



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 14 2008

Minas M. Arabatzis, Chief
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

Dear Mr. Arabatzis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact (EA/FONSI) for the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project, Delaware and New Jersey.

The proposed project would continue the planting of approximately 287,000 bushels of shell on existing oyster beds in the waters of Delaware and New Jersey in the Delaware Bay for a fourth consecutive year. The specific locations will be selected by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control based on bottom surveys that are carried out annually. The planted shell has enhanced the recruitment of juvenile oysters, and increased oyster habitat. The project is also supported by the Delaware National Estuary Program, of which the Environmental Protection Agency is a stakeholder.

Based on the information in the draft EA/FONSI, we believe that implementation of the selected plan will result in beneficial environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Should you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Lingard Knutson, of my staff, at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Musumeci".

Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch

cc: I. Purdy, DEPP-CEPB