



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Regulatory Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (RIN 0648-BD78).

This DEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proceeding to assess the environmental impacts associated with a regulatory action. This DEIS analyzes the impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives to modify the annual November 1 through April 30 prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear and to enhance current gear marking requirements for black sea bass pots.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2013/reg_am16/index.html or from the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal (see below).

Written comments on the DEIS should be submitted via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0165> or through mail to the responsible official identified below. Written comments submitted during the agency's 45-day public comment period must be received by December 7, 2015.

Responsible Program Official: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Sincerely,

Kristen A. Tronvig
Acting NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure