

NEFMC Motions from April 17, 2018 meeting in Mystic, CT

BOEM Offshore Energy

1. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Reid seconded: that the Council authorize staff and the Habitat Committee to draft comments to BOEM regarding the notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the Vineyard Wind project (due April 30 - extended verbally through the following week). These comments should include any specific concerns with the design envelope specified in the Construction and Operations Plan, as well as suggestions for what to include in the EIS. The letter may incorporate by reference comments developed by the NMFS wind team, which includes MAFMC and NEFMC staff. The comment letter will be reviewed by Executive Committee prior to submittal by the Council Chair.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

2. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Reid seconded: that the Council authorize staff and the Habitat Committee to draft comments to BOEM regarding the New York Bight call for information (due May 29). These comments should include an analysis of fisheries active in the call areas to support removal of sections of the areas critical to fishing communities, and a list of habitat-related concerns and possible mitigation measures. The letter may incorporate by reference comments developed by the NMFS wind team, which includes MAFMC and NEFMC staff. The comment letter will be reviewed by Executive Committee prior to submittal by the Council Chair.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

3. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded: that the Council authorize staff and the Habitat Committee to draft comments to BOEM regarding the proposed sale notice for additional leases off Massachusetts (due June 11). This letter should express support for the lease provision that requires developers to have a Fishery Communication Plan and Fisheries Liaison. The comment letter will be reviewed by Executive Committee prior to submittal by the Council Chair.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

4. Mr. Grout moved and Dr. Sissenwine seconded: that the Council authorize staff and the Habitat Committee to draft comments to BOEM regarding their path forward for offshore wind leasing (due May 21). These comments should include a statement that areas of importance to commercial and recreational fisheries can be identified at a landscape scale and should be considered when BOEM identifies “forecast areas”. The letter should also request a 90-day extension of the comment period to allow the fishing community time to convene around this issue and develop specific feedback on the exclusionary and positive factors identified by BOEM. The comment letter will be reviewed by Executive Committee prior to submittal by the Council Chair.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (16/0/0).

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5. Mr. Reid moved and Mr. Keliher seconded: that the Council ask that BOEM extend the comment periods on the Vineyard Wind project, New York Bight and Massachusetts leases and confirm these extensions in writing.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Clam Dredge Framework

6. Mr. Reid moved and Mr. Godfroy seconded: that the Council direct the Habitat Committee to consider alternatives that include the following three alternatives in the habitat framework for the Great South Channel area: No Action (closure to all hydraulic dredges), open the entire area to dredging (with exception of NE corner), and Alternative 3 which would close three areas within the HMA to dredging, as noted in the Advisory Panel minutes.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (10/7/0).

7. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Reid seconded: that the Council direct the Habitat Committee to consider potential exemptions for mussel dredges in the range of measures being developed in the clam dredge framework.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (9/5/3).