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

JUN 28 2010

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 the Issuance of a Protected Species Cooperative Conservation Grant to the Yurok Tribe (Award No. NA10NMF4720374) to Conduct Studies on Eulachon Smelt in Northwest California.

LOCATION: Research would take place in Northwest California in the Klamath River, Mad River, and Redwood Creek.

SUMMARY: The current EA analyzed the effects of the proposed southern DPS eulachon research, which will be conducted in Northwest California. Specifically, the funded work would 1) determine the population status of eulachon in the Klamath River, Redwood Creek and the Mad River; 2) develop and implement an annual eulachon spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimate for the Klamath River that would allow managers to better track recovery and manage fishery impacts; 3) conduct egg and larvae surveys of known and potential spawning areas in the lower Klamath River, Mad River, and Redwood Creek in California to better characterize current eulachon smelt distribution and to inform NOAA Fisheries critical habitat decisions for the DPS; and 4) to clarify the genetic structure of eulachon populations in the Klamath River, Redwood Creek and Mad River.

The proposed action analyzed in the EA would not have significant environmental effects on the target or non-target species; public health and safety would not affected; no unique geographic area would be affected; and the effects of this study would not be highly uncertain, nor would they involve unique or unknown risks. Issuance of this award would not set a precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor would it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. There would not be individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts associated with the proposed action, and there would not be adverse effects on historic resources. The award would contain mitigating measures to avoid unnecessary stress to the subject animals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-2332

Printed on Recycled Paper

The environmental review process led us to conclude 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 EA is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI, we will consider any comments submitted assisting us to prepare future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the responsible official named above.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure