

Shoemaker Bay file
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To: Shoemaker Bay file
From: Eric Decker
Date: Sept. 24, 1996
Subject: Shoemaker Bay waterbody assessment

I spoke with Ed Grossman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) yesterday and this morning about the possibility of replicating the USFWS intertidal habitat assessment that was conducted adjacent to the Alaska Pulp Corporation sawmill near Wrangell in October 1993.

The 1993 assessment, summarized in the draft USFWS report "Some Effects of Industrial Development and Marine Log Storage on Benthic Marine Organisms at a Sawmill near Wrangell, Alaska," provided the information that resulted in Shoemaker Bay being placed on the 1994 and 1996 303d list.

Report conclusions of intertidal habitat degradation and effects to designated uses in tidal wetlands and coastal shorelines adjacent to Shoemaker Bay was enough information for Shoemaker Bay to meet water quality limited criteria and thus be placed on the 303d list (Tier 1 - needs more definitive waterbody assessment to confirm pollutants and effects to designated uses).

The APC sawmill ceased operations in 1994. There is some speculation that Sealaska Corporation is presently negotiating purchase of the sawmill for some type of forest products primary manufacturing facility.

Grossman thought conducting another assessment to determine if intertidal habitat conditions had improved was a good idea along with conducting a dive survey of selected sample sites within Shoemaker Bay. Details of the assessment could be worked out this winter between USFWS and ADEC staff with the assessment conducted sometime in 1997.

USFWS estimates the cost of replicating the study with a dive survey would cost approximately \$14,000. This amount includes the use of the research vessel "Curlew" for five days, and includes skipper, two biologists, and report write-up. There would be space for two ADEC staff on the vessel.

A shared-cost approach, in which ADEC staff would conduct the intertidal habitat survey, could reduce USFWS cost to about \$6,000 (the amount ADEC would pay USFWS to conduct the dive surveys in Shoemaker Bay).