



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

September 1, 2006

Kris Benson
Project Environmental Coordinator
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
6860 Glacier Highway, P.O. Box 112506
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506

Dear Ms. Benson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has reviewed the amended Essential Fish Habitat Assessment for the Ketchikan International Airport Runway Overlay and Safety Area Upgrade, as revised on August 15, 2006. The revised document incorporates our comments on previous drafts and provides a clearer explanation of plans for designing the confluence of Boulder Creek and the rerouted Government Creek to minimize adverse effects to coho salmon rearing habitat. We appreciate your efforts to address our concerns, and look forward to working with you on any final design adjustments during construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Kurland".

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

cc: Katharine Miller

