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

SEP 15 2011

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: Framework 7 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan, RIN 0648-BA46

LOCATION: Exclusive economic zone off the East Coast of the United States

SUMMARY: Framework 7 will specify the Northern Fishery Management Area annual catch target and corresponding management measures for the 2011 fishing year. This action also adopts revised biomass reference points for the Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas based on the newly available scientific information to comply with the National Standard 1 Guidelines. In nearly all cases, this action is expected to have a neutral or positive impact on the human environment. The only exceptions are some potentially negative impacts on non-target species, protected species, and habitat resulting from the increased days-at-sea allocations and trip limits resulting from the increased catch targets. These adverse impacts, however, are not likely to be substantial. Thus, there are no significant social or economic impacts, nor are there any significant natural or physical environmental effects expected to result from this action.

RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9200

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 (EA), 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,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph. D.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

Printed on Recycled Paper