UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

January 14, 2005

Susan Farlinger, Regional Director
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement Branch
Major Projects Review Unit
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4

RE: Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Supplemental Screening Report for Redfern Resources Ltd.'s Proposed Tulsequah Chief Mine Project in Northwestern British Columbia Canada

Dear Ms. Farlinger:

Thank you for providing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with the opportunity to review the referenced report during the 45-day public comment period. We wish to provide the following comments.

The summary of NMFS comments under section 5.6.3, "American Agencies" is limited to a single sentence of our June 16, 2004 letter, stating that the "National Marine Fisheries Service provided advice that outstanding issues can be resolved while maintaining the health and integrity of aquatic resources in the Taku River." NMFS provided this sentence as a companion statement to the sentence that follows, which asserts our salient point that "such an outcome will depend entirely on the diligence of Redfern and the government of Canada to ensure that adequate stipulations are attached to the project and implemented by the applicant, and that the remaining important details of project implementation are diligently and thoroughly pursued." Without this companion statement NMFS considers this single statement to be a misleading summation of our comments.

A more complete summation of our comments would also include our recommendations to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed Tulsequah River causeway as opposed to an upland route, to incorporate ongoing watershed planning efforts in the Taku River as part of the analysis, and to keep the Pacific Salmon Commission and its sub-bodies apprised of developments with the Tulsequah Chief Mine, as appropriate.

NMFS still considers our comments of June 16, 2004 to be relevant to the project. The conclusion of the screening decision states that several issues of concern raised in the Environmental Assessment will be within the jurisdiction of Canadian Provincial or Territorial governments and determined through provincial permitting processes. In

addition, the document indicates that you are deferring review of the majority of environmental effects outlined in Table 1, including fish habitat and water quality, use of best management practices, and monitoring and mitigation measures, until these later stages of review. To the extent you are able to inform and involve American interests, including NMFS, in these processes, we would be appreciative.

Sincerely,

For Arnold J. Berg

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region