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

OCT 18 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: Adoption of the Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled "Environmental Assessment for Issuance of a Scientific Research Permit [File No. 14097] for Pinniped, Cetacean, and Sea Turtle Studies."

LOCATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i

SUMMARY: Cetacean research would be conducted in the Monument via a research permit issued jointly by the National Atmospheric and Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawai'i, as co-trustees of the monument (PMNM-2010-053). This environmental assessment evaluates the impacts of conducting population assessments, determining abundance, distribution, movement patterns, stock structure and diet of pinnipeds, cetaceans, and sea turtles, although only the cetacean research requires a monument permit. The assessment finds that the individual and cumulative impacts of this action are not significant. Accordingly, the 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 environmental assessment is enclosed for your information.

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.

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Sincerely,

for Paul N. Doremus
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure