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

JAN 14 2010

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

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

TITLE: Supplemental Environmental Assessment on Issuance of a Permit for Field Research and Enhancement Activities on the Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal

LOCATION: Hawaiian Archipelago and Johnston Atoll

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue Permit No. 10137-03 to the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Marine Mammal Research Program to conduct ultrasound measurements concurrent with already permitted field research and enhancement activities on Hawaiian monk seals to support recovery efforts. Based on the analyses in the supplemental environmental assessment (SEA), it is unlikely that activities carried out under the proposed amendment would have significant cumulative effects when considered with other factors affecting Hawaiian monk seals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-713-2289

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting SEA is enclosed for your information. Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed SEA/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

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