



MAR 13 2014

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 (EA) for the Generic Amendment for Modifications to Federally Permitted Seafood Dealer Permitting and Reporting Requirements to the Fishery Management Plans in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions (RIN 0648-BC12)

**LOCATION:** Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

**SUMMARY:** The EA analyzes the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives to address reporting requirements for seafood dealers who first receive federally managed species. Currently, there are six federal dealer permits in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions based upon species purchased. In addition, the reporting requirements are different depending on the species purchased.

The action will create a single dealer permit that allows the holder to first receive any of the species managed in eight fishery management plans. Purchase and no purchase forms must be submitted weekly and electronically. Dealers reporting purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf of Mexico southern Florida west coast sub zone will be required to submit forms daily by 6:00 a.m., local time. Dealers will not be able to receive federally managed species if forms are not submitted. This action is intended to improve the accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness of landings data reported by dealers who first receive federally managed species.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D., Regional Administrator, Southeast Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, (727) 824-5305, FAX (727) 824-5308.

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, including the EA, is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Montanio  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

