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

OCT - 3 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: Environmental Assessment for Amendment 35 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico for Modifications to the Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan and Adjustments to the Commercial and Recreational Sector Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets; and establishing a Commercial Trip Limit (RIN 0648-BB97)

LOCATION: Gulf of Mexico

SUMMARY: The plan amendment would modify the greater amberjack rebuilding plan and adjust the stock annual catch limit (ACL). The stock ACL would be 1,780,000 pounds whole weight (lbs) and the annual catch target (ACT) would be 1,539,000 lbs. Based on the 27 percent and 73 percent, commercial and recreational allocation of greater amberjack, the commercial and recreational quotas to be implemented through the proposed rule would be 409,000 lbs and 1,130,000 lbs, respectively. The plan amendment also establishes a 2,000 lbs trip limit for the commercial sector throughout the fishing year.

The environmental assessment analyzes the impacts of the proposed action. By itself, this amendment is not controversial because the ACL is reduced five percent.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D., Regional Administrator, Southeast Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, (727) 824-5305, FAX (727) 824-5308.

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, including the environmental assessment, is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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