

From: Usha Turner, US EPA

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2025 10:37 AM

To: Alternate Representatives; CEC SEM Director

Cc: GSC; CEC

Subject: FW: Final Factual Record / Expediente de hechos final / Dossier factuel final - SEM-21-003 (North Atlantic right whale)

Dear Paolo and Secretariat team,

Thank you for sharing the final draft of the NARW factual record. We appreciate the Secretariat's work in preparing this updated version.

As the U.S. government shutdown remains in effect, our subject matter experts are currently furloughed and unable to review the document to verify its accuracy and confirm that previous comments have been properly addressed. Therefore, the U.S. is unable to develop a position regarding whether to move forward with publication or to instruct the Secretariat to not publish the factual record until the furlough ends.

Given these circumstances, we request that the review process be paused until the shutdown is lifted and we are able to resume normal operations.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this period.

Sincerely,

Usha-Maria Turner
Assistant Administrator
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency