



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

March 14, 2005

Jerry O. Ruhle  
Environmental Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
PO Box 196900  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

RE: Pasagshak Road Resurfacing Improvments  
Project No. 57735

Dear Mr. Ruhle:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment for the above referenced project. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration is proposing to pave and improve Pasagshak Road on Kodiak Island, Alaska, from Milepost (MP) 0.2 to MP 9.4 and make additional road improvements between MP 9.5 and MP 13.75

ADOT&PF is proposing to replace stream culverts and place riprap below the ordinary high water line in anadromous streams as part of the proposed improvements. ADOT&PF has determined that the proposed project will have an adverse impact to EFH in the following locations:

<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>MP</b>	<b>ADF&amp;G anadromous stream number</b>	<b>Location</b>
Unnamed Creek	1.2	259-24-10030-2005	R20W T30S S.M. Section 22
Unnamed Creek	1.9	259-24-10030-2007	R20W T30S S.M. Section 27
Unnamed Creek	5.6	259-41-10010-2010	R20W T31S S.M. Section 2
Lake Rose Tead	6.7	259-41-10010-0003	R20W T31S S.M. Section 14
Pasagshak River	8.6	259-41-10010	R20W T31S S.M. Section 20
Unnamed Creek	11.5	259-41-10005	R20W T31S S.M. Section 36
Unnamed Creek	11.8	259-41-10004	R19W T31S S.M. Section 31

To mitigate for the adverse effects to EFH, ADOT&PF has proposed the following Conservatuuion Measures:

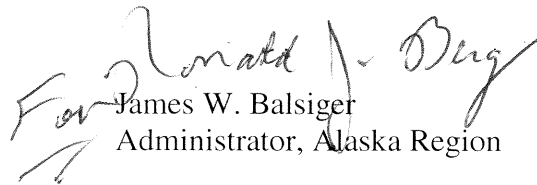
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized during construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation. BMPs will include isolation of work area from stream flows and use of a silt fence, concrete barriers, or other geotextile wrapped barriers to prevent sediment from entering streams.
- Flows will be maintained through existing culverts while new culverts are being constructed.
- All staging, fueling, and servicing operations will be conducted at least 100 feet away from wetlands or waterbodies.
- The contractor will use contaminant free embankment and surface materials in construction.



- No wheeled or tracked vehicles shall be operated in the flowing waters of any anadromous streams at any time.
- All erodible slopes will be stabilized with native vegetation species.
- All culverts will be designed according to the August 2001 Memorandum of Agreement between ADOT&PF and ADF&G for the *Design, Permitting, and Construction of Culverts for Fish Passage*.

NMFS concurs that the proposed conservation measures will minimize adverse effects to EFH and does not offer any other comments or recommendations. Questions regarding EFH should be addressed to Ms. Jeanne Hanson at (907) 271-3029.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Misha Vakoc, EPA Region 10 – Seattle