



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

March 7, 2003

Mr. Jerry Ingersoll  
District Ranger  
U.S. Forest Service  
3031 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

ATTN: Ricardo Sainz

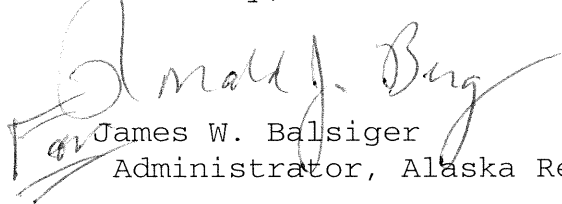
RE: Licking Creek Timber Sale Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement (DEIS) Comments

Dear Mr. Ingersoll:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the referenced DEIS and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment. NMFS agrees with your conclusion that the project may adversely affect EFH, and that the appropriate measures to minimize those effects are the use of the Tongass Land Management Plan Standards and Guidelines (including 100 foot minimum buffers on all anadromous and high value resident fish streams) and Best Management Practices. We have no additional EFH Conservation Recommendations beyond these measures.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding these comments to Linda Shaw at (907) 586-7510.

Sincerely,



James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: EPA, Juneau  
ADEC, AADGC, ADNR, ADF&G, USFWS, Juneau  
ADF&G, Ketchikan  
Steve Kokkinakis, NOAA, Washington DC

