



AUG 8 2011

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions*.

The Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) is a critically endangered species found only in the U.S. throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago and at Johnston Atoll. Only an estimated 1,125 individuals remain and the population is declining at approximately 4.5% each year.

This Draft PEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA implementing the alternative approaches for funding, undertaking, and permitting the management, research and enhancement activities on Hawaiian monk seals. The intended effect of carrying out the proposed action is to prevent the extinction of the species.

Additional copies of the Draft PEIS may be obtained by contacting the Responsible Official at the address shown below or by accessing the project website at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/hawaiianmonkseal.htm>

Written comments on the Draft PEIS should be directed via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the responsible official identified below by October 17, 2011.

Responsible Official: Jeff Walters
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National Marine Fisheries Service
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Sincerely,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

