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

AUG 26 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: Supplemental Environmental Assessment on the Issuance of an Amendment to a Scientific Research Permit for Vessel Surveys and Tagging of Beaked Whales in Antarctic Waters

LOCATION: Southern Ocean

SUMMARY: NMFS proposed to issue an amendment to Permit No. 808-1735 to authorize photo-identification, observation, and suction-cup tagging of Arnoux's beaked whales during vessel surveys in the Antarctic to determine distribution and movement patterns for this species. These activities are not intrusive and do not involve any long-term adverse effects to individuals, populations, or the species. Any impacts from these research activities would be short-term and minimal to the individuals and hence, negligible to the species.

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
(301) 713-2332

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 supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed 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,

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

Enclosure

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