

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The development of this Amendment involved input from many people within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NMFS contractors, and input from constituent groups including the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel. Staff and contractors from the HMS Management Division, in alphabetical order, who worked on this document include:

Jess Beck, Ph.D., Knauss Fellow
Randy Blankinship, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Mike Clark, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Craig Cockrell, BS, Fishery Biologist
Peter Cooper, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Doug Graham, Cartographer
Sari Kiraly, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Eric Orbesen, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Chris Rilling, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Margo Schulze-Haugen, MS, Fishery Management Specialist
Jackie Wilson, Ph.D., Fishery Management Specialist

The development of this document also involved considerable input from other staff members and Offices throughout NOAA including, but not limited to:

- The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Dr. John Carlson, Dr. Katie Andrews, Lori Hale, Dana Bethea, Dr. Eric Prince, Dr. John Lamkin, Dr. Joe Serafy);
- The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Dr. Nancy Kohler, Dr. Cami McCandless);
- NOAA General Counsel (Stacey Nathanson, Megan Walline); and
- NMFS NEPA staff (Aileen Smith, Steve Kokkinakis, Cristi Reid).

8.1 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted and to Whom Copies of the Final EIS Will be Sent

Under 304(g)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to consult with and consider comments and view of affected Councils, commissioners and advisory groups appointed under Acts implementing relevant international fishery agreements pertaining to highly migratory species. NMFS consulted with and provided copies of the DEIS to the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, and the HMS Advisory Panel.

On December 16, 2004, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a directive requiring federal agencies to have “influential scientific information” and “highly influential scientific assessments” peer reviewed. NMFS decided that the Draft Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP could contain “influential scientific information,” which is defined as: scientific information (factual inputs, data, models, analyses, technical information, or scientific assessments) that the agency reasonably can determine does have or will have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector

decisions. As such, NMFS requested three scientists who were not involved in the drafting of Amendment 1 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to review certain sections of the Draft Amendment.

Per the OMB peer review bulletin, NMFS requested that the peer review evaluate the clarity of hypotheses, the validity of the research design, the quality of data collection procedures, the robustness of the methods employed, the appropriateness of the methods for the hypotheses being tested, the extent to which the conclusions follow from the analysis, and the strengths and limitations of the overall product. The peer reviews were used, as appropriate, to clarify assumptions, findings, and conclusions of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft Amendment 1 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. The reviews are provided in Appendix 2. Changes have been made to the text based on the peer reviewer's comments, as appropriate.

Copies of the FEIS will be distributed to:

Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Suite 2115 Federal Bldg.
300 S. New St
Dover, DE 19904-6726

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Caribbean Fishery Management Council
268 Muñoz Rivera Ave.,
Suite 1108
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1444 Eye Street, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39566-0726

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Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460