



To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment (EA) for Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) [RIN: 0648-BB33]

LOCATION: Exclusive economic zone off the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic states

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have submitted the subject amendment for review and implementation by the Secretary of Commerce. This amendment will: (1) Remove four species from the FMP; (2) revise the framework procedure; (3) establish two migratory groups for cobia; and (4) establish annual catch limits, annual catch targets, and accountability measures for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. Amendment 18 also contains non-regulatory actions to establish allowable biological catch control rules, set allocations for Atlantic group cobia, and revise definitions of management thresholds for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

RESPONSIBLE

OFFICIAL: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
727-824-5301

The environmental review process led us to conclude that these actions 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, 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,

Patricia A. Montanio
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure



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