UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

NOV 12

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment to Implement a Program for the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2009-2011 as Agreed Upon by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

LOCATION: The IATTC Convention Area, including the waters bounded by the coast of the Americas, the 50° N. and 50° S. parallels, and the 150° W. meridian

SUMMARY:

The National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing regulations under authority of the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement a resolution adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The proposed action is to implement a 500 metric ton quota on bigeye tuna caught by longline vessels greater than 24 meters in length in the EPO and prohibit purse seine vessels class sizes 4-6 (greater than 182 mt carrying capacity) from fishing in the IATTC Convention Area for a period of 59 days in 2009, 62 days in 2010, and 73 days in 2011. In addition, a closure would be implemented which would prohibit purse seine vessels class sizes 4-6 from fishing for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas within an established closure area to the west of the Galapagos Islands for 30 days in 2009-2011. Purse seine vessels would also continue to be required to retain and land all skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin tunas caught; however, the measure would only apply to purse seine vessels class sizes 4-6.

RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIAL: Heidi Hermsmeyer
IATTC Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
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The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the environmental assessment, is enclosed for your information.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the Responsible Official named above.

Sincerely,

for Paul N. Doremus, Ph. D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure