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

APR - 8 2013

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: Final Environmental Assessment for a Secretarial Emergency Action to Eliminate Monkfish Possession Limits in the Northern Fishery Management Area During Fishing Year 2013

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone within the Gulf of Maine and northern portions of Georges Bank

SUMMARY: This action would eliminate monkfish possession limits for vessels issued a Federal limited access Northeast (NE) multispecies permit and a limited access monkfish Category C or D permit that are fishing under a monkfish day-at-sea in the Northern Fishing Management Area (NFMA – the Gulf of Maine and northern portions of Georges Bank) during fishing year 2013. This action is intended to help mitigate adverse economic and social impacts resulting from substantial reductions in 2013 annual catch limits specified for the NE multispecies fishery without increasing the risk of overfishing monkfish in the NFMA.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator, Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
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Gloucester, MA 01930
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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 EA, is enclosed for your information.

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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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure