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

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 of Continuation of Adaptive Management Program Quota Pounds Pass-Through. RIN 0648-BE34

LOCATION: U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off west coast and state marine waters off Washington, Oregon, and California

SUMMARY: The proposed action is to extend a pro-rata Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Quota Pounds Pass-Through in the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program (Trawl Program). This action will extend the pass-through of Quota Pounds to distribute them to participants in the trawl shorebased fishery. This action will extend the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) ability to continue the pass-through until implementation of the regulations that result from the first formal review of the Trawl Program, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and other applicable law. This action is needed to prevent stranding of quota, so that the fish authorized for harvest through the biennial specifications process will continue to be available to benefit the fishing industry, dependent communities, and consumers. The current pass-through mechanism will expire at the end of 2014. If this action is not taken, 10 percent of the non-whiting quota pounds would not be allocated starting in 2015.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Barry Thom
Deputy Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-6150

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, 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,

TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012

Digitally signed by TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012
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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

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