



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

September 13, 2002

Heather Todd Rice  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107

RE: Conceptual Site Management Plan  
Sitka National Historical Park

Dear Ms. Rice:

Thank you for your letter requesting a list of federally threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that may occur in the referenced project area. You also provided an essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act for our comment.

No federally listed threatened or endangered species under NMFS jurisdiction are known to occur in the project area, therefore Section 7 consultation, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, is not required. We have reviewed the EFH assessment for the project and agree with your conclusion that the project would have minor, long-term beneficial impacts on the Indian River, including EFH. This conclusion is based on the assumption that clearing of vegetation along the trails will not include the removal of entire plants and their root systems.

Please contact Linda Shaw at (907) 586-7510 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Habitat Conservation

