

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REVIEW PROCESS

The process is as follows:

PUBLIC NOTICE - The Corps uses the Public Notice as the primary method of alerting interested public agencies and private individuals to the proposed activity, and of soliciting comments and information, which the Corps uses, to evaluate the probable impact of the activity on the public interest. The Public Notice for the Mariculture Unlimited Application has been distributed to all of the major Connecticut and Rhode Island newspapers, television news directors, as well as City and Town Hall clerks, postmasters, harbor masters, selectmen and other political representatives for the City/Town of both Westport and Milford.

PUBLIC HEARING - Typically, the Corps holds a public hearing if it determines that additional information is necessary in order to move forward with review of the application and a public hearing is the best way to obtain the necessary information. The primary purpose of the public hearing is to collect the needed information. Its secondary purpose is to allow the public the opportunity to present its views and opinions.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW - The Corps undertakes an evaluation of the proposed activity in order to determine probable impacts. During this evaluation, expected benefits of allowing the activity are balanced against foreseeable detriments. Corps evaluation factors include conservation, economics, aesthetics, cultural values, food and fiber production, navigation, recreation, water quality, safety, needs and welfare of the people and considerations of private ownership. The criteria which the Corps will consider in evaluation of the application include: 1) the relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed activity, 2) the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the proposed activity and 3) the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects which the proposed activity is likely to have on the public and private uses in the area being considered. The Corps is also required to consider potential direct and indirect impacts, both individually and cumulatively.

It is important to note that once all necessary information has been obtained, the Corps will attempt to reach a permit decision within a timely manner.

Opportunity to Comment

As noted above, release of the Public Notice provides the first specific opportunity for the public to comment. The notice includes a comment period open and close date in order for the Corps to adequately manage

our project review schedule. The Corps will accept pertinent comments from the public throughout the evaluation period, regardless of when the Public Notice comment period expired. The Corps will thoroughly consider all comments received and this will be documented in our decision document. Our decision document is available, upon request, to the public once the decision is made. The Corps acknowledges these letters, but generally does not provide specific responses to these comments in our acknowledgement letters.

Table of General Public Interest Factors:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 Water Supply and Conservation | 0 Land Use Classification |
| 0 Historical | 0 Water Quality |
| 0 Aesthetics | 0 Safety |
| 0 Mineral Needs | 0 Property Ownership |
| 0 Parks/Refuges | 0 Recreation |
| 0 Drainage | 0 Navigation |
| 0 Circulation Patterns | 0 General Environmental Concerns |
| 0 Erosion/Accretion | 0 Needs and Welfare of the People |
| 0 Energy Needs | 0 Benthic Flora and Fauna |
| 0 Air Quality | 0 Noise |
| 0 Floodplain Values | 0 Wetlands |
| 0 Food and Fiber Production | 0 Flooding |
| 0 Wildlife | 0 Finfish/Plankton |
| 0 Economics | 0 Shellfish |
| 0 Commercial Use | |

The evaluation of affected public interest factors includes assessment of foreseeable short term, long term and cumulative impacts of the proposed activity