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Division of Marine Fisheries

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November 17, 2015

New Bedford Conservation Commission
City Hall
133 Williams Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Commissioners:

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has reviewed the Notice of Intent by the City of New Bedford – Office of Environmental Stewardship, 194 Rear Riverside Avenue, to define the limits of oil impacts, carry out additional source controls, and perform remedial efforts on the Acushnet River in the City of New Bedford, with respect to potential impacts to marine fisheries resources and habitat. The in-water portion of this project involves the collection of three sediment samples and three surface water samples in the river.

Salt marsh vegetation has been delineated at the project site. Salt marsh provides a variety of ecosystem services, including habitat and energy sources for many fish and invertebrate species [1,2,3].

Marine Fisheries recommends best management practices such as hay wattles, silt fences and erosion control measures be used to minimize runoff into the salt marsh habitat. Every effort should be made to ensure contaminated sediments do not discharge into the Acushnet River.

Questions regarding this review may be directed to Eileen Feeney in our New Bedford office at (508) 990-2860 ext. 117.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Feeney
Fisheries Habitat Specialist

cc: Cynthia Gilcrest, Common Sense Environmental, Inc.
Ray Holberger, City of New Bedford
Christian Petitpas, DMF

EF/cp

References

1. Boesch DF, Turner RE (1984) Dependence of fishery species on salt marshes: the role of food and refuge Estuaries 7: 460-468.
2. Deegan LA, Garritt RH (1997) Evidence for spatial variability in estuarine food webs. Marine Ecology Progress Series 147: 31-47.
3. Deegan LA, Hughes JE, Rountree RA (2000) Salt marsh ecosystem support of marine transient species. In: Weinstein MP, Kreeger DA, editors. Concepts and Controversies in Tidal Marsh Ecology: Kluwer Academic Publisher, The Netherlands. pp. 333-365.