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

APR 19 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: 2013-2015 Spiny Dogfish Specifications

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone off the Northeastern U.S.

SUMMARY: This action would specify the annual catch and possession limits for the spiny dogfish fishery for the 2013-2015 fishing years, reflecting updated scientific information on the status of the stock. The commercial quotas would be specified at 40.8 million lb in 2013, 41.8 million lb in 2014, and 41.6 million lb in 2015, representing 14-17-percent increases over the status quo level. The possession limit would also be increased from 3,000 lb to 4,000 lb per trip. The action is expected to have neutral to slightly negative impacts on habitat and protected resources, but minor positive impacts on target and non-target species relative to no action. Positive economic and social impacts are expected due to the increased quotas and possession limits, which will maximize opportunities to land spiny dogfish and increase potential fishing revenues.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
978-281-9250

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 (FONSI), including the environmental assessment (EA), is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this 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

Printed on Recycled Paper