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

DEC 28 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: Environmental Assessment on the Effects of the Issuance of a Scientific Research Permit (File No. 16194) for Resource Assessment Cruises Conducted by NOAA Fisheries, Mississippi Laboratories, for Sea Turtle Research

LOCATION: Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and their tributaries

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a scientific research permit for takes under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. Research authorized under Permit No. 16194 would further the understanding of sea turtles to better manage and recover the species. The preferred alternative would not be expected to have more than short-term effects on sea turtles and will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 427-8400

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 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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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