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June 4, 1997

Gary Gauthier
Superintendent
Sitka National Historical Park
P.O. Box 738
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Dear Mrs.  Gauthier:

Thank you for stopping by recently to deliver the Alternative Workbook for the upcoming General Management Plan (GMP) for the Sitka National Historical Park, and for providing an update of local issues affecting the park and the community. With the rapid rise in cruise ship traffic to Sitka, now rivaling Glacier Bay and Denali, it is certainly timely to be working on the park's first GMP.

One comment came through as a result of circulating the Alternative Workbook amongst state agencies. Under the Boundary Adjustment discussion on page 20, the workbook includes the statement "Tidelands would be acquired". State law does not allow the Department of Natural Resources to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of tidelands to the federal government. The National Park Service already has a lease to manage certain tidelands adjacent to the park (ADL 32157, Alaska Tidelands Survey 649). The workbook does not specify what, if any, additional tidelands the NPS may have an interest in. If the GMP recommends that additional tidelands be managed as part of the park, then an amendment to the existing lease should be proposed to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Alternatives Workbook. We look forward to a review of the draft GMP once it is available. In the meantime, if you have any questions please call me at 907-269-7477.

Sincerely,


Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

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cc: Ron Johnson, Denver Service Center, NPS
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