



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 30, 2003

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
US Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174-1002

RE: Clark Bay Ferry Terminal Stage One Improvements

Dear Mr. Krochalis:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your 15 October 2003 letter regarding potential impacts to species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from the Clark Bay Ferry Terminal Stage One Improvements project. The Clark Bay Ferry Terminal is located in Hollis, Prince of Wales Island. The Stage One improvements involve construction of a new ferry terminal building, a warehouse, upgrading the sewer system, and site improvements. All improvements will take place within the existing asphalt parking and staging area.

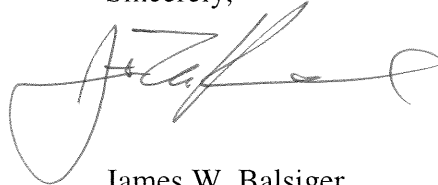
Based on the information provided in your letter, NMFS concurs with the finding that the proposed activities will not adversely affect listed species. NMFS also has determined that the proposed activities will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

During consultation on this project, Mr. Scott Menzies, R&M Engineering, indicated that future proposed improvements to the Clark Bay Ferry Terminal will include in-water work. For future reference, in addition to evaluating the impacts of a proposed action on species listed under the ESA, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Federal agencies to evaluate the effects of proposed actions on EFH and associated species. A Federal agency must prepare an EFH assessment for any action that may adversely affect EFH. In accordance with 50 CFR 600.930(e)(3), this assessment should include the following information: description of the action, analysis of the potential adverse effects of the action on EFH and managed species, Federal agency's conclusion regarding the effects of the action on EFH, and proposed mitigation, if applicable.



The EFH assessment for future improvements to the Clark Bay Ferry Terminal should address the following species: all species of salmon found in the vicinity of the project, arrowtooth flounder, dusky rockfish, Pacific cod, shortraker rougheye rockfish, sculpins, sablefish, and skates. If you have any questions, or require assistance with preparation of this EFH assessment, please contact Katharine Miller at (907) 586-7643 (katharine.miller@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Balsiger', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

For James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: EPA Juneau, Chris Meade
USACOE, Colonel Griffith
ADEC, ADF&G, ADNR, USFWS, Juneau