



Dear Reviewer:

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

This FEIS 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 FEIS analyzes the impacts of a range of alternatives that examined changes to the current commercial: recreational red snapper allocation of 51:49 percent, respectively, to some other allocation. Specifically, the purpose is to reallocate the red snapper harvest consistent with the 2014 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 FEIS 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>.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received during the agency's 30 day comment period as a result of the issuance of the FEIS. However, comments received by February 16, 2016 will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Written comments on the FEIS 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 30 day public comment period must be received by February 16, 2016. When submitting mailed comments, include the following document identifier: Comment on Amendment 28. The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after February 16, 2016.



Responsible Program Official:

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Sincerely,

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Enclosure