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

APR 7 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:	Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Emergency Action Issuance of a Modification to Scientific Research Permit No. 14726 for Research on Protected Sea Turtles
LOCATION:	Gulf of Mexico
SUMMARY:	The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to a modification to Scientific Research Permit No. 14726 for takes under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The purposes of the research are to identify threats to pelagic sea turtles and document the density, condition, diet, and potential MC 252 oil exposure of pelagic sea turtles associated with floating *Sargassum* as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The preferred alternative is not expected to have more than short-term effects on sea turtles and will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.
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 supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) is enclosed for your information.

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,

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

Enclosure

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