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

MAY 25 2011

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: Final Environmental Assessment for Round IV – New Bedford Harbor Restoration Grant Applications (EA); and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

LOCATION: New Bedford, MA, including the Acushnet River, Buzzards Bay and the surrounding communities

SUMMARY: The EA was prepared by federal and state natural resources Trustees responsible for restoring natural resources and services injured as a result of industrial discharges over a long period of time into New Bedford Harbor, the Acushnet River and nearby coastal environments in western Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. The EA describes the injuries and the actions selected by the Trustees to restore the natural injuries. These actions take the form of financial awards for restoration projects to be implemented in the City of New Bedford, the Towns of Acushnet and Dartmouth and on islands in Buzzards Bay.

The restoration projects are as follows:

1. Acushnet River Upland Riparian Restoration (New Bedford, MA)
2. Acushnet Sawmill Ecological Restoration (Acushnet, MA)
3. LaPalme Riverside Farm Acquisition (Acushnet)
4. Palmer's Island Sanctuary (New Bedford, MA)
5. Restoration and Management of Tern Populations in Buzzards Bay
6. Round Hill Salt Marsh Restoration (Dartmouth, MA)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia Montanio, Director
Office of Habitat Conservation
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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 environmental assessment (EA) is enclosed for your information.

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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,

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

Enclosure