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

APR 16 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: Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)
On the Issuance of a Modification to Scientific Research Permit No. 16507 to Dewayne Fox to Conduct Research on Shortnose Sturgeon

LOCATION: Delaware River and Delaware coastal waters

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue a modification to scientific research permit No. 16507 to Dewayne Fox, PhD. The purpose of the modification is to authorize annual takes of shortnose sturgeon. All capture methods, action areas and activities would remain unchanged. The authorization to sample shortnose sturgeon in addition to Atlantic sturgeon could allow the permit holder to test use of a hydroacoustic assessment method for both co-occurring species. The effects to shortnose sturgeon would be short-term and minimal and would allow the collection of valuable information that could help NMFS' efforts to recover this species.

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 supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed SEA/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
Assistant Administrator, PPI

Enclosure

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