



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

July 31, 2006

Ben White
Environmental Analyst
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)
Southeast Region
P.O. Box 112506
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Re: Timing Extension for Ohmer Creek

Dear Mr. White:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed your July 21 and 28, 2006, email messages requesting an extension of the timing window until October 1, 2006, for the Ohmer Creek bridge replacement work. Ohmer Creek is a catalogued anadromous fish stream (# 108-40-10500) with coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon, steelhead, and Dolly Varden char. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorized the work under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 23 with special conditions. The NWP specified a timing window of June 1 through August 1 for in-water work associated with the bridge over Ohmer Creek. The USACE permit requires the permittee contact NMFS and other agencies to get written concurrence prior to submitting a request for timing window modifications.


The instream work that remains to be done is the excavation/removal of temporary bridge footings and placement and contouring of riprap around new abutments. A sediment barrier is currently in place isolating the work area from the remainder of the stream. Additional sand bags will be added to the sediment barrier as a precaution for expected higher flows. The contractor will keep the sediment barrier in place until the work is completed. Upon completion of the work the water in the containment area would be pumped to a vegetated area with silt fences along the road a minimum of 50-feet from the stream. The sediment barrier will be removed after the work is complete and the area dewatered.

NMFS concurs with ADOT&PF's request for a modification of the timing window as long as all the precautionary measures identified above are taken.



If you have questions regarding our comments for this project, please contact Cindy Hartmann at 907-586-7585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Mecum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Cindy, NMFS HCD, Juneau
Bill Hanson and Richard Enriquez, USFWS, Juneau
Serena Sweet, USACE, Anchorage
Jim Cariello, ADNR, Petersburg