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

APR 25 2014

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: Environmental Assessment to Revise the United States Commercial Fishery Regulations in Accordance with Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (C-13-02); RIN 0648-BD55

LOCATION: The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention Area of the Eastern Pacific Ocean which is bounded by the coast of the Americas, the 50° N. and 50° S. parallels, and the 150° W. meridian.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements conservation measures that are part of an international agreement to conserve Pacific bluefin tuna caught (PBF) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). These include a Commission-wide catch limit of 5,000 metric tons (mt) for PBF in 2014 for all member countries of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and a 500 mt catch limit for individual member countries should the Commission-wide catch limit be reached. The proposed regulation would only apply to vessels that commercially catch PBF in the EPO. The average annual PBF landings by U.S. vessels fishing in the EPO represent roughly two percent of the average annual PBF landings by all fleets fishing in the EPO for years 2007 through 2011. The U.S. commercial fleets have caught less than 500 mt of PBF annually for over a decade. Impacts to the human environment (e.g., effects of the proposed action alternatives on the natural environment and the socioeconomic environment) were found to be insignificant.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: William W. Stelle, Jr.
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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.

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

1. Environmental Assessment to Revise the United States Commercial Fishery Regulations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in Accordance with Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution C-13-02

2. Finding of No Significant Impact for Final Rule to Implement Resolution C-13-02 Adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission to Limit Harvest of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in 2014