



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

October 2, 2005

Robert Rau
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NPDES Permits Unit
1200 Sixth Avenue
OWW-130
Seattle, WA 99802

RE: NPDES permit for the City of Palmer
Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Permit No. AK-002249-7

Dear Mr. Rau:

Thank you for your letter requesting information on the presence of threatened or endangered species and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to re-issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the City of Palmer's Publicly Owned Treatment Works. This permit will cover municipal and domestic discharges of secondary treated seepage into the Matanuska River. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offers the following information under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no threatened or endangered species listed under the ESA under NMFS' jurisdiction in this area. We hope this information will be useful in your section 7 determinations. Additional information regarding the ESA is available on our website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/default.htm>.


Essential Fish Habitat

Under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, federal agencies are required to consult with the Secretary of Commerce on any action that may adversely affect EFH. EFH has been designated for anadromous salmon and certain life stages of marine fish under NMFS' jurisdiction. Should you determine your action *may adversely affect EFH* then an EFH assessment is required as outlined in 50 CFR Part 600.920. Otherwise, an EFH assessment is *not* required. Please visit our web site at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat> for additional information on habitat and EFH information.



We hope this information is useful in fulfilling your requirements under the ESA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We look forward to reviewing the new draft permits. Please direct any questions regarding endangered species to Mr. Brad Smith at (907) 271-3023, and questions regarding EFH to Ms. Jeanne Hanson at 271-3029.

Sincerely,

for 
James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: OHMP, OPMP – Anchorage
Records