



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington DC, 20004



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/DRR/BCMR/076276

April 8, 2022

Mr. Nathan T. Calouro
Chairman, Town Council
Town of Bristol
10 Court Street
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

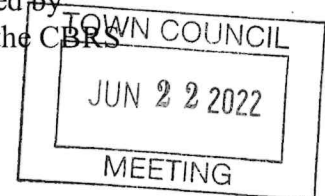
2022 JUN -3 AM 8:58
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Dear Mr. Calouro:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) transmitted to Congress its *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project* on April 5, 2022. The report includes a set of final recommended maps for 438 existing and recommended new units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) located in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia. This letter serves to notify federal, state, and local officials and other stakeholders that the report and associated maps have been completed by the Service and are available on our website at: <https://www.fws.gov/project/hurricane-sandy-remapping-project>. Related information (e.g., summaries of the recommended changes, technical correction assessments, and summaries of and responses to public comments) is included in the report. The final recommended boundaries can be viewed and compared to the existing boundaries through the CBRS Projects Mapper at: <https://www.fws.gov/program/coastal-barrier-resources-act/maps-and-data>.

In 1982 Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), which created the CBRS and continues to serve as an important tool for saving taxpayers' money, keeping people out of harm's way, and reducing the intensity of development on barrier islands. CBRA does not prohibit or regulate development; however, it removes the incentives to build on these vulnerable and ecologically-sensitive areas by prohibiting most new federal expenditures and financial assistance. Barrier islands and their associated wetlands serve as important habitat for fish and wildlife and protect mainland communities from the full impact of hurricane winds and storm surges.

The final recommended maps, dated December 18, 2020, included in the report make progress towards fulfilling a mandate in section 4 of Pub. L. 109-226 that requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare draft revised digital maps for all CBRS areas, propose additions to the CBRS, and solicit public comments on the draft revised maps. These comprehensively revised maps underwent a public comment process in 2018 and 2019 and were revised in 2020 to incorporate any appropriate changes based on public input, updated aerial imagery, statutory criteria, objective mapping protocols, and the best available data. The revised maps, if adopted by Congress, would remove over 900 structures that were erroneously included within the CBRS.



decades ago and add over 275,000 acres that meet the statutory criteria for an undeveloped coastal barrier and associated aquatic habitat.

Letters transmitting these revised maps have been sent to the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives authorizing committees and the members of Congress representing the affected areas for consideration. The revised maps will take effect only if they are adopted by Congress through legislation.

For additional information about CBRA, please visit the Service's website at: www.fws.gov/cbra or contact us at cbra@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

**GARY
FRAZER**

Digitally signed by GARY FRAZER
Date: 2022.04.08 16:52:44 -04'00'

Gary Frazer
Assistant Director for
Ecological Services