



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Deputy Under Secretary for  
Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB 14 2002

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment (EA) has been performed on the following action:

**TITLE:** NOAA Fisheries' Community Based Restoration Program

**LOCATION:** Waters of the United States

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the implementation of NOAA Fisheries' Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP) of the Office of Habitat Conservation. Activities under the CRP are designed to have a long-term beneficial impact on living marine resources. Any adverse impacts associated with CRP restoration projects are expected to be minimal, localized, and short-term. All best management practices will be utilized to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided or minimized.

The public and other interested parties have participated in review of the Draft EA for implementation of this program. The proposed activities were evaluated according to the evaluation factors under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1508.27). The environmental review process has led us to conclude that these restoration actions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Consequently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

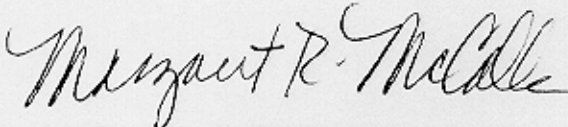
**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301/713-2239

Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact



including the supporting EA is available upon request to the responsible official.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Scott B. Gudes  
Deputy Under Secretary for  
Oceans and Atmosphere

Enclosure