



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 104 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) Areas of Skate Egg Concentrations (XRIN 0648-XD287)

LOCATION: Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

SUMMARY: Amendment 104 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area designates six areas of skate egg concentration as HAPC. The designation of these HAPC provides additional focus for the review of and consultation on proposed activities (e.g., drilling, laying cables, seismic exploration, fishing) that occur within these HAPC that could potentially affect these important areas of skate habitat. The environmental assessment provides decision makers and the public with an evaluation of the environmental, social, and economic effects of the proposed action.

RESPONSIBLE

OFFICIAL: Seanbob Kelly
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National Marine Fisheries Service
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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,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

