

# STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE  
550 W. 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 1660  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
PH: (907) 269-7470 / FAX: (907) 269-3981
- CENTRAL OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 110030  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0030  
PH: (907) 465-3562 / FAX: (907) 465-3075
- PIPELINE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE  
411 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 2C  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2343  
PH: (907) 269-7470 / FAX: (907) 561-6134

July 3, 2001

George Constantino  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Constantino:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the information provided in the June 5, 2001 Public Notice regarding streambed sediment sampling by the U.S. Geologic Survey within the boundaries of the Togiak and Yukon Delta national wildlife refuges. Sites within 50 miles of the Bering Sea coastline will be accessed by helicopter and about 5 pounds of material collected at each of about 200 sites between July 22 and August 11. This letter contains the consolidated comments of the State's resource agencies.

Where sampling occurs on the beds of State-owned navigable waterways, the State has no objection to this activity. In addition, this activity is consistent with Section 1010 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act which provides opportunities for such research. Given the numerous remote locations, use of a helicopter is a reasonable form of access.

In the permit request, the principal investigator indicates having discussed the project with the Bristol Bay and Calista regional corporations and they in turn have contacted communities in the project area. As long as sample collection is scheduled to occur at times that do not conflict with seasonal subsistence harvest activities by local residents in the target area, we don't anticipate the project having any conflicts with subsistence uses.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at 269-7477.

Sincerely,

/ss/

Sally Gibert  
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Aaron Archibeque, Togiak Refuge Manager  
Mike Rearden, Yukon Delta Refuge Manager