

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

**Department of Planning and Community Development
344 Front Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901**

Telephone 228-6610

STAFF MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Planning Commission
From: Dave Taylor
Date: April 17, 2005
Subject: Coastal Management Plan (attached)

Attached is the public hearing draft of the Ketchikan Coastal Management Plan (CMP). This document has been prepared by staff and consultants in part-time efforts over the course of several years following the directives of the State's Alaska Coastal Management Plan. It is one of many plans now being prepared by municipalities throughout Alaska for the State's coastal resources.

The CMP has several purposes. In the grand scheme of things, the plan attempts to provide local perspective to hopefully wise management of resources on some 526 miles of coastline and 1,200 square miles of land within the Ketchikan coastal district (the boundaries of which are the same as our Borough). These resources are important to our future and come under increasing competition for various and sometimes conflicting uses—especially in and around our urbanizing area. This plan sets out policies that help balance and manage the competition between these uses. The CMP also aims to:

- increase the predictability of local permit review and to streamline the process;
- provide our Borough a seat at the decision-making table for the use of resources in our area that are often managed by distant federal or state governments;
- demonstrate that our community has thought about and planned for how it wishes to use its coastal areas; and
- maintain our eligibility to receive coastal management funds that are critical to financing our staff (one half of a full-time position is paid from coastal management dollars).

Coastal district plans are reviewed through local, state, and federal processes prior to adoption. First the local government with planning authority in the district must approve the plan, then the State Department of Natural Resources, and finally the Federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Once approved, the local plan has the status of state law and requires that state and federal agencies take actions on local permits consistent with the policies of the local plan and the statewide standards. Although federal lands are not part of the Ketchikan coastal district, federal activities that present impacts on adjacent non-federal lands are not exempt if the sensitive resources have been designated in advance.

We are just now beginning the formal process for review of this Public Hearing Draft. Comments from the Planning Commission, Borough Assembly, general public and state and federal reviewers will be addressed at the close of this review period and a revised plan will be presented for approval by local, state and federal agencies. We expect the initial review of the Public Hearing Draft to be completed within a 21-day period. There will be opportunities for further review and refinement up to the point of final submittal deadline to the State now stipulated for the end of June.

The plan has two components: Volume I: Goals, Objective and Policies for the use of coastal resources and Volume II: Resource Inventory and Analysis. Both components are attached. While the formats directed to us by higher powers do not make for easy reading, we hope you can get through it prior to the public hearing and work session scheduled for April 26.