



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

May 21, 2003

Patricia Wightman
Environmental Coordinator
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316

Dear Ms. Wightman:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment, Dayville Road Improvements, Project STP-0863(6)/60751, and agrees with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) assessment that the proposed project could adversely impact anadromous salmon in the project area. NMFS concurs that the Proposed Conservation Measures put forth by DOT&PF will minimize the impact to EFH for federally managed species. The cumulative impacts of this project will be small and short-term in duration if the Proposed Conservation Measures in the EFH Assessment are included in the project specifications.

Therefore, the project will have no more than a minimal impact and will not result in any substantive adverse effect to EFH. No further EFH Assessment is required and NMFS does not offer any EFH Conservation Recommendations beyond those already proposed. Further EFH consultation is not necessary. NMFS has no objection to the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Kurland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan M. Kurland
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

