



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

DEC - 7 2009

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and accompanying Final Regulatory Impact Review (FRIR).

The FEIS and FRIR were prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with measures to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch to the extent practicable in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The alternatives analyzed generally involve limits or "caps" on the number of Chinook salmon that may be taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery and closure of all or a part of the Bering Sea to pollock fishing once the cap is reached. These closures would occur when a Chinook salmon bycatch cap is reached, even if the entire pollock total allowable catch has not yet been harvested.

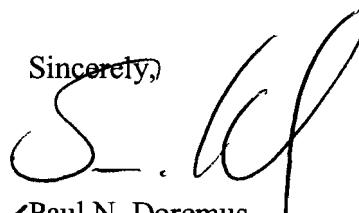
The FEIS and FRIR are also available electronically on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/default.htm>. Additional CDs or printed copies of the FEIS and FRIR may be requested from this website or obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of the issuance of the FEIS. However, comments received by **February 16, 2010**, will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after May 1, 2010.

Responsible Program Official:

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Sincerely,


for Paul N. Doremus
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



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