



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

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

September 9, 2004

Michael Carter
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D. C. 20590

Re: Marine Terminal Redevelopment
Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Carter:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is in the process of reviewing the draft Marine Terminal Redevelopment Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Port of Anchorage, Alaska. This draft EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Port of Anchorage expansion project. The project will utilize federal funding administered by the U. S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD). The proposed action will result in the filling of 110 to 135 acres of tidelands.

NOAA Fisheries has been working closely with the Port of Anchorage and other interested parties to ensure that living marine resources of concern are adequately addressed in the EA, issued August 11, 1994. We require additional time to research the marine environmental conditions at the site, including discussions with scientists involved with fish studies and Beluga whales in Knik Arm in order for us to complete our assessment of the potential impacts from this project. Therefore, we request that the comment period be extended for thirty days until October 8, 2004.

Questions regarding this time extension request should be directed to Brian Lance at our Anchorage field office, telephone (907) 271-1301.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc:ADEC, ADNOR/OHMP, ADGC, EPA, USFWS - Anchorage
Applicant – Port of Anchorage, Attn: Roger Graves, 2000 Anchorage Port Road,
Anchorage, AK

