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

NOV 21 2011

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review was performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for Boat Ramp Projects in American Samoa (Identified in American Samoa's Marine Conservation Plan)

LOCATION: Pacific Islands Regional Office

SUMMARY: This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes a range of alternatives and resulting potential impacts for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's (Council) and National Marine Fisheries Service's funding of two new boat ramps on Tutuila, American Samoa as listed in the American Samoa Marine Conservation Plan (ASMCP). The establishment of strategically-placed boats ramps on Tutuila would help fishermen access fishing grounds quicker and reduce costs associated with traveling to and from existing boat ramps. In addition, the new boat ramps would provide additional access points for potential search and rescue and disaster relief efforts. In 2010, the Council identified the boat ramp projects as a priority for completion using funds in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

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The environmental review process led us to conclude that the proposed 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,

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

Enclosure

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