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

AUG 3 2010

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for Coral Restoration in the Florida Keys and Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuaries* (FKNMS and FGBNMS).

This FPEIS addresses restoration techniques for physical injuries to coral reef resources within the FKNMS and FGBNMS. The purpose of this document is to present and analyze the current technologies available for effective implementation in these sanctuaries. Appropriate analysis of the technologies in this document will provide for efficient selection and implementation of action when needed.

This FPEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with coral restoration efforts in the FKNMS and FGBNMS.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the FPEIS. However, comments will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below via mail or email by September 13, 2010. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after September 13, 2010.

Responsible Official:

Alice Stratton
Ecologist
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD, 20910
Telephone number: 203-882-6515
Email: Coral.PEIS@noaa.gov

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

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