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

MAY 10 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: Environmental Assessment for Emergency Action to Close Portions of Federal Waters in the Southeast Exclusive Economic Zone to Fishing Activities in Response to the Deep Horizon Oil Spill [RIN: 0648-AY90]]

LOCATION: Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean exclusive economic zones

SUMMARY: NMFS is promulgating emergency regulations for the purpose of public safety to prohibit fishing activities in portions of the Southeast exclusive economic zone (EEZ) within the extent of the oil pollution. NMFS anticipates a potential need to adjust the spatial and temporal boundaries of the closed area as conditions change to the extent of the oil pollution as new information becomes available. Alternatives evaluated in the environmental assessment include a (1) no action alternative to allow status quo fishing activities in the EEZ, and (2) an alternative to prohibit fishing in portions of the EEZ affected by the oil spill.

RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIAL: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505
Phone: 727-824-5305

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.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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