JUL 1 6 2007

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Issuing Annual Quotas to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission for a Subsistence Hunt on Bowhead Whales for the Years 2008 through 2012. This DEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA's issuance of an annual subsistence hunt quota. In May 2007, the International Whaling Commission reauthorized the subsistence hunt catch limit for another five years. NOAA's proposed action is to issue annual quotas to the AEWC subject to the terms and conditions of the co-management agreement between the Agency and the commission.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the Project Manager identified below. The document is also accessible electronically through the NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region website at http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/

Written comments should be submitted through mail, or email to the Responsible Program Manager identified below. Written comments submitted during the agency's 70-day public comment period must be received by October 5, 2007. When submitting email comments include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: **Draft Bowhead Whale EIS**.

Send letters or email to:
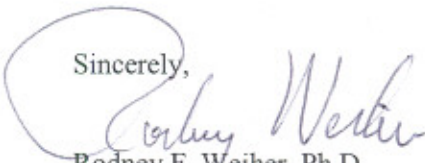
Responsible Program Manager: Douglas P. DeMaster
                                 Attn: Ellen Sebastian
                                 National Marine Fisheries Service
                                 709 W. 9th Street
                                 P.O. 21688
                                 Juneau, AK. 99802-1668

                                 Commenting Email Address: < bowhead-DEIS@noaa.gov>

For further information or to request a copy of the EIS in paper or CD format contact:

Project Manager: Steven K. Davis
                                 National Marine Fisheries Service
                                 222 West 7th Ave., #517
                                 Anchorage, AK 99513
                                 907-271-3523

                         Sincerely,

                         Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
                         NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure