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

MAR 31 2011

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 for Emergency Action Issuance of a Scientific Research Permit to André Landry (File No. 15606) to Conduct Research on Endangered and Threatened Sea Turtles

LOCATION: Western Gulf of Mexico, including bays, estuaries, nearshore surf zones, and adjacent open waters off Texas and Louisiana

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a scientific research permit for takes of listed sea turtles under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of File No. 15606 is to assess sea turtle foraging activity, examine population dynamics, characterize bioaccumulation at a Texas Superfund site, and document impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on sea turtle assemblages. The research would result in the short-term harassment of target sea turtles and may lead to the accidentally mortality of a minor number of animals. However, these impacts would be negligible at the population and species level and the research is not expected to significantly impact the human environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20910
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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.

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,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure