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

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we are making available for your review the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for Amendment 11 to the Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, along with the Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis, and Regulatory Impact Review.

This FSEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with regulatory actions being considered by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. The FSEIS analyses alternatives in Amendment 11 that close 60 areas (5.9 mi^2) to lobster trapping in the Florida Keys to protect threatened *Acropora* species of coral.

Additional copies of the FSEIS may be obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below. The document is also accessible electronically through the NOAA Fisheries Service Web Site at https://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov.

NOAA Fisheries Service is not required to respond to comments received during the agency's 30-day comment period as a result of the issuance of the FSEIS. However, comments received by June 4, 2012, will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after June 4, 2012.

Responsible Program Official: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
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Sincerely,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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