

APPENDIX C

CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 20, 2002

Paul Allarding
Environmental Assessment Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, Michigan 48231

Dear Mr. Allarding:

We have received your March 13, 2002 request for preliminary review of breakwater alternatives for Grand Marais harbor in Alger County, Michigan. Your correspondence identifies four possible alternatives for construction. They are:

- Rehabilitate existing breakwater,
- Construct a new breakwater 15 degrees from the old,
- Construct a new breakwater at 55 degrees from old,
- No action.

All three construction alternatives would include a connection of the breakwater to the shoreline.

As you are aware, the Grand Marais area has historically supported nesting by the Great Lakes piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), a federally listed endangered species. Grand Marais is also included in the recent designation of critical habitat for the piping plover throughout the Great Lakes Basin (66 Federal Register 88:22938, May 7, 2001) and is generally considered an important breeding area in Michigan.

Piping plovers nested in Grand Marais as recently as last summer. Typically, plovers nest along the Lake Superior shore line west of the pier at the Coast Guard light station, as well as along the mouth of the Sucker River, near Lonesome point. Our limited review of historical aerial photographs of Grand Marais harbor suggests that substantial changes to the extent and configuration of sand beach and sand spit has occurred near the mouth of the Sucker River over the last 20 or more years. These changes appear to have resulted in a smaller area of potential nesting habitat.

Any project that would further diminish the extent of piping plover habitat in Grand Marais, and in particular, near the mouth of the Sucker River would be of concern. The extent to which each of the proposed construction alternatives would affect current shoreline forming processes, and therefore piping plover habitat, is unknown at this time. We expect a thorough analysis, including hydrologic modeling, would be required to fully understand the potential long-term effects of the proposed project.

Mr. Paul Allarding

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We also would be concerned about any activity which would increase the level of human use of areas occupied by breeding piping plovers. Breakwaters which connect to land may provide additional access to the beach which could result in disturbance to nesting plovers and their young. It is possible, however, the proposal may also benefit the piping plover by stabilizing shoreline erosion and perhaps by creating new nesting habitat. We would be glad to discuss such possibilities with you.

If one of the proposed construction alternatives is selected, and you determine the project may affect the piping plover you must initiate consultation with our office under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If you determine that the proposed project may affect but would not likely adversely affect the plover or any other federally listed species, you must seek written concurrence from us. If you determine that issuance of a permit would adversely affect the piping plover or other listed species, you must initiate formal consultation with our office.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. If you have questions, please contact me at (517) 351-6320.

Sincerely,



Jack Dingleline
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

LEVIN
MICHIGAN

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6221

May 20, 2002

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

Wayne Schloop
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Engineer District Detroit
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027

O'Keefe
M. Geiger

DE [Signature]
29 MAY

THRU: DDE
THRU: [Signature] [Signature]
TO: Wayne Schloop

Dear Mr. Schloop:

It has been some time since we have been in contact regarding Grand Marais' request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construct a breakwater to restore their harbor for recreational and commercial use. At that time, you expressed the Corps' willingness to meet with the folks from Grand Marais to exchange ideas and information regarding their needs and potential uses of the harbor, as well as feasibility of construction. It is my understanding since then that you or Scott Parker had indicated to Legislative Assistant Kaye Meier that there may be funds in FY03 to initiate a design.

In response to my request for economic justification for repairs to the Harbor, Grand Marais Supervisor, Lee Durrwachter, has prepared a broad overview of how this area might stand to benefit from the completion of this project. What he envisions is a \$60 million business investment in light of attracting and retaining commercial businesses with a harbor capable of handling cargo and cruise vessels, as it once could. I have enclosed his letter for your review. If additional or different information is needed to show sustainable benefits, please let me know as soon as possible.

Mr. Durrwachter indicated that October of this year would be the best time for the Corps to meet with him and the Grand Marais community. I would like to have seen this take place sooner; however, there are perhaps things we might do now to best facilitate action once this meeting does take place. Please describe what a study of this project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would include and what specifically the Corps would need to move this thing off the ground.

I look forward to your response and ask that you indicate potential dates for an October meeting.

Sincerely,

Diana Charles

Diana Charles
U.P. Regional Representative
U.S. Senator Carl Levin

Cc: Lee Durrwachter; Wallace Parish

enclosure

STATE OFFICES

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| NA
AL BLDG., RM. 102
AYER STREET
A, MI 48707
154-6520 | DETROIT
477 MICHIGAN AVE.
ROOM 1860
DETROIT, MI 48226
(313) 226-6020 | ESCANABA
623 LUDWIGTON
SUITE 200B
ESCANABA, MI 49825
(906) 785-0052 | GRAND RAPIDS
FEDERAL BUILDING
110 MICHIGAN AVE., N.W.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
(616) 456-2531 | LANSING
1810 MICHIGAN NATIONAL TOWER
124 WEST ALLEGAN
LANSING, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508 | SAGINAW
COMMERCE CENTER
301 E. GENESEE
SAGINAW, MI 48607
(989) 754-2494 | SOUTHGATE
15100 NORTHLINE RD.
SOUTHGATE, MI 48195
(734) 286-8596 | TRAVERSE CITY
207 GRANDVIEW PARKWAY
SUITE 104, P.O. Box 4449
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684
(231) 947-9569 | WARREN
30500 VAN DYKE
SUITE 206
WARREN, MI 48093
(586) 573-9145 |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|

CONVERSATION RECORD

TIME

11 AM

DATE

30 MAY 02

TYPE

 VISIT CONFERENCE TELEPHONE INCOMING OUTGOING

ROUTING

NAME/SYMBOL

INT

Location of Visit/Conference:

NAME OF PERSON(S) CONTACTED OR IN CONTACT WITH YOU

Hal Harrington

ORGANIZATION (Office, dept., bureau, etc.)

Mich Dpt Env Qual

TELEPHONE NO.

SUBJECT

Grand Marais, Michigan

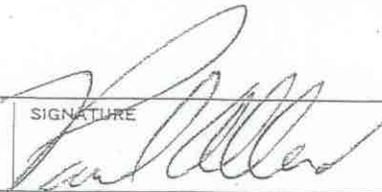
SUMMARY

Hal had reviewed the breakwater alternatives + has no problem with any of them but said the shortest breakwater is preferred as it should be far less cost and they don't use east basin so why ~~put it~~ include it in ~~the~~ harbor.

ACTION REQUIRED

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION

SIGNATURE



DATE

30 MAY 02

ACTION TAKEN

SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON
DIRECTOR

July 16, 2002

KAREN KREPPS
DETROIT DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PO BOX 1027
DETROIT MI 48231-1027

RE: ER-02-109 Grand Marais Harbor Breakwater Rehabilitation, sec. 6 & 7, T49N, R13W, Grand Marais,
Alger County (COE)

Dear Ms. Krepps:

Under the authority of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we have reviewed the above-cited undertaking at the location noted above. Based on the information provided for our review, it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) that no historic properties are affected within the area of potential effects of this undertaking.

However, the State Archaeologist, Dr. John Halsey, notes that this is an area of high archaeological sensitivity, including the possibility of shipwreck remains near the former breakwater that have not yet been recorded. If the scope of work changes in any way, or if any such remains are discovered, please notify this office immediately.

The views of the public are essential to informed decision making in the Section 106 process. Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities must plan to involve the public in a manner that reflects the nature and complexity of the undertaking, its effects on historic properties and other provisions per 36 CFR § 800.2(d). We remind you that Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities are required to consult with the appropriate Indian tribe and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) when the undertaking may occur on or affect any historic properties on tribal lands. In all cases, whether the project occurs on tribal lands or not, Federal Agency Officials or their delegated authorities are also required to make a reasonable and good faith effort to identify any Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations that might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the area of potential effects and invite them to be consulting parties per 36 CFR § 800.2(c-f).

This letter evidences the Corps of Engineer's compliance with 36 CFR § 800.4 "Identification of historic properties", and the fulfillment of the Corps of Engineer's responsibility to notify the SHPO, as a consulting party in the Section 106 process, under 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1) "No historic properties affected".

The State Historic Preservation Office is not the office of record for this undertaking. You are therefore asked to maintain a copy of this letter with your environmental review record for this undertaking.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha MacFarlane Faes, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (517) 335-2721. **Please reference our project number in all communication with our office regarding this undertaking.** Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Martha MacFarlane Faes
Environmental Review Coordinator

for Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMF:JRH:ROC:bgg

2002 JUL 19 AM 10:29
RECEIVED
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE