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

MAY - 7 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: Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for a proposed Regulatory Amendment to Implement the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands to Revise the Maximum Retainable Amounts of Groundfish in the Arrowtooth Flounder Fishery (RIN 0648- BA43)

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska.

SUMMARY: The subject EA, and its accompanying regulatory impact review, provide a comprehensive discussion of the action to revise maximum retainable amounts for arrowtooth and Kamchatka flounder in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, and to allow for accounting, to improve MRA and prohibited species management. The EA concludes that, while the action will improve catch estimates and that has benefits for fisheries management and stock assessment, the action is not expected to impact the marine environment because it does not change the prosecution of the fishery. A Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared based on the EA analysis.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
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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, is enclosed for your information.

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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