



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

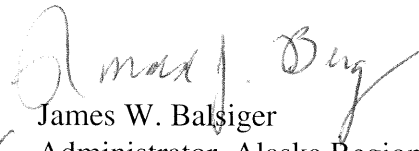
September 10, 2003

Dennis Austin, Interim Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Austin:

Enclosed is Appendix E to the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Identification and Conservation in Alaska. This appendix constitutes the National Marine Fisheries Service's written recommendations for the EFH provisions of the Council's fishery management plans, pursuant to section 305(b)(1)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and 50 CFR 600.815(b). My staff and I will review these recommendations with the Council during the October meeting, and we look forward to working with the Council to select preferred alternatives for the EIS.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

Enclosure

