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

MAY 26 2010

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: Environmental Assessment for the Northeast Skate Complex Fishing Year 2010-2011 Specifications (RIN 0648-AW30)

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone off the East Coast of the United States

SUMMARY: In support of and consistent with the provisions of Amendment 3 to the Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP), this environmental assessment analyzed the expected environmental impacts of the final specifications for the skate fishery, for fishing years 2010 and 2011. There are no significant social or economic impacts, nor are there any significant natural or physical environmental effects expected to result from this action.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator, Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9250

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 Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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