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

NOV - 2 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: Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring (Herring) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Environmental Assessment (EA)

LOCATION: Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone

SUMMARY: This amendment is needed to bring the Herring FMP into compliance with Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requirements by: Revising definitions and the specifications-setting process, consistent with annual catch limit requirements; and establishing fishery closure thresholds, a haddock incidental catch cap, and overage paybacks as accountability measures. In addition, measures in Amendment 4 will: Designate herring as a "stock in the fishery;" establish an interim acceptable biological catch control rule; eliminate total foreign processing, including joint venture processing and internal waters processing, and reserve from the specifications process; and eliminate the New England Fishery Management Council's consideration of total allowable level of foreign fishing.

RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9315

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a 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, 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,

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

Enclosure