



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

March 2, 2005

Colonel Timothy J. Gallagher
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 898
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-1997-43-N
Taiya Inlet 31

Attn: John Klutz

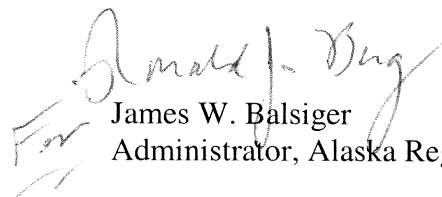
Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the City of Skagway's request to extend the in water work period for driving sheet pile at the toe of the armor slope after March 15. The City has requested an extension until April 13, 2005 to complete this work because of materials availability and the timing of a low tide cycle. All sheet pile will be driven with a vibratory hammer, and the subtidal waters are protected with a boomed siltation curtain, so noise and sedimentation will not significantly harm outmigrating juvenile salmonids or spawning eulachon.

NMFS does not object to this extended in water work schedule; low tides and resulting shallow water depths in the work area, use of a vibratory hammer, and an effective siltation curtain are sufficiently protective of Essential Fish Habitat to allow this work to proceed.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sue Walker at 907-586-7646 or susan.walker@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

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