



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

November 12, 2004

Forrest Cole
Forest Supervisor
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

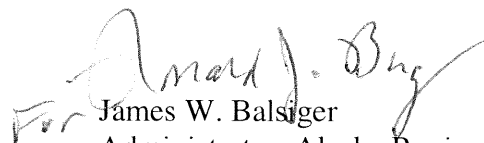
Re: Interagency Monitoring and
Evaluation Group Memorandum of
Understanding

Dear Mr. Cole:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Interagency Monitoring and Evaluation Group (IMEG) renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) per your October 20, 2004, request. NMFS is committed to working with the Forest Service in a cooperative manner on IMEG, however I am not ready to sign the renewed MOU at this time. I would like to see the renewed MOU discussed at the December 6, 2004, IMEG meeting and possible changes considered at that time.

If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact Cindy Hartmann at 586-7585.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Bruce Halstead, USFWS, Juneau
Chris Meade, EPA, Juneau
Kevin Hanley, ADEC, Juneau
Doug Larson, ADF&G

