2011-00516 - D: 7-25

GULF RESTORATION NETWORK

United for a Healthy Gulf

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June 17, 2011

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Public Reference Facility (OFA56)
1315 East West Highway (SSMC3)
Room 10730
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FOIA REQUEST
Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of All records, documents, handbooks or otherwise recorded information which specifically focuses on the Gulf of Mexico shrimping industry and their impact on other marine wildlife, such as Sea Turtles or marine mammals during and after the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil drilling disaster, starting on April 20, 2010 and continuing until the current date. In particular, we are highly interested in any and all catch and effort estimations, time/area closure information, TED compliance rates and numbers and detailed characterizations of instances of non-compliance. It is our understanding that much of this material has previously been made available to the conservation organization Oceana, which may make your material search easier.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our primary goal is to inform the public about the diverse issues facing the health of the Gulf of Mexico. This includes, but is not limited to, the various industries that thrive on the Gulf's vast resources and how those industry practices affect the Gulf. This information would be used to present our members and other interested parties with a more complete picture of how the shrimping industry is proceeding in their attempts to minimize the damage it causes to sea turtles and other animals.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Aaron Viles, Deputy Director