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

AUG - 2 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: National Marine Fisheries Service's *Environmental Assessment for Issuance of Incidental Harassment Authorizations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Confined Blasting Operations during the Port of Miami Construction Project in Miami, Florida*

LOCATION: Port of Miami in Miami, Florida, (25° 46' 05" North, 80° 09' 40" West)

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for the take, by Level B harassment only, of marine mammals during blasting operations as part of the Miami Harbor Deepening Project. In 2012, NMFS prepared an *Environmental Assessment for Issuance of Incidental Harassment Authorizations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Confined Blasting Operations during the Port of Miami Construction Project in Miami, Florida* (EA). NMFS has determined that the impact of conducting the blasting activities in the Port of Miami, Florida, may result, at worst, in a temporary modification in behavior of small numbers of one species of marine mammals. No injury, serious injury, or mortality is anticipated to result from this activity, nor is it authorized. NMFS has further determined that this activity will result in a negligible impact on the affected species or stocks of marine mammals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Helen M. Golde
Acting Director
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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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) prepared by the NMFS and the supporting NMFS EA, is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this 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,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure