



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

March 4, 2005

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

Re: POA-2004-1390-4, POA-2005-111,  
POA-1998-998-M, Wrangell Narrows

Attn: Ms. Serena Sweet and  
Ms. Mary Leykom

Dear Colonel Gallagher:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed public notices POA-2004-1390-4 (Anderson application), POA-2005-111 (Rocky Creek Subdivision), and POA-1998-998-M (Menish Subdivision), for work in waters of the United States in the vicinity of Petersburg, Alaska. NMFS has resource concerns sufficient to warrant a site visit and to ask for an extension of the comment period.

NMFS coordinated a site visit in conjunction with other resource agencies that is scheduled for March 16 & 17, 2005. Participating agencies, at this time, include: NMFS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting. We have invited the Environmental Protection Agency, the applicant's representative, and the Corps to participate. We will also visit the site of the proposed work for the Minish Subdivision in public notice POA-1999-757-M.

NMFS requests an extension of the comment period until March 24, 2005, for these three public notices that have comment periods scheduled to close on March 7, March 7, and March 11 respectively. This will allow us sufficient time to visit the sites and to formulate site-specific resource comments and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) conservation recommendations. Pursuant to Part IV, Paragraph 3(a) of the 1992 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement between our agencies, NMFS concludes that these projects may have substantial and unacceptable impacts on aquatic resources of national importance. The potential cumulative resource impacts warrant a site visit and an extension of the public comment period.

Please contact Cindy Hartmann at 907-586-7585 for further coordination and confirmation of our request.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger

*for* Administrator, Alaska Region



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