



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

September 11, 2003

Bob Loeffler, Director
Division of Mining, Land, and Water
Department of Natural Resources
550 W 7th Ave., Suite 1070
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

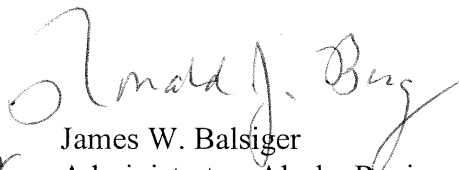
Dear Mr. Loeffler,

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposal to revise regulations concerning the safety of dams under jurisdiction of the Alaska Dam Safety Program. NMFS is charged with protecting living marine resources and Essential Fish Habitat, including waters supporting anadromous fish. NMFS' interest in the revised regulations is based on the fact that dams can affect anadromous fish species.

The revised regulations state that dam safety regulations are in addition to any authority of the Department of Fish and Game or the Department of Environmental Conservation, under their respective statutes. NMFS agrees with the clarification that State of Alaska laws aimed at environmental protection of fisheries resources also apply to dam safety. NMFS supports efforts to protect resources that are jointly managed by state and federal agencies.

The regulatory changes proposed by DNR are a positive step for protecting fisheries resources of mutual interest. NMFS looks forward to future opportunities to work with DNR to protect and maintain the fisheries resources of Alaska.

Sincerely,

For 
James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

