Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for:
Amendment 20A to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 20A)

National Marine Fisheries Service

Actions in Amendment 20A include measures to: (1) Define and revert inactive wreckfish shares; (2) redistribute reverted shares to remaining shareholders; (3) establish a cap on the number of shares one shareholder may own; and (4) establish an appeals process for share redistribution. The actions are necessary to achieve the optimum yield (OY) for wreckfish in the commercial sector of the snapper-grouper fishery in accordance with National Standard (NS) 1 of the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and ensure a more efficient use of the resource as supported by NS 5. Establishment of a share cap is necessary to comply with requirements for limited access privilege programs under Section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Furthermore, establishment of an appeals process, with a percentage of shares as a set-aside, will allow shareholders to dispute share reversion or redistribution, if necessary.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-6 (NAO 216-6) (May 20, 1999) contains criteria for determining the significance of the impacts of a proposed action. On July 22, 2005, NOAA Fisheries Service published Instruction 30-124-1 with guidelines for the preparation of a FONSI. In addition, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Section 1508.27 state that the significance of an action should be analyzed both in terms of "context" and "intensity." Each criterion listed below is relevant to making a finding of no significant impact and has been considered individually, as well as in combination with the others. The significance of this action is analyzed based on the NAO 216-6 criteria, the Instruction from NOAA Fisheries Service, and CEQ's context and intensity criteria. These include:

1) **Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to jeopardize the sustainability of any target species that may be affected by the action?**

Response: No. None of the actions contained within Amendment 20A are expected to jeopardize the sustainability of the target species (wreckfish). Actions in Amendment 20A are intended to maximize harvest potential in the commercial sector of the wreckfish component of the snapper-grouper fishery within the constraints of the annual catch limit (ACL) of 223,250 pounds whole weight (ww), in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011), which becomes effective April 16, 2012.

Actions in Amendment 20A (see Section 4 of Amendment 20A for detailed analysis) are largely administrative in nature, and would not significantly increase or decrease the current level of fishing effort, or modify the gear types used in the fishery. The preferred alternative in Action 2 (Section 4.2 of Amendment 20A) would redistribute reverted wreckfish shares to currently active shareholders based on each active shareholder's total landings history for the last five fishing years. This could cause a slight increase (by very few currently active fishers) in fishing effort due to previously inactive shares being fished. However, overall harvest would be constrained

by: The number of shares and coupons held by each shareholder; the commercial ACL of 223,250 pounds ww; and the accountability measures (AMs) also in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011), which are designed to prevent ACL overages and correct for any ACL overages if they occur.

Furthermore, wreckfish occur throughout the North Atlantic and fisheries for wreckfish occur in other areas such as Portugal and the Azores. The exact source of pelagic juveniles, extent of wreckfish stocks in other parts of the world, and the size of the wreckfish stock in U.S. waters is unknown, which makes estimating the magnitude of the current wreckfish population extremely difficult (Sedberry et al. 1999). Given this information, the actions to define and redistribute inactive shares, establish a share cap, and establishing an appeals process, are not likely to significantly add or detract from the current management and biological uncertainties that surround wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery. Therefore, the actions in Amendment 20A are not likely to jeopardize the sustainability of the South Atlantic wreckfish population.

2) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to jeopardize the sustainability of any non-target species?

Response: No. Actions in the approved portions of the subject amendment are not likely to jeopardize the sustainability of any non-target species. As discussed in Section 3.2.1.2 and the Bycatch Practicability Analysis (Appendix D) of Amendment 20A, barrelfish *(Hyperoglyphe perciformes)* and red bream *(Beryx decadactylus)* are incidentally caught in small amounts when targeting wreckfish (Goldman and Sedberry 2010). Sea turtles are vulnerable to capture in the vertical line gear used in the wreckfish sector. The effects of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery on sea turtles were evaluated in the previous biological opinion on the entire South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery (NMFS 2006). The biological opinion concluded the entire South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery (including the wreckfish sector) was likely to adversely affect sea turtles, but not jeopardize their continued existence. The new commercial ACL of 223,250 pounds ww, effective April 16, 2012, reduced from the previous total allowable catch of two million pounds ww, would further reduce the probability of fishing mortality on non-target species, including the sustainability of protected species.

3) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to cause substantial damage to the ocean and coastal habitats and/or essential fish habitat (EFH) as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and identified in FMPs?

Response: No, the proposed actions are not reasonably expected to cause substantial damage to the ocean and coastal habitats and/or EFH in the U.S. waters of the South Atlantic as described in Section 3.1.1.1 of Amendment 20A. The actions in Amendment 20A should have minimal overall impacts to EFH because effort would be constrained by the number of shares and coupons, the approved commercial ACL, as well as effort-limiting accountability measures as per the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011). The proposed actions in Amendment 20A are not expected to cause any damage to the ocean and coastal habitats and/or EFH as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and identified in the FMPs. Furthermore, no changes in fishing technique or behavior are expected. Therefore, impacts to coastal habitats and/or essential fish habitat would not be significantly different from the status quo. This determination

may be found in a memorandum to the file, dated October 18, 2011, from the Habitat Conservation Division of NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office.

4) Can the proposed action be reasonably expected to have a substantial adverse impact on public health or safety?

Response: No, the proposed actions are not reasonably expected to have a substantial adverse impact on public safety or health. The commercial sector of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery operates under an individual transferable quota (ITQ) system (see Section 3 of Amendment 5 to the Snapper-Grouper FMP (SAFMC 1991)), which allows fishermen to better choose when and how they want to fish. Amendment 20A does not modify the ITQ system; would not significantly increase or decrease the current level of fishing effort; or modify the gear types used in the wreckfish component of the snapper-grouper fishery. Therefore, no safety at sea issues are expected to result from any of the actions in the subject amendment.

5) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, marine mammals, or critical habitat of these species?

Response: No. The actions contained in Amendment 20A are not expected to adversely affect endangered or threatened species, marine mammals, or critical habitat of these species. The southeastern U.S. Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery is classified as a Category III fishery, according to the 2012 List of Fisheries (76 FR 73912, November 29, 2011), meaning the annual mortality and serious injury of a marine mammal resulting from the fishery is less than or equal to one percent of the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. The actions of Amendment 20A and the continued authorization of the fishery under it, is not likely to change the number of interactions with marine mammals. Additionally, the commercial sector of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery is not expected to adversely modify northern right whale critical habitat. Listed sea bird species such as the Bermuda petrel would not be adversely affected by actions contained within Amendment 20A due to their rare occurrence off the Atlantic coast.

The impacts of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species have been evaluated in a biological opinion on the continued authorization of snapper-grouper fishing under the Snapper-Grouper FMP and Amendment 13C (NMFS 2006), and during subsequent informal ESA section 7 consultations. The biological opinion states the fishery was not likely to adversely affect any critical habitat or marine mammals (see NMFS 2006 for discussion on these species). However, the opinion did state that the snapper-grouper fishery would adversely affect sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. There are no actions in Amendment 20A that would substantially increase fishing effort or modify the gear types used in the snapper-grouper fishery over the status quo; therefore, the implementation of Amendment 20A and the continued authorization of the fishery under it is not anticipated to adversely affect sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. This determination is documented in an ESA section 7 determination memoranda dated February 15, 2012, and March 6, 2012.

NOAA Fisheries Service conducted an informal section 7 consultation on July 9, 2007, evaluating the impacts of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery on ESA-listed *Acropora* species. The consultation concluded that the continued operation of the snapper-grouper fishery was not likely to adversely affect newly listed *Acropora* species. On November 26, 2008, a final rule designating *Acropora* critical habitat was published in the *Federal Register*. A memo dated December 2, 2008, evaluated the effects of the continued authorization of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery on *Acropora* critical habitat pursuant to section 7 of the ESA. The consultation concluded the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect *Acropora* critical habitat. Wreckfish are harvested in deepwater (450-600 m; 1,476-1,969 ft), and hence, beyond the distribution of *Acropora* and their designated critical habitat. Thus, the actions proposed in Amendment 20A and the continued authorization of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery are not likely to change these previous determinations.

On February 15, 2012, and March 6, 2012, NOAA Fisheries Service determined the continued authorization of the snapper-grouper fishery is not likely to adversely affect Atlantic sturgeon. The current allowable gear types in the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery include: longlines, rod-and-reel gear, bandit gear, handlines, spears, powerheads, and black sea bass pots (50 C.F.R. § 600.725). Hook-and-line gear (i.e., longlines, rod-and-reel gear, bandit gear, handlines) is not likely to adversely affect Atlantic sturgeon because of their diets and feeding mechanism. Atlantic sturgeons are described generally as being omnivorous benthic feeders that filter large quantities of substrate when they suction food into their protrusible mouth. In the marine environment, Atlantic sturgeon feed on mollusks, polychaete worms, gastropods, shrimps, amphipods, isopods, and fish.' These species are not used as bait when targeting snapper-grouper species, including wreckfish. Since Atlantic sturgeon are unlikely to be attracted to the baits used for snapper-grouper species and are unlikely to feed on baited hooks, any adverse effects from snapper-grouper hook-and-line gear are extremely unlikely to occur and are discountable.

6) Can the proposed action be expected to have a substantial impact on biodiversity and/or ecosystem function within the affected area (e.g., benthic productivity, predator-prey relationships, etc.)?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not expected to substantially impact the biodiversity and/or ecosystem function within the affected area. The affected area includes the federal 200-mile limit of the Atlantic ocean off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and east Florida to Key West. The biological range of wreckfish is described in Section 3 of Amendment 20A.

Amendment 20A directly affects one species (wreckfish) and may indirectly affect two co-occurring fish species (barrelfish and red bream), which are incidentally caught in small amounts (see Section 3.2.1.2 and Appendix D), and are not subject to federal management. Increases in directed fishing effort, as a result of Amendment 20A are unlikely. Overall harvest would not dramatically deviate from the status quo, particularly since the commercial ACL (and AMs) to be implemented by the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, would not allow harvest of wreckfish to exceed the ACL. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries Service has concluded there would be no substantial impact on biodiversity or ecosystem function.

7) **Are significant social or economic impacts interrelated with natural or physical environmental effects?**

Response: No. There are no significant social or economic impacts that are interrelated with natural or physical environmental effects (see Section 4 of Amendment 20A). At the time Amendment 20A was under development, 28.18% of the quota shares were defined as inactive and would be redistributed to active shareholders. It was estimated that the combination of Actions 1 and 2 in Amendment 20A would be expected to increase annual gross revenue by approximately $186,220, assuming active shareholders harvest all of their annual wreckfish allocation. This increase in gross revenue would in turn generate economic impacts for seafood dealers, restaurants, and other onshore businesses. The estimated economic impacts, based on the active and inactive share distribution at the time, are presented in Table B-1 of Section 1.4.5 in the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR, Appendix B). The expected increase in annual gross revenue is expected to increase employment, income, and output by 35 jobs, $1.045 million, and $2.452 million, respectively. The 13 shareholders who were defined as being inactive, at the time Amendment 20A was developed, would not incur any losses in wreckfish landings or gross revenue from their shares being revoked. Most of these shareholders (11) have not been active in any commercial fisheries and thus appear not to be involved in commercial fishing at all. However, two of these inactive shareholders did have commercial landings and gross revenue from other fisheries during 2006 and 2010. The extent to which these shareholders were involved in other fisheries differs greatly, as one was only minimally involved and the other significantly involved in other commercial fisheries. The loss of wreckfish shares is not expected to affect the current operations of these two shareholders' vessels, though it would take away the option of fishing for wreckfish in the future. Technically, the loss of shares would also prevent these shareholders from leasing their coupons. However, as no coupons have been leased by any shareholder since 1995, this loss is not considered to be real economically and is therefore discounted. Based on the average market value of a 1% share, the total loss of quota share to these 13 shareholders is estimated to be valued at approximately $180,582, or about $13,890 per shareholder. If the median quota share per shareholder is used, then the average loss per shareholder would be approximately $11,494. These losses represent a loss in asset value or wealth as opposed to profits or income. Because information on these shareholders' wealth is not available, it is not possible to determine the economic significance of these losses to them.

After Amendment 20A was approved for Secretarial review by the Council for Secretarial review at their December 2011 meeting, significant consolidation of the inactive ITQ shares have occurred. Since development of the analysis of the expected economic effects of the proposed actions to define inactive wreckfish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) shares and revert inactive shares for redistribution among active IFQ shareholders in South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Amendment 20A (Amendment 20A), the number of shareholders holding inactive shares has declined from 13 to 5 and the proportion of inactive shares has declined from 28.18 percent to 2.6 percent.

As a result, if the preferred actions in Amendment 20A are implemented, assuming an estimated share value of $1,816 to $6,407 per one-percent share[1], the total value of the inactive shares that would be reverted has declined from approximately $51,200 to $180,600 (approximately $3,940 to $13,890 per shareholder) to approximately $4,740 to $16,700 (approximately $950 to $3,340 per shareholder).

Despite these changes, all determinations with respect to the expected economic effects of the proposed actions remain unaffected. All entities whose shares would be expected to be defined as inactive would not be expected to lose any revenue from the loss of their shares because these shares have not been fished since April 16, 2006. Some of these shares have been inactive for a longer period of time than since April 16, 2006. This date, however, was used because it was used to define a share as "active" or "inactive" by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's in Amendment 20A. Active shareholders who would receive the reverted shares would have the opportunity to increase fishing revenue. Based on a commercial quota of 223,250 pounds (whole weight; Amendment 20A) and a price of $2.96 per pound (Amendment 20A), the annual total ex-vessel value associated with these reverted shares is estimated to be approximately $17,300. As a result, these actions, if implemented, would not be economically significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866, nor be expected to have a significant direct adverse economic effect on the profits of the small entities expected to be impacted.

Action 3 in Amendment 20A would establish a 49% share cap. Since the maximum amount of shares owned by a single individual is 41.54% under the combination of Action 1 and Action 2, no individuals would exceed the share cap and thus no individual would possess excess shares that could be subject to further redistribution. As such, Action 3 does not currently affect any shareholder and thus is not expected to generate any direct economic effects on active shareholders at the present time. However, it does preclude active shareholders from purchasing additional shares greater than the difference between their final shares, as determined under the combination of Action 1 and Action 2, and the 49% share cap. For example, the individual with the maximum amount of shares could only purchase an additional 7.46% of the shares, even if he wanted to purchase more in order to maintain his recent level of wreckfish landings and gross revenue. Thus, Action 3 may generate some indirect economic effects on active shareholders who want to own shares above the share cap. However, due to the small number of active participants, the indirect effects would be minimal (see Section 4.3.2 of Amendment 20A for more details).

Action 4 in Amendment 20A would establish an appeals process. Under the preferred alternative, the Regional Administrator would have sole authority with respect to reviewing, evaluating, and rendering final decisions on appeals. Allowing the Regional Administrator to

[1] The lower end of the range is based on transactions by inactive shareholders, compiled on April 4, 2012, and the upper end is based on share transfer price data compiled on August 24, 2011, reflecting transfer activity between the 2009/2010 and 2011/2012 fishing years. Analysis of transactions of inactive shares did not include family transfers or transfers to self-owned corporations because the transfer price for these transfers were reported as $0. The higher transfer value was used in Snapper Grouper Amendment 20A. The lower estimate may be more reflective of the expected value of these shares to inactive shareholders. It can also be argued that the share value to inactive shareholders who have not divested their shares despite the expectation that these shares will be designated as inactive and distributed to active shareholders is zero.

determine the outcome of appeals is the most administratively streamlined process for considering appeals, when compared to the other alternative, which would require the convening of a review panel. Gathering a group of individuals to review appeals applications would require more time and money than if the Regional Administrator is granted the authority to perform the reviews himself. Thus, under the preferred alternative adverse economic effects are expected to be minimal (see Section 4.4.2 of Amendment 20A for more details).

Furthermore, the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (RFA, Appendix C of Amendment 20A) conducted for Amendment 20A concluded that the actions in this amendment would not be expected to have a significant direct adverse economic effect on the profits of a substantial number of small entities.

8) Are the effects on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?

Response: No. There are no foreseen adverse effects on the quality of the human environment that may be highly controversial as a result of any of the actions contained in Amendment 20A. This amendment is intended to promote the management provisions of the Snapper-Grouper FMP and to allow the commercial sector of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery to maximize harvest potential within the constraints of the ACL. Through the implementation of these actions, it is expected that the human environment may benefit from fishing opportunities that would otherwise be lost (see Section 4.2.3 of Amendment 20A and discussion in Criterion #7 in this FONSI).

9) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to result in substantial impacts to unique areas, such as historic or cultural resources, park land, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not expected to result in substantial impacts to unique or ecologically critical areas. In the South Atlantic, areas of unique habitat exist such as the *Oculina* Bank and large expanses of deepwater coral; however, regulations are currently in place to protect such known areas (see Section 3 in Amendment 20A). Additionally, there are several notable shipwrecks along the southeast coast in state and federal waters including Lofthus (eastern Florda), SS Copenhagen (southeast Florida), Half Moon (southeast Florida), Hebe (Myrtle Beach, North Carolina), Georgiana (Charleston, South Carolina), Monitor (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina), which is also a National Marine Sanctuary, Huron (Nags Head, North Carolina), and Metropolis (Corolla, North Carolina). The southeastern coastline is also home to numerous marshes and wetland ecosystems; however, these sensitive ecological environments do not extend into federal waters of the South Atlantic. Actions within this amendment would not affect any of the above listed habitats or historic resources, nor would they alter any regulations intended to protect them.

10) Are the effects on the human environment likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks?

Response: No. The effects on the human environment are not likely to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. Actions in Amendment 20A are largely administrative in nature. A thorough biological, economic, and social analysis of the potential impacts of the actions contained within Amendment 20A (see Section 4) has been completed and revealed predictable short-term and long-term impacts based on projections using landings data and economic information from previous years.

The level of fishing for wreckfish would not increase significantly beyond previously implemented harvest limits as a result of the amendment actions; therefore no significant biological or economic impacts are anticipated.

11) Is the proposed action related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant impacts?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant impacts (see Section 5). Actions in Amendment 20A, combined with past, present, and future actions as applied to the wreckfish sector, are not expected to result in any significant cumulative impacts on the biophysical environment. The majority of actions contained in this and other wreckfish amendments are largely administrative in nature with socioeconomic implications rather than biological impacts. Therefore, the magnitude and/or significance of actions contained within this amendment are considered extremely small, and would not result in cumulative modifications to the biological environment. Furthermore, with the commercial ACL for wreckfish to be implemented by the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, it is likely that taking no action could result in the decline of wreckfish harvest and potential negative impacts on active fishermen, dealers, and seafood restaurants. Actions in Amendment 20A are intended to promote the management provisions of the Snapper-Grouper FMP and to allow the commercial sector of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery to maximize harvest potential within the constraints of the ACL, and to maximize the probability of achieving OY for wreckfish.

12) Is the proposed action likely to adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The commercial sector of the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery is prosecuted 130-160 km offshore the southeastern U.S., in depths of 450-600 m (1,476-1,969 ft) (Sedberry et al. 2001). None of the shipwrecks mentioned in the response to Criterion #9 in this FONSI are found in the area where wreckfish are commercially harvested. Section 3 in Amendment 20A discusses the affected environment in detail, including sections on essential fish habitat.

13) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to result in the introduction or spread of a non-indigenous species?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not expected to result in the introduction or spread of any non-indigenous species including lionfish. Amendment 20A addresses the commercial sector of the wreckfish component of the snapper-grouper fishery, which occurs in federal waters of the U.S. As discussed in the response to Criterion #3 in this FONSI, barrelfish *(Hyperoglyphe perciformes)* and red bream *(Beryx decadactylus)* are incidentally caught in small amounts when targeting wreckfish (Goldman and Sedberry 2010). The vessels and fishing gear, in addition to the species encountered with the commercial harvest of wreckfish, are used or found in U.S. federal waters. Therefore, the introduction or spread of a non-indigenous species is not expected from the actions in Amendment 20A. See Section 3 in Amendment 20A for more details.

14) Is the proposed action likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?

Response: No. None of the proposed actions are likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Actions in Amendment 20A are largely administrative in nature and are not considered precedent setting. Furthermore, the actions do not represent a novel approach to managing fisheries in the South Atlantic, nor do they represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. This is supported by detailed analysis in Section 4 (environmental effects), Section 5 (cumulative effects), Appendix B (RIR), and Appendix C (RFA) of Amendment 20A.

15) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment?

Response: No, the proposed actions are not expected to threaten or violate federal, state, or local environmental laws. All actions contained in Amendment 20A comply with federal laws governing U.S. fisheries, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the ESA, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Wreckfish are not harvested in state or local waters, and therefore, state and local environmental laws would not be threatened or violated.

16) Can the proposed action reasonably be expected to result in cumulative adverse effects that could have a substantial effect on the target species or non-target species?

Response: No. The proposed actions are not expected to result in any cumulative adverse effects that could have a substantial effect on the target species or non-target species. A cumulative effects analysis (see Section 5 of Amendment 20A) was conducted for Amendment 20A and revealed no cumulative adverse effects on the biological environment, which includes all target and non-target species. None of the actions contained within Amendment 20A are expected to jeopardize the sustainability of wreckfish. The intent of actions in Amendment 20A is to maximize harvest potential of wreckfish within the constraints of the commercial ACL to be implemented by the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011). Actions in Amendment 20A (see Section 4 of Amendment 20A) are largely administrative in nature, and would not significantly increase or decrease the current level of fishing effort, or modify the gear types used

in the wreckfish portion of the snapper-grouper fishery. Additionally, combined effects of past, present, and future actions associated with the wreckfish component of the snapper-grouper fishery are not expected to result in significant impacts on target or non-target species.

DETERMINATION

In view of the information presented in this document and the analysis contained in the supporting environmental assessment (EA) prepared for Amendment 20A, it is hereby determined that the proposed actions to define and revert inactive wreckfish shares; redistribute reverted shares to active shareholders; define a cap on the number of shares one entity may own; and establish an appeals process for share status and redistribution, would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as described above and in the supporting EA. In addition, all beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action have been addressed to reach the conclusion of no significant impacts. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary for this action.

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

4/6/2012
Date

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