



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

May 8, 2003

Mark Anderson  
Project Environmental Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Southeast Region  
6860 Glacier Highway  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7999

RE: KTN - North Tongass Highway, Ward Cove to Whipple Creek Project Number 67600, STP  
-0920(19)  
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for your letter containing the referenced EFH assessment. You determined that the project may adversely affect EFH, but that those effects would be minimal based on the minimization and mitigation measures described. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the EFH assessment, including the minimization and mitigation measures outlined. You subsequently clarified that the project plans include the use of native seed mixes for the re-vegetation of cut-slopes, and coordination with an Alaska Department of Natural Resources fishery biologist in Petersburg for culvert design. Provided these measures are followed, NMFS concurs that the project will minimally affect EFH. We have no further EFH conservation recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Shaw at (907) 586-7510.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Habitat Conservation

cc: ADNR/ADF&G Petersburg (Cariello)  
Katharine Miller

