



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

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

January 4, 2007

Kara Jurczak
Civil Engineer
R&M Engineering-Ketchikan Inc.
355 Carlanna Lake Road
Suite 200
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Re: Ketchikan International Airport
utility service improvements

Dear Ms. Jurczak:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your letter of December 26, 2006 describing a proposal by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) to improve water and sewer services at the Ketchikan International Airport. Funding for this project will be obtained from a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant. The project will involve installing approximately 1,300 feet of 10" HDPE sewer line and 1,800 feet of 6" HDPE water line across Tongass Narrows to the airport on Gravina Island. The new sewer line will convey untreated sewage, by gravity, from the airport to a proposed lift station that will pump it across Tongass Narrows to the KGB wastewater treatment plant. The water line will supply the airport with potable water from the KGB water main near the Alaska Ship and Dry Dock facility. Both pipelines will be anchored with pre-cast concrete pipe anchors spaced at 10-foot increments. No dredging will occur below the High Tide Line.

The FAA has requested that NMFS provide an environmental review of the project before KGB applies for the appropriate state and federal permits. Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make EFH Conservation Recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. NMFS has determined that this project will not adversely affect EFH.

If you have any questions regarding our comments on this project, please contact John Hudson at 907-586-7639 or john.hudson@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region



cc: FAA, Juneau*
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade*
ADNR, Mark Minnillo*
USFWS Juneau, Richard Enriquez*
ADEC Juneau, Brenda Krauss*
OHMP, Erin Allee*

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