

Breakwater

JUNEAU — Public Works Commissioner George W. Easley says his department is planning to call for bids May 22, for construction of a unique type of floating breakwater at Sitka's Thompson Harbor.

The new structure will consist of pre-cast concrete modules post-tensioned with high stress steel rods and coupled together at intervals of 60 feet with a special flexible link joint.

The breakwater was designed by the engineering staff of the Division of Water and Harbors. According to Director, Don Statter, "The floating breakwater concept fills a need that exists in many areas of Alaska where deep water prohibits the construction of conventional rock jetties."

The University of Washington Ocean Research Laboratory is planning to install a sophisticated electronic monitoring system to measure the breakwater's effectiveness.

The testing program is being funded through a Sea Grant allocation from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. A similar concrete floating breakwater was constructed at Tenakee last year, Statter said.