



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 27, 2006

Byron K. Huffman
Manager, Airports Division, Alaskan Region
Federal Aviation Administration
222 West 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7587

RE: Kodiak Airport EIS Cooperating Agency Agreement

Dear Mr. Huffman:

In response to your letter dated October 23, 2006, the National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) agrees to be a cooperating agency with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the Kodiak Airport Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Our role for this EIS will be to: 1) review and comment on your analyses describing living marine resources under NMFS jurisdiction, including marine mammals, fish, and their habitats; 2) identify areas where impacts to marine resources may be unavoidable; and 3) recommend ways to avoid, minimize, or offset any adverse effects on living marine resources. Please note that NMFS cannot make any effect determinations associated with the project under the Endangered Species Act or Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Such determinations must be made by the federal action agency, which in this case is the FAA.

Recently, FAA and NMFS staff met in Anchorage to discuss the proposed airport expansion project and the purpose and need for this EIS. The meeting provided NMFS with a general overview of the project and was a good forum to discuss the project with your staff. I have designated Mr. Matthew Eagleton, our Essential Fish Habitat Coordinator, as the agency's point of contact for this EIS. He can be reached at 907-271-6354 or matthew.eagleton@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Tom Melius, USFWS
McKie Campbell, ADF&G
Michael Menge, ADNR
Glen Justis, COE
Christine Reichgott, EPA

