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: Issuance of a Scientific Research Permit (SRP) to the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) for Resource Assessment Surveys and Conservation Engineering Research (RASCER)

LOCATION: Federal and state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzed the effects of research activities to be conducted under a scientific research permit. The actions include a no action alternative to not approve the SRP request and the SEFSC does not conduct the RASCER. The preferred alternative is to approve the SRP request and the SEFSC conducts the RASCER that has been ongoing since the 1970's.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D., Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Phone: 305-361-4204, Fax: 305-361-4499

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 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,

TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012

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

Enclosure

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