

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

February 6, 2008

Colonel Kevin J. Wilson District Engineer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 6898 Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-2008-42 Klawock Inlet

Attn: Allan G. Skinner

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced application from Mr. William V. Riley. The applicant proposes to seasonally moor a 24 by 60-foot polyethylene floating platform for accessing private upland property and docking recreational boats. The proposed work entails placing three 3,000 pound blocks in marine waters and two steel pins anchored at MLLW to secure float. The applicant indicates that the secured float will maintain a minimum of 4 foot clearance at MLLW assuring no grounding and that no dredging or fill work will be involved in the installation process.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make EFH Conservation Recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Anadromous Waters Catalog identifies several streams in the vicinity of this project that support coho, chum, and pink salmon as well as Dolly Varden char and steelhead trout. Juvenile salmon use nearshore habitat during spring and early summer for feeding and predator avoidance prior to migration out to sea.

In accordance with Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the MSA, NMFS makes the following EFH Conservation Recommendations:

- 1. No in-water work should be permitted from April 1 through June 15 of any year to protect out-migrating salmon.
- 2. No docks, ramps, or other structures that block sunlight should be placed in or over eelgrass beds.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the

Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendations for this project, please contact Tim. Wilkins at 907-586-7643 or timothy.wilkins@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Pohul D. Meen ActiM James W. Balsiger Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: **Applicant**

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