



July 1, 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: Monkfish Fishery Management Plan Framework Adjustment 8 (RIN 0648-BD56)

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone off the East Coast of the United States

SUMMARY: This action would increase monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) allocations; the number of monkfish DAS that may be used in the Southern Fishery Management Area; monkfish directed and incidental landing limits; allow monkfish-only DAS to be used at any time during the fishing year; and enable monkfish Category H permits to fish throughout the Southern Fishery Management Area. This action is intended to help increase monkfish landings to better achieve optimum yield in the fishery and enhance the efficient utilization of available opportunities to catch monkfish.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator, Greater Atlantic Region
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9200

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,

for Patricia A. Montanio
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

