



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2432

September 10, 2002

Colonel Roger A. Gerber
District Engineer, Savannah District
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 889
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

Dear Colonel Gerber:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has reviewed the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project Hydrodynamic and Salinity Model (model) Approval Package provided by Applied Technology and Management, Inc. (ATM), on August 13, 2002.

NOAA Fisheries has participated with your staff and the members of the interagency Modeling Technical Review Group (MTRG) during the development of the model since 1997. The present model incorporates numerous refinements identified by the MTRG. Based on our review of the Approval Package, we believe the model will help provide a strong "state of the art" basis for evaluation of potential changes in the Savannah River estuary in response to the Expansion Project.

We look forward to participation in remaining phases of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project planning process. Please direct related questions or comments to the attention of Mr. Prescott Brownell at our Charleston Area Office. He may be reached at 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29412-9110, or at (843) 762-8591.

Sincerely,

FOR

Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

