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

MAY 25 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 entitled, "Environmental Assessment on the Issuance of a Conservation and Management Permit to the National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Protected Species Division and Pacific Islands Regional Office Protected Resources Division for Conducting Hawaiian Monk Seal Conservation and Management Activities in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument."

LOCATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i

SUMMARY: This environmental assessment evaluates the impacts of allowing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Protected Species Division and Pacific Islands Regional Office Protected Resources Division to conduct observation, monitoring and targeted lethal Galapagos shark removal activities in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. One conservation and management permit will be issued by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawai'i, as Co-Trustees of the Monument. The assessment finds the individual and cumulative impacts of this action are not significant. Accordingly, the environmental assessment has resulted in a finding of no significant impact.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: T. 'Aulani Wilhelm, Superintendent
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808) 397-2660

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 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