



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

February 6, 2006


Guy R. McConnell  
Chief, Environmental Resources Section  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-6898

Dear Mr. McConnell:

I approve the request for Scott Johnson and John Thedinga of the Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL) to participate in the Barrow Coastal Storm Damage Reduction study. They have assisted Chris Hoffman (USACOE) the last two summers in evaluating the potential effects of beach erosion and replenishment on nearshore fishery resources. A third year of the study will provide a better understanding on the inter-annual variability in species composition and fish abundance. As in past years, it is understood that the USACOE will pay all travel and per diem costs, and ABL scientists will provide a living marine resource report at the end of the summer.

Our agency appreciates the opportunity to again participate in the above project. Any future correspondence or questions regarding field logistics can be directed to Scott Johnson (907-789-6063) at the ABL.

Thank you,

*FOR*  
  
Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

