



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 21, 2005

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

Attn: Keith Gordon

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Public Notice of Application for Permit (POA-2005-1576) by ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. to construct a new drill pad (CD-5), associated roads, bridges, and pipelines in the Colville Delta and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The project would require placement of approximately 532,119 cubic yards of gravel fill material into approximately 45.1 acres of waters of the United States including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the described activity within the proposed area may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

NMFS participated in the development and review of the Alpine Satellite Development Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and cooperating agencies. NMFS primary concerns were voiced during EIS development and were addressed in the EIS. Although the project has been modified significantly since the EIS was written, NMFS offers no additional Conservation Recommendations. Further EFH consultation is not necessary. NMFS has no objection to the project. Larry Peltz is the NMFS contact for this project, and can be reached at (907) 271-1332.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Habitat Conservation

