



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

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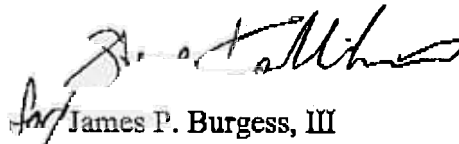
Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review our final supplemental environmental impact statement of Federal Lobster Management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This action would establish a management approach using historical participation as a means to control fishing effort in the offshore EEZ and nearshore EEZ waters from New York to North Carolina. It also addresses conservation equivalency for trap limits in New Hampshire coastal waters, and boundary clarifications for lobster conservation management areas off Massachusetts.

Any written comments or questions you may have should be submitted to Harold Mears, Director, State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, Northeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930, by December 9, 2002. Also, one copy of your comments should be sent to me at U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Office of Strategic Planning, Room 6121, 14th and Constitution, N.W., Washington, DC. 20230.

Sincerely,


James P. Burgess, III
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

