



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

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

July 3, 2003

Colonel Timothy J. Gallagher  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Alaska District  
P.O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: 1-1989-0592  
Kendrick Bay 2

Attn: Steve Duncan

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced proposal by Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Incorporated (SSRAA) to place ten (10) 40 foot by 40 foot by 20 foot chum salmon release net pens and associated crew barge in the South Arm of Kendrick Bay. The proposal includes relocation of the existing crew barge and 5 net pens from Kendrick Bay. Pens would be anchored with shore ties from February through April and would be removed during the remaining months of the year.

In 1992, NMFS provided the following recommendations for placement of the original 5 net pens and the crew barge:

- 1) The pens shall be anchored in waters deep enough to preclude grounding at any tidal stage.
- 2) Access around all sides of the float facility shall be provided at all times.

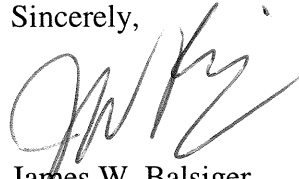
The Corps of Engineers has made a determination that the project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS concurs with this finding if the above recommendations are incorporated into the permit for relocation of the existing facility and placement of 5 additional net pens.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.



If you have any further questions, please contact Katharine Miller at 907-586-7643.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Balsiger', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: USFWS, EPA, ADGC, ADFG, ADEC - Juneau