



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Silver Bay Seafoods Valdez Agrees to Pay \$75,000 Penalty for Permit Violations

(ANCHORAGE, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC, entered into a settlement agreement to resolve issues related to alleged violations of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements in the Seafood Processing General Permit (Number AKG520000). Silver Bay has agreed to resolve violations of their permit and to pay a \$75,000 civil penalty.

The violations occurred at Silver Bay's Valdez facility in 2013 after its 600-foot long outfall pipe that was discharging at a depth of 180 feet was damaged by a vessel anchor. In 2014, the company replaced the line, without DEC approval, which resulted in 2.8 million pounds of seafood waste being discharged in the wrong location. Silver Bay indicated to DEC that the new line was 300-feet long and thought to be discharging at 40 feet below the surface. The original permit required the discharge to occur no shallower than 60 feet. An end of season survey in 2014 found that the end of the discharge pipe was actually at a depth of only three feet.

"The specified conditions of a permit are in place to protect the environment and the water resources," said Mike Solter, Division of Water compliance program manager. "By failing to discharge in the designated location, the facility could have caused damage to the local sea life and habitat. We require a 60 day notice to evaluate changes to permit plans in order to make sure the changes are protective of the environment and meet the conditions of the permit."

Silver Bay Seafoods has taken these violations seriously and resolved all outstanding issues. The company has taken additional steps to reduce their waste discharge footprint, as well.

The \$75,000 penalty was calculated based on the estimated economic benefit Silver Bay gained by not complying with all requirements under the Seafood Processing General Permit, coupled with punitive elements for the severity of the violations.

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