the Tolstoi Bay log rafting area is located approximately 2,800 feet northwest of the mouth of Alder Creek, and is situated in waters deeper than -40 feet at MLLW, any fish runs into this stream will be protected.
- Sealaska Timber Corporation is maintaining the required buffers to protect eagle nest trees as stipulated in the USF&WS recommendations.

5. Facility Classification

- a) **Category:** Shore-Based
- b) **Method of Log Transfer:** Non-Violent Drive-Down Ramp @ 10% grade
- c) **Use Description:** Type III

6. Production Data

- a) **Expected Facility Lifespan:** 5 Years
Volume to be transferred (board feet, Scribner Scale)
- b) **Maximum over life of permit:** 125 MMBF
- c) **Average per year:** 20 MMBF
Maximum per year: 25 MMBF
- d) **Projected Months of Operation:** March – November

Signature and Certification

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

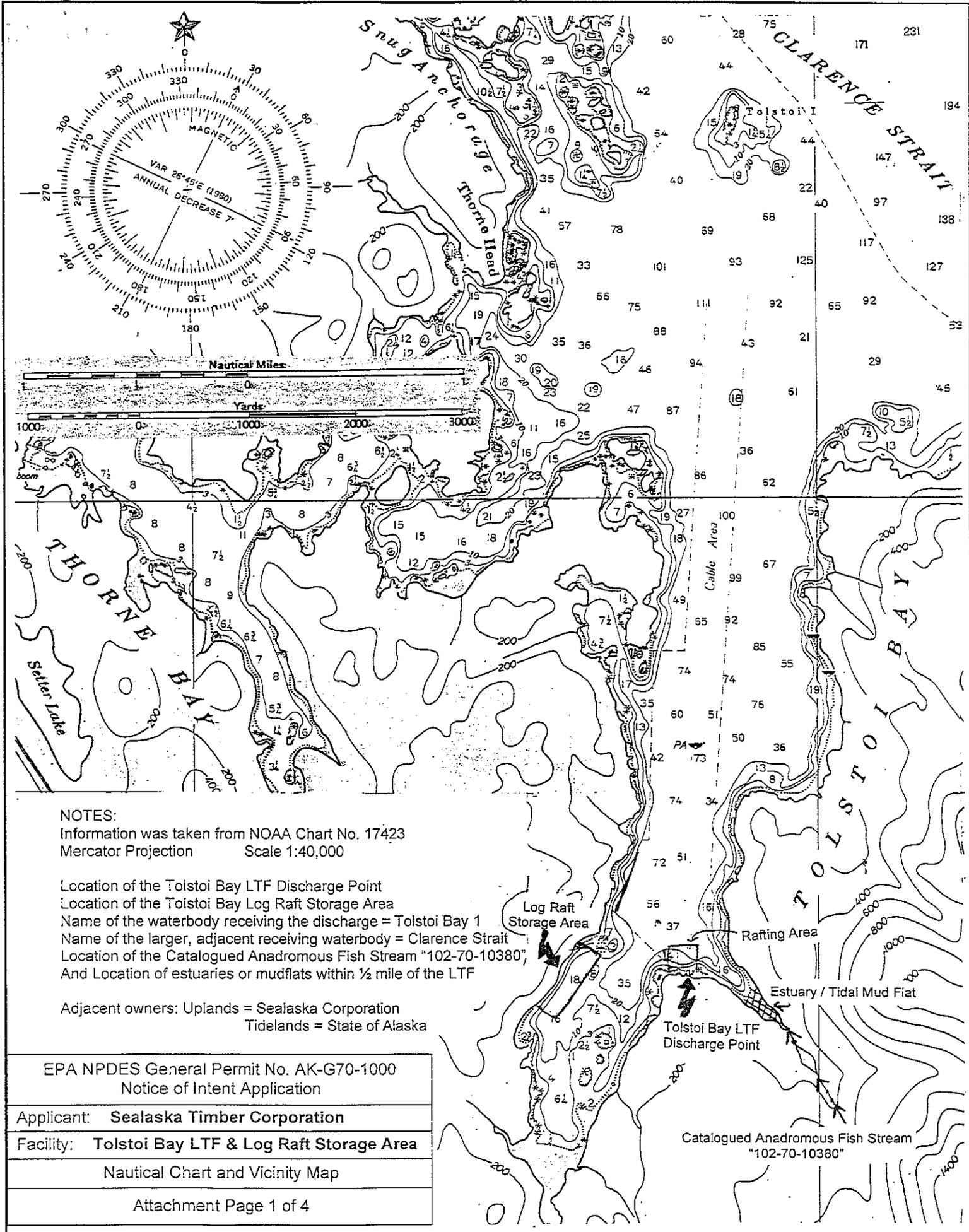
Principal Corporate or Executive Officer / General Proprietor:

Signature: Robert L. Gier

Printed Name: ROBERT L. GIET

Date: 5-18-00

Title: Vice President of Operations
Company: Sealaska Timber Corporation



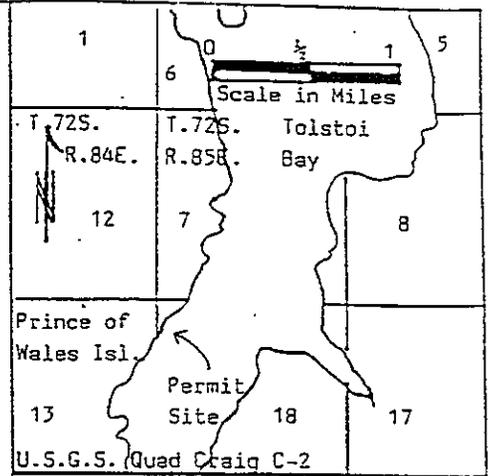
NOTES:

Information was taken from NOAA Chart No. 17423
 Mercator Projection Scale 1:40,000

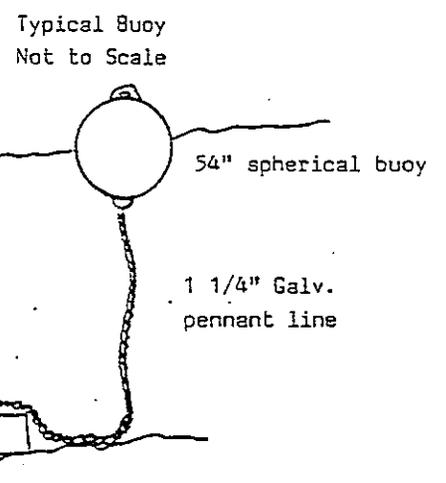
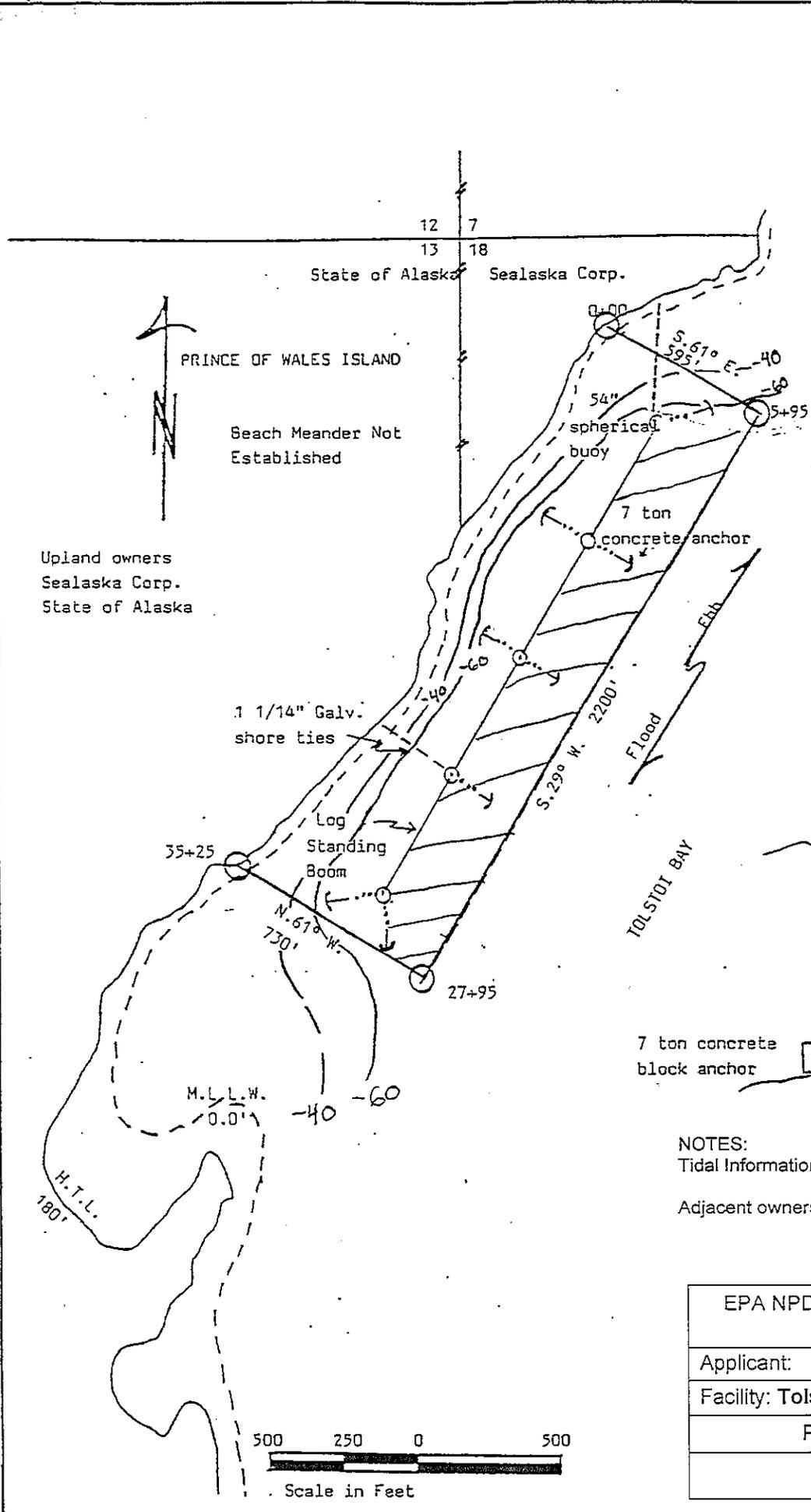
- Location of the Tolstoi Bay LTF Discharge Point
- Location of the Tolstoi Bay Log Raft Storage Area
- Name of the waterbody receiving the discharge = Tolstoi Bay 1
- Name of the larger, adjacent receiving waterbody = Clarence Strait
- Location of the Catalogued Anadromous Fish Stream "102-70-10380"
- And Location of estuaries or mudflats within 1/2 mile of the LTF

Adjacent owners: Uplands = Sealaska Corporation
 Tidelands = State of Alaska

EPA NPDES General Permit No. AK-G70-1000 Notice of Intent Application
Applicant: Sealaska Timber Corporation
Facility: Tolstoi Bay LTF & Log Raft Storage Area
Nautical Chart and Vicinity Map
Attachment Page 1 of 4



VICINITY MAP

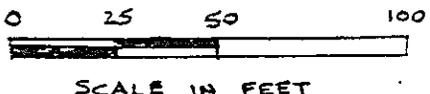
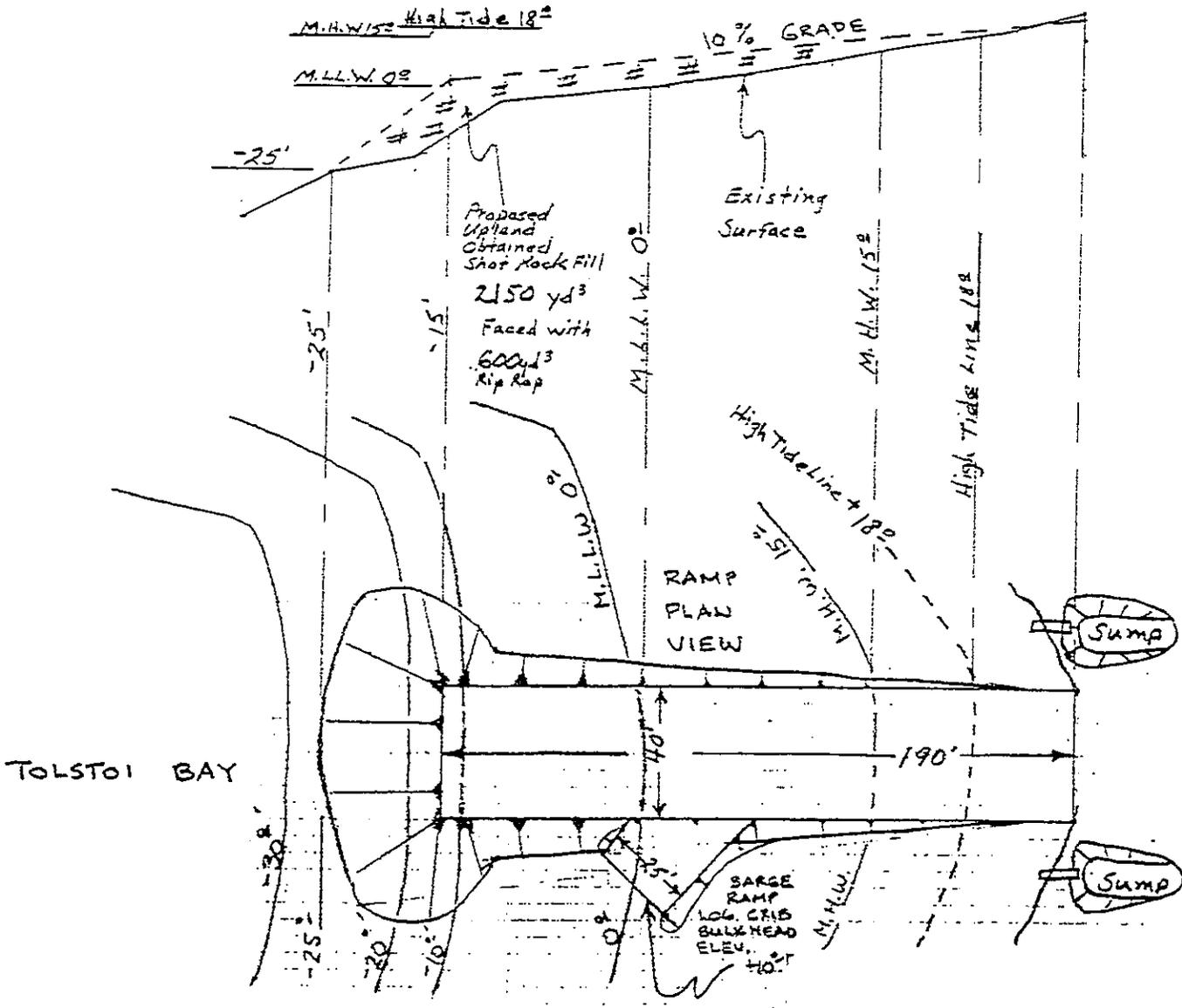


NOTES:
 Tidal Information was taken from NOAA Chart No. 17423

Adjacent owners: Uplands = Sealaska Corporation
 Tidelands = State of Alaska
 Tract 3 (Log Raft Storage) = 29.97 acres

EPA NPDES General Permit No. AK-G70-1000 Notice of Intent Application
Applicant: Sealaska Timber Corporation
Facility: Tolstoi Bay LTF & Log Raft Storage Area
Plan Drawing and Vicinity Map
Attachment Page 3 of 4

RAMP ELEVATION



EPA NPDES General Permit No. AK-G70-1000 Notice of Intent Application
Applicant: Sealaska Timber Corporation
Facility: Tolstoi Bay LTF & Log Raft Storage Area
Ramp Elevation / Cross Section View
Attachment Page 4 of 4