

STATE OF ALASKA

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April 28, 1998

Ms. Pat Phelan
Acting Superintendent
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 140
Gustavus, Alaska 99827

Dear Ms. Phelan:

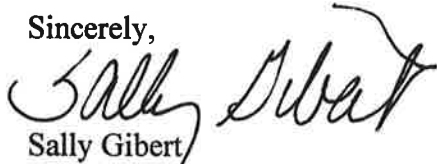
The State of Alaska is in receipt of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing Commercial Fishing at Glacier Bay. The State respectfully requests an extension of the public comment period on this document and, by association, the draft regulations published April 16, 1997. The State believes an extension of the comment period for the EA is warranted and appropriate because:

- The draft EA is a substantial document (approximately 400 pages) requiring close scrutiny and technical evaluation.
- The late spring release of the document poses problems for agency field staff and fishermen who already have very full schedules.
- Informal stakeholder discussions are continuing. Forcing closure of the comment period at this time could constrain or undermine efforts to facilitate solutions.

While we recognize the draft regulations have been available for over a year, the draft EA is a new document with important ramifications. We believe additional time to evaluate the EA in the context of the regulations, and vice versa, would be useful to all those with an interest in a solution to this long standing issue. Ideally, we recommend a five month extension for both the EA and regulations to November 15, 1998 to accommodate the schedules of agency field staff and commercial fishermen who are critical to this process.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Rob Bosworth, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, if you wish to discuss this request.

Sincerely,



Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Molly Ross, Special Assistant, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Deborah Williams, Special Assistant, Secretary of the Interior
Robert Barbee, Regional Director, National Park Service
Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor
John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.
Bruce Botelho, Attorney General
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resource
Dale Kelley, Allied Fishermen of Southeast