



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

December 16, 2002

Magalie R. Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project  
Project No. 11659-001

Dear Ms. Salas:

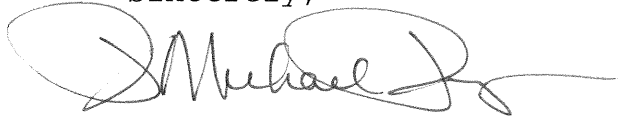
Thank you for your letter requesting a list of threatened or endangered species occurring in the area associated with the Falls Creek Hydrologic Project (Project No. 11659-001). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for certain marine species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). Of these, only the humpback whale, Megaptera novaeangliae, and the Steller sea lion, Eumetopias jubatus, would be expected to occur in the areas potentially affected by this project. These species are found throughout the waters of southeast Alaska, including Glacier Bay. No critical habitat for either species is found in the project areas.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, a Federal agency is required to consult with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the presence of these species. If this presence is identified, the agency must then determine if the activity may affect these animals or their habitats. If it finds the action would not affect these concerns, no further consultation is required. Otherwise, the action agency should notify NMFS of its findings and request consultation under the Act.



We hope this information is useful in fulfilling the requirements of the ESA. Please direct any questions you may have to Linda Shaw at (907)586-7510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Balsiger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

for James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Bruce Greenwood, National Park Service  
Alaska Support Office  
2525 Gambell Suite 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

FERC Service List