



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

May 26, 2004

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

RE: DD-1982-0598
Unalaska Bay 12

Attn: Jack Hewitt


Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Public Notice for the above referenced project. The project area has a long history of unauthorized work and permit violations. We have provided comments and recommendations on several occasions to suggest ways to minimize adverse impacts to living marine resources. Our position on this project has not changed. NMFS continues to recommend that the 40' access causeway be breached, as required by the special condition in DA permit modification W-820598.

The most recent Public Notice (referenced above) states that the Corps of Engineers had "denied a similar dock expansion proposal based primarily on resource agency concerns that the structure would adversely impact nearshore circulation patterns in Captain's Bay and result in increased mortality of juvenile salmon." The recently completed circulation study provides information regarding water movements near the project site, however, the study does not change our previous recommendation to breach the causeway. NMFS' concern is based upon the effects of the project on nearshore habitats and the migratory corridor for Pacific salmon and Red king crab.

We object to the proposed placement of additional fill and the proposal to retain the access causeway without a breach. Please contact Matthew Eagleton of my staff should you have any questions regarding our comment at (907) 271-6354.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

