



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 Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)  
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) Coastal Management Program  
P.O. Box 501304  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear DCRM Director:

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 CNMI 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 at Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Aguijan, Pagan, Alamagan, and Sarigan, and the reproductive area of Agrihan. Please see our website for more information: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/critical-habitat-green-sea-turtles>.

We followed the steps outlined in the Procedures Guide for Achieving Federal Consistency with the CNMI 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 [jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov) or 301-427-8443.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Damon-Randall  
Director, Office of Protected Resources

