



SEP 28 2012

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Proposed Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2013-2014 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 21-2 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP), RIN 0648-BB57.

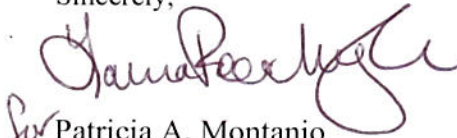
This FEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with the upcoming decision on the harvest specifications and management measures for the 2013-2014 Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and approval of Amendment 21-2. The 2013-2014 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures set fishery specifications for all 90+ groundfish species, including overfished species. The harvest specifications revise rebuilding plan parameters for two overfished species, Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) and canary rockfish. The proposed management measures revise the existing regulations such that the catch of groundfish are projected to stay within the annual specifications while allowing for harvest of the healthy stocks that co-occur with overfished species. Amendment 21-2 would revise catch accounting provisions for clarity and reinstate provisions that were inadvertently deleted with Amendment 21.

Additional copies of the FEIS may be obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below. The document is also accessible electronically through the National Marine Fishery Service, Northwest Region website at www.nwr.noaa.gov.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received during the agency's 30 day as a result of the issuance of the FEIS. However, comments received **within 30 days of publication of the notice of availability** in the Federal Register will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). Please send comments to the responsible official identified below. The ROD will be made available publicly.

Responsible Program Official: **William W. Stelle, Jr.**
Regional Administrator
NMFS Northwest region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7600 Sandpoint Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-526-6150
Fax: 206-526-6426
E-Mail: GroundfishSpex2013-14@noaa.gov

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

