

⁴ Based on a proportion from acoustic monitoring of stocks in Resurrection Bay: 95.7 percent ENP residents, 2.7 percent Gulf/Aleutian/Bering transients, and 1.6 percent AT1 transients (Yurk *et al.*, 2010).

⁵ NMFS considers any exposure of AT1 whales would likely be of a group, here assumed to consist of 7 individuals, due to the small stock size and low likelihood of individual encounters. See the Small Numbers section of the proposed notice for additional discussion (90 FR 34463, July 22, 2025).

⁶ NMFS does not have an official abundance estimate for this stock, and the minimum population estimate is considered to be unknown (Young *et al.*, 2023). See Small Numbers of the proposed notice for additional discussion (90 FR 34463, July 22, 2025).

TABLE 9—SHUTDOWN ZONES AND LEVEL B HARASSMENT ZONES

Method	Pile size and type	Level A shutdown zone (m)					Level B monitoring zone (m)
		LF	HF	VHF	PW	OW	
No Bubble Curtain in use							
Vibratory removal	H-pile	20	10	15	25	10	4,645
Vibratory removal	20-in steel pile	10	10	10	15	10	7,360
Vibratory Installation and removal	36-in steel pile (temporary)	20	10	20	30	10	11,660
Vibratory Installation	48-in steel pile	45	20	35	60	20	*24,100
Impact Installation	48-in steel pile	2,000	365	300	300	300	1,360
DTH	36-in steel pile (temporary)	2,000	405	300	300	300	*24,100
DTH	48-in steel pile	2,000	785	300	300	300	*24,100
Bubble Curtain in use							
Vibratory Installation	48-in steel pile	20	10	15	25	10	11,660
Vibratory Installation	60-in steel pile	20	10	20	30	10	11,660
Vibratory Installation	72-in steel pile	25	10	20	35	15	11,660
Impact Installation	48-in steel pile	1,310	175	300	300	300	635
Impact Installation	60, 72-in steel pile	2,000	350	300	300	300	1,000
DTH	48-in steel pile	2,000	365	300	300	300	*24,100
DTH	60-in steel pile	2,000	1,000	300	300	300	*24,100
DTH	72-in steel pile	2,000	2,000	300	300	300	*24,100

* Differs from table 6 Level B harassment zone because the harassment zone extends past the shoreline of Resurrection Bay, so land masses would block sound transmission and distances would be truncated.

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 (NAO) 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 NAO 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 has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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 ensures 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.

NMFS is authorizing take of the following distinct population segments: Western U.S. Steller sea lion, Western North Pacific humpback whale, the Mexico humpback whale, and fin whale, which are listed under the ESA. The Permit and Conservation Division completed a section 7 consultation with the Alaska Regional Office for the issuance of this IHA. The Alaska Regional Office's biological opinion states that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species.

Authorization

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued an IHA to TMC for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Seward Cruise Ship Passenger Dock and Terminal Facility Project in Seward Alaska.

Dated: September 8, 2025.

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-XF164]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council's District Advisory Panels; Public Virtual Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public virtual meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's (Council) District Advisory Panels (DAPs) will hold a public virtual meeting to address the items contained in the tentative agenda included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The DAPs public virtual meeting will be held on September 26, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. (AST) to 4:00 p.m. (AST).

ADDRESSES: You may join the DAPs public virtual meeting (via Zoom) from a computer, tablet or smartphone by entering the following address:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823050928?pwd=y0Td2tebl2OwsBLMDE3uBlAYfjAYNu.1>

*Meeting ID: 868 2305 0928.
Passcode: 704207.*

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 <https://meet.goto.com/174603157>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 174-603-157.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Miguel 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 items included in the tentative agenda are:

9 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

—Call to Order
—Roll Call

9:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

—E.O. 14276 and Memorandum from Mr. E. Piñeiro—Miguel A. Rolón

9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

—Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act Requirements for Stocks in Need of Conservation and Management, and Discussion of Modifications to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Units (FMUs)—Sarah Stephenson, NOAA Fisheries/SERO

10:45 a.m.–11 a.m.

—Break

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

—Species in the Management Units of the IBFMPs—Graciela García-Moliner

12 p.m.–1 p.m.

—Lunch Break

1 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

—DAPs Discussion

—St. Thomas/St. John—Julian Magras, Chair
—St. Croix—Gerson Martinez, Chair
—Puerto Rico—Nelson Crespo, Chair

2:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

—Break

2:45 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

—Discussion of Actions Proposed by CFMC 187th Meeting

3:45 p.m.–4 p.m.

—Other Business
—Adjourn

Other than the starting date and time, the order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items, at the discretion of the Chair. The meeting will begin on September 26, 2025 at 9 a.m.

AST, and will end on September 26, 2025, at 4 p.m. AST.

Special Accommodations

For simultaneous interpretation follow your Zoom screen instructions. You will be asked which language you prefer when you join the meeting. For any additional information on this public 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: September 9, 2025.

Key Israel Marquez,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2025-0019]

Updated Legal Framework for Patent Electronic System

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published on its website an updated legal framework for its Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework defines the USPTO patent electronic filing system requirements, and provides guidance on the relevant statutes, regulations, and policies that support the USPTO's Patent Electronic System. The Patent Electronic System currently comprises Patent Center. Patent Center includes both the USPTO patent electronic filing system, which is a web-based patent application and document submission system, and the USPTO's web-based means for electronically viewing the status of, and documents filed in or associated with, patent applications and proceedings. The updated legal framework also discusses the two-step authentication method now in place for accessing the Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework serves as a reference for applicants, patentees, parties in reexamination proceedings, attorneys, and agents.

DATES: *Applicability Date:* September 11, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries regarding the Patent Electronic System and other USPTO information technology (IT) systems may be directed to the Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100, or at ebc@uspto.gov.

Inquiries regarding IT policy for U.S. national patent applications may be directed to Mark Polutta, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7709; or Gena Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7727.

Inquiries regarding IT policy for international applications (PCT) may be directed to Tamara Graysay, Special Program Examiner, Office of International Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-6728.

Inquiries regarding IT policy for international design applications may be directed to Boris Milef, Senior Legal Examiner, Office of International Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-3288.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 11, 2025, the USPTO published on its website an updated legal framework for its Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentLegalFramework. The updated legal framework defines the USPTO patent electronic filing system requirements in accordance with 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4), and provides guidance for the relevant statutes, regulations, and policies that support the USPTO's Patent Electronic System. The updated legal framework supersedes all prior versions of the legal framework. Section 502.05 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure will be revised in due course. The following is a brief summary of the major differences introduced by the updated legal framework:

1. Section B has been revised to require registration to use the Patent Electronic System. Section B has also been revised to clarify that third-party documents are prohibited from being filed in applications via the Patent Electronic System, unless specifically authorized and the special dedicated electronic interface, if provided, is used so that information is not directly placed into the application file.

2. Section C has been revised to clarify that the USPTO may identify an alternative electronic filing procedure, if designated by the Director, for new applications, national stage submissions under 35 U.S.C. 371, and/or other patent filings, during an unplanned outage of Patent Center. If an alternative procedure is not indicated, applicants