



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

February 10, 2005

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

Re: POA-2004-1719
Wrangell Narrows

Attn: Mary Leykon

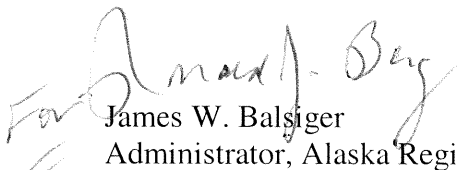
Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the January 11, 2005, public notice of application for permit for the above proposal by Ben and Erika Gross to place approximately 830 cubic yards of shot rock and clean fill material into 0.35 acre of forested wetland to construct a 90 foot by 120 foot foundation fill pad and a 27 foot by 204 foot long access road. The fill pad would accommodate a garage, storage building, and outside fishing gear storage. We offer the following comments specific to the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect EFH. NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. From the information provided in the public notice it would appear that the described action will not result in any adverse effect to EFH. Therefore no EFH assessment is required and NMFS does not offer any EFH conservation recommendations. Additional information on EFH is available on our website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/efh/htm>.

Please contact Cindy Hartmann at 907-586-7585 if you have any questions or for further coordination.

Sincerely,


James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Ben and Erika Gross c/o Kenneth Elmore, P.O. Box 371, Petersburg, AK 99833
ADNR, Petersburg, Jim Cariello
USFWS, Juneau, Ed Grossman
EPA, Juneau, Chris Meade
ADEC, AADGC, Juneau

