



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

July 7, 2006

Amy McLeod
Project Environmental Coordinator
State of Alaska
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Design and Engineering Services–Southeast Region
P.O. Box 112506
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Re: EFH Assessment for the Yakutat Areawide Paving Project Number 68345

Dear Ms. McLeod:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed your June 28 and July 5, 2006 letters regarding the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessments for the Yakutat Areawide Paving Project 68345. The proposed conservation measures are in Section III of these assessments. We are pleased to see that the EFH Conservation Recommendations in our June 20, 2006, letter have been incorporated into the EFH Assessment. NMFS offers no additional EFH Conservation Recommendations for this project. NMFS understanding is that the marine mammal recommendations included in our June 20, 2006, letter will be incorporated into the categorical exclusion and into the environmental commitments in the contractor specifications that are prepared for this document.

If you have questions regarding our comments for this project, please contact Cindy Hartmann at 907-586-7585.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Medum *for D/m*
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Cindy Hartmann and Susan Walker, NMFS HCD, Juneau
Kaja Brix and Aleria Jensen, NMFS, PRD, Juneau

