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

JUL 1 6 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: Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Specification of the 2010-11 Total Allowable Catch of Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish

LOCATION: U.S. EEZ around Hawaii

SUMMARY: NMFS will specify the total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2010-11 fishing year as 254,050 lb of Deep 7 bottomfish in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) bottomfish fishery. The MHI Deep 7 bottomfish fishery opens on September 1 of each year and ends on August 31 of the following calendar year. Progress towards the TAC is monitored by NMFS based on reported commercial landings from the MHI and when the TAC is reached, both the commercial and non commercial MHI bottomfish fishery will be closed for the remainder of the fishing year.

The TAC is an annual specification required pursuant to federal regulations at 50 CFR 665.72 and provides for the long-term sustainability of bottomfish stocks of the Hawaiian Islands Archipelago. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) based its recommendation for the TAC on a bottomfish stock assessment prepared in 2009 by the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), and following coordination with its Scientific and Statistical Committee and interested members of the public during the 148th Council meeting held in June-July 2010. The TAC for the 2010-11 fishing year is the same TAC level that was specified for the previous year and is associated with no risk of overfishing of Hawaiian archipelagic bottomfish stocks, and a risk of localized depletion of the MHI management subarea bottomfish stocks of less than 38 percent. The TAC will not result in a change in fishing gear or other changes to the conduct of the fishery that could cause significant environmental impacts.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Michael D. Tosatto
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The environmental review process led us to conclude that specifying the MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish TAC at 254,050 lb for the 2010-11 MHI Deep 7 bottomfish fishing year will not have a

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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 and supplemental EA, is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/SEA/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