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

AUG 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 programmatic action.

TITLE: Effects of the Issuance of Financial Assistance through the Species Recovery Grants to States, Species Recovery Grants to Tribes, and the Proactive Species Conservation Grant Programs.

LOCATION: Awardees would be located throughout the United States.

SUMMARY: This Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) describes and evaluates three discretionary grant programs administered by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources, Endangered Species Division: the Species Recovery Grants to States Program, the Species Recovery Grants to Tribes Program, and the Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program. Federal assistance provided through these programs is used to conserve and improve the status of particular at-risk species that are NOAA trust resources; and activities selected for funding under these programs are designed to have beneficial effects and potentially no, minimal or short-term, negative environmental impacts.

The proposed actions anticipated for these programs and analyzed in this PEA would not have significant environmental effects on the target or non-target species; public health and safety would not be affected; no unique geographic area would be affected; and the effects of these programs would not be highly uncertain, nor would they involve unique or unknown risks. Issuance of these awards would not set a precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor would it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. There would not be individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts associated with the proposed action, and there would not be adverse effects on historic resources. The awards would contain mitigation measures to avoid unnecessary stress to the subject animals. If NMFS later determines that an action planned under these programs could have significant effects to the human environment, or effects that are not fully analyzed under this PEA, additional, tiered NEPA analysis would be performed, and mitigation would be considered to reduce the effects to insignificant levels where possible.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

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The environmental review process led us to conclude this programmatic 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 EA is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

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