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

FEB 16 2012

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Chinook Salmon Prohibited Species Catch in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock Fishery, RIN 0648-BB24

LOCATION: Gulf of Alaska

SUMMARY: This document is an Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis analyzing proposed management measures that would apply exclusively to the directed pollock fishery in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA). The measures under consideration include setting prohibited species catch limits in the Central and Western GOA for Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), which would close the directed pollock fishery in those regulatory areas once attained; would require full retention of salmon species; and would increase observer coverage on vessels under 60 feet length overall. The purpose of this action is to address prohibited species catch of Chinook salmon in the GOA, and establish measures that protect against the risk of high Chinook salmon removals in the GOA pollock trawl fisheries in future years. The proposed action is not expected to have significant impacts on the human environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region
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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 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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