



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

JAN 4 2007

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Alaska Groundfish Harvest Specifications Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

This FEIS was prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA's proceeding with implementing harvest strategies for the federally managed groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI). The FEIS provides decision-makers and the public with an evaluation of the environmental, social, and economic effects of alternative harvest strategies for the federally managed groundfish fisheries. The FEIS examines alternative harvest strategies that comply with Federal regulations, the Fishery Management Plans for the GOA and BSAI groundfish, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The harvest strategies are applied to the best available scientific information to derive the total allowable catch estimates for the groundfish fisheries.

The FEIS is also accessible electronically through the NMFS Alaska Region's website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/analyses/specs/eis/default.htm>. Additional printed copies of the FEIS may also be requested from this website.

Please send comments to the Responsible Official identified below. NOAA is not required to respond to comments received as a result of issuance of the FEIS. However, comments received will be reviewed and considered for their impact on the issuance Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after February 12, 2007.

Responsible Official: Robert D. Mecum
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Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

