

Appendix C: NEPA Checklist for Proposed Actions

(Sample)

NOAA Environmental Check List for Proposed Actions *

Date:

Name:

Project Number:

Detailed project description: (please be as specific as possible; include breakdown of tasks, scope of project, schedule (for example, date construction begins, duration of activities, completion date), budget, points of contact, and any permits required):

<p>PROVIDE PROJECT DESCRIPTION IN THIS SPACE</p>
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CONDITION FOR PROPOSED ACTIONS	Present		
	Yes	No	Need Data
<p>1. Is the project covered in this PEA</p> <p>Consider whether the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. The project type is addressed but the applicant is using equipment or methodology not covered in the PEA</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. The project type is not covered and requires individual review</p>			
<p>2. Is the action likely to be inconsistent with any applicable, State, Indian tribal, or local law, regulation, or standard designed to protect any aspect of the environment?</p> <p>Consider whether the action is likely to have effect that would be inconsistent with such authorities as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and territorial coastal zone management plan; • State and territorial management plan or regulations that apply to coral reefs and associated habitats or the resources contained therein <p>Also consider whether the applicant has consulted with the respective resource management agency that has authority over the proposed</p>			

<p>work area and whether the action is likely to need a permit under another authority related to environmental protection.</p>			
<p>3. Is the action consistent with priorities identified by National Marine Sanctuaries, National Parks and Monuments for projects being conducted in Federal waters?</p> <p>Consider whether the project addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All necessary permits have been obtained from the relevant federal agency for the project • The relevant agency has identified this project as a priority, • The project complements ongoing conservation activities conducted by that federal agency • The project will provide information to appropriate resource managers needed to improve management and conservation efforts 			
<p>4. Is the action likely to have results that are inconsistent with locally desired social, economic, or other environmental conditions?</p> <p>Consider whether the action is likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the use of park land; • Change the use of prime farm lands; • Change the use of a floodplain; • Alter a wetland; • Modify zoning patterns of coral reefs such that the use of certain locations by fishermen, tourists, and stakeholders is restricted or prohibited • Be located on or near a wildlife refuge, a designated wilderness, a wild and science river, a National Natural Landmark, a National Historic Landmark, designated open space, or a designated conservation area or near any other environmentally critical area and have adverse environmental impacts on these areas; • Have adverse visual, social, atmospheric, or other effects on such a critical areas even though it is NOT located on or near the area. 			
<p>5. Is the action likely to result in the, release and/or disposal of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive materials, or in the exposure of people to</p>			

<p>such materials?</p> <p>Consider whether the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is likely to involve the use of chemicals other than those identified in the PEA for tagging and capture of coral reef organisms that either 1) are known to have detrimental effects on target species, non-target species or the habitats occupied by these species; or 2) have not been previously used and for which the impacts are unknown • Is likely to result in the release and/or disposal of toxic materials into coral reef environments such as laboratory wastes (e.g., fixatives), or other hazardous materials. • Has the potential to result in the release and or dispersal of a pathogen, parasite or other disease-causing agent • Involve the introduction or transplantation of stony corals and other organisms and whether appropriate provisions have been made to ensure that the species are 1) native organisms originally obtained from the local area; 2) they are of a similar genetic diversity to existing populations found in the project area; and 3) for species that were in culture, precautions have been taken to ensure they are being introduced into the wild without the presence of associated predators, pathogens or parasites 			
<p>6. Is the action likely to adversely affect a significant aspect of the aspect of the natural environment?</p> <p>Consider whether the action is likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect an endangered or threatened species, or its critical habitat; • Affect a species under consideration for listing as endangered or threatened, or its critical habitat; • Alter a natural ecosystem • Involve the use of a particular gear type (e.g., gill nets, traps, bottom trawls etc.) or other destructive equipment that have been shown to have negative impacts to coral reef habitats and are likely to cause significant impacts to the proposed area of work 			
<p>7. Is the action likely to adversely affect a significant aspect of the sociocultural environment?</p> <p>Consider whether the action is likely to:</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause changes in the ways members of the surrounding community, neighborhood, or rural area live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs, or otherwise function as member of society, or in their social, cultural, or religious values and beliefs. Is the action likely to: • Cause the displacement of fishermen or other coral reef user groups • Affect the economy of the community in ways that result in impacts to its character, or to the physical environment; • Affect any cultural practices (e.g., by prohibiting the harvest of a species that is culturally important)? <p>Give special attention to whether the action is likely to have environmental impacts on a minority or low income group that are out of proportion with its impacts on other groups. Consider, for example, whether the action is likely to alter such a group's use of coral reef resources.</p> <p>Also consider possible impacts on historic, cultural, and scientific resources. Think about whether the action is likely to have physical, visual, or other effects on:</p> <p>§</p>			
<p>8. Is the action likely to generate controversy on environmental grounds?</p> <p>Consider first whether your action is likely to be controversial in any way. If so, consider whether this controversy is likely to have an environmental element. For example, the decision to locate a marine protected area in a key fishing ground may be controversial to fishermen who rely on that resource for their livelihood, but this is not an environmental issue unless the relocation of fishermen causes increased damage to surrounding habitats due to concentration of fishing effort</p>			
<p>9. Is there a high level of uncertainty about the action's environmental effects?</p> <p>Consider first whether there is anything you don't know about the action's potential impacts, and then think about whether what you don't know has any significance. For example,</p>			

<p>10. Is the action part of an ongoing pattern of actions (whether under the control of GSA or others) that are cumulatively likely to have adverse effects on the human environment?</p> <p>Consider whether the action is related to other actions with impacts that are individually insignificant but that may, taken together, have significant effects. For example, is the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of an ongoing pattern of development that could collectively change the quality of the human environment, such as suburbanization, “gentrification,” or urban renewal? • Part of an ongoing pattern of pollutant discharge, traffic generation, economic change, or land-use change in its locality that could collectively affect health or the condition of the environment. 			
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<p>11. Is the action likely to have some other adverse effect on public health and safety or on any other environmental media or resources that are not specifically identified above?</p> <p>Consider whether any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant will be diving at great depths or in locations characterized by high currents, low visibility and other difficult diving conditions and they do not have the appropriate experience or appropriate dive safety protocols • The applicant is working with pathogens that may or are known to affect public health, and they have not taken precautions to reduce or prevent the potential for release of the pathogen into the environment <p>The question is designed to allow you to address any potential environmental effects that may be of concern but don't fall into any of the other categories. It implies that everyone is fallible, and that times change, so that effects that are not recognized as serious may be so identified in the future.</p>			
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* Checklist adapted from PBS NEPA Desk Guide, October 1999.

The checklist is not completed until all “NEED DATA” issues have been resolved and all blocks are checked either “YES” or “NO.” Checking a single block to “YES” does not necessarily mean that the application does not fall under the CRCGP PEA; it may be possible to resolve the “YES” answer in another way. For example, disposal of real property to a State agency for historic monument purposes invariably involves historic properties, and thus may affect an aspect of the

socio-cultural environment. However, it is probably safe to assume that the process of review under Section 106 of the NHPA will be sufficient to ensure that such effects are not adverse. So rather than going beyond this PEA, you would ensure that your proposed action complies with Section 106 and its implementing regulations.

Resolve all "NEED DATA" issues and complete the checklist, attaching all supporting documentation. In the "Conclusion" section, circle the conclusion reach. Add the names of the relevant program staff and representatives below the signature block; then sign and date them.

Conclusions (Circle One):

1. The action falls within the CRCGP PEA and requires no further environmental review.
2. The action falls within the CRCGP PEA but requires further review under one or more other environmental authorities.
3. The action requires an environmental impact statement.

Signature of the Principle Investigator

Date