



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters, along with the 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 Fishery Management Council. The FSEIS analyzes the impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives intended to: (1) set the commercial annual catch limit for royal red shrimp and determine if the use of a commercial quota should continue, and (2) choose a commercial accountability measure for royal red shrimp.

Additional copies of the FSEIS may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2014/am16/index.html.

NOAA Fisheries 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 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 February 9, 2014.

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,

for: Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

