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

NOV 17 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: Environmental Assessment on Issuance of a Scientific Research Permit for Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Research in Florida Permit No. 14586

LOCATION: Waters of Southeast Florida, including Florida Straits from Jacksonville to Miami, Florida and out to the Bahamas

SUMMARY: The objective of the research is to collect information on the spatial and temporal distribution of sea turtle and marine mammal species using the Straits of Florida prior to the deployment of a national off-shore laboratory that will serve as a testing site for ocean energy technology. The research would provide information on the abundance of sea turtles and marine mammals in the area as well as assess how proposed ocean energy technology may impact these species. The permit would be issued for five years from date of issuance.

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 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,

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

Enclosure