



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

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Kris Ohleth
Project Manager
Ecology & Environment, Inc.
90 Broad Street, Suite 1906
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Ohleth:

Thank you for contacting us to determine if we are developing projects with impacts similar to offshore wind farms. We agree that comprehensive planning and assessment of cumulative effects is an important step in the development of of New York's Offshore Wind Master Plan.

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is a non-federal entity authorized by the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to develop fishery management plans for resources harvested in federal waters off New England. These plans do not include construction or development of marine infrastructure, so we cannot provide any specific information in response to your request. Rather, the plans involve setting annual catch limits for specific living marine resources, and ensuring that those limits are achieved. Typical plan measures include caps on the numbers of permits in a fishery, trip-based catch limits, restrictions on gear, measures to reduce bycatch and protect depleted stocks, and spatial fishery closures to protect fish habitats or spawning activities. We collaborate closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to develop and implement our fishery management plans.

NMFS and the Council have responsibilities to identify and protect essential fish habitats. A core function of NMFS' Habitat Conservation Division is to consult with those applying for federal permits in marine and coastal environments, including permits related to offshore wind facilities. The purpose of these consultations is to recommend habitat conservation measures that will minimize impacts to fishery species and other marine resources. We encourage you and NYSERDA to contact NMFS Habitat Conservation Division as you develop the Master Plan.

Should the need arise, we would be happy to provide E & E or NYSERDA with our input on environmental, social, and economic questions related to fisheries management that may arise during development of the Master Plan. The Offshore Study Area includes important fishing grounds and fish habitats.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director