



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

October 17, 2002

Henri R. Bisson
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
222 W. 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

RE: EFH Assessment for the
Trans-Alaska Pipeline
Right-of-Way Renewal

Dear Mr. Bisson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right-of-Way Renewal. NMFS appreciates your continued coordination with our office throughout the Right-of-Way Renewal process.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determined in the EFH Assessment that the proposed action of renewing the Right-of-Way for the TAPS may result in short term adverse effects on EFH. However, BLM concluded that these effects can be adequately avoided, minimized, and mitigated by the conservation measures associated with the proposed action and has asked NMFS to concur with this determination.

Based on the information provided by the BLM in the EFH Assessment, NMFS concurs with your determination. Therefore, the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been satisfied. NMFS remains available to assist BLM if there are any additional EFH issues identified. Please contact Ms. Jeanne Hanson at (907) 271-5006 if you require further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

