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

APR 13 2011

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: Fishing Year 2011 Georges Bank (GB) Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limits (ACL) for the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), RIN: 0648-BA27

LOCATION: Exclusive economic zone off the East Coast of the United States

SUMMARY: This action revises the fishing year 2011 GB yellowtail flounder ACL originally adopted by the New England Fishery Management Council as part of Framework Adjustment 45 (FW 45) to the NE Multispecies FMP based upon the flexibility afforded by the International Fisheries Agreement Clarification Act. That Act allows higher ACLs to be specified for stocks managed by the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding (GB yellowtail flounder, Eastern GB cod, and Eastern GB haddock), provided overfishing is ended and the stock continues to rebuild according to that understanding. In addition, this action updates analysis of the impacts of measures included in FW 45 on Atlantic sturgeon and loggerhead sea turtles. Thus, the analysis for these issues supplements the environmental assessment prepared for other measures included in FW 45.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
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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,

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

Enclosure