



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 03, 2008

Jan Mulder  
EDAW  
815 Western Avenue, #300  
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Scoping Letter Deshka River  
Recreation Area Cabin

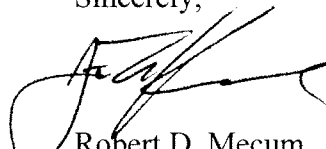
Dear Ms. Mulder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above scoping letter regarding a proposal by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to replace a flood-damaged Deshka River Recreation Area steward's cabin. The new cabin will be located approximately 1,200 feet from the existing cabin, and on ground that was elevated so as to avoid inundation from a flood comparable to the 2006 flood that damaged the existing cabin.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. NMFS has reviewed the scoping letter from FEMA regarding the building of a new cabin for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The proposed action will not result in adverse effects to EFH or other resources of concern to NMFS and we have no objection to the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. LT Jonathan Taylor is the NMFS contact for this project and can be reached by telephone at (907) 271-2373, or by e-mail at [jonathan.e.taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:jonathan.e.taylor@noaa.gov) if any questions arise.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant – [Jan Mulder@edaw.com](mailto:Jan.Mulder@edaw.com)  
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