

Martha's Vineyard / Dukes County Fishermen's Association
Box 96
Menemsha, Ma 02552

May 9, 2011

To: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement

Re: Comments on the Draft for Commercial Leasing in the AMI for Massachusetts and Rhode Island

We have reviewed the draft Call for Information and Nominations as presented at the Task Force meeting in New Bedford on May 2, 2011. We have discussed active commercial fishing in the areas described and we would like six blocks removed from the potential leasing area.

Please remove these six blocks from the leasing area:
6970, 6971, 7020, 7021, 7070, and 7071

These six blocks could be replaced by adding the following eight blocks:
6015, 6016, 6017, 6018, 6065, 6066, 6067, 6068

The six blocks that we want removed comprise a very active fishing area called "The Tongue" by older fishermen and "The Claw" by younger fishermen. It is an area fished by draggers targeting cod, yellowtail flounder, and winter flounder. It is a very active area for lobster fishing. Many gill netters working on Monkfish are in that area. And it is a good area for sea scallops for the smaller scallopers. This area of the six blocks listed above is fished actively by many fishermen representing at least four different gear types.

The blocks defined in the AMI area stay relatively close to shore. The blocks in the Massachusetts RFI area go much farther South into deeper water and further from shore. We think the AMI area should add blocks to the south and remove "The Tongue" from the leasing area.

Sincerely,

Warren M. Doty
President, MV/DC Fishermen's Association
Selectman, Town of Chilmark
Mass Task Force Member

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MAY 9 2011

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