



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

October 22, 2008

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

Re: Amalga Harbor 2
POA-2001-637

Attn: John Leeds

Dear Col. Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the above referenced public notice for the construction of an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) accessible concrete pathway and staircase access to an existing kayak launch ramp in Amalga Harbor near Juneau. The proposed work includes: 1) excavation of 26 cubic yards of material, 2) discharge of 200 cubic yards of fill, and 3) the placement of various structures (handrail, storm drain, geotechnical reinforcement) below the high tide line. The project site is located at Latitude 58.492° North, Longitude -134.787°.

Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 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 proposed project is located near the mouth of Peterson Creek, an anadromous stream that supports chum, coho, and pink salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden char. Pacific herring, a species that has declined considerably in abundance in the area, historically spawned near the project area (Carls et al. 2008).

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

1. Avoid in-water work between March 15 and May 15, when most Pacific herring spawning activity occurs in southeastern Alaska.
2. Avoid in-water work between April 1 and June 15 to protect out-migrating salmon.

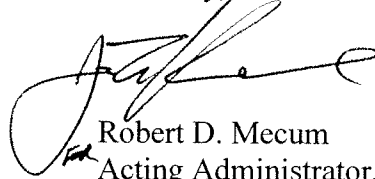
Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not



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 habitat conservation recommendations for this project, please contact John Hudson at 907-586-7643 or by email at john.hudson@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: John.C.Leeds@usace.army.mil, USACE, Juneau*
Sheila.Cameron@alaska.gov, ADF&G, Juneau*
Richard_Enriquez@fws.gov, USFWS, Juneau, *
Chiska.Derr@nmfs.gov, NMFS, HCD, Juneau *
meade.chris@epa.gov, USEPA, Juneau*
Brenda.Krauss@alaska.gov, ADEC, Juneau*
William.groom@alaska.gov, DCOM, Juneau*
Records
* electronic copy

Literature cited

Carls, M.G., S.W. Johnson, M.R. Lindeburg, A.D. Neff, P.M. Harris, and R. Waples. 2008. Status review of Lynn Canal herring (*Clupea pallasii*). Report to the Alaska Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska