



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

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

July 9, 2008

Reuben Yost
Special Projects Manager
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
6860 Glacier Highway
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7999

Re: Juneau Access EFH Mitigation – Pt. Bridget Parcel

Dear Mr. Yost:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your letter of July 2 regarding mitigation for impacts to Essential Fish Habitat from the planned Juneau Access Project. NMFS is pleased that the highest priority mitigation project, the Lynn Canal artificial reefs, is now constructed and being thoroughly monitored. Preliminary monitoring results indicate the project is successful at enhancing habitat for fish and marine invertebrates.

Among the remaining mitigation projects agreed to by NMFS and the other cooperating state and federal agencies, acquisition and protection of the Pt. Bridget State Park in-holding parcel has the second highest priority. NMFS supports SEAL Trust's bidding to acquire the Pt. Bridget in-holding parcel. We will view both the artificial reefs and acquisition of the Pt. Bridget in-holding parcel as mitigation credits for other ADOT&PF projects that affect EFH, should the Juneau Access Project not be constructed for any reason.

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

Sincerely,

Robert D. Mecum

FR Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

CC: Tim Haugh, FHWA, tim.haugh@dot.gov

