

This supplementary document corrects an error in the Federal Register notice of availability and request for comments on NOAA's draft Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A. 81 FR 81066. As explained in NOAA's Federal Register notice, the Companion Manual contains NOAA's policy and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and related authorities and includes NOAA's proposed revised categorical exclusions (CEs) and related extraordinary circumstances.

In the Federal Register notice of its proposed revised NEPA procedures, NOAA incorrectly included the text of a single CE twice. The text for proposed CE B12 was incorrectly included as the text for proposed CEs B11 and B12. Proposed CEs B11 and B12 are accurately presented for public inspection and comment in NOAA's Companion Manual.

The following information is offered to aid the public in its review of NOAA's revised NEPA procedures:

Error in Federal Register notice, pg. 81069-70:

[B11.] "Issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) and other permits for research that may impact species regulated under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). This includes permitted research of limited size, magnitude or duration with negligible individual or cumulative impacts, which requires temporary relief of fishery management regulations."

NOAA proposes a new CE to cover the issuance of, or amendments to permits or authorizations for activities that are conducted within Marine National Monuments other than Papahānaumokuākea that are limited in scope so that the potential impacts of the proposed activities will be conducted in a manner compatible with a monument's primary objective of resource protection, and do not destroy, cause the loss of, or injure monument resources.

[B12.] "Issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) and other permits for research that may impact species regulated under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). This includes permitted research of limited size, magnitude or duration with negligible individual or cumulative impacts, which requires temporary relief of fishery management regulations."

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Correct version of proposed CEs B11 and B12, as presented in NOAA's Companion Manual, pg. E5-E6:

[B11.] "Issuance of, or amendments to permits or authorizations for activities that are conducted within Marine National Monuments other than Papahānaumokuākea that are limited in scope so that the potential impacts of the proposed activities will be conducted in a manner compatible with a monument's primary objective of resource protection, and do not destroy, cause the loss of, or injure monument resources."

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