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: Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Deep Sea Research within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

LOCATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawai‘i

SUMMARY: This supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) focuses on additional proposed activities and a newly proposed support vessel and analyzes the proposed amendment to extend the depths at which surveys would be conducted to 200 – 700 m and the addition of a survey site within federal waters around Mokumanamana; the newly proposed instrument deployments using a lander to secure the instruments in place for one year; and a new permit to allow for the operation of the R/V *Kilo Moana* in support of separately permitted activities to conduct the proposed deep sea research. Both the permit amendment and new permit would be jointly approved and issued by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawai‘i, as co-trustees of the monument. The assessment finds that the individual and cumulative impacts of the proposed action are not significant. Accordingly, the supplemental environmental assessment has resulted in a finding of no significant impact.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Athline Clark, Superintendent
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
(808) 725-5800

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 original environmental assessment and FONSI and supplemental environmental assessment including the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed SEA/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

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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure