UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment on the Approval of a Loan to Brady's Oysters and Elk River Enterprises for an Aquaculture Operation.

LOCATION: South Bay of Grays Harbor County, Aberdeen, Washington.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Headquarters, Office of Management and Budget, Fisheries Finance Program (FFP), is proposing to make a joint-applicant loan to Elk River Enterprises, LLP and Brady's Oysters, Inc. (Brady's) to finance 80 percent of the purchase cost of an existing shellfish aquaculture facility (Aquatic Harvest Inc. dba Westport Oysters; Westport), including acquisition of tideland leases, a vessel, and equipment. This is a financial transaction, which will not change or add to the operations involved, nor change the methods by which they operate.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:
Brian A. Pawlak
Director, Office of Management and Budget
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-8621

The environmental review process, including preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA), led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, we have not prepared an environmental impact statement. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the supporting EA, is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI, we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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