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

NOV 24 2009

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: An analysis of the environmental impacts of a U.S. Northwest Atlantic Trawl Fishery in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization's (NAFO) Regulatory Area

LOCATION: The High Seas in the NAFO Regulatory Area

SUMMARY: This document assesses the impact on the human environment of issuing permits under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) to up to 10 U.S. vessels that intend to fish for yellowtail flounder in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues permits for U.S. fishing vessels to authorize fishing on the high seas under the HSFCA. Such permits are required for all vessels fishing on the high seas, whether or not they are permitted under another management authority such as a Fishery Management Plan.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator
NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9250

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.

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.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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