



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

December 11, 2012

Kiersten Lippmann
Center for Biological Diversity
P.O. Box 100599
Anchorage, AK 99510-0599

Dear Ms. Lippmann:

Pursuant to 50 CFR 424.14(a), the National Marine Fisheries Service acknowledges receiving your petition dated November 19, 2012, to list the Ilimana Lake seal as a threatened or endangered species and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. We anticipate making a finding within 90 days as to whether the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted. We will publish our finding in the Federal Register and notify you immediately thereafter.

If you have any questions about our review of the petition please contact Jon Kurland at 907-586-7638 or jon.kurland@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

for J/B

