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

FEB 26 2013

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 on the Effects of Issuing a Permit for Scientific Research on Protected Sea Turtles in the Remote Pacific Islands (File No. 17022)

LOCATION: Remote U.S. Islands and Territories excluding Hawaii in the Central Pacific

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to issue a scientific research permit for takes under the authority of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of File No. 17022 is to begin long-term monitoring of green and hawksbill sea turtles to estimate abundance, size ranges, health status, habitat use, foraging ecology, local movements, and migration routes. The preferred alternative is not expected to have more than short-term effects on individual sea turtles and will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Helen M. Golde
Acting 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.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA and 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