

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

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November 10, 1998

Ms. Tomi Lee
Superintendent
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Box 140
Gustavus, AK 99826

Re: Glacier Bay Commercial Fishing Regulations

Dear Ms. Lee:

In light of recent legislation regarding commercial fishing in and around Glacier Bay, the State of Alaska requests the Service withdraw the April 16, 1997 proposed regulations affecting 36 CFR Part 13 and issue new a proposed rule, and a new accompanying EA (or EA amendments), which reflect the legislative action and Service intentions toward implementation. We believe such a course of action is both good public policy and a legal obligation considering the significantly changed circumstances.

Since the April 1997 release of the proposed regulations, the State's stakeholder work group sessions have brought many new ideas and alternatives to the table for consideration. Then in October 1998, Congress enacted relevant legislation, thereby changing some of the restricted areas and other limitations on public activities addressed by the rulemaking and assessed in the EA. In response, we understand the Service intends to extend the comment period on the proposed rule and EA to January 15, 1999. We believe, however, that a simple extension does not adequately provide for meaningful public involvement in light of the new legislation that resolves some issues but raises new questions.

A new proposed rule and appropriate amendments to the EA would inform the state and public how the Service proposes to implement the legislated modifications. In order for us to meaningfully comment, we need to understand how the Service interprets the legislation, how this affects its preferred alternative, and how the Service expects to use regulations.

We appreciate your consideration of this request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally Gibert".

Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Molly Ross, Department of the Interior
Robert Stanton, Director, National Park Service
Robert Barbee, Regional Director, National Park Service
Randy King, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Bruce Botelho, State Attorney General
John Katz, Governor's Washington D.C. Office