 Associations around the Gulf Coast and solicited their help in spreading the word to the shipping companies about the rule. In addition, NOAA consulted with, and received approval from, the State of Florida. NOAA will continue to consult, as appropriate, with all relevant parties during the pendency of this rule.

End of Environmental Assessment

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has concurred that this rule is not significant within the meaning of Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12612: Federalism Assessment

NOAA has concluded that this regulatory action does not have sufficient federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This regulatory action if adopted as proposed is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation of the Department of Commerce has so certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

This proposed rule would make permanent the temporary prohibition on anchoring by vessels 50 meters or greater in registered length in a relatively small, sensitive area. Alternative anchoring sites for vessels subject to this regulation are within close proximity, which should mitigate any potential economic impact on such vessels since the cost of the time and fuel to maneuver to this area and the additional time and labor in letting out and pulling in the anchor chain should be minimal. Vessels smaller than 50 meters in registered length have not been documented as having caused injury or loss of living coral on Tortugas Bank and, therefore, would not be subject to this rule’s prohibition. Accordingly, an initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis was not prepared.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This proposed rule would not impose an information collection requirement subject to review and approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, 44 U.S.C. 3500 et seq.