



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

February 3, 2006

Randy Bates, Acting Director  
Office of Project Management and Permitting  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
302 Gold Street, Suite 202  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-0030

Dear Mr. Bates:

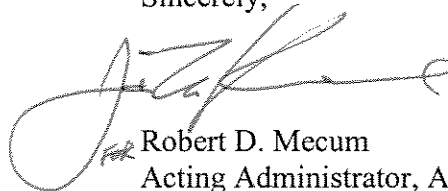
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appreciates the efforts your office has made to solicit our review and input to the amended coastal management plans being developed by each of the coastal districts pursuant to the revised Alaska Coastal Management Program. We understand that the revised district plans are constrained by the requirements of recently revised state regulations, and that your review and approval of district plans will be guided by their consistency with those requirements. Therefore, NMFS does not plan to comment on any of the individual plan amendments.

We understand from your staff that coastal districts could benefit from NMFS resource information as they undertake future efforts to identify important habitats and develop enforceable coastal management policies. NMFS has the following types of information that may be useful to coastal districts:

- Data on eelgrass distribution for many locations, especially in southeast Alaska
- Fish species distribution and relative abundance data for many nearshore locations
- Shore zone mapping data, including aerial video and still photography, for portions of Southeast Alaska
- Distributional data for marine mammals and endangered species, including haulouts, rookeries, and designated critical habitats
- Site specific information our biologists have collected during diving operations or other field work in various locations

We encourage you to share this letter with the coastal districts, and extend our offer to assist the districts with steps that help promote sustainable management of living marine resources and their habitats. Requests for such assistance should be directed through Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation (907-586-7638 or [jon.kurland@noaa.gov](mailto:jon.kurland@noaa.gov)).

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

