

Merrill, Hannah

From: Jim Bettcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 11:20 AM
To: zSMP
Subject: Shoreline Master Program Comment

One major thrust of the proposed SMP appears to be allowing "nature to take her course" by prohibiting shoreline actions that oppose erosion of waterfront property. I appreciate the public benefit of a healthy ecosystem but oppose the taking of private property by prohibiting private landowners from applying the best engineering practices to resist natural whims. Restoring and preserving natural systems necessary for fish habitat and other parts of the ecosystem is proper; insisting that nature be allowed to take her random course is not. This principal must be clear in the SMP and I am unable to see that it is.

A very important related consideration that I have been unable to locate in these documents is response to the sea level rise we are experiencing today. The impact of increasing high tide levels on existing bulkheads and other shoreline protections as well as on the configuration of docks is increasing. Modifications to these structures to maintain their function under storm surge at increasing sea levels must be explicitly allowed under the SMP. Requiring onerous, time consuming and expensive engineering justifications to compensate for this predictable, universal impact on existing structures will have the effect of taking those existing structures in many cases and is not justified by any public purpose. Easy and inexpensive approval for raising those structures as necessary to maintain their function must be provided in the SMP.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to seeing these items incorporated into this important public document.

James Bettcher
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