



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

August 24, 2007

David C. Miller
Alaska Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, AK 99802-1648

RE: Yankee Cove Artificial Reef Project

Dear Mr. Miller:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is coordinating with the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (UAF), to construct and monitor an artificial reef in Lynn Canal at Yankee Cove, near Juneau, Alaska. The project design and study design have been completed by UAF.

NMFS has reviewed and concurred with the project design and is obtaining all permits and certifications for the project. NMFS prefers that ADOT contract the project for construction given their expertise in such endeavors. We request that the Federal Highway Administration allow ADOT to contract directly for construction rather than allocate the funds to either UAF or NMFS through a reimbursable spending account.

NMFS will continue to be involved in project monitoring, although UAF is the lead cooperator and will be overseeing construction and conducting pre- and post-construction monitoring. UAF divers will be on-site during construction to assure that the reef is built in accordance with construction plans, although they will not be in the water during actual placement of materials.

Please contact Sue Walker (susan.walker@noaa.gov or 586-7646) with any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc:

Dr. Ginny Eckert, UAF (ginnyeckert@gmail.com)

Dan Okamoto, UAF (d.okamoto@uaf.edu)

Reuben Yost, ADOT (reuben_yost@dot.state.ak.us)

