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**File Code:** 5440  
**Date:** November 16, 2017

Karen Cougan  
Natural Resource Specialist III  
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land and Water  
Southcentral Region  
5500 W 7th Avenue, Ste 900C  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Cougan:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Department of Natural Resource's lease request to install and operate an aquatic farm in Krestof Sound. The site location is adjacent to National Forest System lands. I am concerned about the project's potential impact on National Forest users' ability to safely anchor, passage between islands and into a cove and access to uplands.

#### **Safe anchorage**

The constructed features of an aquatic farm may interfere with the ability of National Forest users to locate and use safe anchorages. I request any infrastructure be clearly marked and opportunities for safe anchorages be maintained.

#### **Passage between islands and into a cove**

The waterway between Krestof Island and the unnamed island at the southwest border of the project is a frequent travel route to access National Forest System land. I would like to see the route through this passage maintained. The small cove at the southeast corner of the project area provides safe anchorage for National Forest users and access to upland uses. I would like to see direct access maintained to this cove coming from the north, on the east side of the unnamed island.

#### **Access to uplands**

Existing upland uses on Krestof Island dependent on shoreline access include picnicking, camping, hiking, and hunting. The proposal does not address how access for the public and Forest Service employees will be maintained. A buffer of adequate width and depth at low tide could ensure that access is maintained over approximately one mile of adjacent coastline accessing National Forest System lands.

From experience with aquaculture development adjacent to National Forest System lands, we anticipate that there may be requests in the future to build upland facilities. I want to emphasize that requests for upland use are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The analysis process is



rigorous and can be lengthy, and the decision to authorize use of National Forest System lands is discretionary.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns as you review the proposal.

Sincerely,



PERRY EDWARDS  
District Ranger