



NOV - 2 2009

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Finding Of No Significant Impact for Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits in Longline Fisheries in 2009, 2010, and 2011, on the Environmental Assessment for the Implementation of the Decisions of the Fifth Regular Annual Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean: Fishing Restrictions and Observer Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2009-2011 and Turtle Mitigation Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries and Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits in Longline Fisheries in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and the Supplemental Environmental Assessment: Specific Analysis on Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits in Longline Fisheries in 2009, 2010, and 2011

LOCATION: Area of Application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

SUMMARY: The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) adopted several Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) at its Fifth Regular Session, in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2008. Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, sets forth specific provisions that seek to reduce fishing mortality on western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and control fishing mortality on WCPO yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), including specific bigeye tuna catch limits for longline fisheries operating in the WCPO. Pursuant to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (WCPFCIA; Pub. L. 109-479, Sec 501, et seq., and codified at 16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the National Marine Fisheries Service is promulgating regulations to implement the WCPFC's bigeye tuna catch limit for the WCPO longline fisheries of the United States.

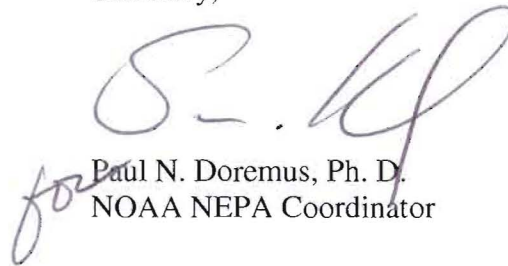
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

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The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the environmental assessment (EA) and Supplemental EA, is enclosed for your information. This FONSI does not address the other action analyzed in the EA – “Fishing Restrictions and Observer Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2009-2011,” which was addressed in a separate FONSI.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed FONSI/EA we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the Responsible Official named above.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure