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

APR 18 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 Issuance of a Modification to Scientific Research Permit No. 1596-02 for Tag Attachments to Leatherback Sea Turtles

LOCATION: Pacific Ocean waters of the United States off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a modification to scientific research Permit No. 1596-02 for takes under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the research is to continue long-term monitoring of the status of the leatherback sea turtle. 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

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