



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR

Bureau of Statistics and Plans Attn: Coastal Program Administrator Guam Coastal Management Program P.O. Box 2950 Hagatna, Guam 96932

Dear Administrator:

We, NOAA Fisheries, are sending this letter pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1)(A)) and its implementing regulations. Under section 307(c)(1)(A) of the CZMA, each Federal activity within or outside the coastal zone that has reasonably foreseeable effects on any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved State or Territory coastal management programs.

Under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we propose to designate critical habitat in the marine waters of Guam for green sea turtles of the Central West Pacific Distinct Population Segment (DPS). The proposed designation includes waters from the mean high water line to 20 m depth containing reproductive and/or foraging/resting essential features. Please see our website for more information: <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/critical-habitat-green-seaturtles">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/critical-habitat-green-seaturtles</a>.

We followed the steps outlined in the Procedures Guide for Achieving Federal Consistency with the Guam Coastal Management Program. We have determined that any coastal effects of this proposed designation of critical habitat on coastal uses and resources are not reasonably foreseeable at this time. This proposed designation does not restrict any coastal uses, affect land ownership, or establish a refuge or other conservation area; rather the designation only affects the ESA section 7 consultation process. Through the consultation process, we will receive information on proposed Federal actions and their effects on listed species and the designated critical habitat upon which we base our biological opinion. It will then be up to the Federal action agencies to decide how to comply with the ESA in light of our opinion, as well as to ensure that their actions comply with the CZMA's Federal consistency requirement. At this time, we do not anticipate that this designation is likely to result in any additional management measures by other Federal agencies.

Please accept our submission of this negative determination for your review. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Schultz at <u>jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov</u> or 301-427-8443.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Damon-Randall

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Director, Office of Protected Resources

Attachment: Supplemental Information Form

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JUL 27 2023

BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND PLANS

## FEDERAL CONSISTENCY SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM

Date: 11/21/2022	
Project/Activity Title or  Description Proposed designation of marine critical habitat for the green turtle (Central West Pacific DPS)	
Project/Activity Title or	
	Est. Start Date: Summer 2024 Est. Duration
APPLICANT	
Name & Title_Jennifer Schultz	
Agency/Organization NOAA Fisheries	
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