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

JUL 8 2011

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: Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Emergency Restoration of Seagrass Impacts from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response

LOCATION: Gulf of Mexico areas off the coast of Florida

SUMMARY: The purpose of this project is to address injuries to seagrass beds that resulted from Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill response activities. The injuries were caused by motorized boats, and included propeller scars, blowholes from response vessels, and scouring from boom curtains and anchor tethers. The proposed action will restore damaged seagrass beds and decrease risk of secondary injury to nearby seagrass communities.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Montanio
Director, Office of Habitat Conservation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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 environmental assessment (EA) is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this EA or 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,

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

Enclosure

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