



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

April 14, 2009

Jason C. Anderson  
District Ranger  
Thorne Bay Ranger District  
Tongass National Forest  
P.O. Box 19001  
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

RE: Logjam Timber Sale  
Response to NMFS Comments

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your response to our conservation recommendations for the Logjam Timber Sale Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We understand that the Final EIS has been revised to incorporate our recommendations as detailed in your April 10, 2009 letter. Your letter also provides additional information on proposed ground disturbing activities in light of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Comprehensive Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Time Critical Removal Action for acid rock drainage associated with the construction of the Coffman Cove Road Project.

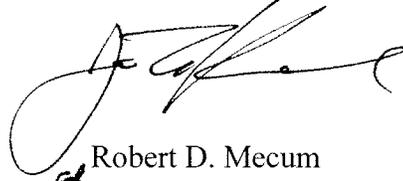
Katharine Miller of my staff has been working with Delilah Brigham, USFS biologist, to evaluate how this new information affects NMFS' Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) conservation recommendations for the Logjam Project. The USFS is proposing to avoid opening of rock pits for rock borrow in the watershed above the CERCLA response site and to use non-pyritic rock such as basalts and limestone for road surfacing. Some road construction within the Logjam project may require blasting or disturbance of bedrock. USFS geologists will be on site during excavation and road construction to identify potential mineralized zones and prescribe appropriate mitigation, including lining upslope ditches with limestone aggregate to neutralize runoff.

NMFS recognizes that the Coffman Cove acid rock drainage problem was an unforeseen event that resulted in a very costly CERCLA response. We understand that the USFS is interested in taking all reasonable actions to avoid a similar situation in the watersheds above the Coffman Cove Road where the Logjam Project is located. We have determined that the avoidance and mitigation actions proposed by the USFS for this project would adequately protect EFH and do not have any additional conservation recommendations.



If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Miller at (907) 586-7643 or [Katharine.miller@noaa.gov](mailto:Katharine.miller@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Mecum', with a large, stylized initial 'R' that loops back.

 Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

Cc: Erik.ammann@noaa.gov