

2022, to July 15, 2023, for year 1 and from July 16, 2023, to July 15, 2024, for year 2. On August 3, 2023, BNSF informed NMFS that the project would be delayed by one year and requested a reissuance of the initial IHAs. None of the work identified in the initial IHAs (e.g., pile driving and removal) had occurred. Therefore, reissuance of the two consecutive IHAs was appropriate. The IHAs were effective from September 28, 2023, through July 15, 2024, for year 1 and from July 16, 2024, to July 15, 2025, for year 2 (88 FR 70932, October 13, 2023). On September 20, 2024, NMFS received a notice from BNSF indicating that work had been delayed and requesting the reissuance of identical IHAs to be effective from July 16, 2025, to July 15, 2026, for year 1 and from July 16, 2026, to July 15, 2027, for year 2. There is no new information that would affect the authorized take numbers or required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements and, therefore, reissuance is appropriate. The only change is to the effective dates.

#### Summary of Specified Activity and Anticipated Impacts

The planned activities, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements, authorized incidental take, and anticipated impacts on the affected stocks are the same as those analyzed for the previously issued IHAs.

The purpose of BNSF's Railway Bridge 6.3 Heavy Maintenance Project is to extend the service life of the existing structure by replacing several components of the existing movable span. The location, timing, and nature of the activities, including the types of equipment planned for use, are identical to those described in the initial IHAs. The mitigation and monitoring are also as prescribed in the initial IHAs.

Species that are expected to be taken by the planned activity include minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) and harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*). A description of the methods and inputs used to estimate take anticipated to occur and, ultimately, the take that was authorized is found in the documents referenced below. The data inputs and methods of estimating take are identical to those used in the initial IHAs. NMFS has reviewed recent Stock Assessment Reports, information on relevant Unusual Mortality Events, and recent

scientific literature, and determined that no new information affects our original analysis of impacts or take estimate under the initial IHAs.

We refer to the documents related to the previously issued IHAs, which include the **Federal Register** notice of the issuance of the initial IHAs for BNSF's construction work (87 FR 22506, April 15, 2022), BNSF's application, the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed IHAs (87 FR 4844, January 31, 2022), and all associated references and documents. These documents may be obtained by visiting: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-bnsf-railway-railway-bridge-heavy-maintenance-project-king>.

#### Determinations

BNSF will conduct activities as analyzed in the initial IHAs. As described above, the number of authorized takes of the same species and stocks of marine mammals are identical to the numbers that were found to meet the negligible impact and small numbers standards and authorized under the initial IHA and no new information has emerged that would change those findings. The two consecutive, reissued IHAs include identical required mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures as the initial IHAs, and there is no new information suggesting that our analysis or findings should change.

Based on the information contained here and in the referenced documents, NMFS has determined the following: (1) the required mitigation measures will effect the least practicable impact on marine mammal species or stocks and their habitat; (2) the authorized takes will have a negligible impact on the affected marine mammal species or stocks; (3) the authorized takes represent small numbers of marine mammals relative to the affected stock abundances; and (4) BNSF's activities will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on taking for subsistence purposes as no relevant subsistence uses of marine mammals are implicated by this action.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no

anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS determined at the time of issuance that the IHAs qualify to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review, and there is no new information that would affect this determination.

#### Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

However, no incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued two consecutive IHAs to BNSF for in-water construction activities associated with the specified activity from July 16, 2025, to July 15, 2026, for year 1 and from July 16, 2026, to July 15, 2027, for year 2. All previously described mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements from the initial IHAs are incorporated.

Dated: November 15, 2024.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall**,  
Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE394]

##### Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of virtual meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) will hold an Administrative Committee Virtual Meeting to address the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The CFMC Administrative Committee Virtual Meeting will be held on November 25, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, AST.

**ADDRESSES:** You may join the CFMC Administrative Committee Virtual Meeting via Zoom, from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83060685915?pwd=VmVsc1orSUTkck8xYk1XOXNDY1ErZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 6068 5915

Passcode: 995658

One tap mobile:

+17879451488,,83060685915#,,

,,,0#,,995658# Puerto Rico

+17879667727,,83060685915#,,

,,,0#,,995658# Puerto Rico

Dial by your location:

+1 787 945 1488 Puerto Rico

+1 787 966 7727 Puerto Rico

+1 939 945 0244 Puerto Rico

Meeting ID: 830 6068 5915

Passcode: 995658

In case there are problems, and we cannot reconnect via Zoom, the meeting will continue using GoToMeeting.

You can join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/971749317>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 971-749-317.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 398-3717.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following items included in the tentative agenda will be discussed:

- Presentation on Approved IRA Funds Projects
- Budget Petition CFMC for 2025-2029
- Other Administrative Business
- Adjourn

**NOTE (1):** Other than starting time and dates of the meetings, the established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. To further accommodate discussion and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from or completed before the date established in this notice. Changes in the agenda will be posted to the CFMC website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as practicable.

**NOTE (2):** Financial disclosure forms are available for inspection at this meeting, as per 50 CFR part 601.

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on November 25, 2024, at 10 a.m. AST, and will end on November 25, 2024, at 12 noon, AST. Other than the start time on the first day of the meeting, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated in the agenda, at the discretion of the Chair.

**Special Accommodations**

For any additional information on this virtual meeting, please contact Diana Martino, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 226-8849.

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

Dated: November 15, 2024.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Climate Services Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of establishment of the Climate Services Advisory Committee and Solicitation of Nominations for Membership.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Under Secretary) announces the establishment of the Climate Services Advisory Committee (Committee or CSAC). The CSAC will advise the Under Secretary on the accessibility, effectiveness, and use of NOAA's climate services (data, information, science, tools, and decision support) in preparing our nation for the impacts of climate change, consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's *A Federal Framework and Action Plan for Climate Services* ([https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ftac\\_report\\_03222023\\_508.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ftac_report_03222023_508.pdf)), NOAA's *Equitable Climate Services Action Plan* ([\*equitable-climate-service-delivery-action-plan-050124\*\), as well as other related subjects that may be requested by the Under Secretary. The CSAC will terminate two \(2\) years from the date of its charter's filing with the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives having legislative jurisdiction of the agency unless terminated earlier or renewed by the proper authority. Therefore, terms of appointment are contingent upon the Committee's continuation and the active participation of the members. This notice also requests nominations for membership on the CSAC \(see "Nominations and Applications" below for more detail\).](https://www.noaa.gov/media/file/noaa-</a></p>
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**DATES:** Nominations and applications should be sent to the web address specified below and must be received on or before December 20, 2024 for initial consideration. This solicitation notice shall remain open for two years; NOAA will continue to accept applications after December 20, 2024 in case there are vacancies.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations and applications may be emailed to [amanda.mccarty@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.mccarty@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amanda McCarty, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA, at [amanda.mccarty@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.mccarty@noaa.gov) or (240)-234-0959.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background and Authority**

The Climate Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) is governed by the FACA. The CSAC will be established as a discretionary Federal advisory committee (FAC) under the Secretary's authority pursuant to duties imposed on the Department by law, including 15 U.S.C. 1512, to advise the Under Secretary on the accessibility, effectiveness, and use of NOAA's climate services in preparing our nation for the impacts of climate change, consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's *Federal Framework and Action Plan for Climate Services*, NOAA's *Equitable Climate Services Action Plan*, as well as other related issues that may be requested by the Under Secretary.

The establishment of the CSAC is necessary and in the public interest. The Committee will advise the Under Secretary on the accessibility, effectiveness, and use of NOAA's climate services in support of climate action, including preparing our nation's historically underserved and Tribal and Indigenous communities for climate impacts.