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

JUL 17 2013

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: Adoption of the Eglin Air Force Base's Environmental Assessment on *Maritime Strike Operations Tactical Development and Evaluation Eglin Air Force Base, Florida*

LOCATION: Gulf of Mexico, Florida

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Office of Protected Resources (OPR) proposes to issue an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA), to Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), authorizing the take of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) incidental to maritime strike operations within the Eglin Gulf Training and Testing Range (EGTTR). Eglin AFB prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled "*Maritime Strike Operations Tactical Development and Evaluation Eglin Air Force Base, Florida*," dated May 2013, describing the environmental impacts of their proposed military training activities. OPR reviewed this EA and determined that it is adequate for adoption because it adequately analyzes all environmental impacts of OPR's proposed action to issue an IHA. In particular, OPR determined that the EA's analysis of impacts to marine mammals is adequate, and that the effects of the proposed action are not expected to be significant.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donna S. Wieting, Director, Office of Protected Resources
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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 OPR's finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and Eglin AFB's supporting EA are 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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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