



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

August 15, 2005

Brian Pederson
Project Manager
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 25520
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: Tongass Narrows 364

Dear Mr. Pederson

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Initiation of Environmental Consultation: Port St. Nicholas Road Reconstruction. The project would reconstruct approximately 12.2 miles of road, replacing bridges and correcting drainage problems.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations that may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. NMFS' staff has met with project engineers to discuss the details of the project. According to surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the majority of the stream crossings will occur above the anadromous portion of catalogues streams.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has concluded that the proposed project will not adversely affect EFH. NMFS concurs with this finding. Please keep us advised of any substantial changes to the project that may alter this conclusion. Please contact Katharine Miller (907-586-7642) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sue Salveson
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

