



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: Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) Fishing Year 2015 Gulf of Maine Haddock Recreational Management Measures; RIN 0648-BE82

LOCATION: Gulf of Maine within the Exclusive Economic Zone

SUMMARY: This action implements a reduction to the minimum size for haddock taken in the recreational fishery. This action is necessary to ensure the recreational catch of haddock and recreational bycatch of cod will not exceed the annual catch limits for the recreational fishery in fishing year 2015. The intended effect of this action is to reduce discards by allowing recreational anglers to retain smaller haddock, which will result in anglers achieving their bag limit more quickly. The preferred alternative would be expected to result in positive impacts to the cod and haddock resources as compared to the other alternatives, given that catches would not exceed established catch limits which, in turn, is a component of the overall management system designed to prevent overfishing the stocks.

RESPONSIBLE

OFFICIAL: John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
978-281-9145

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 supplemental environmental assessment, 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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator
for

Enclosure