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

MAY 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: Environmental Assessment for a Temporary Rule to Set the 2011 Gulf of Mexico Gag Recreational and Commercial Management Measures

LOCATION: Exclusive economic zone in the Gulf of Mexico

SUMMARY: This interim rule would reduce the commercial gag quota to 430,000 pounds for the 2011 fishing year, temporarily suspend the use of red grouper multi-use IFQ allocation so it cannot be used to harvest gag, and set a recreational gag fishing season from September 16 through November 15. The environmental assessment (EA) provides a review of the NEPA criteria for significant effects (40 CFR Part 1508.27) and NOAA Fisheries Service criteria for significance (NAO 216-6 Section 6.02), and concluded no significant effect on the quality of the human environment is anticipated from this action.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
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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 EA, 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.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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