



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

September 17, 2004

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
915 Second Avenue
Federal Bldg. Suite 3142
Seattle, WA 98174-1002

Re: EFH Assessment for South Wasilla Track
Realignment (ARRC MP 154-158)

Dear Mr. Krochalis,

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment prepared for the Alaska Railroad Corporation for the South Wasilla Track Realignment (ARRC MP 154-158). The EFH Assessment was prepared by HDR Alaska, Inc.

NMFS commends HDR Alaska, Inc. and the Alaska Railroad Corporation for the excellent quality of this EFH Assessment. The document is thorough, accurate and concise. The Alaska Railroad Corporation has incorporated all of the conservation measures discussed during project consultation, which will help to eliminate or minimize impacts to EFH resulting from this project.

Please contact Larry Peltz (907-271-1332) if you have any questions or concerns about this project.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

