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

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 on the Issuance of Incidental Harassment Authorizations to Take Marine Mammals by Harassment Incidental to In-water Construction in Eastport, Maine

LOCATION: Eastport, Maine

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to Maine Department of Transportation (ME DOT) for the taking, by Level B harassment, of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to in-water construction work in Eastport, Maine. ME DOT's in-water construction activities are expected to occur within the time frame of August through November 2015. NMFS proposes to issue an IHA with mitigation measures, as described in Alternative 2 of the Environmental Assessment. NMFS' Office of Protected Resources (OPR) has determined that the take of marine mammals incidental to ME DOT's in-water construction activities would have negligible effects on the species and stocks of marine mammals in the action area.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donna S. Wieting, Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting 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,

TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012

Digitally signed by TRONVIG.KRISTEN.A.1365886012
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for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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