



JUN 27 2006

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action:

TITLE: Adoption of the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy
2006 Supplement to the 2002 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)
Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant
Impact (FONSI)

LOCATION: Hawaii

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to authorize the take of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to conducting RIMPAC Anti-Submarine Warfare training events in the U.S. Navy's Hawaiian Operating Area in the summer of 2006. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, NMFS is issuing the U.S. Navy an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for this activity.

The U.S. Navy has completed a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. No significant environmental effects were identified and the Navy has concluded that this action does not require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

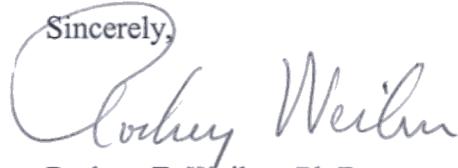
NMFS was a cooperating agency on the development of the SPEA. NMFS has reviewed the information contained in the Navy's SPEA and has determined that the SPEA, supported by the 2002 Programmatic Environmental Assessment, accurately describes the proposed action alternative, reasonable alternatives, and potential impacts on marine and other environmental resources that could be impacted by the proposed action and the alternative. The actions contained within the IHA are a subset of the activities that were evaluated within this SPEA, but are wholly contained within the scope of the SPEA. As a result, we have determined that it is not necessary to prepare a new Environmental Assessment (EA), Supplemental EA, or an EIS to authorize this activity. Therefore, based on this review and analysis, NMFS has adopted the U.S. Navy's SPEA under 40 CFR 1506.3 and issued a separate FONSI.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries
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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 EIS was not prepared.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney Weiher". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure