

The logo features a circular emblem with a lighthouse and a fishing boat. To its right, the text "National Coalition for Fishing Communities" is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

National Coalition for Fishing Communities

July 30, 2018

Walter Cruickshank
Acting Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP
Sterling, Virginia 20166

Dear Dr. Cruickshank:

We participate, either directly or indirectly, in a wide range of commercial fisheries in the New York-New Jersey Bight. The Bight is the geographic indentation along the Atlantic Coast extending northeasterly from Southern New Jersey to the eastern tip of Long Island. We write to express our concern and opposition to the proposed wind energy lease areas the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has put out for "Call" in the New York-New Jersey Bight.

We have appreciated your outreach to our industry over the past year, and hope we can continue a constructive dialogue. At the same time, we want to make sure you understand that the risks to our industry from poorly-planned offshore wind energy development are immense. If you were to draw a bulls-eye where our historic Mid-Atlantic fishing grounds are on a map, the bulls-eye would include the Hudson North and Hudson South Areas identified by the State of New York, and the Fairways North and Fairways South areas that BOEM unilaterally and subsequently added to the Call. This is a profound threat to our fisheries, the ocean habitat more generally, and our way of life.

The fisheries we depend on include sea scallops, squid, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, surf clams, ocean quahogs, mackerel, butterfish, herring, monkfish, skate, golden tilefish, spiny dogfish, and other pelagic and demersal fish and shellfish. We come from North Carolina to Massachusetts to fish in the federal waters being considered for wind leasing.

As direct participants in these fisheries, we work aboard or own commercial fishing vessels, and very often both. As indirect participants, we work in shore-side businesses commercial fisheries support. In our coastal communities, where fishing is a way of life, we work at fish processing plants, ship chandleries, fuel docks, fishing gear suppliers, and vessel and gear maintenance and repair facilities, as well as banks and insurance agencies, and other financial services businesses. Because fishing is so central to the tax base in our communities, we are also teachers, public officials, and others employed in the public sector. We are family members. Our communities are similar to the western mining and timber communities with which you may be more familiar.

In a June 7, 2018 letter to BOEM, the National Marine Fisheries Service (which conserves and manages our federal fisheries) calculated that, between 2012-2016, bottom-tending fishing gear were utilized to harvest over \$344 million in fish and shellfish from the Call areas. Nearly \$270 million of scallops alone were harvested, followed by \$47.7 million of surf clams and ocean quahogs, \$8.9 million of summer flounder, scup and black sea bass, and \$3.9 million of mackerel, squid, and butterfish. Over these five years in total, over 62 million pounds of fish and shellfish were harvested. BOEM must study and heed NMFS' June 7 letter in making renewable energy siting decisions in the New York-New Jersey Bight.

The Interior Department should provide for intelligent and deliberate offshore renewable energy development, rather than fall prey to the gold rush mentality promoted by BOEM and financially-interested wind developers, most of which are foreign-owned. Altogether, BOEM has already leased or identified for lease over a dozen areas offshore the East Coast, not counting these New York-New Jersey Bight areas. However, BOEM has not gained any practical experience with the benefits and burdens of wind farm construction yet. There isn't even a single turbine constructed yet in federal waters, but BOEM is in a pell-mell rush to lease more areas. Nor, as NMFS has repeatedly noted, has BOEM undertaken any baseline studies of the fisheries and ocean habitat its leasing activities will disrupt and displace.

Mr. Secretary, please ensure offshore renewable energy projects are sited, constructed and operated using the best scientific information available. For its part, NMFS has access to over four decades of information that it uses to make fisheries decisions, and new information is available daily. Many of us participate in cooperative research with NOAA science centers, allowing our vessels to be used as research platforms for federal, state, university, and other scientists and investigators. And we have our own catch reports and vessel position data which we have provided and BOEM has ignored.

When President Trump campaigned and was elected, he promised to look after America's working middle class, of which we are all a part. You will not be honoring the President's commitment if you allow BOEM to lease ocean areas first, and ask and answer the necessary questions later.

Thank you very much for taking the environment and our livelihoods into account as you plan for the renewable energy future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Aaronson
New York

Christopher Albronda
New York

Herbert Anderson
New York

John Ainsworth
Rhode Island

Katie Almeida
Massachusetts

Thomas Anderson
New Jersey

A Albanese
Rhode Island

Patricia Always
Arizona

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Virginia

Skip Andrrson New York	Michael Bauhs New York	James Budi South Carolina
Peter Anthony Massachusetts	Michael Bauhs New York	Margaret Buterbaugh Maryland
Paul Anthony Massachusetts	James Bauhs Pennsylvania	Robert Cabral Rhode Island
Michael Anthony Massachusetts	Edward Baxter New Jersey	William Callaway North Carolina
Mary Jane Arceri New York	Kelli Baxter Rhode Island	David Campo Florida
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Mairead Aripotch New York	Brian Bistran New York	John Carpenter New Jersey
Anthony Austin North Carolina	Robert Blais Maine	Jae-P Champlin Rhode Island
Stefan Axelsson New Jersey	Robert Borghese Maryland	Timothy Champlin Rhode Island
Paul Axelsson New Jersey	Jack Bosch Massachusetts	Todd Chappell Rhode Island
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Kayvan Bahrami Maryland	Brian Boyce New Jersey	Gary Clayton North Carolina
Heather Bahrami Maryland	Bonnie Brady New York	Gary Cobb New York
Ben Barbera Rhode Island	Deann Brandt Pennsylvania	John Cole New Jersey
James Barbera Rhode Island	William Briggs Rhode Island	Kathie Collins Maryland
Peter Barbera Rhode Island	James Brindley New Jersey	Devin Crimmins Rhode Island
Timothy Barrett Massachusetts	Whitney Buckwald Maryland	Logan Crockett Maryland

Roger Cullen California	Lilly Downs Maryland	Ryan Fallon New York
Mark Cusumano New York	James Downs New York	Patrick Fallon New York
David Dailey Rhode Island	James Downs New York	Michael Fallon New York
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Brendan Damm New York	Cynthia Edwards New York	Paul Farnham New York
Vincent Damm New York	Bob Ehmann New York	David Fattore Massachusetts
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Jeff Deem Virginia	Jay Elsner Massachusetts	James Felsberg New York
Frank Di Megluo New York	Edwin Emery Connecticut	Richard Fetherston New Jersey
Dan Diehl New Jersey	Ronald Enosken Massachusetts	Kerry Figgins Maryland
Roy Diehl New Jersey	Kelly Ewell Maryland	Stephanie Fisher Maryland
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Robert Dougherty Rhode Island	Tony Faciano Rhode Island	Michael Fogal New York
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Jennifer Downing Rhode Island	Michael Fallon New York	Howie Follett Rhode Island

Steven Follett Rhode Island	Diane Goncalves New York	Eric Hastings Maryland
Gordon Ford Maryland	Glenn Goodwin Rhode Island	Kathy Hayman Maryland
Donald Fox Rhode Island	Glenn Goodwin Rhode Island	James Heims New Jersey
Tommy Fraccalvieri Florida	Richard Grachek Connecticut	Dewey Hemilright North Carolina
Rav Freidel New York	Dick Grachek Connecticut	S Hooper Pennsylvania
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Jay Fruin New York	Joann Greene Rhode Island	Joel Hovanesian Rhode Island
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Rick Gardner New York	James Hahn Maryland	Jason Jarvis Rhode Island
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Cynthia Kaminsky New York	Daniel ehman New York	Scot Mackey New Jersey
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Marco Kempinski New York	June Lewis Maryland	Patrick Malik New York
Jim Kennedy Connecticut	Michael Livingstone Massachusetts	Carol Malik New York
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Diane Lahey Massachusetts	Denis Lovgren New Jersey	Ed Mattei Connecticut
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Meghan Lapp Rhode Island	Gus Lovgren New Jersey	Gail Mazzei Pennsylvania
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Matthew Miller New Jersey	Frank O'Hara Jr Maine	Brian Rade New York
Milton Miller New York	Mary O'Rourke Rhode Island	Jack Rainey Rhode Island
Heather Miller New York	John Orena New York	Christopher Rainone New Jersey
Brett Mitchell Maine	Erik Orman Massachusetts	Howard Rau Florida
Pam Montambo New York	Ross Paasche Massachusetts	Deborah Rayner Maryland
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Wayne Reichle New Jersey	Micheal Sanzone New York	Edward Souza Massachusetts
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Edward Richardson Maryland	Nancy Sarris New York	Faith Spink New York
Jeannie Richardson Maryland	Paul Saunders Massachusetts	Catherine Springer Connecticut
Jason Rizzo Maryland	Will Savage Maryland	Gary Stamm Maryland
Tonya Robinson New York	David Schalit Massachusetts	David Stanley Massachusetts
Chris Roebuck Rhode Island	Nick Schlesner Maryland	Paul Stefano New Jersey
Ken Roma New Jersey	Sarah Scola New York	Brian Stempowski Maryland
Frank Rose Massachusetts	Marc Scola New York	Melissa Stephens Florida
Kimberly Royal New York	Chris Scola New York	Norman Stiansen New York
Robin Ruggiero New York	Melanie Shoff Maryland	Chip Stinson Maryland
James Ruhle North Carolina	Mike Skarimbias New York	Rose Stivers Maryland
Nick Ruland Florida	Noelle Smith Maryland	Nils Stolpe Florida
Carl Runyon New York	Edith Smith North Carolina	Gary Stone Connecticut
James Russo Rhode Island	Howard Smyth Delaware	Marjorie Streeter California
Barry Sanns New Jersey	Matt Sohm New York	Shirley Sultani Maryland
Barry Sanns New Jersey	Nancy Solomon New York	Steve Taber Rhode Island

Joe Tangel New York	George Verity Sr New York	John Widmayer Maryland
Lou Tarnowski Massachusetts	Manuel Viana New Jersey	Jon Williams Massachusetts
Anthony Testa New York	Alex Villani New York	Peter Williams Maine
Thomas Testaverde Massachusetts	Sandra Vorpahl New York	Aaron Williams Rhode Island
Jennifer Tichon Massachusetts	Mclean Vuilleumier New Jersey	John Windels IV New York
Daniel Tichon Massachusetts	Andrew Walsh Massachusetts	John Windels III New York
David Tichon Massachusetts	Thomas Ward Virginia	John Wittmyer Maryland
George Topping Maryland	William Wasilewski New Jersey	Corinne Wizelius New York
Paul Townsend Delaware	Paul Weckesser Massachusetts	Roman Wloch New York
Artie Tseperkas New York	Charlie Weimar New York	Roger Wooleyhan Delaware
Sam Tucker Rhode Island	Edward Welch Massachusetts	Shaun Wooleyhan Delaware
David Tuma New York	Robert Wells New York	Gary Yerman Connecticut
Marie Valenti New York	Kim Wells New York	Nicholas Yurovich Massachusetts
Chris Van Bergen New Jersey	Brick Wenzel New Jersey	Anthony Zucco New York
Arthur Ventrone Rhode Island	Bob Westcott Rhode Island	James Zurbrick Florida
George Verity Sr New York	John Whiteside Massachusetts	