



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

December 2, 2005

Dr. Brian Allee
Alaska Sea Grant College Program
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 755040
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5040

Dear Dr. Allee:

Thank you for inviting me to serve on the steering committee for a marine habitat mapping technology workshop. I understand that Alaska Sea Grant is proposing to conduct this workshop in response to the North Pacific Research Board's recent call for proposals. I accept the invitation, and I agree to assist with developing the workshop agenda, selecting speakers, and editing the resulting synthesis publication.

Resource managers in Alaska, including NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, critically need better information about marine habitat characteristics and the distribution of various habitat features. Such information is vital to our ability to assess the function of different habitats, threats from human activities, and potential conservation measures. A synthesis of mapping technologies should be a very useful guide for future work to inventory and evaluate habitats for Alaska's living marine resources.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

