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

NOV - 7 2013

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review was performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for a Guam Community Juvenile Rabbitfish Grow-out Project (Identified in Guam's Marine Conservation Plan)

LOCATION: Pacific Islands Regional Office

SUMMARY: This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyses two alternatives and resulting potential impacts of a federally funded aquaculture project in Guam. The preferred alternative would support a project that will capture juvenile (*dagge)* rabbitfish in Guam's nearshore waters that would be grown-out in on-land tanks and then reintroduced to natural habitat at around 6 months. This project will educate Guam youths on socio-cultural importance of rabbitfish, provide youth with outdoor education opportunities related to marine ecology, and teach youth traditional fishing practices. The project may also provide some benefit to the local rabbitfish population by stock enhancement by growing-out juveniles that otherwise would be subject to high natural mortality. The project will use the University of Guam's existing aquaculture facilities and follow established procedures to ensure quality and safety. The project lead would be Guam's 4-H program working in close coordination with the Guam's Fishermen's Cooperative Association. Other Project partners include the University of Guam, and Guam's Department of Agriculture. No significant effects to the human environment are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action. In 2011, the Council identified the grow-out project as a priority for completion using funds in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands Region
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
1601 Kapiolani Blvd. 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814
Tel (808) 944-2200; Fax (808) 973-2941

The environmental review process led us to conclude that the proposed 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,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure