



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

February 22, 2005

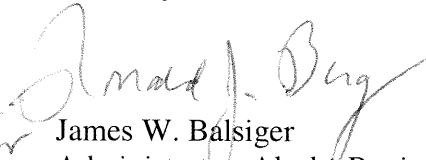
M. Richard Zacharof  
President, Tribal Government of St. Paul  
2050 Venia Minor, P.O. Box 86  
St. Paul Island, Alaska 99660-3200

Dear Mr. Zacharof:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement for Essential Fish Habitat. I appreciate your concern for ensuring sufficient protection for sensitive habitats in the Bering Sea.

We would be pleased to meet with you on a government-to-government basis to discuss the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's preferred alternatives and the process for considering further actions to protect Bering Sea habitats. Please contact Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, to arrange a meeting. He can be reached at 907-586-7638 or [jon.kurland@noaa.gov](mailto:jon.kurland@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

*For*   
James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

