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

APR 12 2012

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 (EA) for an Emergency Action to Close the Delmarva Scallop Access Area

LOCATION: Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone

SUMMARY: This emergency action closes the Delmarva Scallop Access Area and redistributes vessel trips from this area to the Closed Area I Access Area for the 2012 fishing year. This closure prevents potentially high levels of scallop fishing in this area, which could reduce long-term scallop biomass and yield from Delmarva, and could compromise the overall success of the scallop area rotational management program.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Daniel S. Morris
Acting Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9315

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 supporting environmental assessment, 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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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