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

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

JUL 26 2010

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) entitled, "Supplemental Environmental Assessment of the Program for Decreasing or Eliminating Predation of Pre-weaned Hawaiian Monk Seal Pups by Galapagos Sharks in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) Protected Species Division (PRD) Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program (HMSRP) Honolulu, Hawai'i."

LOCATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i

SUMMARY: This supplemental environmental assessment evaluates the impacts of allowing use of "Surprise Net" technology to be utilized in the lethal removal of sharks preying on pre-weaned Hawaiian monk seal pups. One conservation and management permit would be issued to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Protected Species Division. The permit would be issued by the National Atmospheric and Administration's (NOAA's) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawai'i, as co-trustees of the monument. The assessment finds that the individual and cumulative impacts of this action are not significant. Accordingly, the supplemental environmental assessment has resulted in a finding of no significant impact.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: T. 'Aulani Wilhelm, Superintendent
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808) 397-2660

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 is enclosed for your information.

NOAA posted the draft SEA on the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument website for fifteen days and received no comments. 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
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure