



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

DEC - 4 2007

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Final Reef Fish Amendment 30A: Greater Amberjack - Revise Rebuilding Plan, Accountability Measures; Gray Triggerfish - Establish Rebuilding Plan, End Overfishing, Accountability Measures, Regional Management, Management Thresholds and Benchmarks (Amendment 30A).

This DSEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with regulatory action being considered by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) which is needed to address stock rebuilding and overfishing of greater amberjack and gray triggerfish in Amendment 30A. As a result, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is developing a DSEIS to evaluate alternative measures to reduce greater amberjack and gray triggerfish fishing mortality rates in the reef fish fishery. Measures being considered are: 1) Modify the greater amberjack rebuilding plan and consider greater amberjack accountability measures; 2) evaluate greater amberjack recreational and commercial management alternatives; 3) establish thresholds and benchmarks for gray triggerfish; 4) develop a gray triggerfish rebuilding plan and evaluate gray triggerfish accountability measures; 5) consider gray triggerfish regional management measures; and 6) evaluate gray triggerfish recreational and commercial management alternatives.

Additional copies of the DSEIS may be obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below. The document is also accessible electronically from the Council's Web site at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Written comments should be submitted through mail, facsimile (fax), or email to the Responsible Program Official identified below. Written comments submitted during the agency's 45-day public comment period must be received by January 28, 2008. When submitting fax or email comments include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: 0648-AV34.

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Sincerely,



Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator



Enclosure