



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

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

May 19, 2003

Hanh Gold
NEPA Compliance Coordinator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Ave. OW-130
Seattle, WA. 98101

Dear Ms. Gold:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pogo Gold Mine Project. NMFS review was focused on Appendix F.3, the Draft Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (DEFHA). NMFS concurs with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Assessment that "On the basis of the scope and nature of impacts expected from the project and mitigation measures identified above, no substantial adverse individual or cumulative effects of EFH are expected in the project area." NMFS supports the special conditions in the DEFHA proposed by EPA. Please contact Larry Peltz at (907) 271-1332 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Kurland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

