



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

February 3, 2004

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

Re: Tongass Narrows 364

Attn: Jan Stuart

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

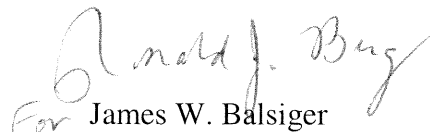
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced proposal by Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority to dredge 75,000 cubic yards from 2.6 acres below mean high water and to discharge 1650 cubic yards of dredge spoils within the waters of the U.S.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 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.

NMFS has been informed by the applicant that sediment testing for contaminants will not be completed prior to the end of the Corps public comment period. Therefore, NMFS requests an extension of the comment period until such time as the sediment testing is complete and NMFS has had sufficient time to review the testing results.

If you have any further questions, please contact Katharine Miller at 907-586-7643.

Sincerely,

  
For James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

