



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

December 8, 2004

Colonel Timothy J. Gallagher  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-2004-679-1  
Wrangell Narrows

Attn: Mr. Carlos Paez

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

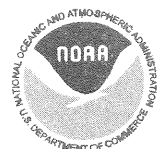
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the November 9, 2004, public notice of application for permit for the above referenced proposal by Mr. Robert Bailey to place a permanent anchor with buoy and seasonally attach a 14 foot by 20 foot float in Wrangell Narrows near Island Point. The seasonal float would involve a permanent anchor with the use of three 18-inch diameter 20-foot long stainless steel pipes for floatation. Untreated yellow cedar wood would be used for the decking and a 10 foot by 10 foot shed on the back of the float. The float would be used from mid-May to mid-September.

We offer the following comments specific to the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).

Essential Fish Habitat

Section 305(b) of the MSFCMA requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect EFH. NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) cataloged anadromous stream number 106-44-10065 is within approximately one mile of the project site and supports runs of coho salmon. Many anadromous fish streams occur in Wrangell Narrows. Pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon; steelhead and cutthroat trout; and Dolly Varden char enter Wrangell Narrows from these anadromous streams. Nearshore habitats are particularly important to juvenile salmon migrating from fresh water to salt water in the late spring and early summer. Juvenile salmon use nearshore marine habitats in spring and early summer for feeding and predator avoidance prior to migration out to sea.



The inshore area of the project location may provide important habitat for several marine species including Pacific cod, arrowtooth flounder, walleye pollock, dusky rockfish, shortraker/rougheye rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, skates, and sculpins.

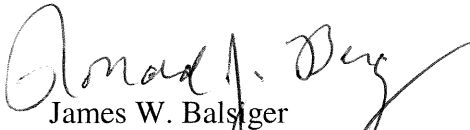
We offer the following EFH Conservation Recommendations pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

1. NMFS supports the applicant's use of yellow cedar for decking over treated wood.
2. The float should not be anchored over eelgrass.
3. The float should not ground at any tidal stage.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding our comments and conservation recommendations for this project, please contact Cindy Hartmann (586-7585, [cindy.hartmann@noaa.gov](mailto:cindy.hartmann@noaa.gov)).

Sincerely,

  
James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant, Mr. Robert Bailey, P.O. Box 104, Petersburg, AK 99833-0104  
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade  
ADF&G, Juneau, Tom Schumacher  
USFWS, Juneau, Ed Grossman  
ADNR, OHMP, Petersburg, Jim Cariello  
ADEC, Juneau