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

APR 16 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: Environmental Assessment on the Effects of Issuing a Permit for Scientific Research on Protected Sea Turtles in Florida Waters

LOCATION: Northern Gulf of Mexico

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a scientific research permit No. 17183 to Raymond Carthy, Ph.D., University of Florida. The purpose of the research is to characterize movement patterns, examine genetic origin and feeding habits, and gather key life history information for green, loggerhead, hawksbill, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Researchers would capture sea turtles by hand, tangle or strike net, or dip net. Captured animals would have a suite of research procedures performed including biological sampling and tagging. The effects to listed sea turtles would be short-term and minimal and would allow the collection of valuable information that could help NMFS' efforts to recover this species.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Helen M. Golde
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 427-8400

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting environmental assessment (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