



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Red Snapper Allocation Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 28).

This DEIS 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. The DEIS analyzes the impacts of changing the current commercial: recreational red snapper allocation of 51:49 percent, respectively, to some other allocation. This regulatory action addresses red snapper allocation. Specifically, the purpose is to reallocate the red snapper harvest consistent with the 2015 red snapper assessment update to ensure the allowable catch and recovery benefits are fairly and equitably allocated between the commercial and recreational sectors to achieve optimum yield.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained electronically from the Responsible Program Official identified below through Peter Hood at peter.hood@noaa.gov. The document is also accessible electronically from the Southeast Regional Offices Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Written comments on the DEIS should be submitted to the responsible official identified below through mail or via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0146. Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Written comments submitted during the agency's 45 day public comment period must be received by July 20, 2015. When submitting mailed comments, include the following document identifier: Comment on Amendment 28.

Responsible Program Official: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701-5505
Phone: 727-824-5301

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

