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, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Final Environmental Assessment for Amendment 9 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

LOCATION: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea

SUMMARY: This action implements Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico total allowable catches (TACs) and commercial quotas for smoothhound sharks; certain limited exceptions from provisions of the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 (SCA) that specifically apply to smooth dogfish; Term and Condition 4 of the 2012 Atlantic Shark Biological Opinion (2012 Shark BiOp), and modifications to the vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements for shark gillnet fishermen. This action would also establish an effective date for previously-adopted smoothhound shark management measures finalized in Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and the 2011 HMS Trawl Rule. Smoothhound sharks are not currently under active federal management, although this action will make effective conservation and management measures to manage them actively.

RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIAL: Margo Schulze-Haugen
Division Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring MD 20910
301-427-8503

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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Kristen A. Tronvig
Acting NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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