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

APR 17 2013

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: Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP); Framework Adjustment 48

LOCATION: Northeastern United States, Northwest Atlantic, Exclusive Economic Zone

SUMMARY: Framework Adjustment 48 revises status determination criteria for four groundfish stocks based on updated stock assessments; implements and revises commercial and recreational accountability measures; clarifies the goals and performance standard for sector monitoring programs; eliminates dockside monitoring requirements; reduces minimum fish sizes for several groundfish stocks; allocates bycatch limits for two flounder stocks to non-groundfish fisheries; and allows sectors to request access to groundfish closed areas.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9315

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, environmental impact statements were not prepared. Copies of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the environmental assessments (EA), are enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on the 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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