

benchmarks, and development of a standardized bycatch reporting methodology. At the May 2003 meeting, the Council voted to move all other parts of Amendment 13 into Amendment 14. Amendment 14 includes alternatives for vessel permits, effort reduction, bycatch quotas and improvement of collection of effort data.

As some of the requirements being considered in the original Amendment 13 were likely to have significant social and economic impacts under NEPA, a Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) was published in the

**Federal Register** on August 19, 2002 (67 FR 53769). Once Amendment 14 was created, however, these requirements were moved into the new amendment.

The proposed actions remaining in Amendment 13 are not presently expected to have a significant impact on the human environment. Consequently, an EA will initially be prepared rather than proceeding directly with a DSEIS. If the EA results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the EA and FONSI will be the final environmental documents required by NEPA. If the EA reveals that significant environmental impacts may be reasonably expected to

result from the proposed actions, the Council will prepare a DSEIS to further evaluate those impacts.

This document is intended to inform the public of the change from the direct preparation of a DSEIS to the initial preparation of an EA for Amendment 13 to the Shrimp FMP.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

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