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

JAN 4 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: 2011 Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Specifications Environmental Assessment (EA)

LOCATION: Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone

SUMMARY: This action implements 2011 specifications and management measures for Atlantic mackerel, squid (*Loligo* and *Illex*), and butterfish (MSB), and modifies existing management measures. This action implements specifications that are the same as those implemented in 2010 for butterfish. The allowable biological catch (ABC) and initial optimal yield (IOY) are reduced for mackerel, and the IOY is reduced for *Illex* squid. Finally, the ABC and IOY are increased for *Loligo* squid. This action also modifies the accounting procedures for quota underages, and revises the 72-hr pre-trip notification requirement for the *Loligo* fishery to accommodate vessels departing for multiple day trips in a week. These specifications and management measures promote the utilization and conservation of the MSB resource.

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 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.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

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