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

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. Issuance of a Permit for Sea Turtle Research in the U.S. Virgin Islands (File No. 16146)

LOCATION: Buck Island National Monument, U.S. Virgin Islands

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue Permit No. 16146 to Dr. Kristen Hart. The purpose of the research is to quantify real-time habitat-use of sea turtles within and around the Buck Island Reef National Monument. The research would also provide information on genetic stock structure, vital rates, and local population abundance. Effects to sea turtles would be limited to short-term, minimal stress or harassment to individual animals. No serious injury or mortality is expected.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:
James H. Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 427-8400

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 (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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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