

Brian Hooker  
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November 9, 2015

Dear Mr. Hooker,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Industry in Montauk last week. As you now know the NY Call Area and surrounding waters play an important part in our local economy here in Point Judith, RI.

There are several concerns with the proposal taking place in this area.

First is access. The Point Judith longfin squid fishing fleet relies heavily on this area during the summer months when the longfin are inshore. They fish in these waters, sometimes for months, for as long as the squid are around. Losing access to this area would cause economic hardship to our port.

The second concern is safety, fisherman fish both in and around this area. Surrounding this area are extremely busy marine traffic lanes. Fisherman anchor up in the Call Area at night to avoid being in the vicinity of these heavily traveled lanes. Losing this area could increase the chances of hazardous interactions between fishing vessels and large shipping barges.

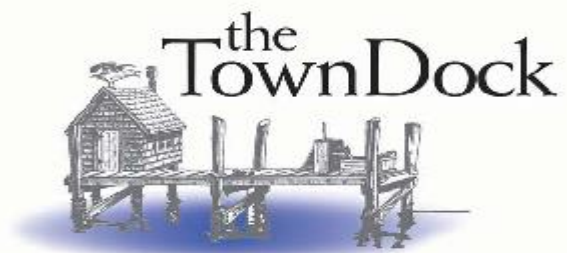
The last concern is habitat. Both NOAA and the NEFMC referred to this area as Essential Fish Habitat for not only longfin squid, but for a long list of other species as well. The possible destruction and loss of habitat for any of these species is bound to have an economic effect on the fleets that depend on them. This is extremely worrisome for the fleets and ports that make a living fishing on these species.

Point Judith would greatly appreciate a meeting held here in port. Being that this area is heavily fished by our fleet, it is only appropriate that they have a say in the possible development of this area.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns.

Sincerely,

Katie Almeida  
Fishery Policy Analyst



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