

Prepared for:
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Office of Protected Resources



In accordance with:
NOAA Administrative Order Series 216-6:
Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Pursuant to:
The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

Environmental Impact Statement to Implement the Operational Measures of the North Atlantic Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

July 2006

Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement the *North Atlantic Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy* to reduce the occurrence and severity of vessel collisions with endangered North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*). The Strategy addresses the lack of recovery of the North Atlantic right whale population by reducing the likelihood and threat of ship strike related deaths and serious injuries to the species. This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) analyzes the potential environmental impacts of implementing the operational measures of the Strategy contained in the proposed action and alternatives. The EIS commenced after a preliminary environmental assessment came to a finding of potentially significant impacts on the human environment.

Comments Must Be Submitted No Later Than September 5, 2006
Direct Comments to:

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