



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

December 21, 2004

Colonel Timothy J. Gallagher
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 898
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-1997-980-N
Tongass Narrows 510

Attn: Serena Sweet

Dear Colonel Gallagher;

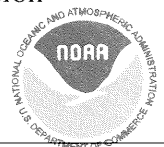
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced application to dredge 188 cubic yards of unconsolidated material from a 20-foot by 85-foot area below mean high water. All dredge material will be disposed of at an upland site.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. Juvenile salmon use the inshore area of Tongass Narrows during spring and early summer for feeding and predator avoidance prior to migration out to sea. The inshore area of the project location also provides important habitat for several marine species including Pacific cod, arrowtooth flounder, Pacific Ocean perch, walleye pollock, yelloweye rockfish, sablefish, and sculpin.

The Corps has concluded that the project may adversely affect EFH. NMFS concurs with this conclusion. The following EFH Conservation Recommendations are made pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act:

1. All work below the high tide line should be limited to low tidal stages to reduce turbidity.
2. The applicant should be required to use silt curtains or other best management practices to limit turbidity from dredging operations
3. No in-water work should be permitted from April 1 through June 15 of any year to protect out migrating salmon.

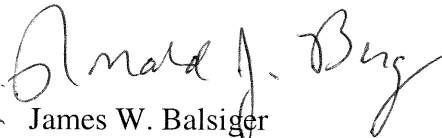
Under Section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision



within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

Please contact Katharine Miller at (907) 586-7643 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

For 
James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant
EPA Juneau, Chris Meade
ADF&G, Tom Shumacher
ADEC, AADGC, ADNR, USFWS, Juneau