

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
Vineyard Wind SEIS Public Meeting

Virtual Public Meeting Day 5  
July 9, 2020 5:00 p.m.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I want to thank  
3 everyone for joining us today. I am with ERM,  
4 the third-party contractor working with the  
5 BOEM staff on the environmental review of  
6 Vineyard Wind 1 Project. I'm here to help  
7 facilitate and guide us all through this  
8 meeting.

9 We appreciate you taking time to  
10 share your thoughts with us.

11 The purpose of today's meeting is  
12 to gather your input on Vineyard Wind's  
13 proposed offshore Wind 1 Project, and more  
14 specifically, on the supplement to the draft  
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 Your input will be used to refine  
17 and finalize the final Environmental Impact  
18 Statement on this project.

19 As such, we are recording and have  
20 court reporters documenting this meeting for  
21 the public record.

22 We've learned from the previous  
23 meetings that someone asked questions right  
24 away. So if you're on Zoom, please note that

1 we will use the Zoom Q & A function to address  
2 questions, and the chat function to address  
3 any technical issues you might have.

4 I'll talk about Zoom in a few  
5 minutes, but before we go any further, I would  
6 like to welcome Jim Bennett.

7 Jim Bennett is the Program  
8 Director of the Office of Renewable Energy  
9 Programs at the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
10 Management. And Jim will formally welcome  
11 everybody.

12 Jim?

13 JIM BENNETT: Thank you,  
14 Christine. Good afternoon, everyone. Can you  
15 hear me okay?

16 CHRISTINE DAVIS: We can hear you  
17 just fine.

18 JIM BENNETT: On behalf of the  
19 Department of Interior, I want to thank you  
20 all for joining us for today's public meeting.  
21 Again, my name is Jim Bennett, and I'm the  
22 Program Manager for the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
23 Management, or BOEM, offshore renewable energy  
24 program.

1           It's unfortunate that we can't be  
2 together today here in person. I hope that  
3 you and your families and friends are all safe  
4 and healthy, given our current situation.

5           On the other hand, this is the  
6 last of five virtual public meetings, and we  
7 are fortunate to have technology that allows  
8 us to create effective alternatives to  
9 in-person public meetings.

10           Our team has put together a system  
11 that will enable us to continue our dialogue  
12 in this new virtual format to help inform our  
13 decision.

14           So who are we? BOEM is the  
15 federal bureau within the Department of  
16 Interior that oversees the expeditious and  
17 orderly development of energy resources on the  
18 Outer Continental Shelf. It is a big job  
19 that's almost 2.5 billion acres of the  
20 nation's Outer Continental Shelf, including --  
21 including -- it's larger, in fact, than the  
22 total landmass of the U.S., including Alaska.

23           So it is indeed a big job, and  
24 BOEM has a strong history of meeting our

1 nation's growing energy needs. Our  
2 responsibilities include the development of  
3 renewable energy resources, essentially  
4 offshore wind.

5 Our authority was given us to in  
6 2005, in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. And  
7 in 2009, we put a regulatory regime together.  
8 And over the past 10 years, we've been working  
9 with states, with stakeholders, with industry,  
10 and the public to identify the best areas for  
11 offshore wind development.

12 To date, we have 16 active leases  
13 on the Atlantic from Cape Cod to Cape  
14 Hatteras. Every state has at least one  
15 federal Outer Continental Shelf renewable  
16 energy lease in place.

17 These leases have the capacity of  
18 almost 22 gigawatts of electricity to  
19 contribute to the state goals of almost 30  
20 gigawatts in the region.

21 For these leases, we have approved  
22 10 site assessment plans, or SAPs, and we're  
23 currently reviewing seven Construction and  
24 Operation Plans, or COPs. These SAPs and COPs

1 are both formal steps in our regulatory  
2 process to get from leasing offshore to the  
3 generation of electricity.

4 We anticipate receiving up to  
5 eight additional COPs over the next 12 months.  
6 Again, it's a big job. We've hired new staff.  
7 We're using third-party contractors to help  
8 manage this growing workload. There's a lot  
9 going on.

10 In addition, our first deal in the  
11 water for the Outer Continental Shelf occurred  
12 just in the last few weeks with the Coast of  
13 Virginia Offshore Wind Project, or CVOW. We  
14 fully anticipate a dozen or more  
15 commercial-scale wind farms during the decade.  
16 And we are also examining additional leasing  
17 in the areas such as the Gulf of Maine, the  
18 New York Bight, the Carolinas, and on the West  
19 Coast as well as out in Hawaii.

20 But we want to make sure that  
21 these projects are done right. Our objective  
22 is to ensure that offshore wind, commercial  
23 fishing, maritime navigation and other uses of  
24 the ocean can be pursued successfully. This

1 does not mean that there won't be any impact.  
2 There will be impact. But our goal is that  
3 all users can successfully coexist.

4 Our task is to obtain the best  
5 available information, conduct sound  
6 scientific and environmental analysis,  
7 estimate impact, and identify appropriate  
8 mitigation. This will allow us to establish a  
9 strong foundation for all projects going  
10 forward. And these public meetings are an  
11 opportunity to help us meet that goal and for  
12 us to hear from you to that end, particularly  
13 with regard to the Vineyard Wind Project.

14 Vineyard Wind is the first  
15 commercial offshore wind project analyzed  
16 under the One Federal Decision process. We  
17 have worked through this process for the first  
18 time. We've adapted our approach, and which  
19 we believe this approach will allow permitting  
20 of future projects to run more smoothly.

21 BOEM has received over 300  
22 comments from stakeholders and cooperating  
23 agencies on the Vineyard Wind Draft  
24 Environmental Impact Statement, or draft EIS.

1 Some of these comments requested a more robust  
2 analysis of cumulative impacts.

3 As a result, on Friday, June 12th,  
4 we formally released a supplement to the draft  
5 Environmental Impact Statement for the  
6 proposed Vineyard Wind 1 offshore energy  
7 project.

8 The supplement to the draft EIS  
9 expands the reasonably foreseeable future  
10 offshore wind development scenario and  
11 analyzes the effects of that scenario. The  
12 supplement to the draft also analyzes  
13 previously unavailable fishing data, a transit  
14 lane alternative proposed by the fishing  
15 community, and changes to the Construction and  
16 Operations Plan that have occurred since the  
17 draft EIS was published.

18 These updates are a direct result  
19 of comments we received from numerous  
20 stakeholders including state and local  
21 governments, federal agencies, industry, and  
22 the public. This enhanced analysis will serve  
23 as a model for the review of future projects.  
24 That's why it's vitally important for



1 decision-making that you all carefully review  
2 the supplement to the draft EIS and provide us  
3 with your comments.

4           We are making every effort to hear  
5 from you. As I mentioned, this is the last of  
6 five virtual public meetings that we are  
7 holding throughout the open comment period.  
8 Your input will help the Department of  
9 Interior and BOEM meet our goal of getting  
10 this right. We remain committed to a  
11 permitting process that minimizes user  
12 conflicts and establishing a strong foundation  
13 for wind projects moving forward.

14           Thank you and stay well. Now, I  
15 would like to welcome a representative

16           from the State of Massachusetts.  
17 Let me turn this over to Lisa Engler, Director  
18 of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone  
19 Management.

20           Thank you.

21           LISA ENGLER: Thank you, Jim.

22 Good evening, everyone. Again, my name is

23           Lisa Engler, and I'm the Director  
24 for the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone

1 Management.

2           On behalf of Energy and  
3 Environmental Affairs and Secretary Kathleen  
4 Theoharides, we are pleased to welcome the  
5 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for today's  
6 public meeting on the supplement to the draft  
7 Environmental Impact Statement for the  
8 Vineyard Wind 1 Project.

9           Joining me from fellow  
10 Massachusetts agencies are Nils Bolgen and  
11 Kirsten Holland from the Massachusetts Clean  
12 Energy Center, and Kathryn Ford for the  
13 Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.

14           We are looking forward to the  
15 presentations and the opportunity to hear your  
16 comments and input to the federal review  
17 process for the Vineyard Wind 1 Project.

18           Global climate change presents a  
19 serious threat to the Commonwealth  
20 environment, residents, communities and  
21 economies. Governor Baker has expressed the  
22 need for action stating "The magnitude of the  
23 impacts from climate change requires all of us  
24 to put politics aside and act together quickly

1 and decisively. We still have the opportunity  
2 to check the severity of future impacts by  
3 aggressively reducing greenhouse gas and  
4 adapting to the changes that are ongoing."

5 With the 2008 Global Warming  
6 Solutions Act, Massachusetts became one of the  
7 first states in the nation to require carbon  
8 emission reductions of at least 80 percent  
9 below 1990 levels by 2050 with interim targets  
10 every decade. We are on track to meet our  
11 2020 goal of a 25 percent reduction from 1990.

12 In addition, in December of last  
13 year, Governor Baker committed the  
14 Commonwealth to net zero emissions by 2050.  
15 Meeting these targets will include efforts and  
16 commitments by both the public and the private  
17 sectors and will require changes to business  
18 as usual. Responsibly sited, developed, and  
19 operated offshore wind will be key to meeting  
20 new carbon emission reduction targets.

21 For more than a decade, we have  
22 worked closely with our federal, state, local  
23 and tribal partners through BOEM's  
24 intergovernmental task force on offshore

1 energy in the planning, siting, leasing, and  
2 review of potential offshore wind projects on  
3 the Outer Continental Shelf. We have also  
4 worked closely with stakeholders through  
5 state-formed and habitat working groups on  
6 offshore wind, and in community-based meetings  
7 and discussions.

8           The fishing industry is a critical  
9 partner in the development of offshore wind,  
10 and we value the opportunity to use these  
11 venues for important dialogue and feedback in  
12 the responsible development of offshore wind.

13           Under Governor Baker's leadership,  
14 the Energy Diversity Act was passed in 2016 to  
15 allow for the solicitation of 1600 megawatts  
16 of offshore wind. This led to the successful  
17 procurement of the Vineyard Wind 1 Project in  
18 2018, which will result in significant  
19 greenhouse gas reductions at a highly  
20 competitive price.

21           Massachusetts has continued to  
22 lead the development of the offshore wind  
23 market in the U.S. In 2018, Massachusetts  
24 passed additional legislation that doubled the

1 amount of offshore wind energy solicitation to  
2 3200 megawatts. The development of the  
3 offshore wind market will lead to substantial  
4 economic development in the Commonwealth and  
5 in the region bringing necessary clean energy  
6 that will provide significant greenhouse gas  
7 emissions reduction.

8           The Federal National Environmental  
9 Policy Act review process lead by BOEM is a  
10 critically important component in our  
11 collective responsibility to avoid, minimize,  
12 and mitigate potential adverse effects. And  
13 in the case of the Vineyard Wind 1 Project,  
14 the SEIS has provided a broader substantive  
15 basis for reviewing the project within the  
16 context of other offshore wind development.  
17 The cumulative analysis included in the SEIS  
18 ensures that potential impacts beyond this  
19 individual project are evaluated.

20           In parallel to the BOEM review,  
21 the Vineyard Wind 1 Project was reviewed by  
22 state agencies, including the Massachusetts  
23 Department of Environmental Protection, the  
24 Energy Facility Siting Board, the

1 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office,  
2 the Department of Public Utilities, and the  
3 Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone  
4 Management. This Massachusetts state review  
5 is now complete.

6 Thank you all for virtually  
7 joining us today. Your participation is so  
8 important as we continue to work with  
9 agencies, stakeholders, and local communities  
10 in the review of the BOEM commercial leasing  
11 production and operations process.

12 And with that, I'll turn it back  
13 over to Christine.

14 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you, Lisa.  
15 Looking at the agenda now, BOEM will provide  
16 a project overview. We'll discuss  
17 the environmental review process and the next  
18 steps. We'll open the meeting for public  
19 testimony and then close by answering  
20 questions. We'll get to the public testimony  
21 probably in about a half hour, 45 minutes from  
22 now, and then, like I said, close with  
23 questions.

24 As a reminder, the focus of our

1 meeting is to receive public comments, so  
2 we'll spend the bulk of our time together on  
3 that agenda item. Everyone who would like to  
4 provide comments today will need to press Star  
5 1 and speak with a live operator in order to  
6 get in the queue. Even if you're  
7 preregistered, you'll need to press Star 1.

8           Please note that it might take the  
9 operator a little bit of time to get to you,  
10 so please be patient. Again the steps for  
11 everyone who wants to speak today, including  
12 the preregistered people, is to press Star 1,  
13 wait to speak to a live operator. If you've  
14 not already done so, please do so now or any  
15 time prior to the public comments.

16           So that we can provide as many  
17 interested parties as possible the opportunity  
18 to provide public comments, we ask that you  
19 keep your comments to approximately five  
20 minutes. And that -- you're not going to be  
21 on camera today, but your voice will come  
22 through on the phone. Only the BOEM, ERM  
23 presenters and I will be on video. And please  
24 know that the oral comments provided will be

1 on the record, and the entire meeting is being  
2 recorded.

3 With that, I'm going to give some  
4 tips on Zoom.

5 For those of you that are online,  
6 you'll see that -- you've heard that we've  
7 talked about the Q & A and chat functions. At  
8 the bottom of your screen, you'll see a Q & A  
9 icon, and you'll see that a box will pop up  
10 for you to type in a question. We'll answer  
11 the bulk of the questions at the end of the  
12 public testimony in order to provide the  
13 maximum amount of time on public comment.  
14 Some questions with short answers might be  
15 addressed right away. But for the bulk of  
16 them, we will have the subject matter experts,  
17 who are listening in right now, respond in  
18 person later on in the meeting.

19 Don't be alarmed if you don't see  
20 your question right away. The questions will  
21 show up as we answer them verbally during the  
22 Q & A question -- during the Q & A session.

23 As briefly noted, we're only going  
24 to use the Zoom chat if you have a technical



1 issue. And then later on, we'll use it to  
2 post the order for public comment. We'll only  
3 use that "raise your hand" if we need to call  
4 on you.

5 If at any time you have technical  
6 challenges using Zoom, please note you can  
7 continue to participate by phone. The number  
8 is 1-888-606-7043, and the participant code is  
9 6516733#. If you want to give public  
10 testimony and have not already done so, please  
11 press Start 1 to speak to our live operator  
12 and get into the queue, regardless of whether  
13 or not you signed up to speak.

14 All right. And with that, does  
15 anyone have any questions about Zoom or the  
16 phone line, that you would like to submit at  
17 this time? We'll give it just a break, and  
18 I'll check in with Isis and see if we have  
19 anything that we need to address.

20 ISIS FARMER: (Inaudible.)

21 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. All  
22 right. So at this point, I'm going to

23 turn it over to Jennifer Bucatari  
24 from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

1 She'll explain the environmental review  
2 process and then provide an overview of the  
3 supplement to the draft EIS. After her  
4 presentation, we'll begin that public  
5 testimony.

6 So as a reminder, just -- you  
7 know, to provide comments later on, please  
8 make sure you press Star 1 to get into the  
9 queue.

10 So with that, I'm going to turn it  
11 over to Jenn.

12 Jenn?

13 JENNIFER BUCATARI: Sorry about  
14 that.

15 CHRISTINE DAVIS: No worries.

16 JENNIFER BUCATARI: Trying to find  
17 my video for a minute.

18 Hi everyone, thank you for coming.  
19 Welcome to the Vineyard Wind supplement to the  
20 draft Environmental Impact Statement virtual  
21 public meeting.

22 As Jim mentioned earlier, BOEM is  
23 the federal bureau within the Department of  
24 the Interior that oversees development of our

1 energy and mineral resources subject to  
2 environmental safeguards.

3 We cover the nearly 2.5 billion  
4 acres of the nation's Outer Continental Shelf,  
5 or as we call it, OCS, including the  
6 development of marine minerals, oil and gas,  
7 and renewable energy resources.

8 We appreciate your participation  
9 in this meeting, and we look forward to  
10 hearing your comments following the summary  
11 presentation.

12 As Christine mentioned, my name is  
13 Jennifer Bucatari, and I'm one of the  
14 environmental coordinators for this project.

15 To the greatest extent possible,  
16 we are working to maintain services for the  
17 American people and our stakeholders  
18 consistent with the evolving guidance provided  
19 by the CDC and state and local health  
20 authorities. As such, we are moving forward  
21 with our public meetings in a virtual  
22 environment in order to provide information to  
23 our public in the safest and most efficient  
24 way possible and to receive feedback from our

1 stakeholders.

2           These public meetings, while  
3 virtual, are an opportunity for public  
4 involvement and an opportunity to provide your  
5 comments on the Supplemental EIS.

6           BOEM has developed a virtual  
7 meeting room web page; address is seen her at  
8 the top of this slide. You likely visited  
9 this page to register for the public meetings,  
10 but either way, we encourage you to explore  
11 the page and the additional content that we  
12 have there.

13           The content includes posters, as  
14 you see here on this slide, and presentations.  
15 And the intent is to mimic the poster  
16 stations, or the stations that we would  
17 normally have at an in-person meeting. The  
18 posters seen her relay a brief summary of  
19 important topics to our stakeholders.

20           The presentations that you see on  
21 this slide are the ones that are also on the  
22 virtual meeting web page. These are summaries  
23 of impacts to several key topics or resources.  
24 The presentations were developed and recorded

1 by BOEM's subject matter expert who also  
2 developed the Supplemental Environmental  
3 Impact Statement impact analyses for that  
4 resource.

5           The National Environmental Policy  
6 Act, or NEPA, is a law requiring federal  
7 agencies to discuss the environmental effects  
8 of their proposed action and reasonable  
9 alternatives. The NEPA process collects  
10 relevant information for the decision-maker to  
11 either approve, approve with conditions, or  
12 disapprove the plan.

13           Through the NEPA process, an  
14 Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, must  
15 be prepared if the agency is proposing a major  
16 federal action that may significantly affect  
17 the quality of the human environment. The  
18 purpose of the analysis is to outline the  
19 impact for a proposed project on its  
20 surrounding environment. The process also  
21 includes public scoping, public comment  
22 period, and an analysis of reasonable  
23 alternatives and cumulative effects.

24           The process also includes public

1 scoping, public comment period, and an  
2 analysis of reasonable alternatives and  
3 cumulative effects.

4 BOEM's renewable energy leasing  
5 and development process occurs in four phases.  
6 For the Vineyard Wind 1 Project, we are in the  
7 fourth phase, as you can see here. This  
8 includes conducting an environmental review of  
9 the lessees' Construction and Operations Plan,  
10 or COP. The draft EIS was published for  
11 public review in December of 2018. And the  
12 supplement to the EIS, the SEIS, was published  
13 on June 12th, 2020.

14 The Vineyard Wind 1 proposed  
15 project location is seen here, and is 12  
16 nautical miles at its nearest point to land.  
17 The project is situated southeast of Martha's  
18 Vineyard. The proposed cable landfalls are in  
19 two locations on Cape Cod, Lewis Bay or New  
20 Hampshire Avenue.

21 A brief background on the project  
22 is presented here. The development of the  
23 Supplemental EIS began following public  
24 hearings that were held in February of 2019.

1 Comments from public and stakeholders  
2 requested an expanded cumulative analysis and  
3 an analysis of fishing data previously  
4 unavailable to BOEM. In addition, updates to  
5 the Construction and Operations Plan were  
6 submitted by Vineyard Wind on January 31st,  
7 2020, and March 9th, 2020.

8 BOEM developed the Supplemental  
9 EIS to address comments from the public and  
10 stakeholders, expand the cumulative analysis,  
11 analyze this previously unavailable fishing  
12 data, a new alternative, and project changes.

13 As mentioned, in January and March  
14 of 2020, Vineyard Wind submitted updates to  
15 their Construction and Operations Plan, which  
16 included changes to the projects envelope and  
17 onshore substation. The updates included an  
18 expansion of the turbine capacity to include  
19 up to 14 megawatt turbines. The total project  
20 capacity remains at 800 megawatts. And the  
21 change to the turbine capacity does not result  
22 in a change to the footprint or minimum  
23 turbine capacity, which is  
24 megawatts. The proposed project

1 includes up to 106 wind  
2 turbine locations with up to 100  
3 wind turbines. Up to 12 jacket foundations  
4 may be used, 10 for the turbine foundations  
5 and up to two for the electrical service  
6 platform. Any remaining foundation would be  
7 monopile.

8 Vineyard Wind also submitted  
9 changes to the onshore substation. For the  
10 expanded substation, the total approximate  
11 area of ground disturbance would be 7.7 acres,  
12 which is 1.8 acres greater than the area  
13 analyzed in the draft EIS.

14 The notice of availability for the  
15 Supplemental EIS was published on June 12th,  
16 2020, in the Federal Register. We are holding  
17 a series of five public meetings, as seen  
18 here, and we are at this fifth meeting. The  
19 comment period will close after 45 days on  
20 July 27th, 2020.

21 For additional project related  
22 info, please see the project website as seen  
23 here.

24 To be most helpful, comments



1 should be as specific as possible. A  
2 substantive comment discusses the accuracy of  
3 the information; suggests alternate  
4 methodologies and the reason or reasons why  
5 they should be used; provides new information  
6 relevant to the analysis; identifies a  
7 different source of credible research, which,  
8 if used in the analysis, could result in  
9 different effects, or provides clarification  
10 where needed.

11           The table on this slide outlines  
12 some notable sections of the Supplemental EIS  
13 including where you can find more information  
14 about the environmental analysis, cumulative  
15 impact scenario, the project design envelope,  
16 and the status of environmental consultation.  
17 While the Supplemental EIS includes analysis  
18 of the direct and indirect impacts of the  
19 proposed projects, the focus of the  
20 Supplemental EIS is on the expanded cumulative  
21 impact scenario, the new alternative, and  
22 information that had changed or become  
23 available since the issuance of the draft EIS  
24 in 2018.

1           This inverted triangle represents  
2 the different levels of reasonably foreseeable  
3 development we considered in the cumulative  
4 scenario.

5           A bar usually encompasses the bar  
6 below it, but the lower bars will often be  
7 duplicative rather than additive. For  
8 example, Vineyard Wind is already -- Vineyard  
9 Wind 1 is already included in the 5.4  
10 gigawatts of Construction and Operations Plans  
11 submitted or approved, which is the second bar  
12 from the bottom.

13           The previous standards for the  
14 scope of reasonably foreseeable offshore wind  
15 development was based on projects permitted,  
16 and added to this, projects entering the  
17 construction permitting process. This time,  
18 we began by examining the greatest number of  
19 possible projects and then eliminated offshore  
20 development that would be unreasonable to  
21 consider based on lack of state demand or  
22 technical inability.

23           The top bar is the total Atlantic  
24 offshore winds technical resource potential.

1 This bar represents how much wind energy is  
2 available on the Atlantic Outer Continental  
3 Shelf with present technology. Such a  
4 build-out is not only materially and  
5 physically impossible, but also the amount of  
6 energy exceeds the demand of the entire  
7 Eastern United States. Thus, this level was  
8 not determined to be reasonably foreseeable.

9           The second bar down is the  
10 technical resource potential of the Atlantic  
11 Call Wind Energy and lease areas. Call areas  
12 are areas that have not been leased and are  
13 still being evaluated for whether they are  
14 suitable to be offered for lease. There is no  
15 guarantee that such areas will make it to the  
16 leasing stage; therefore, evaluating  
17 construction on them is premature, and this  
18 level of development was not considered  
19 reasonably foreseeable at this time.

20           The third bar down is state  
21 capacity commitments. While the tier system  
22 in the draft EIS looks at development from a  
23 regulatory and project perspective, in this  
24 scenario, we examined future projects from a

1 state demand perspective. This number has  
2 grown over the last several months and is  
3 currently about 29 gigawatts with recent  
4 additional commitments from New Jersey. This  
5 exceeds the technical resource potential of  
6 existing Atlantic leases with existing  
7 technology, and includes New York commitments  
8 that have been made in anticipation of future  
9 leasing occurring; therefore, this level of  
10 development was deemed not reasonably  
11 foreseeable at this time.

12           The fourth bar from the top is the  
13 technical resource potential of existing  
14 Atlantic leases. State capacity commitments  
15 are not evenly distributed along the coast  
16 and, perhaps surprisingly, are not tied to  
17 existing available lease capacity within  
18 transmission range. For example, the state  
19 capacity commitments of New York and New  
20 Jersey exceed the technical resource potential  
21 of leases within transmission range. Also,  
22 there are going to be conflicts, such as with  
23 cultural sites, historical sites, essential  
24 fish habitat and navigation that will make

1 developing the entire technical resource  
2 potential of existing Atlantic leases  
3 impossible; therefore, this level of  
4 development is not considered reasonably  
5 foreseeable.

6           The fifth bar from the top, and  
7 all those that follow below it, make up our  
8 reasonably foreseeable cumulative scenario.  
9 This includes any projects with awarded  
10 offtake, any projects that have entered or  
11 announced their intention to enter the  
12 permitting process, and, of course, any  
13 approved projects. Basically, if the project  
14 has a name, it is included.

15           After considering all projects  
16 with awards, Construction and Operation Plans,  
17 or that have been announced, there's still  
18 some state capacity left over that has not  
19 been awarded. This potential for additional  
20 future development beyond named projects is  
21 also accounted for and analyzed in this  
22 scenario.

23           If you would like additional  
24 information on the cumulative scope, or to

1 hear this presented again, please visit our  
2 virtual meeting room web page to listen to a  
3 presentation on this subject.

4           Alternative A, the proposed action  
5 alternative, is the construction, operation,  
6 maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of  
7 an up to 800 megawatt wind energy facility on  
8 the Outer -- Outer Continental Shelf.

9 Offshore Massachusetts, within the proposed  
10 project area, and associated export cables  
11 would occur within the range of design  
12 parameters outlined in the Vineyard Wind  
13 Construction and Operations Plan subject to  
14 applicable mitigation measures.

15           The additional alternatives and  
16 no-action alternatives are seen here.

17 Alternative B, the Covell Beach landfall  
18 alternative excludes the New Hampshire Avenue  
19 landfall location to potentially reduce  
20 impacts on environmental and socioeconomic  
21 resources.

22           On June 26th, 2020, Vineyard Wind  
23 informed BOEM that they are no longer pursuing  
24 the New Hampshire Avenue landing site. While

1 the New Hampshire Avenue site was included in  
2 the Construction and Operations Plan, Vineyard  
3 Wind has stated -- has obtained all of the  
4 state and local permits necessary to bring the  
5 cable on shore at the Covell Beach landing  
6 site.

7           Alternative C excludes surface  
8 occupancy in the northernmost portion of the  
9 proposed project to potentially reduce impacts  
10 from the proposed project and to reduce  
11 potential conflicts with existing ocean users  
12 such as marine navigation and commercial  
13 fishing.

14           Alternative D-1 would require a  
15 minimum of  
16 one-nautical-mile-by-one-nautical-mile spacing  
17 between wind turbine generators and all the  
18 lanes between them. This alternative would  
19 potentially reduce conflicts with existing  
20 ocean users, such as commercial fishing and  
21 marine navigation.

22           Alternative D-2 would require a  
23 layout in an east-west orientation, and all of  
24 the turbines in the east-west direction would

1 have a minimum spacing of one nautical mile  
2 between them to allow for vessels to travel  
3 between turbines and to reduce conflicts with  
4 existing ocean users such as commercial  
5 fishing.

6           Alternative E reduces the project  
7 size to no more than 84 turbines. This  
8 alternative would potentially reduce impacts  
9 on existing ocean users and on environmental  
10 resources due to the fewer foundations.

11           Alternative F, the new  
12 alternative, would include a vessel transit  
13 lane through the wind development area in  
14 which no surface occupancy would occur. Any  
15 turbine presently planned for this area will  
16 be moved further south in the wind development  
17 area. This alternative could potentially  
18 facilitate transit of vessels through the  
19 project area from Southern New England ports  
20 to fishing areas on Georges Bank.

21           Alternative G is the no-action  
22 alternative. In this alternative, the  
23 proposed project would not be approved and any  
24 potential environmental and socioeconomic



1 costs and benefits associated with this  
2 proposed project would not occur. However,  
3 impacts from reasonably foreseeable future  
4 offshore wind and nonwind related activities  
5 could still occur. This alternative is  
6 required to be analyzed under NEPA.

7           Since the draft EIS was published,  
8 a new alternative has been added and analyzed  
9 in the Supplemental EIS. Alternative F, the  
10 vessel transit lane alternative, includes a  
11 new vessel transit lane in response to the  
12 January 3rd, 2020, Responsible Offshore  
13 Development Alliance, also known as RODA,  
14 layout proposal.

15           The RODA proposal includes six  
16 total designated transit lanes, each at least  
17 four nautical miles wide, as seen in this  
18 figure here on the right. Although the  
19 proposal includes six total transit lanes,  
20 only one intersects with the Vineyard Wind  
21 Project, as shown in this figure. As  
22 mentioned, the purpose of the proposed  
23 northwest to southeast transit corridor would  
24 be mainly to facilitate vessel transit from

1 Southern New England ports, primarily New  
2 Bedford, to fishing areas on Georges Bank.

3 The transit lane would have no  
4 occupancy, and therefore, the turbines that  
5 could have occurred in these areas would not  
6 be eliminated but instead would be displaced  
7 and shifted south within the Vineyard Wind  
8 lease area.

9 The layout shown in this figure,  
10 which is also within Appendix A, as in  
11 figure 7.17 of the Supplemental EIS is for  
12 illustrative purposes only and does not  
13 guarantee that the positions identified by the  
14 black dots are buildable. The layout is based  
15 on all the developer agreements for the  
16 east-west orientation and  
17 one-nautical-mile-by-one-nautical-mile  
18 spacing. The positions shown do not  
19 necessarily represent future turbine  
20 locations, but the intent of this figure is to  
21 show that the potential displacement of  
22 turbines if all six transit lanes were to  
23 occur.

24 The turbine locations within the

1 pale yellow lanes would not be utilized.

2 Under the current cumulative  
3 scenario, displacement of all these turbine  
4 locations is not feasible, and therefore, the  
5 addition of all six transit lanes would lead  
6 to the elimination of some of the turbines  
7 that could have occurred within these lanes.

8 Our impact analysis included  
9 biological, physical, and socioeconomic  
10 resources as seen here on this slide. The  
11 subject matter experts that analyzed the  
12 impacts to these resources are also in this  
13 public meeting and will answer questions  
14 later.

15 These same resources are also seen  
16 in the summary table found in the executive  
17 summary of the Supplemental EIS. This table  
18 summarizes the overall direct and indirect and  
19 the cumulative impacts for each resource.

20 The following five slides have the  
21 summaries for additional resources not seen  
22 here.

23 I will discuss the impact levels  
24 for specific resources in more detail in a few

1 slides, but wanted to orient you to the table  
2 and some key elements to the analyses here.

3 More detailed analyses and impact  
4 levels for future offshore wind activities may  
5 be found for each resource in Chapter 3 of the  
6 Supplemental EIS, and in tables -- in  
7 Appendices A, as in apple, and B, as in boy.

8 The color coding in the table  
9 indicates if the highest impact level is  
10 minor, moderate, or major, with green being  
11 minor, yellow moderate, and orange major. You  
12 can find the definition of the impact level in  
13 table 1.2-3 in Appendix B, as in boy, of the  
14 SEIS.

15 In addition, there is a poster on  
16 the virtual meeting web page which details the  
17 impact level definition.

18 For resources with a direct and  
19 indirect impact level of negligible or minor,  
20 the impact analysis has been moved to Appendix  
21 A. This was done to meet the page limit goals  
22 outlined in the Department of Interior's  
23 Secretarial Order 3355.

24 To understand the cumulative

1 impact for each resource, BOEM analyzed the  
2 effects of the no-action alternative, which  
3 includes baseline conditions, ongoing  
4 activities of all types, and future offshore  
5 activities other than wind. We then followed  
6 this analysis with an analysis of future  
7 offshore wind activities and the potential  
8 cumulative effects of the proposed action and  
9 action alternatives.

10 Resource impact levels seen here  
11 on this slide are terrestrial and coastal  
12 fauna, coastal habitat, benthic resources, and  
13 finfish, invertebrates, and essential fish  
14 habitats.

15 Additional resource impact levels  
16 seen on this slide include marine mammals, see  
17 turtles, demographics, employment, and  
18 economics, and environmental justice.

19 Again, I'll speak about any  
20 notable difference between alternatives in  
21 future slides.

22 Resource impact levels seen here  
23 include cultural, historical, and  
24 archeological resources, recreation and

1 tourism, and commercial fisheries and for-hire  
2 fishing -- and for-hire recreational fishing.

3 Resource impact levels seen on  
4 this slide include land use and coastal  
5 infrastructure and navigation and vessel  
6 traffic.

7 The resource seen on this slide is  
8 other uses. This resource includes research  
9 and surveys, military and national security,  
10 aviation and air traffic, cable and pipeline  
11 and radar systems.

12 And finally, the resources seen on  
13 this slide include air quality, water quality,  
14 birds and bats. All of these resources are  
15 included in Appendix A, as in apple.

16 Here we will discuss the direct  
17 and indirect impacts of the proposed action.

18 As summarized in the executive  
19 summary table, and assessed in detail of  
20 Chapter 2 -- in Chapter

21 of the Supplemental EIS, BOEM  
22 determined that for most resources, direct and  
23 indirect impacts were negligible to moderate  
24 with some major short and long-term impacts.

1           The proposed action or certain  
2 action alternatives could have major direct or  
3 indirect impact on environmental justice  
4 communities and other uses. The following  
5 major impacts to these resources are  
6 anticipated:

7           Major direct impacts on  
8 environmental justice communities could occur  
9 from the proposed action and alternatives  
10 other than B, as in boy, the Covell Beach  
11 landfall Alternative F; F, the vessel transit  
12 lane alternative; and the no-action  
13 alternative, which is G.

14           The placement of cable and  
15 maintenance within Lewis Bay associated with  
16 the New Hampshire Avenue landfall site would  
17 lead to potential effects on vessel traffic  
18 and to environmental justice populations that  
19 rely on subsistence fishing or employment or  
20 income from marine businesses. This impact  
21 would lessen to moderate under Alternative B,  
22 the Covell Beach landfall alternative, which  
23 would exclude the use of the New Hampshire  
24 landfall location.

1           As mentioned on the alternative  
2 slide, Slide 18, Vineyard Wind is no longer  
3 pursuing the New Hampshire Avenue landfall  
4 location.

5           Alternative F, the vessel transit  
6 lane alternative, leads to lower direct and  
7 indirect impacts for environmental justice due  
8 to the reduced impacts related to allisions  
9 and collisions from the presence of a transit  
10 lane. The reduced risk of collisions or  
11 allisions would lessen the impacts on marine  
12 businesses and also on the low-income workers  
13 employed in these industries. By reducing  
14 impact on these businesses, Alternative F  
15 would have a smaller incremental impact on  
16 environmental justice populations, although  
17 those impacts would remain negligible to  
18 moderate.

19           The direct and indirect impacts  
20 for other uses was determined to be major for  
21 scientific research and surveys for the  
22 proposed action and all action alternatives.

23           The placement of structures within  
24 the wind development area pose a navigational



1 hazard to survey aircraft and vessels and  
2 restrict access to survey locations. This  
3 would impact the statistical design of surveys  
4 and cause a loss of information leading to  
5 major impact.

6 Analysis of the other resource  
7 areas listed here from the direct and indirect  
8 impacts were minor to moderate -- were minor  
9 to moderate beneficial from the proposed  
10 action and action alternatives.

11 Here we'll discuss the cumulative  
12 impacts of the proposed action, in addition to  
13 ongoing activities, future offshore nonwind  
14 activities, and future offshore wind  
15 activities.

16 For most resources, cumulative  
17 impacts were minor to moderate with some major  
18 short and long-term impact. Major cumulative  
19 effects could occur to commercial fisheries  
20 and for-hire recreational fishing for the  
21 proposed action in all action alternatives.  
22 Here, the impacted rating is driven mostly by  
23 changes to fish distribution and availability  
24 associated with climate change, reduced stock

1 levels due to fishing mortality, and permanent  
2 impact due to the presence of structures such  
3 as cable protection measures and foundations  
4 from offshore wind activity.

5 Major cumulative impacts on  
6 navigation could result as -- could occur as a  
7 result of the presence of structures which  
8 increase the risk of collisions and allisions  
9 under the proposed action and all the  
10 alternatives, with the exception of D-2, the  
11 east-west and one-nautical-mile-turbine  
12 layout; F, the vessel transit lane alternative  
13 with D-2; and the no-action, which is G.

14 The impact level becomes moderate  
15 under D-2 with a one-by-one-nautical-mile  
16 uniform grid layout; and under Alternative F,  
17 the vessel transit lane alternative, when  
18 paired with D-2, due to the large spacing  
19 between structures and the regular layout.

20 Major cumulative impact on  
21 scientific research and surveys, as mentioned  
22 on the previous slide, is under other uses in  
23 the Supplemental EIS, could occur as a result  
24 of the proposed action and all action

1 alternatives due to the presence of structures  
2 which could hinder surveys within the project  
3 area. This impact is similar to the direct  
4 and indirect impact but greater in magnitude  
5 due to this cumulative scenario.

6 In addition, there will be major  
7 cumulative impacts on military and national  
8 security, also found under other uses as a  
9 result of the proposed action and action  
10 alternatives, other than D-2, the east-west  
11 and one-nautical-mile turbine layout; and  
12 Alternative F, the vessel transit lane  
13 alternative when paired with D-2 due to  
14 navigational complexity from structure  
15 presence, which would increase the difficulty  
16 to conduct search-and-rescue operations.

17 The major impact goes down to  
18 moderate for search-and-rescue operations  
19 under alternative D-2; or F -- Alternative F  
20 paired with D-2 due to the uniform grid in  
21 D-2, or the vessel transit lane with the  
22 uniform grid -- that's F, Alternative F,  
23 paired with D-2.

24 In addition, there are also minor

1 beneficial cumulative impact, primarily in  
2 recreational and tourism, land use and coastal  
3 infrastructure demographics and climate and  
4 economics.

5 This is the proposed schedule that  
6 is on the permitting dashboard. However, that  
7 schedule could change based on comments  
8 received. For example, if someone identifies  
9 a significant issue that we cannot consider in  
10 the draft or Supplemental EIS, it requires new  
11 analysis.

12 There are also ongoing  
13 complications, including the Endangered  
14 Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act,  
15 the National Historic Preservation Act, and  
16 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
17 Management Act. All these consultations need  
18 could be completed prior to the signing of the  
19 record of decision.

20 BOEM is working with agencies to  
21 incorporate new project changes into existing  
22 consultations. Additional details about  
23 ongoing and completed consultations may be  
24 found in Appendix D.

1                   BOEM's Vineyard Wind web page  
2 includes a variety of informative documents  
3 including Vineyard Wind's Construction and  
4 Operations Plan, copies of the draft and  
5 Supplemental EIS, including a large-print  
6 version of the Supplemental EIS, and a link to  
7 the virtual meeting room web page.

8                   Within the virtual meeting room  
9 web page, you will find the aforementioned  
10 posters and presentations, along with  
11 additional posters and presentations  
12 highlighting key topics and resource areas  
13 like our how to comment.

14                   Thank you for your attendance and  
15 participation today. We look forward to your  
16 comments and questions.

17                   And with that, I will hand it back  
18 over to Christine.

19                   CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. All  
20 right. So here's -- we're going to talk  
21 more information about how you can  
22 provide comments today. It is the last one  
23 for the public comment period. However, there  
24 are other ways that you can provide comments.

1 The comment period is open until July 27th.

2 You can provide comments on the  
3 SEIS site using regulations.gov, and also by  
4 mailing comments to the Office of Renewable  
5 Energy Program, or the Vineyard Wind virtual  
6 meeting page. If you haven't done so already,  
7 and would like to provide comments today,  
8 please press Star

9 now and speak to our operator.  
10 After you press Star 1, please be patient,  
11 and we'll only have one operator  
12 today for the number of the people on the  
13 line. We really appreciate your patience with  
14 this.

15 If you prefer to submit your  
16 comments electronically, go to  
17 <http://www.regulations.gov>, and search for the  
18 packet BOEM, B-O-E-M, -2020-0005. Next click  
19 on "comment now."

20 Comments may also be submitted by  
21 mail with the envelope labeled "Vineyard Wind  
22 Supplement to the Draft EIS," and addressed to  
23 the Program Manager, the Office of Renewable  
24 Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; the

1 address is 45600 Woodlands Road, VAM-OREP, V,  
2 as in Victor, A, as in apple, M, as in Mary,  
3 O-R-E, as in echo, P, as in Paul, in Sterling,  
4 Virginia 20166.

5 Envelopes must be postmarked no  
6 later than July 27th, 2020. And BOEM does not  
7 consider anonymous comments, so please include  
8 your name and address as part of your  
9 submittal. All comments will be part of the  
10 record and will be publicly posted without  
11 change.

12 You can also submit your comments  
13 online at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

14 So please take a few minutes also  
15 now -- I know that some people have already  
16 been using the Q & A box on Zoom. You can do  
17 so at any time. You can also register to  
18 speak, you know, by pressing Star 1 and  
19 speaking to the operator at any time. As a  
20 reminder, we'll answer those questions at the  
21 end of the public comment period.

22 So now we'll talk a little bit  
23 more about how we're going to do the public  
24 comment period.

1           If you're providing comments, your  
2 remarks will be recorded, transcribed, and  
3 entered into the administrative record. It  
4 looks like there's about 30 people signed up  
5 already to speak. So we'll post and read  
6 about five names at a time into the chat box  
7 for those of you on Zoom, and I'll read them  
8 aloud to those of you on the phone.

9           Also, given the number of people  
10 that we have in line to speak today, we'll  
11 plan to take a break after about 20 minutes.

12           So as a reminder, even though you  
13 might see your name in the chat box, we'll  
14 need everyone who speaks today to state your  
15 name slowly and spell your first and last name  
16 for us so that the court reporter and those  
17 that are on the phone only can hear who is  
18 speaking.

19           Also, if you would like, you can  
20 provide the name of the organization that  
21 you're affiliated with, if that's applicable.

22           All comments today will be take  
23 into consideration by BOEM to update the final  
24 EIS. The comments you make will be recorded



1 and may also be publicly posted.

2           Please be mindful of time so that  
3 everyone has an opportunity to speak. I may  
4 ask you to wrap things up at the five-minute  
5 mark. If you need more time, you can put your  
6 name at the end of the queue. This will allow  
7 everyone the opportunity to speak at least  
8 once, and if time allows, we'll give you  
9 another chance.

10           So please note your comments that  
11 -- it they are lengthy, you can also submit  
12 them in writing, as both written and oral  
13 comments are being considered equally.

14           We'll take repeat speakers, but  
15 only after everyone who is interested has  
16 provided comments at least once.

17           After identifying the first  
18 speaker, we'll note who is next to speak. And  
19 like I said, we'll probably give about five or  
20 so names in the chat box for those of you on  
21 Zoom, and I'll call out the names for those of  
22 you on the phone.

23           And typically, I really like to  
24 greet people when you arrive at meetings in

1 person so I can hear how you pronounce your  
2 name, however, I don't have that luxury today.  
3 So I sincerely apologize in advance for any  
4 mispronunciations I make this evening. I  
5 realize that we all like to hear our names  
6 properly pronounced, and so I ask you for your  
7 patience and understanding.

8 We're committed to gathering all  
9 the questions and comments from today and the  
10 other meetings and responding to them as  
11 appropriate in the final EIS.

12 So, again, please press Star 1 and  
13 wait to speak to the live operator, if you're  
14 interested in getting the queue. And if  
15 you're wanting to put Q & A, those of you on  
16 Zoom, use that Q & A function.

17 With that, I see that we've  
18 already posted a number of names that are  
19 ready to go. So Lars P., Gordon F., Peter H.,  
20 Nick K., and Michelle F., you guys are going  
21 to be our first spotlight speakers today. And  
22 like I said, we will post about five or six,  
23 and I will read them repeatedly.

24 So, with that, I would like to

1 turn it over to Lars.

2 LARS PEDERSEN: Thank you. Can  
3 you hear me?

4 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
5 just fine. Thank you, Lars.

6 LARS PEDERSEN: Thank you. So my  
7 name is Lars Pedersen, L-a-r-s  
8 P-e-d-e-r-s-e-n, and I'm the CEO of Vineyard  
9 Wind.

10 So Vineyard Wind, we appreciate  
11 very much the opportunity to comment on the  
12 supplemental to the draft EIS for the Vineyard  
13 Wind 1 Project. And before I start my  
14 comments, I would like to express my gratitude  
15 to the entire BOEM team and the other federal  
16 and state agencies that have been involved in  
17 this process. It is and has been no small  
18 feat to deliver on the original time schedule  
19 for this process in a period where most normal  
20 ways of working has actually rapidly adapted  
21 with short notice. So we thank you very much  
22 for that.

23 I would also like to thank all the  
24 commenters that have participated in the

1 previous four hearings, as well as the  
2 participants in today's hearing, for the  
3 interest in the Vineyard Wind Project and the  
4 wider use of offshore wind industry.

5 We would like to express our deep  
6 gratitude for the wide ranging and deep  
7 support the project has seen over many years,  
8 and at least during these hearings, we are  
9 proud to have been supported by the  
10 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, our long-term  
11 partners Vineyard Power, state and local  
12 legislatures, environmental organizations,  
13 unions, supply chain companies, business  
14 organizations, private citizens, and other  
15 developers who have supported this project.

16 We also want to acknowledge the  
17 organizations and the individuals that have  
18 raised concerns on potential impacts of this  
19 project and the industry as the process has  
20 gone its course. There's been some hard and  
21 challenging conversation with existing users  
22 of the ocean, such as the commercial fishing  
23 industry. And while we have not always been  
24 able to find a common understanding, Vineyard

1 Wind has been grateful for all the input it  
2 has received.

3 Vineyard Wind 1 takes its first  
4 mover status in the development of the  
5 offshore wind industry extremely seriously.  
6 We are committed to adhering to not only the  
7 highest industry standards, but also to help  
8 evolve those standards so that our industry  
9 gets better with each and every project. We  
10 are committed to learning from the first  
11 project, collecting and sharing data, and  
12 continuing to work with other users of the  
13 ocean to continuously improve.

14 Vineyard Wind has been through a  
15 long and, at times, very challenging  
16 permitting process that started as far back as  
17 December 2017, and since August 2019, been  
18 unable to move forward with this landmark  
19 project awaiting the SDEIS we're discussing  
20 today in order to complete the federal  
21 permitting process.

22 Vineyard Wind was the first  
23 large-scale offshore wind project to be  
24 awarded a PPE in the United States, and it was

1 demonstrating that offshore wind can and will  
2 be a significant part of the energy mix along  
3 the Eastern Seaboard and has led to a  
4 significant number of projects being procured  
5 in many states since May 2018. However,  
6 without certainty that the offshore wind  
7 industry can and will be permitted --  
8 permitted in the U.S., it's unlikely that the  
9 industry will continue to invest in the  
10 market, and therefore, the timely completion  
11 of the federal review and approval process  
12 will provide the certainty needed for the  
13 continued investment in the U.S. market.

14           After the review of the Vineyard  
15 Wind 1 Project was put on hold in August last  
16 year, Vineyard Wind and other developers in  
17 the Massachusetts and Rhode Island lease areas  
18 came together to discuss and address the most  
19 commonly cited concerns reported during the  
20 initial review of the Vineyard Wind 1 Project.

21           Vineyard Wind, along with the  
22 other developers up in New England wind energy  
23 areas, in late 2019 proposed to advance all  
24 future projects in the combined lease areas

1 with a uniform one-by-one-nautical-mile layout  
2 with an east-west orientation. This is now  
3 represented as the D-2 alternative.

4 The agreement between the  
5 developers represents an unprecedented wide  
6 spacing of turbines on a global scale, and it  
7 reduces the available capacity within the  
8 lease areas for Vineyard Wind and other  
9 developers by more than

10 percent. The unprecedented  
11 spacing is also captured in

12 an unprecedented agreement where  
13 seven companies agreed to align their layouts  
14 across many projects over a couple of decades  
15 of build-out creating certainty and  
16 predictability for other ocean uses. The  
17 Massachusetts/Rhode Island developers wanted  
18 to ensure that safe navigation, safe  
19 search-and-rescue and safe fishing could  
20 continue within and around the joint lease  
21 areas with the proposed layout.

22 Vineyard Wind was therefore  
23 pleased to note that the U.S. Coast Guard in  
24 its comprehensive MARIPARS study, released in

1 May, concluded that the suggested  
2 one-by-one-nautical-mile layout would ensure  
3 all three objectives and would be superior to  
4 the suggested alternatives analyzed by the  
5 Coast Guard.

6 We firmly believe that the D-2  
7 alternative as presented in this SEIS,  
8 including the proposed conservative mitigation  
9 put in place for the Vineyard Wind 1 Project,  
10 represent the right compromise that will allow  
11 all existing and future uses to coexist now  
12 and in the future.

13 Other alternatives, in particular  
14 the F Alternative with additional transit  
15 lanes, should, in our opinion, not be  
16 considered as they would not provide  
17 additional navigation, search-and-rescue or  
18 fishing benefits. To the contrary, however,  
19 they would significantly impair the economic  
20 viability of existing and future offshore wind  
21 projects, including Vineyard Wind 1.

22 We have noted that this view is  
23 shared by many commenters through these public  
24 hearings.



1           So let me conclude by saying the  
2 time is now if U.S. offshore wind is to move  
3 forward. After years of study and public  
4 consultations to identify areas for offshore  
5 wind leasing in the United States, the SEIS  
6 presents a comprehensive and in depth analysis  
7 of the potential impacts of an industry that  
8 is poised to create more than 80,000 jobs,  
9 deliver 25 billion in economic input, and  
10 attract more than \$100 billion in investment,  
11 and make significant advances in combating  
12 climate change in line with state targets.

13           Vineyard Wind 1 alone would create  
14 over 3,600 jobs over the life of the project  
15 and making a significant contribution to  
16 tackling climate change by avoiding emissions  
17 of more than 1.7 million tons of carbon  
18 dioxide per year, the equivalent of 325,000  
19 cars.

20           Vineyard Wind 1 will also save  
21 rate payers in Massachusetts more than \$1.4  
22 billion per year in energy related -- I'm  
23 sorry, over the life of the project. These  
24 benefits will be multiplied by each project

1 that is built out over the next few years by  
2 either Vineyard Wind or the developers as  
3 those projects mature.

4 With those words, I would like to  
5 thank you for the opportunity to comment, and  
6 I'm looking forward to listening in to other  
7 comments today. Thank you.

8 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
9 we'll have Gordon, and then Peter and then  
10 Nick and Michelle.

11 I just want to remind folks that  
12 we are still using the Q & A function, so  
13 please use the Q & A function for any  
14 questions that you have and that way I'll  
15 reserve that chat function so we can notify  
16 those of you Zoom where we are in the speaking  
17 queue. So, again, use the Q & A function for  
18 any questions you have about the presentation  
19 you heard, the SEIS, and whatnot, and we'll  
20 get to those after the public comment period  
21 is concluded.

22 With that, I'm going to turn you  
23 over to Gordon.

24 Gordon, go ahead. Gordon, are you

1 with us? Perhaps mute?

2 Okay. We'll try and catch Gordon  
3 in a bit. I'll move on to Peter, Peter H.

4 Are you ready to -- Peter?

5 PETER HIMCHAK: Yes. Good  
6 evening. My name is Peter Himchak, and I  
7 offer the following comment on behalf of  
8 LaMonica Fine Foods, a vertically integrated  
9 seafood company that harvests and processes  
10 surf clams.

11 LaMonica Fine Foods has a fleet of  
12 five surf clam vessels and a processing plant  
13 in Millville, New Jersey, that has over 200  
14 employees.

15 I speak from nearly 45 years of  
16 experience in a marine fisheries research and  
17 management career.

18 As recognized in the draft  
19 supplementary EIS, there will be major  
20 negative impact on both commercial fisheries  
21 and fishery independent surveys, both of which  
22 cannot continue as presently conducted. My  
23 comments will focus on these two major  
24 impacts.

1           Over the past two years at least,  
2 I have participated at innumerable public  
3 outreach meetings held by BOEM, the wind  
4 energy companies, and the individual states  
5 involved in development of offshore wind.

6           I have on all occasions commented  
7 that surf clam vessels using hydraulic bottom  
8 tending gear would not be able to continue  
9 operations within a wind farm array where the  
10 individual turbines are not spaced at a  
11 minimum of two nautical miles apart. I have  
12 also commented on the need for wind farms to  
13 have an orientation in line with prevailing  
14 currents, place -- placement of all vertical  
15 structures in straight rows and columns, and  
16 the need to bury all transmission cables at  
17 least two meters deep.

18           Yet, upon reviewing all current  
19 and proposed design layouts of wind farm  
20 arrays, the comments from the surf clam  
21 industry have been ignored, essentially  
22 creating exclusion zones around wind farms in  
23 which surf clam vessels will not be able to  
24 operate.

1           The wind energy companies have not  
2 cooperated with the commercial fisheries in  
3 good faith, and their Construction and  
4 Operations Plans for leased areas are based  
5 purely on their own economic gain. Surf clam  
6 vessels will lose current productive clamming  
7 areas and incur many additional costs trying  
8 to cram in around wind farms, to find other  
9 likely suboptimal areas in which to operate.

10           Equally important as lost access  
11 to current clamming areas would be the  
12 inability of research vessels to operate  
13 within wind farm arrays to conduct the fishery  
14 independent surveys vital to developing the  
15 stock assessments for all the species managed  
16 by the Mid Atlantic and the New England  
17 fishery management councils.

18           With lost data, scientific  
19 uncertainty increases for any stock. And this  
20 affects how quotas would be established in  
21 future years. Scientific uncertainty leads to  
22 precautionary management, and current quotas  
23 for sustainable resources, such as surf clams,  
24 will likely decrease unnecessarily in the

1 future as a result.

2           The development of renewable  
3 offshore energy was supposed to have been  
4 smart from the start, as BOEM proclaimed many  
5 years ago. The entire process of leasing  
6 offshore areas and developing layout designs  
7 for wind farms has been anything but smartly  
8 done. They work -- they worked through the  
9 accommodations for all commercial fisheries  
10 that operated in the lease areas so that  
11 coexistence would occur in the future. The  
12 commercial fisheries have been engaged at  
13 every opportunity, but our concerns and needs  
14 have been summarily dismissed.

15           There should be an immediate  
16 five-year moratorium implemented on the  
17 development of offshore wind because the  
18 cumulative impact on commercial fisheries'  
19 resources and their habitats from wind farms  
20 in the foreseeable future are poorly  
21 understood or unknown.

22           Therefore, I support Alternative  
23 G, no action at this time. This process is  
24 not smart from the start.

1           LaMonica Fine Foods is not opposed  
2 to clean renewable energy offshore or anywhere  
3 else, however, it must be developed in general  
4 cooperation with the stakeholders currently  
5 operating in the EEZ so that major negative  
6 impacts are not experienced.

7           As Mr. Bennett mentioned in his  
8 introductory remarks, the goal of coexist --  
9 where's the goal of coexistence between wind  
10 energy developers and the impacted  
11 stakeholders? Well, given the way wind energy  
12 areas are being developed to this date, this  
13 goal will not be achieved. Thank you for your  
14 time and cooperation and consideration of  
15 these comments.

16           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
17 we have Nick and then Michelle.

18           Nick, go ahead.

19           NICK KRAKOFF: Yeah, hi. My name  
20 is Nick Krakoff. Can you hear me?

21           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yes, I can. If  
22 you can state and spell your name, that would  
23 be great.

24           And also, I did want to

1 acknowledge, for those of you on Zoom, you can  
2 see photos of Jim and Jenn, who spoke earlier,  
3 and then also Michelle. These folks are  
4 listening to your comments, and other experts  
5 that we have will be answering questions  
6 later. So I just wanted to acknowledge those  
7 folks listening in.

8           So go ahead, and state and spell  
9 your name. Thank you.

10           NICK KRAKOFF: Yeah, thanks. My  
11 name is Nick Krakoff; my first name is  
12 N-i-c-k, last name is Krakoff, K-r-a-k-o-f-f.

13           I'm a staff attorney on behalf of  
14 the Conservation Law Foundation, otherwise  
15 known as CLF. CLF also plans to submit  
16 written comments to the SEIS.

17           CLF has long supported responsibly  
18 developed offshore wind energy. In our view,  
19 the transition of a clean energy economy is  
20 necessary to combat the effects of climate  
21 change, including ocean acidification.

22           Offshore wind presents a  
23 tremendous opportunity to fight climate  
24 change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and



1 grow a new industry that supports tens of  
2 thousands of well paying jobs.

3 CLF believes that Alternative D-2,  
4 when combined with Alternative B, to establish  
5 a one-by-one-nautical-mile wind turbine layout  
6 and make landfall on Covell Beach, is the most  
7 responsible option that has been proposed and  
8 that BOEM should reject the other alternatives  
9 analyzed in the SEIS.

10 Alternative D-2 would exceed  
11 expected power generation capacity with the  
12 leased areas while still allowing fishing and  
13 other activities to occur in the leased areas.  
14 This is supported by the Coast Guard's  
15 MARIPARS report which found that Alternative  
16 D-2 meets the Coast Guard's criteria for  
17 navigation, safety, and facilitate traditional  
18 fishing methods.

19 CLF also urges BOEM to reject  
20 Alternative F. CLF is very concerned that  
21 Alternative F and the incorporation of the  
22 RODA recommended transit lanes into the  
23 Vineyard Wind Project would reduce expected  
24 power generation capacity of offshore wind in

1 Southern New England as noted in the SEIS.  
2 Accordingly, Alternative F is likely to  
3 produce -- or preclude Massachusetts and Rhode  
4 Island from meeting their renewable energy  
5 targets in mitigating the impacts of climate  
6 change. If that is the case, we cannot  
7 support Alternative F.

8 Further, as found in the MARIPARS  
9 report, the Coast Guard concluded that the  
10 Alternative D-2 layout would meet the Coast  
11 Guard's criteria for navigational safety.  
12 Given this conclusion, the addition of transit  
13 lanes for leased area under Alternative F  
14 appears unnecessary for the purpose of  
15 increasing navigational safety.

16 Finally, the SEIS only provides  
17 cursory consideration of the impact that  
18 following vessel traffic in the transit lanes  
19 would have on marine mammals and North  
20 Atlantic Right Whales. Due to this deficiency  
21 in BOEM's analysis, we cannot support  
22 Alternative F.

23 CLF also wishes to comment on  
24 BOEM's discussion in the SEIS of mitigation

1 and monitoring measures for the North Atlantic  
2 Right Whale.

3 As states on the Atlantic Coast  
4 mobilize to harness offshore is critical, but  
5 science-based measures are implemented in  
6 order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the  
7 impacts on wildlife and habitat, especially  
8 our most vulnerable species, which is North  
9 Atlantic Right Whales.

10 Vineyard Wind's commitment to  
11 responsible, offshore wind development was  
12 demonstrated in agreement between Vineyard  
13 Wind, CLF, Natural Resources Defense Council,  
14 and National Wildlife Federation to protect  
15 North Atlantic Right Whales during  
16 construction and operation of the project.

17 Under the agreement, Vineyard Wind  
18 agreed to certain monitoring and mitigation  
19 measures for North Atlantic Right Whales that  
20 go beyond the federal government's current  
21 requirement and can serve as important  
22 precedence for other offshore wind projects.

23 CLF appreciates that BOEM  
24 incorporated this agreement into the SEIS;

1 however, the SEIS appears to assume that  
2 similar mitigation and monitoring will be put  
3 in place for future offshore wind projects.  
4 The assumption in the SEIS that similar  
5 monitoring and mitigation measures will be  
6 adopted appears to reduce the overall  
7 cumulative impact rating to our North Atlantic  
8 Right Whales. There's no guarantee that such  
9 mitigation and monitoring measures will be  
10 implemented for future offshore agreement, and  
11 the SEIS is flawed to the extent it speculates  
12 that similar measures will be adopted.

13 CLF believes that in order to  
14 reduce impact on the North Atlantic Right  
15 Whale, it is necessary that BOEM and NOAA  
16 incorporate similar monitoring and mitigation  
17 letters into all future permits associated  
18 with offshore wind.

19 In conclusion, Alternative D-2 is  
20 the best option for developing offshore wind  
21 responsibly. And other alternatives,  
22 including Alternative F, should be rejected.  
23 Alternative F will prevent Massachusetts and  
24 Rhode Island from accomplishing their

1 renewable energy targets, does not reduce the  
2 overall impact level for the fishing industry,  
3 and its uncertain impact on the North Atlantic  
4 Right Whale.

5 CLF also believes that the types  
6 of mitigation and monitoring measurements that  
7 Vineyard Wind has agreed to are needed on all  
8 future offshore wind projects. There's no  
9 guarantee such measures will be adopted on  
10 future projects, and the SEIS errs to the  
11 extent it assumes that similarly robust  
12 measures will be implemented.

13 BOEM and NOAA must ensure that  
14 similar measures are incorporated into all  
15 future projects.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
18 we have Michelle, and then I'll read a

19 few more names. Katie A., Betsy  
20 S., Mary P., as in Paul, and then Robert H.

21 So with that, I'll turn it to  
22 Michelle. Please state and spell your name,  
23 please.

24 MICHELLE SGARLAT: Hi, can you

1 hear me?

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
3 just fine, thank you.

4 MICHELLE SGARLAT: Great. My name  
5 is Michelle, M-i-c-h-e-l-l-e, Sgarlat,  
6 S-g-a-r-l-a-t, and I live in Centerville,  
7 Massachusetts. I strongly support Vineyard  
8 Wind's offshore wind project for several  
9 reasons.

10 First, there has been a remarkable  
11 number of public presentations, town meetings,  
12 and an ongoing open-house schedule at the  
13 Centerville Library where the Vineyard Wind  
14 staff has been available to educate folks and  
15 answer questions. Their professionalism and  
16 open communication has been much appreciated.

17 Second, I frequently go to Covell  
18 Beach where the cable will come to shore and  
19 the road will be disturbed. While this will  
20 be an inconvenience for a time, I know that  
21 Cape Cod is particularly vulnerable to the  
22 effects of climate change with the eroding  
23 coast lines, warming ocean temperatures, and  
24 severe weather. And we need to invest in

1 renewable offshore energy now.

2           This project will produce  
3 22,000-plus megawatts of power on the  
4 population-dense East Coast.

5           Third, I have two daughters, and I  
6 feel we have a responsibility to address the  
7 climate emergency for the wellbeing of future  
8 generations. The scientific community states  
9 that we have 10 to

10           years to address this emergency.  
11 One daughter recently became a boat captain,  
12           and she plans on exploring  
13 employment in the offshore wind industry.

14           Lastly, as someone who has lived  
15 on Cape Cod for almost 40 years and dearly  
16 loves the ocean, I feel we can coexist with  
17 the wind turbines. I support moving ahead  
18 with the nation's first large-scale offshore  
19 wind project.

20           Thank you.

21           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
22 we have Katie, then Betsy, then Mary and

23           Robert. So Katie, go ahead.

24 Katie? I think there was just a little delay

1 in

2 switching over from one person to  
3 the next. Is Katie available?

4 KATIE ALMEIDA: Yes. Can you hear  
5 me?

6 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
7 just fine. Thank you.

8 KATIE ALMEIDA: Great. Okay. My  
9 name is Katie Almeida; it's K-a-t-i-e  
10 A-l-m-e-i-d-a. And I want to state that I'm  
11 in support of legitimate baseline data prior  
12 to construction and development of any  
13 large-scale wind farm in the North Atlantic.

14 I'm a member of the fishing  
15 industry. My company is out of Point Judith,  
16 Rhode Island, although I'm a Massachusetts  
17 residence, and we own six commercial fishing  
18 vessels that primarily fish for squid.

19 We were never consulted on the  
20 siting of those wind farms originally. And  
21 specifically, Vineyard Wind sits on productive  
22 -- sits on and near productive squid grounds,  
23 not only for fishing, but also for squid mops  
24 for nursery grounds.



1           There have been no peer-reviewed  
2 scientific studies in Europe on the impact of  
3 development operations on fisheries or fish  
4 stocks. There have also been no long term  
5 baseline studies here in the U.S. on wind  
6 energy areas that are much needed to track the  
7 changes that might happen over time. We've  
8 been asking for these baseline studies since  
9 we were first reached out to by Vineyard Wind  
10 in 2016 and 2017.

11           The development will prevent them  
12 from conducting their fishery research studies  
13 in that area, and that will create management  
14 uncertainty for the fishing industry.

15           I also want to let it be known  
16 that we are for clean energy, and we do  
17 understand the need for it. But, you know, we  
18 -- we also understand that there's a need for  
19 research and monitoring. And that this needs  
20 to be done right, because it's -- once it's  
21 done, we're going to be the ones who will have  
22 to pay for this ecologically and biologically.

23           I like to think of it as you take  
24 the exact footprint of this wind farm --

1 actually, not just this wind farm, the whole  
2 entire area in Southern New England that's  
3 planning to be built out, and take that  
4 footprint, which is just smaller than Rhode  
5 Island, and place it in the middle of Yellow  
6 Stone National Park, wouldn't everyone who is  
7 so concerned about the environment, which  
8 includes the fishing industry, have questions  
9 about this? And want research prior to any  
10 sort of construction development in a national  
11 park?

12           You know, there's lots of things  
13 that are below the ocean that lots of people  
14 don't see and don't understand. And I think  
15 for some people, it can be out of sight and  
16 out of mind, and that's concerning to those of  
17 us who depend on the ocean for a living.

18           So, again, we have been striving  
19 for coexistence, but we've been making it -- a  
20 very strong case since the beginning, we just  
21 want this done right.

22           Regarding transit, I agree that  
23 the fishing industry are critical -- we're a  
24 critical partner, but regarding this transit

1 lane plan being put forth by Vineyard Wind and  
2 the other wind energy developers, we have sat  
3 down and worked with the individual -- with  
4 the wind energy development -- wind energy  
5 developers for years now. We've spent a lot  
6 of time and money on several meetings to sit  
7 down and discuss the issues regarding transits  
8 with them. None of that proved fruitful after  
9 all that time and effort.

10           And then after the latest  
11 submission of transit lanes from the developer  
12 to the Coast Guard, it's clear that we've been  
13 ignored on this issue.

14           Submitting this plan without  
15 industry consultation is not a compromise.  
16 And to hear that there's lots of support for  
17 that plan is concerning because I'm sure that  
18 a lot of that support is from people who don't  
19 operate on the water as part of the commercial  
20 fishing industry. And I think it's really  
21 important to listen to the people who actually  
22 are out there making a living and to consider  
23 what they need for safety regarding weather,  
24 radar interference, and possibly collisions.

1           Real coexistence comes from  
2 working together on all issues, and it means  
3 being transparent. And that includes working  
4 together on mitigation compensation and  
5 transit. And those issues have left a lot of  
6 transparencies, especially given the latest  
7 mitigation compensation package coming out of  
8 Vineyard Wind for Massachusetts. That didn't  
9 involve any input from any fishing industry  
10 members, and neither did this one-by-one  
11 spread across the whole lease area.

12           So I will put my support behind  
13 Alternative F, RODA's transit lane layout, and  
14 D-2.

15           Thank you.

16           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
17 we've got Betsy, Mary P., Robert H. And then  
18 as I look down, we've added a few more names,  
19 Keith L., Mike O., and Nina WL.

20           So with that, I'll turn it over to  
21 Betsy.

22           BETSY SOWERS: Hi, can you hear  
23 me?

24           CHRISTINE DAVIS: We can hear you

1 just fine, Betsy. Thank you.

2 BETSY SOWERS: Okay. Good  
3 afternoon. I'm Reverend Betsy Sowers, it's  
4 B-e-t-s-y S-o-w-e-r-s, from Weymouth,  
5 Massachusetts. I'm a member of Fore River  
6 Residents Against the Compressor Station,  
7 which is a little tangential, but not really  
8 so much.

9 I want to thank you for this  
10 opportunity to speak for this project that is  
11 essential to the clean and just energy future  
12 and critical to slowing the unfolding climate  
13 catastrophe.

14 I'm here as a safe leader whose  
15 ministry is focused on environmental justice.

16 The Vineyard Wind Project is not  
17 just about energy. Choosing to build it with  
18 the one-mile spacing of the turbines under  
19 Option D-2 or to further delay and possibly  
20 kill it through proposals such as Option F is  
21 also a moral decision that may have possible  
22 life-and-death consequences.

23 You see, I've learned a lot about  
24 the impacts of energy choices as a resident of

1 Weymouth, Mass. With no EIS and a vacated air  
2 quality permit, Enbridge is venting massive  
3 amounts of methane at this very moment testing  
4 pipes for a fracked gas compressor station  
5 being built adjacent to an already  
6 overburdened environmental justice community.

7           As a member of the citizens group  
8 fighting this project for five and a half  
9 years, I've seen firsthand how dirty and  
10 dangerous energy projects impact communities  
11 of color and low-income communities, how their  
12 lives and livelihoods are bearing the brunt of  
13 this solution. I've seen kids with rare  
14 cancers, high rates of coronary and  
15 respiratory diseases, greater illness and  
16 death from COVID-19 due to compromised  
17 respiratory systems. I've seen how the  
18 project's jobs that had been promised to local  
19 people are, in fact, being done by people from  
20 out of state.

21           I also know that projects like  
22 this will make it impossible for Massachusetts  
23 to meet its mandated carbon reductions under  
24 the Global Warming Solutions Act, speeding up

1 the unfolding climate catastrophe, of which  
2 COVID-19 is only a foretaste. This is the  
3 alternative to Vineyard Wind.

4 Further permitting delays to  
5 Vineyard Wind will increase the likelihood of  
6 killing it and leaving New England to the  
7 mercies of fossil fuel companies. Their  
8 environmental justice impact would far exceed  
9 the environmental justice impact on low-income  
10 fishing workers from that one-mile layout of  
11 wind turbines.

12 And the continuing of ocean  
13 warming and acidification from burning fossil  
14 fuels would accelerate the crashing of fish  
15 stocks causing far worse impacts on the  
16 fishing industry.

17 The impacts of wind energy and the  
18 impact on the fishing industry have to be  
19 weighed in this context. And I want to say, I  
20 hear those concerns of the fishing industry,  
21 and I support ongoing conversations about  
22 mitigation.

23 But from what I understand, Plan  
24 F, it would really make the project

1 financially not possible. So it has to be  
2 within a context that allows the project to  
3 continue.

4           Finally, I'm also here as one who  
5 has visited the only five wind turbines in the  
6 U.S. off Block Island, which are gorgeous, and  
7 where I noticed that fishing boats abound  
8 because these turbines have become artificial  
9 reefs. And both commercial and recreational  
10 fishing boats are around them whenever you go  
11 out there.

12           I've seen the massive offshore  
13 wind farms off of Europe.

14           And it's simply strange to me that  
15 our country has only five of these turbines in  
16 the year 2020. It's past time for the U.S. to  
17 join other developed nations with projects  
18 like this starting with Vineyard Wind. It can  
19 provide clean energy, local jobs, and it would  
20 have far less impact on human and  
21 environmental health and fossil fuels.

22           Vineyard Wind has been studied for  
23 many years. There has been extensive  
24 engagement with stakeholders of all kinds. As



1 been mentioned before, the Coast Guard states  
2 that the one-mile spacing plan is safe for  
3 shipping and fishing and deems the additional  
4 transit lanes unnecessary. The additional  
5 transit lane, as I said, would -- would  
6 probably kill the project. So please give the  
7 project a green light with that D-2 one-mile  
8 spacing plan.

9           Finally, again, I do believe that  
10 it is essential that environmental groups like  
11 National Wildlife Federation, Mass Audubon,  
12 and others, continue to be part of the process  
13 and to hold the project to responsible  
14 environmental practices both during  
15 construction and operation.

16           And I ask that special attention  
17 be paid to training and hiring people from  
18 local communities of color and low-income  
19 communities to build and maintain Vineyard  
20 Wind as partial recompense for the  
21 disproportionate damage they've already  
22 suffered from polluting energy projects.

23           Please place climate justice,  
24 environmental and racial and economic justice

1 at the center of your decision-making and  
2 permit this project.

3 I thank you for your time.

4 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

5 Thank you. Next we have Mary, then Robert,  
6 Keith, Mike,

7 and Nina. So go ahead, Mary.

8 MARY PENDERGAST: Hi, I'm Mary  
9 Pendergast, M-a-r-y P-e-n-d-e-r-g-a-s-t. And  
10 I'm coming from Climate Action Rhode Island  
11 and Mercy Ecology.

12 I speak in favor of the Vineyard  
13 Wind Project. Although antiracism and the  
14 global pandemic are huge issues that we're  
15 living through, climate change is the defining  
16 crisis of our time.

17 The ITCC report says 10 to 12  
18 years. Well, they go by in a flash.

19 I speak for the need for renewable  
20 energy. I was a warrior fighting against the  
21 fracked and diesel-powered power plant in  
22 Burrillville, Rhode Island. And we won after  
23 four long years.

24 Although no one will be immune

1 from the devastating effects of climate  
2 disruption, we can be sure that the poorest  
3 will be hardest hit. And that mass migration,  
4 which have already begun, will become  
5 impossible for any country to handle.

6           Already climate disasters, food  
7 insecurity, and water insecurity are causing  
8 competitions for basic resources. Offshore  
9 wind is vital for meeting the clean energy  
10 goal of New England.

11           The promise of renewable energy  
12 ahead was what helped us win the Burrillville  
13 power plant issue.

14           The SEIS, I thought, was  
15 critically responsive to the impacts on the  
16 needs of the beings who call the ocean home,  
17 and the environmental justice population. I  
18 would agree that similar care should be  
19 mandated for all future projects.

20           We have to do better. We have to  
21 do it fast. Go Vineyard Wind.

22           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
23 Thank you. Next, we have Robert and then  
24 Keith, Mike, and Nina.

1                   So Robert? Robert H.?

2                   ROBERT HANNEMANN: Yes, hello. My  
3 background is in academia, former engineering  
4 professor at Tufts, and now a resident of  
5 Chilmark, Massachusetts, and working as a  
6 Director of Vineyard Wind, a local electric  
7 energy cooperative.

8                   I appreciate this opportunity, and  
9 I would like to commend the Bureau for the  
10 thoroughness of it's considerations as it has  
11 been expanded to the entire East Coast.

12                   I'm sure that I could talk about  
13 -- in fact, you wouldn't want to hear all of  
14 the items -- most of which have been brought  
15 up by prior speakers, given that this is  
16 Hearing Number 5, so I would intend to be  
17 brief.

18                   As a resident of a coastal island,  
19 there are a number of concerns, of course.  
20 Here are three important ones:

21                   Climate change is no longer  
22 speculative, it's here, and it's going to have  
23 a large impact on coastal communities in  
24 particular calling for expensive

1 infrastructure adaptation and need for greater  
2 resilience for our energy systems.

3 In fact, as I speak, sea surface  
4 temperatures in the Georges Bank area are  
5 above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This is  
6 unprecedented and feeds into an increased  
7 probability of hurricanes and dangerous  
8 storms.

9 Secondly, our fishing industry is  
10 threatened. It's threatened by climate change  
11 driving fish stocks northward by overfishing  
12 and by degradation of the marine environment.

13 A third key concern is the need  
14 for high-quality jobs and a future for the  
15 next generation. The development of a  
16 responsible and responsive offshore wind  
17 industry addresses these concerns. It's not  
18 the total answer, but it's a crucial element  
19 of a sustainable and prosperous future.

20 Now, as I said, the Vineyard Wind  
21 Project is really going to impact highly  
22 Southeast Massachusetts. The Vineyard Wind 1  
23 projects and the proposed follow-ons will  
24 provide thousands of good, well-paying jobs

1 and welcome diversification of the economy for  
2 our port community and the region as a whole.

3           Furthermore, the project is going  
4 to result in a significant lessening of the  
5 greenhouse gas emissions in the region, and it  
6 will provide renewable electricity at a  
7 significant cost savings for rate payers,  
8 particularly as compared to what is now an  
9 increasingly volatile fossil fuel industry.

10           It's also important to note that  
11 the project financially supports community  
12 efforts to achieve our state and local  
13 renewable energy goals, and to increase the  
14 resilience of our energy systems to what is  
15 going to be an increasingly stormy future.

16           We are unique in our capability  
17 for impacting the marine environment at the  
18 planetary scale. Offshore oil and gas  
19 extraction and commercial fishing scouring the  
20 seabeds have clearly altered the marine  
21 environment on the Continental Shelf. Done  
22 thoughtlessly, large-scale offshore wind could  
23 also be a problem.

24           The Vineyard Wind Project has done

1 a remarkable job, in my opinion, over the last  
2 decade in making sure that the marine  
3 environment will be protected and has been  
4 responsive to the concerns of stakeholders in  
5 its exhaustive permitting process.

6 As an example, the project has  
7 been altered to provide an improved and Coast  
8 Guard endorsed turbine layout for navigation  
9 at the cost of a reduced power output for the  
10 entire installation.

11 I would also point out that its  
12 experience with existing offshore wind  
13 projects, not in the U.S., but elsewhere, if  
14 those experiences hold true, fish stocks are  
15 likely to benefit. Very much a win-win  
16 situation.

17 One thing is very clear: Climate  
18 change is upon us now and is going to have a  
19 serious impact, and not for good, on the lives  
20 of future generations and the four  
21 grandchildren I'm looking at out my window  
22 here, and indeed, on people alive today.

23 Renewable energy generated by  
24 offshore wind is a major part of the way

1 forward.

2           There is extensive offshore wind  
3 experience over the past two decades in Europe  
4 that shows that offshore wind and other marine  
5 activity, such as fishing, can coexist in a  
6 mutually beneficial fashion. Surely we can do  
7 this as well.

8           Further delay of the Vineyard Wind  
9 1 Project is clearly an inappropriate solution  
10 at this point in time.

11           So thank you very much for the  
12 opportunity to speak.

13           CHRISTINE DAVIS: And Robert, I  
14 apologize, you may have spelled your name, but  
15 I just want to make sure we get the letter M  
16 for your last name correct. Can you state and  
17 spell your name, please.

18           ROBERT HANNEMANN: Yes. I am  
19 sorry with that. Robert, I feel you know how  
20 to spell; my last name is Hannemann,  
21 H-a-n-n-e-m-a-n-n.

22           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you  
23 so much. With that, I will turn it over to  
24 Keith, and



1           then Mike, and then Nina. We have  
2 a few more names added to the list now.  
3 Jeannine, Jeffrey K., and Diane H.

4           So with that, I'll turn it over to  
5 Keith.

6           KEITH LEWISON: K-e-i-t-h  
7 L-e-w-i-s-o-n.

8           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

9           KEITH LEWISON: I live in  
10 Sandwich, Massachusetts, and I work locally as  
11 a high school teacher and I volunteer my time  
12 with the Sierra Club.

13           At age 40, I have lived my entire  
14 life with the climate crisis looming in the  
15 background. And while offshore wind energy is  
16 not a sufficient solution to this crisis, it  
17 is certainly a necessary step.

18           I support the construction of  
19 Vineyard Wind 1, which would finally bring  
20 large-scale offshore wind energy to the United  
21 States.

22           As a local teacher, I see that my  
23 students are not as optimistic about their  
24 futures as I once was at their age. Sadly,

1 the climate crisis is now at the forefront of  
2 their lives. To help them, I have worked with  
3 other teachers, scientists, and nonprofit  
4 environmental advocates to create regional  
5 youth climate action summits. The resounding  
6 takeaway is that young people realize that we  
7 need climate action now to reduce our  
8 greenhouse gas emissions.

9           Regrettably, the only large-scale  
10 power generation currently on Cape Cod is the  
11 Canal Plant in Sandwich, which I can see from  
12 my house recently. Recently a fossil fuel  
13 burning facility was allowed to expand under  
14 the guise of, quote, cleaner energy. The  
15 reality is that a new unit is burning frack  
16 gas which is not safe or clean.

17           Our region needs to signal that it  
18 is ready to embrace offshore wind in order to  
19 provide reliable, renewable energy for our  
20 region, help Massachusetts reach its goal of  
21 net zero energy emissions by 2050, and attempt  
22 to forestall the worst effects of the climate  
23 crisis while mitigation is still reasonably  
24 possible.

1           To put the matter visually, energy  
2 generation on the Cape and islands must --  
3 must switch from the smokestacks of the Canal  
4 Plant to the turbines of Vineyard Wind.

5           Vineyard Wind has built positive  
6 ties with the local community, including  
7 regional businesses and educational  
8 institutions, has pledged to act responsibly  
9 when treating and paying its workers fairly,  
10 and protecting wildlife.

11           For example, Vineyard Wind signed  
12 a landmark agreement to mitigate the effects  
13 of their project on the critically endangered  
14 North Atlantic Right Whale. This agreement  
15 with the National Wildlife Federation,  
16 National Resources Defense Council, and  
17 Conservation Law Foundation should be the  
18 model for all future offshore wind developers.

19           The draft Supplemental  
20 Environmental Impact Statement has been a  
21 productive process by, one, expanding the  
22 scope of study for offshore wind energies  
23 impacts; two, the proposal of a common  
24 one-by-one-nautical-mile grid layout known as

1 Alternative D-2, supported by the U.S. Coast  
2 Guard; and three (inaudible) Covell Beach,  
3 Alternative B.

4 (Inaudible) Vineyard Wind as its  
5 first offshore wind project. It has now been  
6 thoroughly reviewed by state and federal  
7 agencies, changes to the project have been  
8 made, and now Vineyard Wind

9 should be cleared for construction  
10 without further delay.

11 Thank you for consideration and  
12 comments.

13 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. I  
14 just want to remind folks of a couple of  
15 things. You can enter your  
16 questions into the Q & A box, if you're in  
17 Zoom, at any time. And at any time, if you  
18 want to press Star 1 and speak to the operator  
19 to get added to the queue, we can add you to  
20 provide comments this evening, as it is the  
21 last evening for the spoken part of the  
22 comments. And as noted before, there are  
23 written comment opportunities as well.

24 So we are going to -- we're about

1 10 people in. We're going to pause after the  
2 next 10. Looking forward, I've got the next  
3 five people are Mike O., Nina WL, Jeannine GG,  
4 Jeffrey K., and Diane H.

5 So with that, I'll turn it over to  
6 Mike.

7 MIKE OKONIEWSKI: Good afternoon.  
8 My name is Mike Okoniewski; and the last name,  
9 O-k-o-n-i-e-w-s-k-i.

10 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

11 MIKE OKONIEWSKI: And I've been  
12 involved in the fishing industry for 51 years  
13 on the West Coast and Alaska. Certainly not  
14 against green energy. And I certainly want to  
15 see if we can do something about climate  
16 change.

17 But I kind of got involved in wind  
18 energy at the request of a few fisherman, I  
19 don't know, about seven or eight years ago. I  
20 went to two meetings, and I kind of just got  
21 out of it. There didn't seem to be much to  
22 do.

23 And now that there's -- are some  
24 serious plans to develop wind energy offshore

1 on the West Coast, I got reinvolved again.

2           And I thought that today would be  
3 a good day to listen in and share comments  
4 from some of the fishing communities. This is  
5 -- really is going to be an opportunity to see  
6 probably what and how we're going to be  
7 handled here on the West Coast.

8           I've been -- talked to a number of  
9 fishermen up and down the Oregon coast,  
10 primarily also in Washington, though. And I  
11 have not heard one positive comment about the  
12 way they're being -- the outreach is going  
13 into these fishing communities on the behalf  
14 of BOEM and the wind energy industry. There's  
15 a lot of frustration, a lot of angst, and  
16 frankly some anger. So I thought, well, a  
17 good thing to do would be to listen to people  
18 on the East Coast and see -- in the fishing  
19 community and hear what they have to say.

20           But we know that we got projects  
21 scheduled to go in, or to start anyway, and  
22 we're attempting to get ourselves more  
23 involvement. But it seems to be that it's  
24 very difficult to do that. It's not really a

1 -- this is the most public process I've seen  
2 so far where you're actually sitting here  
3 taking testimony and fishermen and fishing  
4 industry has been heard. And I commend that  
5 very much.

6           But it's -- it's a real concern to  
7 those of us that spent or lives -- livelihoods  
8 and invested a lot of money and time in our  
9 industry out here as well as on the East  
10 Coast, I'm sure. I know a number of people  
11 back there.

12           And so that's really all I have to  
13 say right now, is I wanted to find out how  
14 this process unfolds and take what I learned  
15 back to the people I work with out here. So  
16 I'll leave it at that.

17           And I very much appreciate the  
18 opportunity to make a comment. So thank you.

19           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
20 we'll have Nina, and then Jeannine,

21           Jeffrey, and Diane. And there's a  
22 couple more names, Downing and Guy.

23           So with that, I'll turn it over to  
24 Nina.

1                   NINA WOLFF LANDAU: Hi, everyone.  
2 My name is Nina Wolff Landau; N-i-n-a, I have  
3 two last names, Wolff, W-o-l-f-f, Landau,  
4 L-a-n-d-a-u.

5                   I just want to start by thanking  
6 everyone for their time today and for all the  
7 other people who are here to testify. I've  
8 learned a lot from hearing from all of you.  
9 And I think it goes to show how passionate  
10 people are about being involved and making  
11 themselves available and making the time to  
12 contribute. So really happy to be here.

13                   I'm 22 years old. I'm here to  
14 speak in support of this offshore wind  
15 project, specifically Alternative D-2.

16                   I grew up in Massachusetts and am  
17 now a residence of Providence, Rhode Island.  
18 So I have a lot of stake in this personally,  
19 as does my family and my communities. I  
20 actually just graduated college with a degree  
21 in environmental studies, and I am a local  
22 climate change activist.

23                   And rather than speak about some  
24 of the more technical details I think a lot of



1 other people can speak really well to, I first  
2 wanted to commend the ongoing years of  
3 communication on stakeholder engagement on the  
4 part of renewed wind, I think, including the  
5 fishing communities. And that has really  
6 resulted in a proposal with traditionally  
7 spaced out turbines, and then other offshore  
8 wind installation on what changes that are  
9 meant to accommodate the interest in  
10 stakeholders. So I want to commend that  
11 process.

12           And I also want to -- want to be  
13 supportive of all the people who have -- whose  
14 jobs concerns were also recognized in that  
15 climate change on the overwhelming issue that  
16 is going to continue to hurt fisheries, as  
17 it's already changing where species like  
18 lobsters can live, given warming waters, and  
19 know that this is an issue that impacts all  
20 parts of our lives.

21           So following the lead of the  
22 reverend who spoke earlier, I want to continue  
23 to speak about the impacts in climate change  
24 right in Massachusetts and our island, because

1 I think that's the crux of this issue. I  
2 think the proposals are important, and I want  
3 to make sure that we don't lose sight that  
4 these are peoples' lives at stake. And this  
5 is not happening in the future, it's happening  
6 right now.

7           So Rhode Island has the highest  
8 prevalence of childhood asthma in the entire  
9 country, and we have very high rates for  
10 asthma. Emergency departments admits are  
11 highest in Providence, where I live. And  
12 black and onyx children are much more likely  
13 to visit the emergency room or be hospitalized  
14 due to asthma. And it's our leading cause of  
15 absences from school.

16           Kids are not going to school  
17 because they can't breathe. And then it's  
18 strongly tied to our pollution we have from  
19 energy production and other problems we have  
20 in our ports.

21           And this is just one of the many  
22 health problems as with climate change, by the  
23 heat, by increased ozone, and one that we can  
24 really tackle through reducing our emissions

1 and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

2           When we talk about climate change,  
3 this is the rising seas that are impacting our  
4 coast in both Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and  
5 other states. Our hotter summers and more  
6 frequently intense storms, they are all  
7 impacting people on a daily basis. And there  
8 are people -- not just you and me, there's a  
9 lot of people out there, other people.

10           And I think as someone else  
11 stated, obviously Wind 1 Project is not going  
12 to change everything for climate change, but  
13 it's such an important project that we bring a  
14 long process to completion with some  
15 incredible wind turbines, and a lot of them,  
16 and really start charting the way for more  
17 offshore wind development in the United  
18 States, and the momentum of this project is  
19 incredibly important.

20           I have really grown up scared  
21 about climate change and scared that over 50  
22 years of government knowledge of a problem has  
23 not led to bold action. I wake up every  
24 morning, and I work on this issue paid and

1 unpaid; I eat, breathe, sleep climate change.  
2 I think it is an incredible opportunity for  
3 Massachusetts to be a leader in a really big  
4 project, and for the United States to finally  
5 step into a better role in terms of offshore  
6 wind development. We are lagging behind, and  
7 we have a moral responsibility to the world to  
8 be meeting on emissions reductions including  
9 our energy sector.

10           So I just want to say that this is  
11 a good start to a lot -- a lot of longer  
12 battles around shifting our energy and  
13 shifting our entire economy to a renewable  
14 economy, and one that doesn't just change an  
15 energy source, but really changes peoples'  
16 lives, makes people have healthy, long  
17 fulfilled lives and livelihoods.

18           And that doesn't mean that fisher  
19 people should not be able to fish what they  
20 need to be fishing, and we think that industry  
21 as incredibly important. But we need to be  
22 able to move forward with these really  
23 important energy developments like this  
24 project, and we need to do that in a way that

1 keeps everyone's voices involved, which I  
2 think this project has done exceptionally  
3 well.

4 So in summarizing, we support this  
5 project, D-2.

6 And thank you for your time.

7 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
8 we'll have Jeannine, then Jeffrey,

9 Diane, Downing, then Guy. So I'll  
10 turn it over to Jeannine.

11 JEANNINE GIGUERE-GAGNON: Yes. My  
12 name is Jeannine -- you can hear me, right?

13 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
14 just fine. Thank you.

15 JEANNINE GIGUERE-GAGNON: Okay.  
16 My name is Jeannine Giguere-Gagnon;  
17 J-e-a-n-n-i-n-e, Giguere, G-i-g-u-e-r-e hyphen  
18 G-a-g-n-o-n.

19 I live in Woonsocket, Rhode  
20 Island. I am a member of the Climate Action  
21 Rhode Island as a climate activist. And I  
22 want to give my support to Vineyard Wind.

23 I hope that it will be fitting a  
24 model to look at all the possibilities of what

1 might be able to be done all the way down the  
2 Eastern Seaboard. I like the fact that this  
3 cut fossil fuel emissions by taking the place  
4 of coal and natural gas plants to the extent  
5 of -- and also taking the extent of taking  
6 325,000 cars off the road. I think that's  
7 quite a bit.

8           We are presently, in many parts of  
9 the world, in a climate emergency. We have to  
10 do everything we can and whatever we can do to  
11 lower fossil fuel emissions and switch our  
12 energy production to renewable energy forms.  
13 I hope that renewable energy production like  
14 Vineyard Wind can shut down some of the  
15 existing plants that impact black and brown  
16 neighborhoods in both Massachusetts and Rhode  
17 Island.

18           I appreciate the fact that the  
19 jobs that this will create will be good paying  
20 jobs and hope that you can hire black and  
21 brown workers, and also diversify and train a  
22 maintenance crew to keep up and do maintenance  
23 on the project.

24           I hope that everything that can be

1 done to work through all the difficulties  
2 presented today, such as with the fishing  
3 industry.

4 I appreciate all the work you have  
5 done to promote Vineyard Wind and how well you  
6 set this up and listened to all the  
7 complaints. Thank you very much.

8 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

9 Next, we'll have Jeffrey, Diane, Downing, and  
10 then Guy. So Jeffrey K., are you  
11 available?

12 JEFFREY KOMINERS: Yes, can you  
13 hear me?

14 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
15 just fine. Thank you, Jeffrey. Go ahead and  
16 state and spell your name, please.

17 JEFFREY KOMINERS: Okay. Good.

18 Good afternoon, I'm Jeffrey Kominers; that's

19 J-e-f-f-r-e-y, last name

20 K-o-m-i-n-e-r-s. And I'm a -- I live in West  
21 Tisbury, Mass, on Martha's Vineyard. I'm also  
22 a board member of Island Wind, Inc., one of  
23 the companies involved in this project  
24 specifically to Martha's Vineyard itself in

1 particular. And I'm speaking in support of  
2 the Vineyard Wind offshore energy project.

3 This project will provide new  
4 economic opportunities in the offshore wind  
5 industry. The offshore wind facilities on  
6 Martha's Vineyard alone will provide as many  
7 as 40 technical jobs, really, highly skilled  
8 positions that we are conducting already now,  
9 training programs at Martha's Vineyard High  
10 School and local community college. And  
11 that's much needed for our island community.

12 And it will be for the entire expected

13 years of the offshore wind  
14 project. The Vineyard Wind Project has  
15 recommended the

16 one-by-one-nautical-mile transit  
17 lanes for the project. I think that's the  
18 D-2.

19 After an exhaustive and detailed  
20 examination and analysis, U.S. Coast Guard has  
21 determined that one-by-one-nautical miles is  
22 the optimum spacing for the transit lanes for  
23 the Vineyard Wind Project. The Coast Guard is  
24 the preeminent institution for navigation in



1 U.S. waters. It has no big, financial, any  
2 other vested interest in the spacing of the  
3 transit lanes.

4           The Coast Guard is neutral and is  
5 the government body assigned the  
6 responsibility to ensure and facilitate the  
7 safety and smooth functioning of navigation in  
8 U.S. waters. Its analysis and conclusions on  
9 transit lanes should be afforded predominant  
10 consideration and adoption by BOEM.

11           Support of critical offshore wind  
12 farm and infrastructure projects will be one  
13 of the very largest single measures we can  
14 take that addresses our need to mitigate  
15 climate change by reducing global greenhouse  
16 gas emissions, and it will have a positive  
17 effect on sea-level rise and reduce potential  
18 negative impacts to our coastal shorelines and  
19 ocean acidification impacts. It will greatly  
20 boost our efforts to become a 100 percent  
21 fossil-fuel-free economy. Keeping our fingers  
22 crossed.

23           The State of Massachusetts and  
24 most of the world have determined that burning

1 fossil fuels releases such dangerous amounts  
2 of carbon into the atmosphere that it causes  
3 and will continue to have a harmful effect  
4 directly on the health of people and on  
5 climate change. Consequent effect will  
6 continue to warm the planet, cause sea rise,  
7 cause innumerable weather disasters, and  
8 reduce arable land.

9           This affects not only  
10 Massachusetts, but, also importantly, the  
11 entire nation as well as the entire world. In  
12 particular, it greatly affects where I live  
13 here on Martha's Vineyard, which in the future  
14 will eventually largely be claimed by the  
15 rising sea if the world does not act to reduce  
16 and virtually eliminate the burning of fossil  
17 fuels. This must be done mostly by changing  
18 over to renewable sources of energy.

19           Offshore wind power is a key  
20 element of that renewable energy. I see it as  
21 a comparison of risk. The risk of the  
22 offshore wind project's impact on the  
23 environment and communities, including  
24 fisheries, is very, very low. The risk that

1 the continued burning of fossil fuels at the  
2 current pace will cause the above-described  
3 effect, it is not only very high but virtually  
4 a certainty.

5 So low risk versus a virtual  
6 certainty. That makes it a clear choice.

7 Thus -- thus, we must do all that  
8 is possible to convert to renewable clean  
9 energy. At a minimum, we are 30 to 40 years  
10 late in seriously committing to acting on  
11 developing clean energy. We cannot afford to  
12 delay it any further. BOEM has the  
13 opportunity to lead in that imperative.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. And  
16 by chance, can you spell your name? I want to  
17 make sure we have the -- your name spelled  
18 correctly. So state and spell your name  
19 before you go, thank you.

20 JEFFREY KOMINERS: Okay. So first  
21 name Jeffrey, that's a J-e-f-f-r-e-y; last  
22 name Kominers, that starts with a K, so  
23 K-o-m-i-n-e-r-s, like Sam, S.

24 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you so

1 much.

2 JEFFREY KOMINERS: Thank you.

3 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Good.

4 Thank you. All right. So next we've got  
5 Diane, and then

6 the order has changed a little  
7 bit, Guy, Len, Dave, Judeth, Jeremy, and Evan.  
8 And that will bring us to the 20 speakers, and  
9 at which point, we'll take a break.

10 So with that, I will turn it over  
11 now to Diane.

12 DIANE HILL: Hello, can you hear  
13 me?

14 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yeah, I can hear  
15 you just fine. Thank you, Diane.

16 DIANE HILL: Okay. Thank you. My  
17 name is Diane, D-i-a-n-e, Hill, H-i-l-l.

18 I live in North Kingstown, Rhode  
19 Island, and work as a clinical social worker  
20 with teenagers and children. I'm also a  
21 grandmother of a seven-year-old and a  
22 four-year-old.

23 I'm profoundly concerned for the  
24 future of my grandchildren and the young

1 people with whom I work because of the climate  
2 crisis. Because of the time-sensitive nature  
3 of the climate crisis, I've been volunteering  
4 with Climate Action Rhode Island working to  
5 move Rhode Island forward towards eliminating  
6 fossil fuel emissions and implementing  
7 sustainable and clean energy systems and  
8 infrastructure immediately. I strongly  
9 support building and operating the Vineyard  
10 Wind Project as part of New England's  
11 renewable clean energy plan. It has clearly  
12 been well researched over a number of years,  
13 and time is of the essence.

14 Thank you.

15 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

16 Okay. Going ahead. And like I said, we will  
17 take a

18 break in a little bit. I want to  
19 thank those of you who have commented and  
20 those of you that have yet to come.

21 So next we'll go to Guy, and after  
22 that, Len, Dave, Judeth, Jeremy, and Evan.

23 So Guy?

24 GUY SIMMONS: Hi. This is Guy

1 Simmons, G-u-y S-i-m-m-o-n-s. I'm with Sea  
2 Watch International, harvesters and processors  
3 of the Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahogs.  
4 We have four processing facilities in  
5 Maryland, Delaware, Massachusetts and Maine,  
6 which we employ 700 people. We have an  
7 additional 200 employees on the water  
8 operating 20 vessels, and maintenance and dock  
9 crews. And we have been involved in this  
10 since the beginning.

11 And I would like to say, as Mr.  
12 Peter Himchak did, who has 45 years'  
13 experience in fisheries management, I only  
14 have 38, that he was right in his assessment  
15 of the process being flawed as far as  
16 coexistence and involvement and taking heed to  
17 the concerns of the commercial fisheries.

18 I'm going to list about four of  
19 these here. As a member of the National  
20 Science

21 Foundation Science Center for  
22 Marine Fisheries, Sea Watch and other fellow  
23 members have hired about a dozen expert  
24 scientists on oceanography, ecology,

1 environment, fisheries, and things like that  
2 to review the SEIS. So more specific comments  
3 with science-based will be given to you in  
4 writing.

5 One of the things that -- probably  
6 the most preeminent concern is the safety of  
7 our crews operating within wind arrays with  
8 less than two-miles spacing. I've heard a few  
9 comments quoting the Coast Guard and the  
10 one-miles, and I would say that I've never  
11 seen a Coast Guard vessel pull a fish net or a  
12 clam dredge behind them, so I do not think  
13 that they are preeminent experts on fishing  
14 practices.

15 The -- the other thing that scares  
16 us to death, as I mentioned in New York two  
17 years ago, is the degradation of the cold  
18 pool. And I don't have time to explain it, so  
19 if you go to [rucool.org](http://rucool.org), you will see what the  
20 cold pool is, and it is a unique oceanographic  
21 formation in the Hudson Valley, New York Bight  
22 region.

23 Buried cables -- we are a  
24 hydraulic dredge mobile-tending bottom gear.

1 Buried cables are quite frightening to us.  
2 Use the only five wind turbines that are in  
3 the U.S. waters who have buried cables, and  
4 those cables have become unburied and will not  
5 be buried for another year. I think that's  
6 evidence enough that the wind energy  
7 developers do not have the proper ability to  
8 bury those cables where they won't interfere  
9 with commercial fisheries.

10 As Mr. Peter Himchak mentioned,  
11 the hindrance of federal surveys at sea will  
12 have terrible effects on our ability to  
13 accurately set quotas. And I would like to  
14 give a nod to NMFS, the National Marine  
15 Fisheries Services, who conduct these surveys  
16 and has spent billions of dollars over the  
17 years making sustainable seafood in the United  
18 States a gold standard for the rest of the  
19 world.

20 So in -- in closing, I would like  
21 to say that we do not support moving forward  
22 with Vineyard Wind at this time. We do think  
23 that there is a need for safe, clean energy.  
24 We think that more science needs to be done.



1 And you will see that in our comments on the  
2 -- on the SEIS at a later date. And we would  
3 like -- I would like to support, as Sea Watch  
4 would, a five-year moratorium to allow that  
5 science to be done.

6 And I would like to thank all of  
7 you for your patience and time on this call.

8 Thank you.

9 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
10 we have Len, then Dave, then Judeth, Jeremy,  
11 and Evan.

12 So go ahead, Len.

13 LEN GREENE: Yes, thank you. My  
14 name is Len Greene; it's spelled L-e-n,  
15 the last name is G-r-e-e-n-e. And  
16 I'm the Director of Government Affairs in  
17 Communications for First Light Power.

18 Our company is one of New  
19 England's largest suppliers of zero carbon  
20 emission electric generation and energy  
21 storage with assets in both Connecticut and  
22 Massachusetts.

23 On behalf of First Light, I would  
24 like to offer our company's support for the

1 project layout recommendations offered by the  
2 leaseholders. As stewards of thousands of  
3 acres of land in New England, we understand  
4 the difficult job required of BOEM to  
5 safeguard the environment while we're  
6 responsibly providing for commercial  
7 development. We believe that the leaseholder  
8 recommendations, particularly that for a  
9 uniform one-by-one-nautical mile layout  
10 represent a solid balance between these two  
11 important goals.

12           Additional four-mile -- four-mile  
13 transit lanes, which are currently being  
14 considered by BOEM, would unfortunately reduce  
15 the area available to supply wind energy to  
16 the region thereby slowing New England's  
17 transition from a world dominated by fossil  
18 fuel to a cleaner and more sustainable future.

19           Multiple studies published in the  
20 recent months examined the need to decarbonize  
21 New England's electric grid and site the  
22 maximization of offshore wind output to  
23 achieve these goals. We ourselves recently  
24 commissioned a study to examine the system

1 over the next decade as envisioned by the  
2 policymakers in New England. And the results  
3 showed the need for as much renewable  
4 development as can be built in addition to the  
5 more efficient usage of existing energy  
6 storage zero carbon resources.

7 As such, we urge BOEM to adopt the  
8 one-by-one nautical mile layout provision as  
9 recommended by the leaseholders.

10 Thank you.

11 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. All  
12 right. Next we've got Dave, Judeth, Jeremy,  
13 and Evan.

14 Dave, go ahead.

15 DAVE WALLACE: Yes, can you hear  
16 me?

17 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
18 just fine. Thank you, Dave.

19 DAVE WALLACE: Okay. My name is  
20 David, or Dave, D-a-v-e, Wallace,  
21 W-a-l-l-a-c-e. I represent the surf clam and  
22 ocean quahog fishery. The ocean quahog and  
23 surf clam fishery have a number of very large  
24 fishing vessels as described by Guy Simmons

1 just a few minutes ago.

2 Our -- our critters do not move,  
3 so we have -- we have to be able to fish in an  
4 area where the -- the clams are. And the same  
5 goes for the scallop industry.

6 If the turbines are placed too  
7 close together, then the ability for us to  
8 fish in the -- within the array is very  
9 dangerous if not impossible; and therefore,  
10 all of that area will be lost to us. And that  
11 takes up about 1400 square miles of highly  
12 productive clam grounds.

13 The -- the measurement -- BOEM had  
14 said in their EIS that -- that the fishing  
15 industry is going to be very negatively  
16 impacted, and we want to point that out, that  
17 this is going to have a tremendous negative  
18 impact on us. And so we are going to possibly  
19 lose jobs. We surely are going to have to  
20 fish in other areas which are farther away,  
21 which means we have much more cost in catching  
22 the product that we are designed to -- to  
23 catch and to process.

24 So we're going to lose -- we have

1 a good chance of losing jobs to thousands of  
2 people who lived in and work in Europe who  
3 build the turbines. We have no capacity --  
4 capability of installing these turbines. The  
5 -- they will send, as there is a ship here now  
6 installing the two turbines off of Virginia  
7 Beach, Virginia, which is a European ship,  
8 European crew, European turbines. We don't  
9 have any capacity to build any of that stuff  
10 at this time. So we are -- thousands of jobs  
11 that they are talking about are all European  
12 jobs. And, yeah, they are very high-paid  
13 European jobs, but they are not high-paid  
14 American jobs.

15           So in return, we got power is  
16 extremely expensive compared to the standard  
17 power that we get today from the fixed nuclear  
18 power plants and gas powered power plants.  
19 And the turbines are only about 35 percent  
20 effective during the year. So the lights go  
21 out when the wind stops blowing, they have to  
22 have the ability to produce the maximum power  
23 necessary to sustain the -- the area that --  
24 that that grid is supplying.

1           So, therefore, you have -- you  
2 have to have power plants, either nuclear  
3 power plants or conventional gas power plants,  
4 online all the time running at slow speeds.  
5 And when the wind stops, then you have a lag,  
6 usually the power goes out -- the lights go  
7 out, and then they come online and start back  
8 up. And so we sort of act like a third-world  
9 country.

10           So the fact is that we are in a  
11 situation where, number one, we do not  
12 understand all of the negative impacts that  
13 are going to be on the habitat, the fish  
14 populations, or the fishermen, and all of the  
15 people who support the fishing industry. And  
16 we are going to be in a situation where the --  
17 this process is -- is not in the best interest  
18 of the United States as far as trying to  
19 reduce carbon. We -- we could learn to build  
20 these turbines here and build the equipment to  
21 install them. We -- I support and the people  
22 I work with support Number G, to do nothing  
23 until a lot of studies have been done which  
24 was described by Simmons and its scientists.

1 And we need to also make sure that we have the  
2 capability of spreading these things out so --  
3 and burying the cables deeply so that we can  
4 operate safely within the arrays and transit  
5 safely through the arrays, and build these  
6 turbines here in the United States.

7 Thank you.

8 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
9 we'll have Judeth, then Jeremy and Evan.

10 Judeth, go ahead.

11 JUDETH VAN HAMM: Hi, Judeth Van  
12 Hamm. Can you hear me?

13 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
14 just fine. Thank you.

15 JUDETH VAN HAMM: Okay. It's  
16 J-u-d-e-t-h, Van Hamm, it's capital V, as in  
17 Victor, a-m space capital H-a-m-m. I'm a  
18 resident of Hull. I'm also president of  
19 Sustainable South Shore, which is a group of  
20 mainly, but not -- mainly grass roots, but  
21 also officials from Quincy to Plymouth. So  
22 that's about nine coastal communities.

23 I really want to see this work  
24 right. Hull is thinking of a couple of wind

1 turbines of the same size offshore, and some  
2 of the other South Shore communities have the  
3 capacities to have south -- offshore wind.

4 I'm extremely aware of the  
5 deadline of 2030. Our town has adopted a goal  
6 of getting to 100 percent clean energy by then  
7 because of the study -- studies that have been  
8 done showing that if we don't get there, we'll  
9 get a 10-foot sea level rise by 2065.

10 Having said all of that, I would  
11 like you to listen to all of the people who  
12 have spoken and come up with a plan that --  
13 that incorporates the whole thing. So you've  
14 got deep cables, you've got batteries, you've  
15 got local jobs, you've got healthy clams,  
16 you've got a healthy clam industry. And you  
17 do it in a way that other people can copy you.

18 And I'm not sure how you're going  
19 to do all of that, but really what I would  
20 like to see. Thank you.

21 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

22 Next, we have Jeremy, and then Evan. And just  
23 a reminder, we are going to take a

24 bit of a break before we get to



1 the -- the next group. At any time, you can  
2 put your questions into the Q & A on Zoom, or  
3 press Star 1 on the phone to get into the  
4 queue to provide comments after we take the  
5 break.

6 So next, Jeremy, go ahead and  
7 state and spell your name, please.

8 JEREMY WELSH-LOVEMAN: Hi. My  
9 name is Jeremy Welsh-Loveman; J-e-r-e-m-y  
10 space W-e-l-s-h hyphen L-o-v-e-m-a-n.

11 Thank you for letting me comment.  
12 I would like to comment in favor of the  
13 proposed action Option A in construction of  
14 the Vineyard Wind farm as they have proposed.

15 Looking at the environmental  
16 impact report, it seems clear that overall,  
17 the Vineyard Wind farm would have a large net  
18 positive impact on the environment. The  
19 biggest threat to the environment currently is  
20 climate change, which will have massive  
21 negative impact on human beings and all living  
22 creatures.

23 Climate change will negatively  
24 impact far larger industry than clam

1 harvesting, jeopardizing livelihoods  
2 throughout the United States.

3 Construction of this wind farm and  
4 many others will help to reduce carbon dioxide  
5 emission and thereby help the environment.

6 Furthermore, if this wind farm  
7 were not constructed in the ocean, other clean  
8 energy power solutions will need to be found.

9 These other electrical generation options  
10 would have -- could have greater negative  
11 environmental impacts, such as cutting down  
12 trees or mining for coal.

13 Since the wind turbines and  
14 offshore wind farms have higher capacity  
15 utilization rates, building offshore wind  
16 farms take up a less overall space than other  
17 energy generation options.

18 Additionally, while the  
19 Environmental Impact Statement or report  
20 listed potential and negative impacts to  
21 commercial fisheries or fishing, any reduction  
22 in commercial fishing could positively impact  
23 the natural environment. Negative  
24 environmental impacts of commercial fishing

1 include plastic waste from discarded fishing  
2 nets which then degrade and spread micro  
3 plastics in the water.

4           The ocean is a public resource.  
5 The commercial fishing industry does not have  
6 a primary claim on it. The Atlantic Ocean is  
7 very large, and commercial fishing boats have  
8 access to the vast majority of it. This wind  
9 farm would impact them only slightly, and that  
10 impact is greatly outweighed by the positive  
11 impact on the environment through reduced  
12 fossil fuel power generation.

13           For these reasons, I vote that  
14 BOEM support the proposed action Option A and  
15 allow this wind farm and many others be  
16 constructed as soon as possible. Further  
17 delay of this wind farm project will  
18 negatively impact the environment and raise  
19 electricity costs.

20           Thank you. That's it.

21           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

22 Okay. Evan, we are to you. And in just a  
23 minute, we'll get a few names.

24           That will be the first ones that

1 are after the break. But I did want to remind  
2 people that we are going to take a break, and  
3 we are putting up names in groups of five.  
4 We're not getting everybody's name into that  
5 queue yet, but we do have it recorded and --  
6 and we'll get to you.

7           If you are interested in providing  
8 comments, and would like to press Star 1 at  
9 any time to speak to the operator, we can get  
10 you into the queue.

11           And so now I see that we do have  
12 it posted, that after our break, it will be  
13 Peter, Jeff and Joseph and Witter. And with  
14 that, I'm going to turn it over to Evan to  
15 provide comments.

16           Evan? Evan, are you with us?

17           OPERATOR: It looks like Evan has  
18 withdrawn his comment.

19           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Well, in  
20 order to be fair to Peter to provide enough  
21 time to get ready, I think we'll take the  
22 break right now. And let's be back at 7:20.

23           So just to, again, explain the  
24 process, we are going to take a break. If you

1 want to get into the queue, press Star 1 and  
2 speak to the operator. You can use the Q & A  
3 function to ask questions, and our subject  
4 matter experts will be providing the answers  
5 to those questions upon conclusion of the  
6 public testimony.

7           So with that, I want to really  
8 thank everybody that's provided comments so  
9 far, and also thank those that are yet to come  
10 for your patience.

11           We'll take a break, and we will be  
12 back at 7:20.

13           (Brief recess.)

14           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Hello, everyone.  
15 We'll get started in just a minute. I wanted  
16 to, again, thank those that have provided  
17 comments so far, and also thank those of you  
18 that have been patient through this break. I  
19 hope everybody had a chance to get up, stretch  
20 a bit, grab a phone charger, if you're on the  
21 phone, whatnot.

22           Just a few reminders, we have been  
23 doing a really great job sticking to about  
24 five minutes so that we can give everybody the

1 opportunity to speak. If you haven't done so  
2 already, and would like to get into the queue,  
3 press Star 1 and wait to speak to the  
4 operator. It might take a little bit, as they  
5 are also helping us manage getting people into  
6 the queue and speaking.

7           The Q & A function is at the  
8 bottom of the screen, for those of you on  
9 Zoom; you can use that to ask questions.  
10 Again, if you have a technical issue, you can  
11 use the chat box.

12           So with that, I am going to -- I  
13 think Evan was there, and we're going to see  
14 if we can get Evan back on to provide  
15 comments. And after that, it will be Peter,  
16 Jeff, Ann, Joseph and Witter.

17           So Evan, are you with us? Evan  
18 with us? Okay. We'll try and get him back  
19 in. Peter, do you want to go ahead and  
20 provide --

21           oh, just one moment. Sounds like  
22 we're getting Evan. I'll give it just a  
23 minute more.

24           Again, this is the last public

1 comment meeting. We will have public comment  
2 period open until July 27th. You can submit  
3 comments in writing or online. And also, I  
4 would encourage you to visit the Vineyard Wind  
5 virtual meeting room. There's all kinds of  
6 information there that you can check out and  
7 see.

8 So -- all right. One last try for  
9 Evan right now. Is Evan available?

10 Okay. We'll put him at the end of  
11 the queue, and we'll go ahead with Peter.

12 Peter, go ahead. Peter? Okay.

13 We will -- everybody, again, if you

14 want to get into the queue, please  
15 press Star 1 and wait to speak to the  
16 operator.

17 With that, I'm going to see if  
18 Evan or Peter, and then if neither one of  
19 those are available, we'll go to Jeff.

20 So Evan or Peter? Okay. Let's go  
21 to Jeff K., and then Ann B.,

22 Joseph H., and Witter. So Jeff,  
23 are you available? There. One moment. It  
24 seems that we are

1           having some troubles getting folks  
2 into the -- into the queue. So give it one  
3 moment.

4           Isis, by chance, can you move the  
5 slide back to the screen that has the written  
6 comments, and we can read through that as  
7 we're waiting to get folks back into the  
8 queue? So just a reminder -- yeah, sorry, I'm  
9 making you flip around.

10           ISIS FARMER: So for  
11 clarification, which slide would you like me  
12 to turn to?

13           CHRISTINE DAVIS: The one that has  
14 where you can submit comments via writing.

15           ISIS FARMER: There we go.

16           CHRISTINE DAVIS: There you go.  
17 Yep. Thank you.

18           So then I'll read some of that to  
19 those who may be on the phone. Go to  
20 <https://www.BOEM.gov/vineyardwind-SEIS-virtual>  
21 -meeting. There's all kinds of information  
22 that's on that site.

23           And then if you want to submit  
24 comments via writing, go to the Program



1 Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of  
2 Ocean Energy Management at 45600 Woodland Road  
3 in Sterling, Virginia 20166. And in all those  
4 comments that you're doing via writing, you  
5 can go to regulations.gov as well be sure to  
6 search for the Docket Number BOEM-2020-0005.  
7 That will bring you to the Vineyard Wind  
8 piece.

9 So with that, I think we're going  
10 to try to get back to the queue now. And if  
11 I'm not mistaken, we're going to start with  
12 Peter.

13 So Peter, are you available?  
14 Looking for Peter F.?

15 OPERATOR: Peter, your line is  
16 open.

17 PETER FLOURNOY: Yes, can you hear  
18 me?

19 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
20 just fine. Thank you, Peter. And thank you  
21 for your patience everyone.

22 So Peter, go ahead and state and  
23 spell your name.

24 PETER FLOURNOY: Yes, my name is

1 Peter --

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Peter, I don't  
3 know if you accidentally hit mute, but I'm not  
4 hearing you right now.

5 OPERATOR: Peter, your line is  
6 open. Our next question comes from Joseph  
7 Huckemeyer. Your line is open.

8 JOSEPH HUCKEMEYER: Can you hear  
9 me?

10 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
11 just fine. Thank you, Joseph. You want to go  
12 ahead and provide comments?

13 JOSEPH HUCKEMEYER: Sure. My name  
14 is Joseph Huckemeyer, J-o-s-e-p-h  
15 H-u-c-k-e-m-e-y-e-r. My company is Helen H  
16 Offshore Fishing Corp. I operate a number of  
17 for-hire partying charter boats, fishing  
18 boats, whale watching ferryboats out of  
19 Hyannis and Plymouth, Mass.

20 I have operated boats around the  
21 Cape islands and the wind lease area areas for  
22 30 years.

23 For full disclosure, I have  
24 supplied vessels for avian or bird surveys for

1 our future wind -- Vineyard Wind Project, and  
2 worked as a guard vessel on the Coastal  
3 Virginia Offshore Wind Project this Spring.

4 This is -- this shows that there  
5 is work for local companies in the wind  
6 industry.

7 I would like to comment on  
8 Alternative F regarding the fairways or  
9 channels through the lease areas. At one-mile  
10 spacing of the wind towers, these -- these  
11 channels are unnecessary. If anything, the  
12 consistent one-mile spacing throughout with  
13 east-west and north-south, letters and number  
14 markings would be best.

15 As a comparison, Ambrose Channel,  
16 that is the main entrance of New York harbor,  
17 is one-third of a mile wide, and has 800-foot  
18 ships passing each other every day. One mile  
19 is more spacing than any good boat operator  
20 needs to transit.

21 As well, I would be concerned  
22 about fishing in any area designated as a,  
23 quote, unquote, channel or fairway for  
24 liability or insurance reasons.

1           Also, I believe that the towers  
2 and the anti-scouring stones around them at  
3 the bases will create fishing opportunities  
4 for private and smaller for-hire vessels.

5           Thank you.

6           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
7 Thank you for your comments.

8           We're going to ask folks to press  
9 Star 1 and get back in the queue. We did have  
10 a little bit of -- some folks that were  
11 dropped, and so we want to make sure everybody  
12 is in the queue. So if you've already  
13 preregistered or pressed Star 1, please do so  
14 again now so that we can make sure that we've  
15 got you. We want to make sure that everyone  
16 who would like to speak tonight has the  
17 opportunity to do so. So apologies for the  
18 inconvenience.

19           And at this point, I'm going to --  
20 I believe we're turning it over to Witter; is  
21 that correct?

22           Operator, can you confirm?

23           WITTER SWANSON: Yeah, I'm here.

24           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

1 Great. Go ahead, Witter, if you can state and  
2 spell your name, that will be helpful. Thank  
3 you.

4 WITTER SWANSON: All right. Yeah,  
5 my name is Witter Swanson, that's spelled  
6 W-i-t-t-e-r S-w-a-n-s-o-n. I am a college  
7 student at Amherst College in Massachusetts.  
8 I'm currently the energy and environment  
9 policy coordinator for the Roosevelt Network,  
10 a national network of college students  
11 developing and implementing policy changes for  
12 their communities.

13 And I've worked extensive over the  
14 past five years with the Adirondack Youth  
15 Climate Program. That's an organization  
16 focused on using our climate summit model to  
17 educate high school students about climate  
18 change and giving them the tools to develop  
19 local climate action plans.

20 In both of those capacities, I've  
21 had the great fortunate of working with  
22 hundreds of young people across our country.  
23 I think anyone watching the news over the past  
24 couple of years has seen the incredible

1 mobilization of young people on the issues of  
2 environmental equity and climate change. And  
3 I can attest to that energy and passion  
4 firsthand, as have others on this hearing  
5 previously.

6           Members of the younger generations  
7 largely bear the brunt of the negative climate  
8 impacts stemming from the decisions we make  
9 today. We desperately want to see a  
10 government and government processes that  
11 reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and  
12 strengthens our economy. Therefore, I hope  
13 that BOEM considers the interests of the  
14 younger generations while making their  
15 permitting decision on Vineyard Wind.

16           We will approve Alternative D-2  
17 and reject Alternative F, as this will  
18 maximize future investments in offshore wind  
19 and clean energy for the United States.

20           Additionally, I had the  
21 opportunity this past Spring to study abroad  
22 in Denmark, a country leading offshore wind  
23 industry worldwide, where I learned from  
24 academic and professional experts in renewable

1 energy and sustainable development. To see  
2 the turbines as I traveled the country or  
3 visited various islands, to speak to students  
4 and others with stable good paying jobs, and a  
5 country committed to a clean energy future, it  
6 felt disconcerting to be from a country that  
7 is still decades behind in deploying its scale  
8 of this clearly beneficial technology.

9           In Denmark, broad governmental  
10 support for the industry helped attract and  
11 secure investment. We in the United States  
12 cannot afford further delays to the Vineyard  
13 Wind proposed construction plan because we  
14 need to guarantee the stability of this  
15 industry because that will allow supply chains  
16 and work force training to take full effect  
17 for job growth in the United States.

18           As someone who will very likely  
19 graduate during a pandemic and economic  
20 downturn, and having heard from classmates who  
21 have already had job offers rescinded as a  
22 result of the downturn, the offshore wind  
23 industry provides a glimmer of hope and  
24 expansion for the job market.

1           I think many students want to  
2 enter the ground floor of a new and exciting  
3 career field. And the offshore wind industry  
4 can be that new, innovating and exciting job  
5 sector here in the United States.

6           I hope that those beneficial  
7 impacts are not overlooked when drafting a  
8 final Environmental Impact Statement.

9           I've also heard some prior  
10 comments regarding impacts to fisheries. And  
11 I want to add that the small reduced revenues  
12 for fisheries from Vineyard Wind will only be  
13 realized if fishing activity stops entirely in  
14 the lease area. But the one-by-one nautical  
15 mile layout will allow for fishing to continue  
16 once Vineyard Wind is operational.

17           So I think that needs to be taken  
18 into account when the final permitting  
19 decision is made, as well as other mitigation  
20 strategies already agreed upon by Vineyard  
21 Wind and consultation with the fishing  
22 industry.

23           All in all, approve this project  
24 as quickly as possible. I voice my full



1 support.

2 Thank you.

3 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you for  
4 your comments.

5 Up next we'll have Jeff K., and  
6 then Steven, with a V, W., and then Laura G.

7 So Jeff, you're up next. Go  
8 ahead.

9 JEFF KAELIN: Okay. Yeah, I  
10 started -- I guess we had a hiccup in the  
11 system earlier.

12 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yeah, go ahead.  
13 Thank you.

14 JEFF KAELIN: Good evening,  
15 everyone. I'm Jeff Kaelin. I am the Director  
16 of sustainability and government relations for  
17 Lund's Fisheries in Cape May, New Jersey.

18 This is a family company; the  
19 third generation is operating it now. We  
20 employ a couple hundred people here in Cape  
21 May. We have a freezer plant. We've got 17  
22 boats. And our operating area is from Cape  
23 Hatteras, really, to the Canadian border and  
24 all the way out to the Canadian line on

1 Georges Bank. So we operate throughout the  
2 region.

3           And you know, wind energy is  
4 taking up a tremendous of our time these days  
5 threatening our ability to be able to fish  
6 where we do have and have historically fished.  
7 And apologies to the gentleman who just spoke,  
8 but there's no way we're going to go towing  
9 around inside a one-mile square. That's not  
10 going to happen.

11           So that's why transit becomes  
12 extremely important to us as an industry as we  
13 attempt to coexist.

14           So I started -- when I got out of  
15 the Coast Guard in 1972, I began to work on  
16 draggers in Point Judith, and we did go all  
17 the way to the -- to the northern edge in  
18 those days before the Canadians took the  
19 northern edge. So I've had a lot of sea time.

20           And we are part of an industry  
21 that's, you know, been important to the  
22 economies of New England. I actually went to  
23 high school in Barrington, Rhode Island. I  
24 started out as a gas pump jockey and went

1 commercial fishing and ended up on the GI Bill  
2 at URI and got a master's in marine affairs in  
3 the days that we were asking the foreign  
4 fleets to leave our 200-mile zone.

5           And it's kind of ironic now that  
6 what we see with the wind energy is -- it's  
7 being led by foreign countries. I've been  
8 over to Denmark, too, and I know a lot about  
9 the fisheries over there. The North Sea is  
10 more like a bowl than here, where we have a  
11 cliff and everybody is kind of jammed up in  
12 the same area.

13           But you know, we have Jones Act  
14 concerns with this industry, if you want to  
15 talk about jobs. You know, we'd like to see  
16 our industry commit to building some of their  
17 construction boats here.

18           You know, I want my comments to be  
19 received in the spirit of a comment that the  
20 lady from Hull, Mass, made earlier, that the  
21 Vineyard Wind 1 should be resolved so that  
22 others will copy you. I thought that was  
23 really very wise.

24           And because for people like us,

1 and many of the fishermen in between here and  
2 where -- you know, up off of Massachusetts  
3 there -- you know, we heard from Dave earlier.  
4 We work very closely together and have for  
5 decades. Guy Simmons, as he said, we'll be --  
6 start filing formal comments from a technical  
7 wind team that we funded to specifically  
8 address this SEIS.

9           Katie, talk about young people, I  
10 think I'm old enough to be her grandfather  
11 maybe. And we're happy to have young people  
12 in the fishing industry. It's a proud  
13 industry. We feed people. And it's something  
14 that we need to be able to preserve.

15           So we operate a plant in New  
16 Bedford. We operate two plants in California.  
17 Both Peter, who wasn't able to connect, and --  
18 and Mike, are colleagues of ours, working with  
19 wind development on the -- on the -- on the  
20 West Coast, too.

21           So you heard a lot of our concerns  
22 generally. We do not believe that this SEIS  
23 should be used as a template for the other  
24 developments and the other developers between

1 Massachusetts and -- and Virginia.

2           And I think BOEM -- while I really  
3 appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight --  
4 has done a terrible job frankly in -- in  
5 encouraging the developers to work together to  
6 resolve issues like our ability to transit  
7 areas where we're going to be displaced  
8 because there are other areas where we can  
9 still catch fish. But these transit areas are  
10 extremely important. Our boats are in New  
11 Bedford frequently in the scallop fishery,  
12 herring, mackerel.

13           So I would like to see this  
14 outcome have Vineyard 1 be the leader in a  
15 rational transit system so that we can get  
16 around it and safely get through it. So, you  
17 know, maybe four miles is too long. But I  
18 wanted to point out that, you know,  
19 Alternative F -- we've heard a lot about  
20 environmental justice tonight. You know, it's  
21 a minor impact whether it's F or D-2, frankly.  
22 We don't think that a check --

23           CHRISTINE DAVIS: I'm sorry, it  
24 seems we lost Jeff again.

1           Steven, are you up next?

2           JEFF KAELIN: So that's it. Okay.  
3 Well, we'll be filing written comments and we  
4 hope BOEM does a little better job of  
5 coordinating between these projects.

6           Thank you.

7           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you, Jeff.  
8 All right. Next we have Steven, with a V,  
9 Steven W., and then Laura.

10          STEVE WENNER: Hello.

11          CHRISTINE DAVIS: Hello.

12          STEVE WENNER: I'm Steve -- I'm  
13 Steve Wenner, my last name is W-e-n-n-e-r.  
14 I'm a resident of Cohasset, Massachusetts.  
15 And I'm a volunteer with several climate  
16 activist organizations.

17                 I want to urge BOEM to expedite  
18 approval of a robust option for the Vineyard  
19 Wind Project.

20                 The scientific community agrees  
21 that we must greatly reduce our greenhouse gas  
22 emissions to mitigate the worst impacts of  
23 climate change. And we have about 10 years to  
24 accomplish this. If we fail, the cumulative

1 impacts of climate change will likely  
2 overwhelm society's ability to adapt. The  
3 stresses induced by climate change will  
4 endanger our very civilization.

5 I recognize that this offshore  
6 wind project has some short-term environmental  
7 and societal problems, but these risks are  
8 surely much less than the irreversible and  
9 overwhelming damage certain to hit us if we  
10 fail to curtail our dependence on fossil  
11 fuels.

12 What do we want to tell our  
13 grandchildren? Will we be forced to admit  
14 that we put obstacles in the path of saving  
15 civilization? Or would we rather be able to  
16 say that we did everything in our power to  
17 save the environment for our grandchildren and  
18 for future generations?

19 Thank you.

20 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

21 Thank you. Next we've got Laura, Laura G.

22 LAURA GARDNER: Hello, can you  
23 hear me?

24 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you

1 just fine. Thank you, Laura.

2 LAURA GARDNER: Great. Thank you.

3 Good evening, and thank you for the

4 opportunity to speak. My name is

5 Laura Gardner, L-a-u-r-a

6 G-a-r-d-n-e-r. And I'm from

7 Climate Reality Massachusetts South Coast, a

8 relatively new climate justice group on the

9 South Coast of Massachusetts with a strong

10 contingent of teenage participants.

11 Our mission is to catalyze a

12 global solution to the climate crisis by

13 making urgent an action a necessity across

14 every level of society.

15 I am also a school librarian in

16 our local area.

17 One of my former students who is

18 now also in our Climate Reality group wrote

19 the following for our local newspaper, the

20 Standard Times a year ago:

21 Scientists are predicting that we

22 have 12 years to solve the worldwide crisis

23 known as climate change. This won't impact

24 your future too much, but it will destroy



1 mine.

2 As a mother of two young children,  
3 and a teacher/librarian, my primary concern is  
4 building a safe and healthy future for our  
5 youth. In addition, we are excited about the  
6 new clean energy jobs for our New Bedford  
7 region that Vineyard Wind will provide, as  
8 well as the opportunity to lower electricity  
9 costs for our region.

10 Climate Reality Massachusetts  
11 South Coast recently began a new campaign  
12 called 100 Percent Committed. That means we  
13 are advocating for businesses and communities  
14 on the South Coast to commit to and make the  
15 necessary changes to go 100 percent renewable  
16 by 2030. We cannot get there without Vineyard  
17 Wind.

18 We see how the climate crisis is  
19 devastating our planet thanks to dirty fossil  
20 fuels. Vineyard Wind is a key part of solving  
21 that crisis creating a clean energy economy  
22 for New England where solar wind and other  
23 renewables create hundreds of thousands of  
24 jobs and power our lives without polluting our

1 atmosphere.

2           Our group gives our full support  
3 to this project, and we express our hope that  
4 permitting will go forward as soon as  
5 possible.

6           Thank you.

7           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

8 Thank you. Next we've got Stephen, with a  
9 p-h, C., and  
10           then Alexander. So Stephen, go  
11 ahead. Stephen?

12           STEPHEN COAN: Hang on one second,  
13 I don't know if I'm on.

14           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Steven, I think  
15 you -- I can hear you just fine. I don't know  
16 --

17           STEPHEN COAN: Okay. Thank you.  
18 Stephen Coan here from Mystic Aquarium;  
19 S-t-e-p-h-e-n C-o-a-n. Thank you for taking  
20 the time this evening.

21           As president of Mystic Aquarium,  
22 I'm here to speak in favor of Vineyard 1. The  
23 aquarium is partnering with Vineyard Wind on  
24 research related to marine mammals and

1 fisheries.

2 Vineyard Wind is a responsible and  
3 highly-community minded company. Since the  
4 inception of Vineyard 1, the company has done  
5 an exemplary job in engaging the public and  
6 working with experts and scientists in  
7 refining their proposal.

8 Massachusetts and New England  
9 needs ocean wind energy, and this Vineyard  
10 Wind Project, it's really essential that it  
11 gets started. We'll generate clean,  
12 sustainable energy for more than 400,000 homes  
13 and businesses. And the most important thing,  
14 as has been said this evening, is the need to  
15 reduce carbon emissions, which this project  
16 does by nearly 2 million tons annually.

17 The issue of adding transit lanes,  
18 in my opinion, does not need to be revisited.  
19 The Coast Guard has already endorsed the  
20 one-by-one NM layout, and the Coast Guard  
21 finds that the standardized spacing layout  
22 would be best for navigational safety. They  
23 also have reported that additional transit  
24 lanes are potentially less safe than the

1 one-by-one NM layout.

2 BOEM's scientists have studied the  
3 impact of offshore wind in Massachusetts and  
4 indeed up and down the Eastern Seaboard. And  
5 BOEM's own scientists have concluded that  
6 Vineyard 1, as proposed, does not have an  
7 adverse impact on birds or fisheries.

8 The economic impact of fishers not  
9 being able to fish in the wind energy area,  
10 where Vineyard Wind, is cited is less than .5  
11 percent. And that negligible impact  
12 assessment assumes that fishers cease to fish  
13 in the entirety of the lease area and/or fail  
14 to shift fishing to other areas nearby. Those  
15 are highly unlikely scenarios.

16 So in short, adverse impact on the  
17 environment, fish stocks, and on the economics  
18 of the fishing industry have not been shown.

19 Enough is known, however, about  
20 the adverse impact on the environment and the  
21 economy including the livelihood of fishers if  
22 nothing is done to develop renewable energy  
23 such as the Vineyard Wind Project. Warming  
24 waters due in part to carbon emissions are but

1 one example of a far greater threat to fishers  
2 and others than Vineyard 1.

3           Vineyard 1 has shown that the  
4 economics of moving ahead with this beneficial  
5 project are greatly diminished with additional  
6 delays or unnecessary changes to the citing  
7 plan. So time is of the essence to begin  
8 construction of Vineyard 1 so that  
9 Massachusetts and New England can begin to see  
10 the benefit of having renewable and less  
11 carbon impact on our environment.

12           Thank you.

13           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you,  
14 Stephen, just to confirm, your first name is  
15 with a p-h; is that correct? Go ahead and  
16 state and spell your name one more time, I  
17 want to make sure I have it correct.

18           STEPHEN COAN: S-t-e-p-h-e-n  
19 C-o-a-n.

20           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
21 Thank you so much.

22           Okay. Next we're going to move to  
23 Evan and then Alexander.

24           So Evan, are you available now?

1           EVAN SAUTER: Can you hear me now?

2           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yes, I can hear  
3 you just fine. Thank you, Evan.

4           EVAN SAUTER: So my name is Evan,  
5 E-v-a-n, Sauter, S-a-u-t-e-r.

6           I was born and raised on the  
7 island of Martha's Vineyard, and I'm a college  
8 student Polytechnic Institute.

9           As someone who has grown up on the  
10 island, I have had a front-row seat to the  
11 impacts of climate change with warming  
12 weather, ocean rise, and more severe storms.

13           Because of this, we need to move  
14 away from relying on fossil fuels and instead  
15 use a hundred percent renewable energy.

16           This has been along the response  
17 of Vineyard's goal to be a hundred percent  
18 renewable in achieving electricity and  
19 transportation before 2040.

20           The development of offshore wind  
21 projects meets the need for more clean energy.

22           In order to capture the full  
23 potential of the U.S. offshore wind work  
24 force, developers and suppliers are willing to

1 train the local work force moving towards a  
2 hundred percent U.S. work force attaches the  
3 full economic benefits of this industry will  
4 require consistent, predictable projects  
5 entering construction to allow workers to gain  
6 experience and qualifications (inaudible) to  
7 advance within the work force and replace the  
8 Europeans over time.

9 I want to commend Vineyard Wind  
10 for committing to training the local work  
11 force on Martha's Vineyard, which is critical  
12 in the diversification of our local economy.  
13 It gives a generation of people, like myself,  
14 a hope to get new jobs, especially during very  
15 challenging times.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to  
17 provide input. I urge BOEM to submit this  
18 project to move forward without delay.

19 Thank you.

20 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
21 Thank you. Alexander. You're next. Can you  
22 state and spell your name, please.

23 ALEXANDER THILLERUP: Hi, my name  
24 is Alexander Thillerup. I just want to make

1 sure you can hear me.

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
3 fine. If you can spell your last name, that  
4 would be great. Thank you.

5 ALEXANDER THILLERUP: Excellent,  
6 my last name is Thillerup, T-h-i-l-l-e-r-u-p.  
7 I am the Vice-President of Renewables U.S.  
8 Xodus Group.

9 Firstly, I want to thank BOEM for  
10 issuing a very comprehensive analysis and  
11 taking the time to engage with multiple  
12 various stakeholders, including industry  
13 experts and communities.

14 Xodus Group is an energy expert  
15 consultancy that enables technology and takes  
16 a leading role and interest in industry  
17 challenges.

18 In the U.S., we are involved in  
19 shaping the offshore wind supply chain of  
20 tomorrow. We do so in close collaboration  
21 with all levels of the supply chain, including  
22 local supplies, oversea supplies, top tier  
23 supplies with developers and local  
24 municipalities. We have also done the



1     consensing for high-end wind, the first movers  
2     of puritan wind in Europe.

3                 We are here to speak in strong  
4     favor of approving Vineyard Wind to move  
5     forward with no further delay.

6                 The nature of developing an  
7     offshore wind asset is complicated and  
8     challenging from all circumstances. The  
9     baseline risks are many, significant, and  
10    intimate from environment to finance to supply  
11    chain to project quality and project schedule.

12                While we cannot eliminate these  
13    risks, we can mitigate them to the extent that  
14    make these projects viable and real, as seen  
15    in other parts of the world.

16                What sets Vineyard Wind apart from  
17    the rest is that they carry an additional  
18    component risk for being the first movers. In  
19    such -- in such new markets with no existing  
20    supply chain, these risks can be hard to  
21    quantify. In laymen's terms, we do not know  
22    what we do not know.

23                What we do know is that the entire  
24    industry is moving towards Vineyard Wind, and

1 the suppliers are actually deferring critical  
2 investments, a healthy business skepticism in  
3 response to -- to the perceived risk profile.

4 We have reached the point where we  
5 cannot reduce the risk for the first project  
6 much further, and we need to let it be  
7 constructed.

8 In the construction of the first  
9 project, it increases our understanding and  
10 knowledge base significantly, and it will form  
11 all the projects to follow, hence reducing  
12 their risks and associated costs.

13 What would happen if Vineyard Wind  
14 is delayed or not approved? The next project  
15 will have to carry the additional risk of  
16 being the first movers, something that they  
17 probably have not factored into their current  
18 models.

19 A disillusioned supply chain would  
20 further compound that risk. Their risk  
21 profile has gone up significantly. Investors  
22 will be clear that they cannot be guaranteed a  
23 return on their investments.

24 In best case, offshore wind

1 development will be set back by years, and  
2 worst case scenario is that the projects --  
3 projects will become financially unviable.

4 In conclusion, in Section 3.7.2.1,  
5 and I'm quoting here, if the proposed project  
6 is not approved, it is assumed that the energy  
7 demand that the proposed project would have  
8 built would likely be met by other projects in  
9 the remaining areas off Massachusetts, Rhode  
10 Island, and New York leases. In other words,  
11 future offshore wind facilities capable of  
12 generating 9.4 megawatt -- would be 9.4  
13 gigawatts -- would be built in the Rhode  
14 Island and Massachusetts lease areas.

15 We believe that the premise of the  
16 assumption is incorrect, and we urge you to  
17 reassess this assumption. Further delaying  
18 the project, worst case we move not to approve  
19 Vineyard Wind, create a significant material  
20 ripple effect throughout the entire industry  
21 and the local supply chain.

22 Thank you for your time. We will  
23 be providing a written comment as well.

24 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

1 Thank you very much.

2 We are going to go to Ann next.

3 Ann, can you state and spell your name,  
4 please?

5 OPERATOR: Ann has withdrawn her  
6 question.

7 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Sorry.  
8 We'll go to Meghan and then Wesley.

9 Meghan? Is Meghan available?  
10 Hold it. One moment.

11 I ask, again, apologies, that if  
12 you would like to speak tonight, please press  
13 Star 1 and speak to the operator. I know they  
14 are busy right now, but please be patient and  
15 -- and be sure to do that. We will hold until  
16 we make sure that we've given people an  
17 opportunity to speak tonight.

18 So I'll just remind everybody, the  
19 Q & A box is there, and we'll go there.

20 And I just want to see if Ann is  
21 available. And then after that, it will be  
22 Meghan and Wesley and Gordon. Is Ann  
23 available?

24 OPERATOR: Ann will go next.

1 We're grabbing her again now.

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Thank  
3 you.

4 OPERATOR: Currently, Meghan's  
5 line is open.

6 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Oh, okay. So  
7 Meghan, why don't you go ahead, and then --  
8 and apologies for that, but if you want to go  
9 ahead and provide your comments, that would be  
10 great. Thank you.

11 Meghan, state and spell your name.

12 MEGHAN LAPP: Thank you. Meghan  
13 Lapp, M-e-g-h-a-n L-a-p-p. I represent  
14 Seafreeze Limited in North Kingstown and  
15 Seafreeze Shoreside in Point Judith.

16 We are a commercial fishing  
17 company, and we have three vessels that  
18 operate in the area. And we service many  
19 more.

20 As I've been reviewing the SEIS,  
21 it references the COPs in determining various  
22 impact. However, if you go to the volumes and  
23 sections of the COP referenced, they are  
24 redacted. Not one or two sections, but

1 several sections; many sections, actually.  
2 This prevents meaningful comment and external  
3 review, and therefore, cannot be used in  
4 decision-making.

5           Regarding a proposed action, we  
6 learned of the one-by-one-nautical-mile layout  
7 created by developers first in the media. It  
8 was not developed with us or with input from  
9 others in the commercial fishing industry who  
10 would be majorly impacted by the proposed  
11 project and cumulative projects, should they  
12 move forward.

13           The U.S. Coast Guard MARIPARS  
14 report, which also accepted this layout, did  
15 not analyze radar interference impact, which  
16 were well documented and acknowledged by the  
17 U.S. Coast Guard study on the previously  
18 proposed Cape Wind Project as a result of wind  
19 turbines.

20           Furthermore, mathematical errors  
21 and omissions in the MARIPARS report  
22 demonstrate that further work is necessary  
23 regarding layout and navigational safety.

24           The SEIS determines that there are

1 major impacts to navigation and, therefore,  
2 navigational safety as a result of the  
3 proposed layout. However, due to the lack of  
4 radar analysis, and the errors and omissions  
5 in the MARIPARS, and particularly, since the  
6 size of turbines in the project design  
7 envelope has now increased from a  
8 10-megawatt-turbine to a 14-megawatt-turbine  
9 maximum, we believe more analysis, including  
10 and especially a radar modeling of the project  
11 and surrounding areas based on 14 megawatt  
12 turbines is necessary before moving forward.

13 Human lives and safety at sea are  
14 paramount. The Vineyard Wind Project and the  
15 Mass/Rhode Island lease area are larger than  
16 any currently operating wind farms in the  
17 world, and it is important to get this right.

18 Our vessels and our customers'  
19 vessels require safety at sea when transiting  
20 in the area, and they currently transit the  
21 area frequently. So we request this analysis  
22 to be done, this modeling to be done and  
23 analyzed prior to any approval.

24 Our vessels and many customer

1 vessels will be unable to fish in the project  
2 area during the life of the project or  
3 surrounding cumulative projects should they  
4 move forward due to being trawl vessels which  
5 are the primary fishing (inaudible) in the  
6 area.

7           Any product these vessels and our  
8 facilities have relied on for decades will  
9 disappear. Due to cable battling on export  
10 cables, we will likely lose fishing area  
11 outside the project as well.

12           Our vessels, customer vessels and  
13 facilities know intimately about renewable  
14 resources. The resources we rely upon to feed  
15 the American public and provide steady  
16 American jobs are renewable and sustainable  
17 and more highly regulated than the offshore  
18 energy industry.

19           The SEIS determines major impact  
20 to commercial fisheries. Cumulatively, some  
21 seasonal fisheries and reliant vessels may not  
22 survive if all of build-out occurs.

23           In contrast, the SEIS determines  
24 negligible to minor and minor beneficial



1 impacts to air quality, i.e., climate change  
2 and greenhouse gas reduction. Since  
3 greenhouse reduction and air quality is the  
4 primary driver of this project, minor  
5 negligible beneficial impacts would override  
6 negative impacts to another renewable resource  
7 industry should the project move forward as  
8 proposed.

9 Due to this fact and the lack of  
10 radar modeling for 14 megawatt turbines and  
11 the issues of the MARIPARS, we support more  
12 work on these prior to approval.

13 We also echo the need for a time  
14 series of baseline information prior to  
15 construction that was raised by previous  
16 commenters.

17 Fisheries' renewable resources  
18 both inside and adjacent to the project area  
19 need to be carefully monitored for impacts  
20 before, during, and after projects are built.  
21 A standard fisheries baseline survey is only  
22 acceptable for stock assessment once they have  
23 five to seven years of uninterrupted data  
24 collection. This is standard scientific

1 procedure in the fishing industry and U.S.  
2 East Coast Fisheries Management by the federal  
3 government.

4           These should take place prior to  
5 construction, as we and others have  
6 continuously requested over the past number of  
7 years. A one-year baseline survey prior to  
8 construction is too statistically  
9 insignificant and uncertain to produce  
10 reliable data.

11           Due to the very significant  
12 potential and expected impacts to the long fin  
13 squid resource, which cannot be farmed, and  
14 therefore, is important to sustain a monitor  
15 in the wild, measuring these impacts is very  
16 important, particularly due to the fact that  
17 air quality will only be affected in a minor  
18 capacity, conducting due diligence to majorly  
19 impacted natural resources and resource users  
20 is appropriate.

21           Therefore, we support requiring  
22 this type of time series data collection as a  
23 prerequisite of permitting as well.

24           Thank you.

1                   CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. All  
2 right. Next we've got Ann, then Wesley,  
3                   Gordon, and Bonnie. So Ann -- and  
4 then just a reminder to folks,  
5                   we do have more names that we're  
6 putting on the screen. We're just trying to  
7 put a few names up at a time, and then we  
8 will, you know, add more as we go.

9                   So with that, I'll turn it over to  
10 Ann.

11                  ANN BERWICK: Thank you. Can you  
12 hear me?

13                  CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
14 just fine. And actually, one minute, Ann.  
15 I'm going to ask one other thing.

16                  Please use the question box on  
17 Zoom for questions and comments. And then if  
18 you have any technical issues, use chat. But  
19 we're trying to use the chat box for our --  
20 putting our names in. So if you can help us  
21 out with that, that would be great. We'll  
22 continue to take those questions in that Q & A  
23 box.

24                  So with that, I'll turn it over to

1 you, Ann. Thank you.

2 ANN BERWICK: Okay. Thanks a lot.  
3 My name is Ann Berwick. I'm a member of the  
4 board of Vineyard Power. I was Undersecretary  
5 for Energy in Massachusetts from 2006 to 2010;  
6 Chair of the Mass Department of Public  
7 Utilities from 2010 to 2015; I'm also on the  
8 Mothers Outfront Legislative Team; and Chair  
9 of the Mothers Outfront Legislative Rapid  
10 Response Team.

11 So thank you very much for the  
12 opportunity to speak today. I very much  
13 appreciate it.

14 And I'm speaking in support of  
15 Alternative D-2 of Vineyard Wind 1.

16 And I want to step back from the  
17 details you've been hearing about, like  
18 thousands of local jobs created, millions of  
19 tons of CO2 avoided, and over a billion  
20 dollars in energy cost savings, although  
21 that's all correct.

22 It's easy to get mired in the  
23 details, but the big picture is simple, we  
24 need more renewable electricity; and then

1 counterintuitively, we need to use more  
2 electricity for things like heating and  
3 cooling buildings and for transportation.

4           But where will that renewable  
5 electricity come from? There's no serious  
6 dispute about that, at least here in New  
7 England, that there's no resource that can  
8 begin to compete with offshore wind.

9           After a decade and a half of  
10 vigorous development of solar in  
11 Massachusetts, which is an important resource  
12 even here in snowy New England, we have 2500  
13 megawatts of solar nameplate capacity. That's  
14 at a 14 percent capacity factor, meaning 350  
15 megawatts of solar power.

16           Compare the capacity of offshore  
17 wind. At 800 megawatts nameplate capacity and  
18 a

19           capacity factor of 45 percent,  
20 Vineyard Wind 1 alone will contribute 360  
21 megawatts in power to the New England grid.  
22 In other words, more energy from a single  
23 offshore wind project than from a decade and a  
24 half of solar development.

1                   And you know, better than I do,  
2 the reasonable capacity of offshore wind on  
3 the East Coast.

4                   Don't misunderstand me, I'm all  
5 for solar. I was a member of the Patrick  
6 Administration that was responsible for  
7 launching the state's robust solar program.

8                   Does Vineyard Wind have any  
9 negative impacts? Yeah. But guess what?  
10 There's no free lunch. However, any minimal  
11 impacts from Vineyard Wind and other offshore  
12 wind projects in the queue are small compared  
13 to the massive impact of climate change, on  
14 birds, on fisheries, on humans, and especially  
15 on the most disadvantaged communities.

16                   This project is a no-brainer.  
17 Massachusetts has been working on offshore  
18 wind for two decades. This is a great project  
19 for jobs, for the economy, for the  
20 environment. And we all know that time is  
21 running out.

22                   So I really appreciate your time  
23 and attention and all the work you're putting  
24 into all of these really incredibly important

1 projects. Thank you.

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Up  
3 next, we've got Wesley, then Gordon, Bonnie,  
4 Seth and Ron.

5 Wesley, are you available?

6 WESLEY LOOK: I am. Can you hear  
7 me?

8 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
9 just fine. Thank you so much.

10 WESLEY LOOK: Great. My name is  
11 Wesley Look, that's W-e-s-l-e-y L-o-o-k.

12 I am a resident of West Tisbury on  
13 Martha's Vineyard where I was born and raised  
14 and where my family has lived for over 300  
15 years, largely as farmers and fishermen.

16 I am joining the -- the voice of  
17 support for Alternative D-2 of Vineyard Wind  
18 1, and, in general, support the  
19 environmentally conscious and ecologically  
20 responsive development of offshore on the  
21 North Atlantic sea board.

22 I want to start by saying that I  
23 also very much respect the livelihood of  
24 fishing in this same area, and -- and

1 appreciate the hard work that the agency is  
2 navigating to balance these -- these  
3 continuing needs. And I want to state my  
4 support also for the fishing community.

5 I think that one of the reasons  
6 why I support Vineyard Wind is that I -- I  
7 believe the process thus far has done a very  
8 good job of balancing those needs. That's my  
9 subjective opinion, of course.

10 But one of the -- one of the other  
11 key pieces that I'm concerned of is not just  
12 the fishing industry, but also our local  
13 marine ecosystem. And one of the ways in  
14 which I -- I think that the Vineyard Wind  
15 process has really done a good job of  
16 balancing that is in the Right Whale  
17 settlement agreement.

18 As had been stated earlier in this  
19 public comment period, or session, there's no  
20 guarantee that any future offshore wind  
21 project would achieve that same -- that same  
22 consensus and settlement around how to manage  
23 a crucial population in this ecosystem. So I  
24 think that that is -- that's one reason why I



1 support this project.

2           In response to the fishing  
3 industry, Vineyard Wind and other developers  
4 in the New England wind energy area agreed to  
5 develop all future projects with a uniform  
6 one-by-one-nautical-mile layout throughout the  
7 lease areas, as has been talked about. This,  
8 I think, is another reason why this project  
9 should -- should go forward. This change  
10 reduces the potential output of the wind  
11 turbine projects by 30 percent, but does seem  
12 to address the main concerns that have been  
13 articulated from the commercial fishing  
14 industry raised during the comment period of  
15 the Vineyard Wind 1 Project.

16           The Coast Guard, as has also been  
17 said, has endorsed this  
18 one-by-one-nautical-mile layout without seeing  
19 the need for additional wider transit lanes.

20           I also want to applaud Vineyard  
21 Wind for taking feedback from our island  
22 community in incorporating aircraft detection  
23 lighting systems, or ADLS, into their project,  
24 which will make nighttime lighting impacts

1 reduced to negligible.

2 We encourage BOEM to require  
3 future developers to incorporate ADLS on their  
4 turbines to significantly reduce the amount of  
5 time that light will be visible from shore.

6 As has been talked about, offshore  
7 wind produces power at long-term fixed prices  
8 and provides a hedge against fossil fuel  
9 volatility, something that we're seeing these  
10 days. This is important for our region's  
11 energy generation and security. This is an  
12 energy security issue for -- for the New  
13 England region.

14 Development of offshore wind  
15 projects aligned with Martha's Vineyard's goal  
16 to be a hundred percent renewable for heating,  
17 electricity, and transportation by 2040, and  
18 aligned with Massachusetts' target of being  
19 net zero by 2050.

20 Furthermore, when paired with  
21 energy storage, this project aligns with the  
22 Massachusetts Clean Peak Standard, which is  
23 designed to incentivize the use of clean  
24 energy technologies during peak hours instead

1 of relying on fossil fuel burning plants.

2 Overall, as well, offshore wind  
3 projects are anticipated to have a continuous  
4 long term beneficial impact on local  
5 employment and economics. It provides new  
6 employment and economic opportunities,  
7 including for communities like the Martha's  
8 Vineyard's community to the development and  
9 expansion of port, shipping, and related  
10 industries.

11 Lastly, I want to join the -- the  
12 many who have spoken to the importance of  
13 climate change. This is an existential threat  
14 that we have very little time to address, and  
15 offshore wind projects like this one are  
16 crucial to meeting that lead.

17 Lastly, I just want to close by  
18 saying that I worked for many years in the  
19 United States Senate for a senator from  
20 Oregon, and worked on various energy projects,  
21 energy siting projects, including many in the  
22 relatively desolate high desert of North  
23 Eastern Oregon, where particularly a  
24 transmission line was being cited.

1           And I just want to articulate that  
2 we often think that, you know, we can't build  
3 this project here because this is a precious  
4 ecosystem. There are precious ecosystems  
5 everywhere. Even in that very arid high  
6 desert environment, we were having trouble  
7 moving a transmission line through because of  
8 an endangered species of Washington Ground  
9 Squirrel.

10           So I just articulate the voice  
11 that there's nowhere where there will be no  
12 impact, and I think this community is well  
13 positioned to minimize the impact and take a  
14 leadership position on this important clean  
15 energy technology.

16           Thank you so much.

17           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
18 we've got Gordon, and then Bonnie, Seth  
19 and Ron. Gordon, go ahead.

20           GORDON STARR: Hello. Can you  
21 hear me?

22           CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
23 just fine. Thank you, Gordon.

24           GORDON STARR: Oh, thank you.

1 Thank you, Christine.

2 My name is Gordon Starr;  
3 G-o-r-d-o-n, last name S-t-a-r-r. I'm a  
4 lifelong resident of Massachusetts. I'm also  
5 a Town Councilman in the Town of Barnstable,  
6 though my remarks tonight are really my own.

7 The earth's temperature and CO2  
8 levels are rising steadily, and we need to act  
9 quickly to mitigate these threats.

10 I've been involved with the  
11 permitting process of Vineyard Wind since they  
12 first came to Cape Cod. The Vineyard Wind 1  
13 (inaudible). It's a long process. But the  
14 Vineyard Wind team has worked closely with the  
15 town professional staff to develop a detailed  
16 host agreement.

17 Their team has been thorough,  
18 meticulous, and accommodating throughout the  
19 process. This will be a huge first step in  
20 preventing reliable renewable energy for South  
21 Eastern Massachusetts.

22 The design of the wind farm itself  
23 14 miles of Martha's Vineyard has been  
24 (inaudible) since the (inaudible) and

1 corroboration (inaudible).

2 To ask the developers now to add  
3 the three- or four-mile transit corridor  
4 (inaudible) unnecessary, especially  
5 (inaudible).

6 The fishing fleet is an essential  
7 part of our marine economy, and we should  
8 listen to their concerns.

9 (Inaudible) wind towers will have  
10 small footprints, and they will be a mile  
11 apart in a grid pattern along state transit  
12 routes in many directions.

13 Ask yourself, would you rather  
14 offshore wind mills or oil and gas building  
15 platforms with related land-based refinery  
16 infrastructure? So I ask everyone to support  
17 the timely development of this offshore wind  
18 project. We need the renewable energy, we  
19 need the jobs, and we need to move to non  
20 fossil fuel generated electricity.

21 So I think Vineyard Wind 1 and  
22 Vineyard Wind has done a great job (inaudible)  
23 to move this project forward.

24 Thank you.

1 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
2 is Bonnie, then Seth and Ron. Bonnie, you can  
3 go ahead.

4 BONNIE BRADY: Hi, can you hear me  
5 okay?

6 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
7 just fine. Thank you.

8 BONNIE BRADY: Great. My name is  
9 Bonnie Brady. I represent the Long Island  
10 Commercial Fishing Association, which  
11 represents gear types throughout Long Island  
12 of commercial fishermen.

13 First of all, I would like to echo  
14 all the comments Meghan Lapp made in the  
15 virtual hearing. All of the items she  
16 mentioned need to be further evaluated.

17 The Massachusetts wind energy  
18 areas, including Vineyard Wind were chosen  
19 without any input from New York fisherman that  
20 fish in federal waters where the WEAs were  
21 selected. Massachusetts/Rhode Island  
22 state-formed task force at no point included  
23 New York representation nor did they notify  
24 federal fishery stakeholders from other states

1 to offer input to the process from the  
2 beginning.

3 All memorandum of understanding  
4 was written between Rhode Island and  
5 Massachusetts and the fisheries' advisory  
6 boards selected from those two states. There  
7 was no meeting notification or attempt to  
8 reach out to New York State's federal fishery  
9 communities and stakeholders to gather input.  
10 Fisheries are of great economic importance to  
11 the state of New York, including the whiting,  
12 scup, butterfish and squid fisheries, each of  
13 which are worth millions of dollars each year  
14 in revenue via New York State's commercial  
15 fishermen.

16 The Rhode Island/Mass BOEM task  
17 force did not include any of New York's  
18 economic catch data and none of the historical  
19 traditional fishing grounds of importance to  
20 the trawl fleet of New York. We were removed  
21 from consideration.

22 New York fishermen have no  
23 compensation package and no safe, direct, and  
24 four-nautical-mile-wide transit lane to either



1 travel directly to our fishing grounds or to  
2 our home port.

3           Since 2000, New York fisherman  
4 have caught over 100 million pounds of squid.  
5 Some years, 40 to 60 percent of that catch has  
6 come from the fishing grounds south of  
7 Nantucket. Much of it was in the Vineyard  
8 Wind. Without wide and safe transit lanes,  
9 such as the example submitted by RODA,  
10 commercial fishermen from New York will not be  
11 allowed to directly home to their ports from  
12 fishing grounds within the Rhode  
13 Island/Massachusetts wind energy area.

14           In a Vineyard Wind vacuum, it may  
15 look like that is not needed. But the overall  
16 Rhode Island/Massachusetts wind energy area at  
17 1400 square miles is two-thirds of the size of  
18 the Grand Canyon National Park. Or to think  
19 of it another way, equal to the total landmass  
20 of Long Island.

21           Now, imagine a turbine 900 feet  
22 tall a mile apart in every direction. Now add  
23 black fog, which laymen refer to as pea soup,  
24 and 20- and 30-foot seas, and winds up to 40

1 miles per hour or more. Those that have  
2 spoken before me, with the exception of those  
3 representing commercial fishermen, have no  
4 idea how dangerous the offshore environment  
5 is. And quite frankly, it's incredibly  
6 disrespectful to the brave men and women who  
7 go out every day providing food for the  
8 nation, and for those we have lost at sea  
9 through the generations.

10 Last week, a July 4th story in  
11 Bloomberg Opinion called "Green-Energy  
12 Companies Have Human-Rights Problem," by Adam  
13 Minter, discussed a new report that uncovered  
14 striking abuses in the renewables business.  
15 I'm quoting from this now, the report from the  
16 Business and Human Rights Resource Center, a  
17 London-based group that promotes human rights  
18 in the corporate world, spoke of at least 197  
19 allegations of human rights abuses that have  
20 been leveled against renewable energy projects  
21 in recent years, including land grab,  
22 dangerous working conditions, and even  
23 killings.

24 Meanwhile, many of the world's

1 largest publicly held solar and wind companies  
2 are failing to meet widely accepted human  
3 rights benchmarks.

4 Iberdrola is a 50 percent partner  
5 in the Vineyard Wind Project through Avangrid  
6 renewables. Iberdrola is a Spanish  
7 multinational electric utility who scored a 53  
8 percent overall in that report of 13 core  
9 indicators developed, tried and tested by the  
10 corporate human-rights benchmark to measure a  
11 company's alignment with the United Nations'  
12 guiding principle on business and human  
13 rights.

14 From that report, 19  
15 sector-specific indicators were developed to  
16 assess salience -- and I'm quoting again from  
17 the report, salient human rights -- excuse me,  
18 human-right risks relevant to the renewable  
19 energy industry, including indigenous peoples'  
20 rights, labor rights, and land rights based on  
21 the international standards such as the ILO  
22 core conventions and OECD guidelines.

23 The results of the benchmark  
24 suggest that none of the companies analyzed

1 are currently fully meeting the responsibility  
2 to respect human rights as defined by the UN  
3 guiding principles.

4           Now additionally, and this is my  
5 own numbers here, I would draw a score a  
6 whopping 29 percent on the renewable energy  
7 sector-specific indicators seen D through K,  
8 which include indigenous peoples' and affected  
9 communities' rights. These indicators were  
10 used to assess, quote, companies' commitments  
11 to respect indigenous people and affected  
12 communities' rights in line with international  
13 standards and their approaches to benefits  
14 sharing. Land rights, in which allegations of  
15 abuse of land rights are among the most  
16 frequently reported abuses in the renewable  
17 energy sector, yet none of the 16 companies  
18 scored any point in those seen.

19           Security and high-risk context,  
20 human rights and environmental defenders and  
21 labor health and safety in which those  
22 indicators, quote, assess companies' policies  
23 and practices to address fundamental labor  
24 rights including commitments to a living wage,

1 worker health and safety and closing the  
2 gender wage gap, the right to a healthy and  
3 clean environment transparency and  
4 anticorruption equality inclusion.

5           If we learned nothing else as a  
6 nation from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that  
7 our domestic food supply matters. And the  
8 sustainable commercial fishing catch of the  
9 U.S. commercial fishing industry is vitally  
10 important to feed our nation. National food  
11 security matters.

12           It may interest those on this line  
13 to know the fish species caught within the  
14 Vineyard Wind wind energy area and the Rhode  
15 Island/Massachusetts wind energy area are not  
16 only some of the freshest and most  
17 sustainable, but are also some of the most  
18 economically attainable with a low price point  
19 by all U.S. consumers, including and  
20 especially those in the most disadvantaged  
21 communities.

22           The cost alone to electric  
23 consumers for this highly subsidized project  
24 has been shown to be a real concern for

1 environmental justice, for low-income families  
2 who cannot afford electricity at five times  
3 the average rate of power purchase agreements.

4           While the wind subsidies are being  
5 handed out by the federal government to these  
6 foreign-owned energy and investment companies  
7 to bring double digit rates of return to their  
8 foreign country's pension funds, Americans  
9 will be forced to pay for this energy,  
10 especially, again, in the time of COVID when  
11 many Americans have lost their jobs.

12           It is a no-win/no-win for  
13 Americans, especially those affected during  
14 this pandemic, and those in the most  
15 disadvantaged communities.

16           My comments today haven't even  
17 begun to take into account the biological  
18 consequences to fish, migratory birds and  
19 bats, and whales, of pile driving, jet piling,  
20 sedimentation, scour, the real possibility of  
21 sediment, and the actual littering of the  
22 motion floor with hundreds of wind turbines,  
23 thousands of miles of transmission cables, and  
24 then throwing electric current through the

1 cables and sets them spinning.

2 We do not support moving forward  
3 with this project at this time. We believe a  
4 five-year moratorium should be put in place to  
5 allow for thorough scientific studies by the  
6 National Marine Fisheries Service and the  
7 Northeast Fishery Science Center.

8 Climate change does not mean  
9 ready, shoot, aim. Climate change doesn't  
10 translate to mean destroying giant swaths of  
11 the ocean environment in order to save it.  
12 We, as a nation, should not rush through this  
13 process because of a desire, as one speaker  
14 previously said, to maintain the stability of  
15 a wind company, a foreign government-owned  
16 energy company, when this process could  
17 destroy our ability to feed our country and  
18 destroy the food production of the ocean  
19 itself for all of its citizens.

20 Thank you.

21 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Can you please  
22 spell your name, please. I don't believe I  
23 caught that at the beginning.

24 BONNIE BRADY: Sure. Bonnie,

1 B-o-n-n-i-e, Brady, B-r-a-d-y, like Bunch.

2 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you  
3 so much. All right. Now we've got Seth, then  
4 Ron,

5 Tom, Marybeth and Luke. And I  
6 believe we've got about a dozen more speakers,  
7 so if you haven't had a chance to press Star  
8 1, put yourself in the queue, please do so  
9 now. Continue to use the Q & A box for  
10 questions that we'll address after the public  
11 comments. And the chat box if you have any  
12 technical issues.

13 So with that, I will turn it over  
14 to Seth.

15 SETH KAPLAN: Good evening. My  
16 name is Seth Kaplan, S-e-t-h K-a-p-l-a-n.

17 In my day job, I am the Director  
18 of Permitting and Development for Mayflower  
19 Wind, although I'm speaking today in my  
20 personal capacity harkening back to my 16  
21 years at Conservation Law Foundation, and 10  
22 years of experience during the extensive  
23 review of the Cape Wind Project, and my  
24 service on the Federal Advisory Committee when



1 the Minerals Management Service was  
2 transitioning into what is now BOEM.

3           So during that time at  
4 Conservation Law Foundation, I would have the  
5 opportunity to work on clean energy and  
6 climate change issues. And one of the reasons  
7 that -- that that work was so essential was  
8 the existential threat that global warming  
9 poses to fish and to the marine environment at  
10 large.

11           And without a healthy marine  
12 environment, there is no fishing industry.  
13 And I think that is something that needs to be  
14 laid out on the table and confronted as  
15 obvious an observation as it is.

16           I really wanted to just take a  
17 minute or two -- and I understand how long  
18 this has all gone on, and short comments are  
19 always appreciated in these kinds of  
20 proceedings. I just wanted to take a minute  
21 or two to reflect on the history of what has  
22 occurred and what has led us here.

23           BOEM led an extensive process  
24 shaping the wind energy area. Consideration

1 was made during the design of the wind energy  
2 area of many different factors. And it was a  
3 deep and thoughtful process.

4 The design of the specific lease  
5 areas also reflected extensive public comment  
6 and built a firm foundation for the  
7 environmental review of the individual  
8 projects.

9 BOEM fostered dialogue,  
10 conversation, which led to the process that  
11 brought the developers together to agree to  
12 the one-by-one grid that underpins the design  
13 of Vineyard Wind that should move forward at  
14 this point.

15 Here's the bottom line: The NEPA  
16 process, however long and painful it has been,  
17 did what it was supposed to do. It has  
18 narrowed the issues.

19 The issue that has emerged through  
20 the process is the question of the impact on  
21 the human environment, specifically  
22 navigation, and even more specifically, the  
23 impact on navigation regarding fishing.

24 That issue has been addressed by

1 the most expert of those agencies, the United  
2 States Coast Guard. And BOEM is legally  
3 obligated and, I believe, you know, inclined  
4 because they listen to the best evidence, to  
5 follow the guidance of that expert state --  
6 that expert federal agency, the United States  
7 Coast Guard.

8 The issues have been raised, the  
9 issues have been discussed, the issues have  
10 been resolved. The process has been  
11 extensive. A hard look has been taken at the  
12 issues that have been raised, and it is time  
13 to bring the process to a conclusion to move  
14 forward with Vineyard Wind and to move forward  
15 with the development of this important new  
16 industry.

17 Thank you.

18 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

19 Next, we have Ron, Tom, Marybeth, Luke, and

20 Camilla. So Ron, can you please  
21 state and spell your

22 name?

23 RON DAGOSTINO: Hi, my name is Ron  
24 Dagostino; first name R-o-n, last name

1 D-a-g-o-s-t-i-n-o. I live in West Tisbury in  
2 Martha's Vineyard's, and I'm a Director on the  
3 board of Vineyard Power.

4 This project is a culmination of  
5 several years of exhaustive study, analysis,  
6 and public consultation. And this single  
7 project alone is going to create thousands of  
8 jobs for local residents, avoid the emission  
9 of millions of tons of carbon dioxide, and  
10 save rate payers billions of dollars.

11 That's just one project. A recent  
12 study indicated in the next 10

13 years, the offshore wind industry  
14 will eventually create more than 80,000 jobs  
15 and generate annual economic output on the  
16 order of \$25 billion.

17 The projects in the aggregate will  
18 make urgently needed process in addressing an  
19 existential threat, climate change.

20 The Coast Guard has determined  
21 that the uniform one-by-one-nautical-mile  
22 turbine layout maximizes safe navigation.  
23 This separation would be greater than that of  
24 any existing offshore wind project in the

1 world. It eliminates almost a third of the  
2 potential wind energy production of the area,  
3 but it is the right thing to do.

4           Despite this, though, the fishing  
5 industry has proposed additional transit lanes  
6 of at least four nautical miles, Alternative  
7 F.

8           Adding six additional transit  
9 lanes of four nautical miles would severely  
10 constrain even further the overall clean  
11 energy production in the wind energy area. At  
12 a minimum, it would result in yet more delays  
13 and substantial cost increases to consumers.  
14 At worst, it could possibly kill wind  
15 projects.

16           The North Eastern United States'  
17 prime source of renewable energy is offshore  
18 wind. Every area of the country has to do  
19 their part to mitigate the risk of climate  
20 change. It has been the Northeast's  
21 responsibility to deploy offshore wind.

22           Adding of transit lanes would  
23 prevent states in the Northeast from achieving  
24 their renewable energy goals. This would be

1 unconscionable. It would not meaningfully  
2 improve navigation or safety as the Coast  
3 Guard has indicated. In fact, they would act  
4 as funnels for traffic and actually increase  
5 risk.

6 I urge you to reject Alternative F  
7 and select the Coast Guard recommended  
8 one-by-one-nautical-mile layout in Alternative  
9 D-2. We all must address the climate  
10 emergency.

11 I emphatically encourage your  
12 approval of Alternative D-2 for this project.

13 Thank you for your efforts  
14 throughout this long process, and thank you  
15 for the opportunity to make these comments.

16 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
17 we've got Tom, Marybeth, Luke, Camilla,  
18 and then after that, Mark and  
19 Peter. So Tom, go ahead.

20 TOM DAMERON: Hi. This is Tom  
21 Dameron,  
22 Delta-Alpha-Mike-Echo-Romeo-Oscar-November.

23 In an effort to not take up too  
24 much time for everybody, I would like to echo

1 the comments made by Peter Himchak and Meghan  
2 Lapp in their entirety.

3 I represent Surfside Foods and  
4 support Option G. And we'll submit written  
5 comments to further support that position in  
6 addition to what I -- what I -- the  
7 Environmental Impact Statement and the draft  
8 and the Supplemental Environmental Impact  
9 Statement were supposed to analyze the  
10 environmental impacts from the cumulative wind  
11 energy areas that are -- that are now under --  
12 under lease.

13 As a commercial fisherman, I can  
14 tell you that in the early days of commercial  
15 fishing becoming industrialized, the world  
16 believed that the oceans held a limitless  
17 quantity of fish, and it was there for our  
18 taking. Now, of course we now know better,  
19 and the amount of fish that is harvested from  
20 U.S. waters is -- is highly regulated and  
21 highly (inaudible).

22 We model how much fish we're  
23 taking from the ocean, and we must abide by  
24 those models.

1           The environmental -- the wind  
2 energy we know is a bedrock environmental  
3 feature that all environmental conditions in  
4 the New York Bight rely on that wind energy.  
5 There's not been any modeling to see the  
6 effects of removing that wind energy from the  
7 environment and what that will do to the New  
8 York Bight.

9           I support a five-year moratorium  
10 on build-out of wind energy areas in the New  
11 York Bight, and would support an analysis and  
12 modeling to see how much wind energy we can  
13 safely remove from these areas, just as we  
14 must do those analyses before we remove any  
15 other resource from the Mid Atlantic Bight.

16           Thank you for considering my  
17 comments.

18           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
19 we've got Marybeth, Luke, Camilla, Mark,  
20 Peter.

21           Marybeth?

22           MARYBETH TOOLEY: Thank you.

23           THE WITNESS: Can you hear me?

24           CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you



1 just fine. Thank you, Marybeth.

2 MARYBETH TOOLEY: Thank you very  
3 much. My name is Marybeth Tooley, and the  
4 last name is spelled T-o-o-l-e-y.

5 I am the Government Affairs  
6 Manager for the O'Hara Corporation. And the  
7 O'Hara Corporation is a five-generation  
8 commercial fishing company that started in  
9 Boston in 1907 and continues strong today. We  
10 operate 13 vessels on the East Coast from  
11 Virginia to the Canadian border, primarily in  
12 the scallop fishery and the herring fishery.

13 We also have a 50 percent interest  
14 in a joint venture company in New Bedford.  
15 That facility processes scallops, manages  
16 vessels, and employs approximately 400 people  
17 from that facility.

18 New Bedford has been the highest  
19 value port for seafood in the United States  
20 for well over a decade, and 80 percent of  
21 those landings are from scallops, and we are  
22 part of that community.

23 We also, as a multigenerational  
24 company, understand the impact of climate

1 change on our operations and fishery  
2 resources, and we share a lot of those  
3 concerns. In fact, we often have discussions  
4 on what's our greatest risk going forward as a  
5 commercial fishing family, and climate change  
6 is at the top in most of those conversations.

7 We have children, we have  
8 grandchildren, and we -- our goal is to  
9 provide stability for them. Going forward,  
10 the path of a company that's healthy for them,  
11 their children, and their children's children.

12 So that's our goal. We do think  
13 long term. We do care about climate change,  
14 and we do support renewable energy.

15 I think here I would state that  
16 the biggest concern I have has been the  
17 process. The process has not been adequate  
18 for the fishing industry. I am a past member  
19 of the New England Fisheries Management  
20 Council. During my time there, I heard many  
21 presentations by BOEM to the council on  
22 keeping us up to date on what was going on,  
23 and we appreciate that.

24 However, during that process, my

1 -- I expressed my concern many, many times of  
2 the process BOEM used in reaching out to the  
3 industry. We are federally permitted vessels  
4 working in federal waters. And the  
5 state-by-state process that BOEM has developed  
6 does not work for us. I've heard -- I've  
7 heard a number of people mention parts and  
8 pieces of why that doesn't work for us.

9           And you know, we need a regional  
10 approach, and -- and BOEM has never been able  
11 to put together a regional approach that  
12 actually works toward the fishing industry.

13           And it concerns me greatly when I  
14 think about some of the opening statements  
15 that were made here about how important this  
16 project is, and it's going to set a  
17 precedence. And to me, that's extremely  
18 problematic. This is not the process that we  
19 want to see going forward. It's just -- it --  
20 it's actually -- it disenfranchises many, many  
21 people in the process. And I -- I can't say  
22 that more strongly than that at the moment.  
23 And we will be submitting comments on our  
24 concerns relative to that.

1           I appreciate the people, you know,  
2 seem to express many -- you know, here, have  
3 said that they support commercial fishing, and  
4 we should learn to coexist. But you need to  
5 give us an opportunity to do that because we  
6 do not feel like we've been heard.

7           As far as siting, that's one of  
8 the major concerns I hear from our fisherman  
9 and others, is that they didn't talk to us, we  
10 don't know anything about that. They just  
11 say, well, here we go, and this is open for,  
12 you know, applications and bids for leasing.

13           We do not feel like we are  
14 incorporated into this. We feel like we're  
15 given lip service at best. And we really --  
16 you know, if we are going to, you know,  
17 utilize the oceans for energy and create  
18 benefits for society as a whole, there's a way  
19 to do it, and we're not doing it.

20           So I would encourage BOEM to  
21 really restructure their whole process.

22           People have mentioned mitigation,  
23 and clearly, you know, if we're down off of  
24 New Jersey, you're running the cable in

1 through the state of New Jersey, and you're  
2 going to do a one-off mitigation plan with  
3 them? What about us? This is federal waters.  
4 Just -- this whole thing just needs to be  
5 rethought and rethought again about how to  
6 engage with fishermen.

7           So I -- I do want to say that I  
8 don't feel the need to get down into a lot of  
9 details that people have already mentioned. A  
10 lot of the, you know, commercial fishermen  
11 here on this, you know, this call I personally  
12 know, have a great amount of respect for, and  
13 I respect their comments and endorse them.

14           And again, we'll be submitting  
15 written comments, and I thank you for the  
16 opportunity.

17           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
18 we've got Luke, then Camilla, Mark,

19           Peter, John, Nicole and Carli. So  
20 Luke, go ahead.

21           LUKE LEFEBER: Hi, can you hear  
22 me?

23           CHRISTINE DAVIS: We can hear you  
24 just fine. Thank you, Luke.

1                   LUKE LEFEBER: Hi. My name is  
2 Luke Lefebber; first name L-u-k-e, last name  
3 Lima-Echo-Foxtrot-Echo-Beta-Echo-Romeo. And I  
4 am a third generation energy consumer on  
5 Martha's Vineyard.

6                   My great aunt and uncle came to  
7 the island in 1959 when land in Aquinnah costs  
8 \$500 an acre to enjoy the beauty of Aquinnah  
9 life.

10                  However, they were only willing to  
11 do so with access to the comforts of modern  
12 utilities, that is an oil-fired furnace, a  
13 gasoline powered automobile, and electricity  
14 generated from coal which only became  
15 available to Aquinnah residents in the early  
16 1950s.

17                  Ironically, the lifestyle my great  
18 aunt and uncle chose, like most Americans, a  
19 lifestyle indoctrinating in our society is  
20 destructive to the beauty and ecological  
21 harmony of this island sanctuary.

22                  Fossil fuel dependency has ravaged  
23 our natural world, and will continue to do so  
24 at a pace that is unsustainable for life as we

1 know it. Coastal communities like those on  
2 the Vineyard are already experiencing the  
3 effects of climate change. Fish populations  
4 have inhabited these waters for generations,  
5 and are migrating further north to seek colder  
6 waters.

7           Additionally, we are seeing warm  
8 water fish, like Great White Sharks, more  
9 frequently off of our coast. And as the seas  
10 continue to rise, the harbors of Menemsha,  
11 Vineyard Haven, Oak Bluffs, and Edgartown will  
12 be the first to go.

13           The time is now to change the way  
14 we live and embrace the transition to an  
15 electric lifestyle powered by offshore wind  
16 that afford the same comforts of modern living  
17 that we are accustomed to.

18           More importantly, it is imperative  
19 that we secure renewable energy resources  
20 capable of meeting our current and future  
21 electricity demands.

22           Vineyard Wind 1, an 800-megawatt  
23 project with the potential to power over  
24 400,000 homes across the Cape, the island, and

1 the Commonwealth that will essentially  
2 eliminate 1.6 billion metric tons of CO2  
3 emissions each year, marks the beginning of a  
4 renewable future in Massachusetts and across  
5 the country. It must not -- it must not be  
6 delayed anymore.

7 I fully support the Vineyard Wind  
8 1 Project under the attachment of the  
9 supplement to the draft Environmental Impact  
10 Statement, including the  
11 one-by-one-nautical-mile turbine layout deemed  
12 acceptable by the U.S. Coast Guard.

13 Vineyard Wind 1 has conducted the  
14 requisite survey and research to make sure  
15 that the project minimizes environmental  
16 impact, especially those associated with the  
17 critically endangered North Atlantic Right  
18 Whale.

19 In addition, Vineyard Wind 1  
20 presents an unparalleled economic opportunity.  
21 Project document and maintenance will bring  
22 billions of dollars to the region and provide  
23 well-paid jobs for thousands of workers across  
24 many disciplines. Through a partnership



1 between Vineyard Wind and ACE Energy, the  
2 project works to guarantee that long-term  
3 operations and management positions will be  
4 filled by island residents. The proposed  
5 project also projects over \$1.4 billion in  
6 rate payer savings over the next 20 years.

7           During a time of significant  
8 economic uncertainty, with the effects of the  
9 coronavirus expected to last for years to  
10 come, Vineyard Wind

11           offers much needed economic  
12 security for islanders and Massachusetts  
13 residents alike.

14           In specific -- in specific regard  
15 to the SEIS, BOEM claims that Vineyard Wind 1  
16 and offshore wind development as a whole will  
17 only have minor beneficial impact. Frankly, I  
18 believe BOEM is vastly underestimating the  
19 long-term benefits of offshore wind and should  
20 consider that environmental justice  
21 communities include diverse groups whose  
22 health and wellbeing will be positively  
23 impacted by clean offshore energy development.

24           Vineyard Wind represents the

1 crucial first step in the right direction for  
2 our energy future. I urge you to approve the  
3 project in accordance with Alternative D-2  
4 without further delay.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to  
6 provide these comments.

7 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
8 Camilla. And Camilla, are you available  
9 to join us?

10 CAMILLA PRATA: Hi, can you hear  
11 me?

12 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
13 just fine, thank you.

14 CAMILLA PRATA: All right. Good  
15 evening, everyone. Name is Camilla Prata,  
16 spelled C-a-m-i-l-l-a P-r-a-t-a.

17 I am a born-and-raised Martha's  
18 Vineyard resident and a college student at  
19 UMass Amherst.

20 We need more renewable energy, and  
21 we need to reduce our carbon footprint. I  
22 believe that offshore wind farms are a step in  
23 the right direction.

24 Vineyard Wind will be able to

1 create 3600 jobs for local residents over the  
2 life of the project as an industry build-out  
3 over the next few years. This is particularly  
4 important in the aftermath of the coronavirus  
5 pandemic which has resulted in high levels of  
6 unemployment.

7 This organization will also offset  
8 about 1.7 million tons of CO2 from the  
9 atmosphere yearly. This is also important due  
10 to the ever growing issue of climate change.

11 Additionally, the development of  
12 offshore wind project aligns with Martha's  
13 Vineyard's goal to be a hundred percent  
14 renewable for electricity, heating, and  
15 transportation by 2040.

16 This goal also aligns with  
17 Massachusetts' target of being net zero or  
18 carbon neutral by 2050.

19 Furthermore, offshore wind  
20 produces power at long-term fixed prices and  
21 produces a hedge against loss of field  
22 volatility. This is important for our  
23 region's energy generation and security.

24 In conclusion, I support the

1 development of offshore wind turbines for the  
2 numerous benefits that they bring, and I urge  
3 BOEM to allow this project to move forward  
4 without delay and to choose Alternative D-2.

5 Thank you so much for your time.

6 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

7 Looking ahead, we got Mark, Peter, John,

8 Nicole, Carli and Carry (sic).

9 That's who I have on the list right now. So  
10 if I haven't read your name, and you want to  
11 speak today, please press Star 1 and wait to  
12 speak to the live operator. Be patient, as we  
13 are moving people into the queue.

14 Also, I'll note that a number of  
15 you provided comments in the Q & A box, those  
16 of you on Zoom. We will address those. And  
17 for those of you on the phone, we will read  
18 the questions and answer them, you know,  
19 orally so you'll be able to share the  
20 questions and answers.

21 With that, I'm going to turn it  
22 over to Mark. Mark, are you available?

23 MARK PHILLIPS: Can you hear me?

24 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you

1 just fine, thank you.

2 MARK PHILLIPS: Okay. My name is  
3 Mark Phillips, M-a-r-k P-h-i-l-l-i-p-s. And  
4 I'm probably the only person on this that's  
5 actually fishing today out here where they  
6 want to put the wind farm.

7 And it will have a major negative  
8 impact on me. I fish up and down the whole  
9 coast. Primarily the summer, I fish from  
10 Nantucket to New York where many of these wind  
11 farms, including the Vineyard Wind Project,  
12 are.

13 I derive all of my summer income  
14 now from squid fishing. And what I don't see  
15 is any -- any information on what it's going  
16 to do to the squid fishery, squid dye from the  
17 low frequency vibrations from wind mills. The  
18 fish beneath our fishery in the North Sea was  
19 destroyed by the wind farms, but that's never  
20 mentioned. Nephrops are a type of  
21 lobster/shrimp, kind of in between.

22 I won't transit through the wind  
23 farms, period. I won't fish through the wind  
24 farms, period. It's too dangerous for me.

1           This morning, we had pea soup fog.  
2 We had sailboats, we had little sport boats,  
3 and they are notoriously hard to see as it is.  
4 And in a wind farm, you're not going to see  
5 them with this -- with the radar clutter.

6           And I listened to somebody else  
7 say something about how easy it is for the  
8 tankers and everything to transit because with  
9 a mile separation. Well, the Nantucket to  
10 Ambrose traffic lane is not one mile wide.  
11 Each traffic lane, the east lane is two miles  
12 wide, the west lane is two miles wide with a  
13 six-mile separation zone; that's 10 miles.  
14 That's a lot more than one mile. And I've  
15 seen many close calls, many. I'm -- I've been  
16 fishing for -- I've been running my own boat  
17 for over 40 years, and I've been fishing for  
18 over 50. So I'm not completely inexperienced.

19           These wind farms will destroy my  
20 summer fish route. People can say, that,  
21 well, I can go someplace else. I don't --  
22 you're going -- you're going to kill the squid  
23 to come in shore because the squid won't go  
24 through the wind farms.

1           The recreational fisherman are  
2 going to blame the commercial fisherman  
3 because the fluke, the sea bass, the striped  
4 bass and all their other fish, aren't getting  
5 one of their prey, so commercial will be  
6 blamed for decreasing those fishies not coming  
7 in.

8           Like Bonnie said, New York was  
9 excluded from any compensation pack. My home  
10 port is Greenport, New York. So even though I  
11 fish in these areas, no thought was given to  
12 us.

13           Today, the wind turbines would not  
14 have turned. Zero energy from these things,  
15 that if you listen to all the other  
16 commenters, are going to save the world.

17           So zero energy today. Zero energy  
18 yesterday. One study off of Virginia said  
19 they are going

20           to go a week, 10 days with zero  
21 energy from the summer doldrums when we need  
22 the energy the most. So wind farms are not  
23 the panacea that all these people seem to be  
24 making it out to be.

1           And the commenters that know more  
2 about my business than I do, I wish they could  
3 get on here and make a living for my crew, my  
4 families, and all the people on shore that I  
5 support. Because they don't know much. It's  
6 nice to sit in a house and say this is great.

7           But I've lived here. This is my  
8 home. I've lived here for 50-some years on  
9 the ocean. This is my home. This is where  
10 I've grown up. And I guess I don't know much.  
11 And the people that sit home, the people that  
12 sit and listen to the NGOs, and how great they  
13 are, and how great wind farm is going to be,  
14 they are not the panacea that everybody thinks  
15 they are.

16           Europe, the fisherman in Europe  
17 are not happy with them. They don't like  
18 them. I've talked to the fishermen in Europe.  
19 Draggers, like I am, they don't fish in the  
20 wind farm. They can't. It's a hazard.

21           The wind farm service vessels,  
22 they turn their radars off when they work in  
23 the radar fields because of all the  
24 interference.



1           So people that say it's not a  
2 problem, it's a problem.

3           So I'm not -- I'm a hundred  
4 percent against these wind farms. I'm a  
5 hundred percent against foreign companies  
6 coming in here and telling the fishermen to go  
7 blank themselves.

8           So that's just my opinion, but  
9 like I say, I've been doing this a long time.  
10 I started in 1964, so I think I've got a  
11 little bit of experience.

12           Thank you.

13           CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
14 Thank you for your comments.

15           Peter, you're next, then John,  
16 Nicole, Carli and Carry (sic). Peter, want to  
17 go ahead?

18           PETER FLOURNOY: Thank you. But I  
19 do have to ask if you can hear me.

20           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yes, a little  
21 bit louder perhaps. I can hear you, but if  
22 you can move your volume just a stitch up,  
23 that would be great. So go ahead and state  
24 and spell your name.

1                   PETER FLOURNOY:   Okay.   Peter H.  
2   Flournoy, the last name is F-l-o-u-r-n-o-y.

3                   Is that better?

4                   CHRISTINE DAVIS:   A little bit  
5   better.   Thank you.   Yep.

6                   PETER FLOURNOY:   I wanted to thank  
7   you for this opportunity to speak because I  
8   don't actually have a dog in the East Coast  
9   fight, if you want to call that a fight.

10                  But I represent the American  
11   Fishermen's Research Foundation, which is made  
12   up of albacore fishermen here on the West  
13   Coast.

14                  One of the things about going so  
15   far towards the end, is on the good side, you  
16   get to hear what everybody else said, so you  
17   might be able to make a couple of points  
18   there.

19                  On the bad side, you have to keep  
20   crossing out what you wrote down to say  
21   because other people have said it.   So I'll  
22   try to keep it not repetitive.

23                  Although I must say, Mark pointed  
24   out something that I was going to say, and

1 that is, unfortunately, many of the people who  
2 talked about with commercial fishing and  
3 fishermen are not actually very well informed.

4 In my youth, I spent a lot of time  
5 around Long Island, Martha's Vineyard, Block  
6 Island, et cetera, fishing for large tunas.  
7 But that was a long time ago. That was in the  
8 days when you could pull up a lobster trap,  
9 stick a six-pack of beer in it, and everything  
10 was okay. Can't do that anymore.

11 I spent 10 years with the United  
12 States State Department working to protect our  
13 200-nautical mile exclusive, in that time,  
14 Fishing Conservation Zone; now it's called  
15 EEZ, or Exclusive Economic Zone.

16 Since then, I've spent about 40  
17 years representing fishermen in  
18 internationally managed fisheries for tunas,  
19 sword fish, and other species.

20 My albacore clients are concerned  
21 about climate change as much as those people  
22 who have spoken before me, and care about it  
23 with the same passion that those people have  
24 spoken with because they do understand, as

1 someone mentioned, that if we don't get a  
2 handle on climate change, our fisheries are  
3 going to be ruined by changing weather  
4 patterns, maybe sea level rise -- excuse me --  
5 rise, et cetera.

6           Some people have talked about  
7 plastic pollution and waste and overfishing.  
8 But what they don't understand is that the  
9 U.S. Government doesn't let commercial  
10 fishermen do any of those things. And yet,  
11 even though our fisheries are sustainable and  
12 clean, the fish American consumers eat is 70  
13 to 85 percent caught by foreign fishermen and  
14 companies.

15           We need U.S. fishing people. Just  
16 ask those people who are living through, as we  
17 all are, COVID-19, meat, chicken and other  
18 shortages in our supermarkets. And yet, out  
19 here in California, down in our commercial  
20 dockside, we supply the local people with high  
21 protein, sustainable, fresh, American-caught  
22 seafood.

23           You know, one of the things that I  
24 must say is that at-sea renewable energy is

1 not the silver bullet to solve climate change,  
2 sea level rise, et cetera. In a way, I wish  
3 it were. It would make life a lot simpler.

4 But it seems to me, from what I've  
5 heard, that basically what the fishermen who  
6 have spoken before me are asking for, is for a  
7 seat at the table, and for some new or renewed  
8 cooperation so that they don't lose their  
9 livelihood.

10 I was going to talk about the U.S.  
11 Coast Guard, quote, unquote, study, but I  
12 don't have to do that because someone else  
13 took care of that.

14 And as you can tell, I'm going  
15 through my notes trying to figure out what I  
16 haven't crossed out yet.

17 Ah. There were some people who  
18 talked about the vastness of the Atlantic  
19 Ocean; you know, fishermen can fish anywhere.  
20 Well, that's not actually true. There are  
21 many areas on the East Coast, you're  
22 intimately familiar with it, because it was  
23 just a big political hoo-ha that many areas  
24 are closed because different presidents had

1 designated them as national monuments. That's  
2 not the extent of it. There are sanctuaries,  
3 there are marine protected areas. There are  
4 all kinds of areas that for one reason or  
5 another fishermen cannot fish in. And they  
6 are very concerned when they see large areas  
7 being taken away from them at this point. And  
8 I think they -- they should be.

9 I don't have, actually, a  
10 calculation for what it is on the West Coast  
11 for closed areas, but I do know that in the  
12 EEZ, around Hawaii, because of sanctuaries,  
13 closed areas, et cetera, the Hawaiians there  
14 can only fish about 15 percent of the  
15 Exclusive Economic Zone around Hawaii.

16 I also am concerned by outsourcing  
17 our country's energy needs, which is pretty  
18 much what I see happening, given the rapidity  
19 with which many of these companies are pushing  
20 ahead.

21 Haven't we learned anything from  
22 the last six months about outsourcing personal  
23 protective equipment, medicines, respirators,  
24 masks?

1           I am not a talker. In fact, I  
2 wish I had been one of the never-talkers to  
3 start with, but I believe in cooperation not  
4 confrontation, and I believe that's what all  
5 the fishermen are asking for here. Somehow,  
6 they were either at the table and got shoved  
7 aside, or they weren't at the table at all.

8           Yes, BOEM has done lots and lots  
9 of studies, but they haven't done studies on  
10 vibration, magnetism, electric currents, and  
11 other impacts on fisheries -- fisheries  
12 migration, fisheries spawning, fisheries  
13 habitat.

14           Most remaining commercial  
15 fishermen, with some exceptions of families  
16 that have been in the business for years and  
17 worked hard and been successful, but most of  
18 the fishermen, at least here on the West Coast  
19 are small business men, and they are part of  
20 generations of families that have fished.

21           Small business men are the  
22 backbone of our economy, as we have seen.

23           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Peter? Peter?

24           PETER FLOURNOY: Yes?

1                   CHRISTINE DAVIS: Can I ask you to  
2 wrap it up? If you want to, we can put you at  
3 the end of the queue, but we do have a few  
4 more, and I'm cognizant of the hour that we've  
5 already reached here. So if you wouldn't mind  
6 --

7                   PETER FLOURNOY: No, I'll wrap it  
8 up. I didn't have my stopwatch going.

9                   So to some extent, we're facing  
10 old enemies in the sense that our salmon  
11 streams were ruined by banks investing in  
12 ranching and development, and energy companies  
13 that brought in those days that the way to get  
14 energy was by building multiple dams, which  
15 actually we're tearing down now.

16                   Now we're facing another group of  
17 huge energy companies, their bankers. And  
18 again, the solution for our energy needs seems  
19 to be just in one place, offshore wind farms.

20                   Thank you.

21                   CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
22 Next, let's go ahead with John, and then we  
23 got Nicole, Carli, Carry (sic), and Annie.

24                   So Nicole? I mean, John. Go



1 ahead. Sorry. John, you're next. Do we  
2 still have John? Okay. I'm not hearing --  
3 let's wait a few minutes and see if you can  
4 get John on the line.

5 OPERATOR: John's line is open.

6 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. John?  
7 John, you might be on mute, by chance? John,  
8 we're not hearing you quite yet, so --

9 OPERATOR: If he shows back up in  
10 the queue, I'll go ahead and add him.

11 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Can you  
12 bring me to Nicole, please?

13 OPERATOR: I can.

14 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you.

15 OPERATOR: Nicole, your line is  
16 open.

17 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Hello, Nicole.  
18 Go ahead.

19 NICOLE DIPAOLO: Can you hear me?

20 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yes, we can hear  
21 you just fine. Thank you, Nicole.

22 NICOLE DIPAOLO: Thank you. Thank  
23 you all. I really appreciate all that  
24 you are doing at BOEM to make

1 these hearings happen, and it has been the  
2 longest night of comments so far, so I really  
3 appreciate what all of the -- all of the  
4 technical challenges and overcoming it  
5 altogether.

6 So I actually tonight am going to  
7 read testimony for Hillary Bright from the  
8 BlueGreen Alliance. She was unable to make  
9 the hearing tonight but wanted her testimony  
10 to be heard.

11 Do you need me to spell her name?

12 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Yeah, if you  
13 don't mind spelling both your name and her  
14 name, that would be just great. Thank you.

15 NICOLE DIPAOLO: Sure thing. So  
16 my name is Nicole, N-i-c-o-l-e, Dipaolo,  
17 D-i-p-a-o-l-o. And Hillary Bright is  
18 H-i-l-l-a-r-y Bright, B-r-i-g-h-t. That's B,  
19 like boy, like a bright star.

20 And she is with the BlueGreen  
21 Alliance. So here is her testimony:

22 Thank you for the opportunity to  
23 speak today. The Vineyard Wind 1 offshore  
24 wind project is a demonstrable example of the

1 founding principles of the BlueGreen Alliance.  
2 We should not have to choose between good jobs  
3 and a clean environment. We can and must have  
4 both.

5 The Vineyard Wind 1 Project will  
6 alone create 33,600 jobs for local residents  
7 and potentially create tens of thousands more  
8 as the supply chain and additional projects  
9 are built out over the next several years.

10 This project presents a tremendous  
11 opportunity for our highly-skilled unionized  
12 work force in the manufacturing and billing  
13 trade.

14 Vineyard Wind pledged to sign the  
15 nation's first non demonstration offshore wind  
16 project labor agreement for Vineyard Wind 1 to  
17 ensure both fair compensation and the highest  
18 construction standards for the project.

19 Following through on this  
20 commitment will set a precedent for this  
21 injury.

22 Offshore wind projects will be  
23 constructed by building trades, union,  
24 ensuring fair wages and consistent work for

1 generations of local tradesmen and women.  
2 This project is an opportunity to not only the  
3 guide -- drive the nation's clean energy  
4 future, but to create quality,  
5 family-sustaining jobs at the same time.

6           The SEIS claims that if Vineyard  
7 Wind is not approved, the economic potential  
8 of the offshore wind industry will be realized  
9 by future projects. However, this claim  
10 ignores the possibility that the failure of  
11 Vineyard Wind 1 will have a chilling effect on  
12 future investments and could send the signal  
13 that the United States is not serious about  
14 offshore wind.

15           If Vineyard Wind 1 is not  
16 approved, the chances this industry moves  
17 forward in the United States will be severely  
18 compromised, potentially resulting in a  
19 reduction in projects built as well as  
20 uncertainty in manufacturing supply chain  
21 investments.

22           Additionally, the industry has  
23 already conceded 13,000 megawatts of capacity  
24 in over 1,000 turbine locations by

1 accommodating fisherman with this proposed  
2 one-by-one-nautical-mile layout.

3 As referenced in Alternative -- in  
4 Alternative F in the SEIS, additional transit  
5 lanes would reduce capacity by another roughly  
6 4,000 megawatts in over 300 turbine locations.  
7 This translates to an estimated 1400 turbines  
8 that will not be built. Cancellation of this  
9 project would mean thousands of fewer jobs for  
10 the skilled men and women in the region, with  
11 no additional benefits to navigation safety.

12 In conclusion, we urge approval of  
13 Vineyard Wind 1. This is the greater  
14 renewable energy transition our economy has  
15 seen. The working men and women of the United  
16 States deserve a vision of their future that  
17 integrates economic prosperity and  
18 environmental health.

19 Thank you so much for your time.

20 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. And  
21 next we have Carli, Carry (sic), and then  
22 Annie. And at this moment, that's all I see  
23 in the queue. So if you haven't done so  
24 already, please press Star 1 to speak to the

1 operator and get added, if you want to provide  
2 comments tonight. And then after this, we  
3 will be going to the Q & A session. So I  
4 appreciate everybody's patience tonight, and  
5 patience for each other, and patience as we go  
6 on this process.

7 So with that, I'll turn it over to  
8 Carli. And then Carry (sic) and Annie.

9 So Carli, are you available?

10 CARLI BRENNER: Hi, can you hear  
11 me?

12 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
13 just fine. Thank you.

14 CARLI BRENNER: My name is Carli  
15 Brenner, spelled C-a-r-l-i B-r-e-n-n-e-r.

16 Thank you to BOEM for the  
17 opportunity to speak today. I would like to  
18 voice my enthusiastic support for the Vineyard  
19 Wind offshore wind project.

20 As a student at Boston College  
21 studying political science and environmental  
22 studies, I'm gaining an understanding of the  
23 dramatic and negative impacts climate change  
24 will have on our world. This is especially

1 concerning for the younger generations, like  
2 my own, as well as my children.

3           The State of Massachusetts has set  
4 goals to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and  
5 the Vineyard Wind Project is not only vital to  
6 reaching these goals, but it will also launch  
7 the industrial offshore wind industry in the  
8 U.S. which will minimize this country's  
9 polluting contributions.

10           I would be remiss if I spoke about  
11 climate change without mentioning the national  
12 conversation happening at the moment  
13 surrounding racial justice. Communities of  
14 color and low-income communities are  
15 disproportionately faced with the negative  
16 health impacts as a result of peaker plants or  
17 power plants located nearby them.

18           A future with someone's health and  
19 mortality are determined simply by their  
20 economic circumstances is not a just future.

21           I've seen environmental racism and  
22 classism in my own backyard as children in  
23 Roxbury, Massachusetts, are diagnosed with  
24 asthma six times more often than children in

1 Greater Boston. This is a result of heavy  
2 automobile traffic through the area,  
3 specifically the MBTA buses.

4           Electrifying public transportation  
5 and personal vehicles is another vital part of  
6 mitigating climate change which goes hand in  
7 hand with the benefits of the Vineyard Wind.  
8 However, environmental injustices happen on a  
9 larger scale, too, as the southern hemisphere  
10 already begins to feel the more drastic  
11 effects of climate change, despite the facts  
12 that the northern hemisphere contains the  
13 primary polluters.

14           I recently spent a few months  
15 working with Oxfam, an international  
16 humanitarian NGO which fights climate related  
17 events such as flood or drought as the largest  
18 contributors -- contributor to internal  
19 displacement. My work focused on providing  
20 aid to this displaced person who faced food  
21 insecurity, property loss, and in extreme  
22 cases, are forced to permanently move.

23           All this goes to show that now  
24 more than ever, we need projects like Vineyard



1 Wind to further adjust transition to renewable  
2 energy for all.

3 It's clear when reading the  
4 document that BOEM's SEIS underestimates the  
5 benefits of offshore wind projects and  
6 renewable energy to the wider environmental  
7 justice community as well as the major  
8 positive impacts these projects would present.

9 Vineyard Wind also offers  
10 countless benefits for local stakeholders.  
11 The project will provide 400,000 Massachusetts  
12 homes and businesses with clean and cost  
13 effective electricity. During the first 20  
14 years of the project alone, rate payers will  
15 save \$1.4 billion in energy costs. And in  
16 addition, community members will see 3600 new  
17 jobs created over the life of the project.

18 I am especially appreciative of  
19 Vineyard Wind's prioritization of organized  
20 labor and fair compensation.

21 Overall, this project will be  
22 beneficial for our community, our planet, and  
23 the people who share it. I'm eager to see it  
24 be approved in the coming months after years

1 of studies and analyses as well as recent  
2 delays.

3 Thank you.

4 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. Next  
5 we have Carry (sic), and then Annie. Carry  
6 (sic), are you available?

7 BARRY COHEN: This is Barry  
8 calling. I think it may have been  
9 misunderstood.

10 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. Sure. So  
11 thank you for that. And please state and  
12 spell your name. Thank you.

13 BARRY COHEN: So my name is Barry  
14 Cohen, B-a-r-r-y C-o-h-e-n. And I'm speaking  
15 on behalf of the Atlantic Capes Fisheries.  
16 We're a family-owned business. We operate a  
17 fleet of scallop boats, clam boats, we're  
18 involved in agriculture. There must be at  
19 least 120 crew and captains -- or captains and  
20 crew who make a living at sea with our  
21 company, 450 men and women working in  
22 processing wild caught -- in wild-caught  
23 fisheries.

24 And between our company and some

1 of the other representatives I've heard this  
2 evening, thousands of jobs. And when one  
3 considers the multiplier effect, the  
4 commercial fishing industry is a major  
5 contributor economically from New England down  
6 to the Mid Atlantic. I'm calling from Cape  
7 May, which is second only to New Bedford in  
8 terms of dollar value of wild harvest caught.  
9 And I believe the entire industry is both  
10 concerned with and sensitive to the issues of  
11 climate change. We fully understand the  
12 threat that climate change actually does pose  
13 to the fisheries.

14 I don't believe our industry is  
15 anti-wind. I do believe, looking down at the  
16 process generally, that the -- the failure,  
17 and I think it has been a significant failure,  
18 is one of process.

19 If we look at this holistically,  
20 it should have been known, it should have been  
21 obvious. It was obvious to the commercial  
22 fisheries from the outset that our industry  
23 would be the most vulnerable and negatively  
24 impacted of the ocean users with the onset of

1 offshore wind. And so one would have assumed,  
2 one would have thought, one would have hoped,  
3 number one, that intra-governmental agencies  
4 would have been consulted with each other.

5           For example, our fisheries are  
6 federally permitted fisheries. The National  
7 Marine Fisheries Service knows virtually where  
8 every one of these federally permitted boats  
9 are fishing at any given time. And those can  
10 be actually seen on -- on photographs that  
11 look like lines of spaghetti coming out of our  
12 ports, whether it's New Bedford, whether it's  
13 Port Judith, whether it's Cape May. And --  
14 and it shows where we are fishing.

15           And if those are readily  
16 available, and photographically depicted,  
17 spaghetti lines of where federally permitted  
18 fishing boats are going are actually overlaid  
19 on top of lease areas, one would immediately  
20 see the incredible conflict between these two  
21 industries.

22           Now, that's not to say that the  
23 wind industry and the fishing industry can't  
24 coexist, but one would tend to think that, you

1 know, if -- if -- if these two industries are  
2 the most conflicted, that a process would have  
3 developed that would have attempted to  
4 accommodate both of these.

5 And I'll give you -- Bonnie, who I  
6 don't personally know, who I thought gave a  
7 very great presentation, you know, spoke about  
8 many of these issues. But -- and  
9 specifically, about the fact that mitigation.

10 Now, we are not interested in  
11 financial mitigation. We want to earn our  
12 money by fishing. But interestingly, because  
13 there is no regional approach that has been  
14 taken to that, you have two states that have  
15 come up with compensatory mitigation plans  
16 without fishermen really being involved. And  
17 we have boats that are coming out of Cape May  
18 that are fishing along New Jersey, New York,  
19 Rhode Island, Massachusetts, you know, Maine,  
20 and these boats don't know state borders, and  
21 yet the -- between the wind industry and the  
22 separate states, the fishing industry, which  
23 is a regional fishery is literally kind of cut  
24 out of these conversations because in a sense

1 we were chopped by artificial lines.

2 In fact, I would tend to think it  
3 may be, you know, a constitutional violation,  
4 taking a state-by-state approach when you're  
5 dealing with this type of intrastate industry  
6 such as the commercial fisheries.

7 We have the largest offshore wind  
8 area in the world, these 1400 square miles of  
9 leases. Holistic planning should have  
10 occurred in advance to minimize these impacts.  
11 So I am in favor of RODA's navigation safety  
12 corridor. I would hope that if this project  
13 is approved, it is not used as a template, and  
14 that, in fact, a vigorous process take place  
15 that actually includes the commercial  
16 fisheries, which wants to cooperate. But  
17 every time this effort is made, there is a  
18 smile, yes, we understand, and then  
19 essentially, there is very little that is  
20 truly studied and negotiated.

21 And so I -- it's late. I will  
22 leave it at that. But I do believe that our  
23 industry should not be characterized as being,  
24 you know, anti-green. Our industry should be

1 characterized as a vibrant historically rich,  
2 traditional economic driver along the East  
3 Coast with many of the people who spoke today  
4 coming from these very same communities in  
5 which we should be attempting to live with  
6 amity and with accommodation between these two  
7 industries.

8 And with that, I thank you.

9 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. All  
10 right. Next we have Annie and then John.

11 Annie, do you want to go ahead,  
12 please?

13 ANNIE HAWKINS: Perfect. Can you  
14 hear me okay?

15 CHRISTINE DAVIS: I can hear you  
16 just fine. Thank you.

17 ANNIE HAWKINS: Great. Thank you.  
18 So my name is Annie Hawkins, and I am the  
19 Executive Director of RODA. But I would like  
20 to offer a few brief comments on behalf of  
21 myself as a private citizen, not on behalf of  
22 RODA.

23 So I've heard several comments  
24 tonight about the environmental justice

1 analysis in the SEIS. And on the other hand,  
2 I've heard tonight and consistently, in the  
3 last eight years that I've been working in  
4 this arena of fisheries and offshore wind,  
5 that the fishing industry is united in its  
6 concern about the uncertainties associated  
7 with offshore wind development and with the  
8 significant impact that they are going to bear  
9 the brunt of which is highlighted in the SEIS.

10 So aside from my work with RODA  
11 and the natural resource science and policy,  
12 I've spent my whole life living in and working  
13 with disadvantaged minority in  
14 underrepresented communities and individuals.

15 I've spent thousands of hours  
16 using the benefits of my education in  
17 community organizing, providing legal  
18 assistance to incarcerated victims of racial  
19 disparities in the justice system, and even  
20 representing many who are detained without  
21 charge at Guantanamo Bay.

22 So I take exception to accusations  
23 of apathy to low-income minority communities,  
24 which I heard a few of tonight. I especially



1 take exception when these accusations are  
2 leveled at the same time that people are  
3 summarily ignoring the unanimous concerns of  
4 fishermen.

5 I won't -- encourage you all not  
6 to lose sight of the fact that on the South  
7 Coast and islands, and also along the coast,  
8 the low-income and at-risk communities are  
9 overwhelmingly employed in the seafood  
10 industry. The seafood industry has provided  
11 continuity, stability, and culture in these  
12 places for hundreds of years. I can't speak  
13 directly on behalf of those communities since  
14 I'm not living their experience, but I do know  
15 that to the extent that offshore wind jobs are  
16 temporary or transitory in nature, they can  
17 never replace what those communities have  
18 built and maintained for generations.

19 So we really need to figure this  
20 out. And again, to repeat what each fishing  
21 expert

22 who had spoken tonight has voiced,  
23 most of them are very concerned about climate  
24 change and the environment, but they have also

1 unanimously said they are concerned about the  
2 economics and environmental -- economic and  
3 environmental uncertainty. And the SEIS with  
4 it's facts-based analysis also reflects that.

5 So over and over again, I've heard  
6 everyone who is not a fisherman saying that  
7 these concerns have been addressed. And I  
8 just want to put these wonderful intentions  
9 that I hear voiced towards -- towards justice  
10 and equity toward a genuine effort to hear  
11 what these communities are saying on their own  
12 behalf and to afford equity to those voices as  
13 well.

14 Thank you.

15 CHRISTINE DAVIS: Thank you. John  
16 is going to be next, and he is what I have as  
17 our last speaker. So I'm going to make this  
18 call and one more call for anyone that likes  
19 to provide comment tonight, please press Star  
20 1, be patient to speak to the live operator.  
21 And we'll go from there.

22 So with that, I'll turn it over to  
23 John.

24 JOHN HARAN: John Haran, J-o-h-n

1 H-a-r-a-n, Northeast Fisheries Sector 13.

2 I've been attending meetings on  
3 behalf of fishermen for six, seven years on  
4 this issue, the wind farm issue. And I've  
5 asked one question repeatedly, and I get no  
6 answer, and the question is decommissioning.  
7 There is no set plan for the decommissioning  
8 of these wind farms, and yet the social  
9 justice people, the environmentalist, the  
10 climate change people sit idle.

11 Should this type of development be  
12 on land, be a solar farm or a wind farm, there  
13 are decommissioning plans that are bonded in  
14 place before they start construction. Yet  
15 nothing like this is in place for this type of  
16 project. What they are basically going to do  
17 is they are going to litter the ocean with the  
18 worn-out turbines in

19 to 30 years. Thank you.

20 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.

21 Thank you. We'll give it one last call for  
22 speakers.

23 And while we wait just a minute in  
24 case anyone is trying to press Star 1 now, I

1 want to remind folks that we've been taking  
2 questions and using the Q & A box, and we'll  
3 be getting to that in just a moment. And  
4 looking forward to listening to some of the  
5 subject matter experts address things that  
6 have been in that Q & A box and also stated  
7 during the meeting.

8           You can also go to the BOEM  
9 website and to the Vineyard Wind virtual  
10 meeting room to see a number of pieces of  
11 information that might answer questions as  
12 well.

13           So with that, I'm just going to do  
14 a quick check with the operator. Do we have  
15 anyone else queued up to speak?

16           OPERATOR: At this time, I am  
17 showing no one is queued up.

18           CHRISTINE DAVIS: Okay. So with  
19 that, I will officially close the public  
20 testimony for the fifth and final session of  
21 the public comment period at, let's see, 9:21  
22 p.m. Eastern Time.

23           All right. So let's move on to  
24 the question-and-answer period, and if we can

1 move to the next slide please.

2 Two-way communication is very much  
3 a priority for BOEM, and so we're going to  
4 answer questions at this time. We're going to  
5 start answering the questions that everyone  
6 has already submitted. But if you would like  
7 to add some more in the next

8 to 20 minutes or so, please do so  
9 by -- if you're on Zoom, go into the Q & A  
10 box.

11 Several people are on the phone,  
12 too, so we encourage you to stay with us, and  
13 we'll be reading the questions and orally  
14 providing those answers.

15 We've had several people been with  
16 us tonight that are dedicated to watching that  
17 Q & A box and preparing answers to the  
18 questions. But additionally, I would also  
19 encourage you to visit the Frequently Asked  
20 Questions on the virtual meeting web page that  
21 I mentioned just a few minutes ago.

22 So with that, at this time, I'm  
23 going to turn it over to Isis Farmer with BOEM  
24 to answer questions and open the meeting up to

1 further questions.

2 As a reminder, please use that  
3 Zoom Q & A function to submit them.

4 With that, Isis, I turn it over to  
5 you.

6 ISIS FARMER: Thank you for that  
7 introduction, Christine. And thank you to  
8 everyone for hanging in with us. I know it's  
9 been a long evening. And so we thank you for  
10 -- for still being here and listening to us as  
11 we enter into this Q & A session.

12 My name is Isis Farmer, and I'm an  
13 environmental coordinator with the Bureau of  
14 Ocean Energy Management's office of renewable  
15 energy programs, and I'm also one of the  
16 co-leads for the Vineyard Wind Supplemental  
17 EIS.

18 And so we have several questions  
19 that have been submitted throughout our  
20 meeting, and so I'm going to start off by --  
21 by reading off some of the general questions  
22 that we received and providing those answers  
23 verbally.

24 Don't worry if you don't see the

1 answers to the -- or the questions right away.  
2 You'll see the questions start to pop up as we  
3 answer them verbally.

4           So the first question that we got  
5 was: Where can we access the court reporter's  
6 transcripts -- transcript that are part of the  
7 public record?

8           So once the transcripts become  
9 available, we will post the transcripts to  
10 regulations.gov. And in addition, the  
11 recording for BOEM's public -- virtual public  
12 meeting from June 26th is now available on the  
13 virtual meeting room web page. And the other  
14 recordings for those other meetings will be  
15 posted as well as soon as they become  
16 available.

17           The next question asks: Can BOEM  
18 provide a count of the total number of  
19 participants who attended the five Vineyard  
20 Wind BOEM virtual public hearings, and if  
21 possible, the number of online commenters.

22           So the virtual public meetings  
23 have been very well attended thus far. The  
24 numbers have actually been higher than what we

1 typically get with our in-person meetings.  
2 The number of total attendees at each meeting  
3 have ranged from approximately 150 attendees  
4 to just under 300 participants.

5 About 15 to over 30 verbal  
6 comments have been provided at each previous  
7 meeting. This evening, I think we had close  
8 to 50. So quite a bit of participation this  
9 evening.

10 And over 40 comments have been  
11 received. So -- at tonight's meeting, as I  
12 just said.

13 So BOEM will continue to accept  
14 comments throughout the public comment period  
15 which ends July 27th. And we've received  
16 about 140 comments through regulations.gov to  
17 date.

18 And our next question is about why  
19 sections of the COP volumes, which are  
20 referenced in Supplemental EIS, are redacted.

21 So certain portions of the  
22 Construction and Operations Plan, such as the  
23 marine archeological resources assessment  
24 report, contains sensitive information



1 relating to the locations of archeological  
2 sites and indigenous tribal and traditional  
3 cultural properties. And so making that  
4 information public could increase the risk of  
5 looting or damage and destruction of those  
6 places that the Department of the Interior is  
7 charged with protecting under Section 304 of  
8 the National Historic Preservation Act.

9           So the information is, however,  
10 being made available to consulting parties  
11 participating in our Section 106 review. And  
12 we provide summaries of those information, you  
13 know, where applicable in the Supplemental  
14 EIS.

15           Other portions of the COPs that  
16 are not made publicly available include  
17 proprietary or confidential business  
18 information, which includes wind resource  
19 data, meta ocean data, and geophysical and  
20 geotechnical data.

21           And for our next set of questions,  
22 I'm going to ask for Jim Bennett, our program  
23 manager, to turn on his camera and unmute his  
24 line.

1                   JIM BENNETT:    Okay.

2                   ISIS FARMER:    Thanks, Jim.    And  
3 I'm going to read off a couple of questions  
4 for you.

5                   So the first question I have for  
6 you is:    During -- during meetings between the  
7 commercial fishing industry and wind energy  
8 developers, who breaks the tie?    For example,  
9 industry wants two-nautical-mile spacing  
10 between turbines, and wind developers want  
11 one-nautical-mile, how is this decided?

12                  JIM BENNETT:    Thank you, Isis.  
13 Again, I'm Jim Bennett.    I'm the program  
14 manager for renewables.    And thank  
15 you for the question.

16                  It goes right to the heart of our  
17 decision-making process.

18                  I want to assure you that all  
19 input will be considered in our analysis.    And  
20 this analysis that we're doing through the  
21 need for process and other processes will help  
22 the Department of the Interior and BOEM meet  
23 our goal of getting this right.

24                  The decision-making authority for

1 approval or disapproval or approval with  
2 modifications of the Construction and  
3 Operation Plans submitted by Vineyard Wind  
4 ultimately rests with the Department of the  
5 Interior. However, that decision-making is  
6 not done in a vacuum.

7           Our task here at BOEM is to ensure  
8 that the decision is well informed, and that  
9 is indeed one of the reasons why we're  
10 gathered virtually here today. Our -- we do  
11 feel that we have the best available  
12 information, and that the decision-maker is  
13 available to take into account stakeholder  
14 input, analysis in the EIS, available data,  
15 consultation with other agencies, such as the  
16 U.S. Coast Guard, or NOAA, and of course the  
17 state. We remain committed to putting that  
18 information together to ensure an informed  
19 decision, and permitted to -- a permitting  
20 process that minimizes user conflicts and  
21 establishes a strong foundation for wind  
22 projects moving forward.

23           ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Jim. So  
24 the next question I have for you, is West

1           Coast projects appear to be  
2 rapidly developing with no real participation  
3 from fishermen. With the development  
4 schedule, there appears to be no time for  
5 research specific to the West Coast where  
6 floating wind turbines will be used.

7           JIM BENNETT: Well, thank you for  
8 the question. It's an excellent point. I'd  
9 like to first note, from a program standpoint,  
10 the renewable energy development on the  
11 pacific -- in the pacific is at a much earlier  
12 change in BOEM's process compared to the  
13 Atlantic.

14           The pacific is in the process of  
15 identifying areas appropriate for leasing, and  
16 there are currently no leases issued.

17           Planning for offshore wind has  
18 been on -- has been ongoing in Hawaii and  
19 California, and it's in preliminary  
20 discussions in Oregon.

21           So while some of the information  
22 from the East Coast and globally can be  
23 useful, indeed a lot of West Coast information  
24 is essential. And for this reason,

1 stakeholder meetings have been taking place  
2 for several years on the West Coast, including  
3 meetings focused on learning more about  
4 commercial and recreational fishing data  
5 needs.

6 BOEM is continuing to work with  
7 the State of California to collecting shared  
8 respective data, and these efforts will  
9 continue throughout the planning and leasing  
10 process.

11 But in addition to research, BOEM  
12 specifically, it has in the past and continues  
13 to fund a number of scientific studies aimed  
14 at better understanding fish and fishing. I  
15 would note that this is true of all activities  
16 on the Outer Continental Shelf that we work  
17 with during the environmental studies program.

18 These renewable energy studies,  
19 among many others, can be found on the BOEM  
20 website including potential impacts to  
21 commercial fish species, our subsea  
22 transmission tables, and electromagnetic  
23 field, habitat characterization studies, and  
24 potential economic impacts from offshore wind

1 development.

2 At start, much more work and  
3 research is anticipated in the years ahead for  
4 activities on the West Coast.

5 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Jim. And  
6 so next we had a couple of NEPA or  
7 process questions, and so I would  
8 like for Jenn Bucatari to turn on her camera  
9 and unmute her line.

10 JENNIFER BUCATARI: Hey.

11 ISIS FARMER: Hey, Jenn, thank  
12 you. So the questions I have for you, the  
13 first

14 question is: When stake -- when  
15 will stakeholders know more about mitigation  
16 solutions given the identification of major  
17 impacts to fisheries, navigation, and research  
18 surveys? The question also mentions concerns  
19 about NOAA or NMFS surveys.

20 JENNIFER BUCATARI: Okay. Great,  
21 thank you. So BOEM decides these case --  
22 these issues on

23 a case-by-case basis balancing  
24 multiple site-specific factors and

1 considerations and reserves the right to  
2 impose restrictions on development or require  
3 specific mitigation measures if necessary.

4 As Jim Bennett stated in his  
5 opening remark, BOEM's objective is to ensure  
6 that offshore wind, commercial fishing, and  
7 other uses of the ocean can all be pursued  
8 successfully together.

9 This does not mean that there  
10 won't be any impacts. There will be, but our  
11 goal is that all users can successfully  
12 coexist.

13 The National Marine Fisheries  
14 Service, or NMFS, would require additional  
15 resources to evaluate options and to design  
16 and implement survey adaptations to account  
17 for the offshore wind facilities in their  
18 survey study areas.

19 These impacts may begin to occur  
20 over the next 10 years and would increase as  
21 the projects were constructed assuming that  
22 all the projects are approved and built on  
23 schedule.

24 So BOEM has been working with NMFS

1 to ensure that the impacts to their research,  
2 the scientific surveys, were appropriately  
3 analyzed in the SEIS and is committed to  
4 working with NMFS -- we're committed to keep  
5 working with NMFS towards a long-term solution  
6 to account for changes in survey methodology  
7 as a result of the wind farm structure.

8 To that end, BOEM is funding a  
9 study -- will be funding a study with NMFS  
10 this year to investigate some of these issues.

11 If you would like to see some more  
12 information, Appendix D of the draft EIS  
13 outlines the mitigation and monitoring that  
14 could be required for the project, and the  
15 final EIS will include more detailed  
16 discussion of the mitigation and monitoring  
17 measures that are determined to be needed.

18 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Jenn.

19 And the next question is a question asking

20 for clarity on Vineyard Wind's  
21 landfall location, specifically where Vineyard  
22 Wind is pursuing Alternative D, the Covell  
23 Beach landfall, and not Alternative A, the  
24 proposed action which includes the New



1 Hampshire Avenue landfall.

2 JENNIFER BUCATARI: So Vineyard  
3 Wind has specified to BOEM that they are no  
4 longer pursuing the New Hampshire Avenue  
5 landfall location. So the Covell Beach  
6 landfall location, which is described in  
7 Alternative B -- B, as in boy -- in the draft  
8 EIS and the Supplemental EIS is Vineyard  
9 Wind's preferred option.

10 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Jenn. So  
11 for our next questions, we have a couple  
12 of questions about commercial  
13 fishing. And so can I have Ursula Howson turn  
14 on her camera and unmute her phone?

15 URSULA HOWSON: Hi, Isis. Can you  
16 hear me okay?

17 ISIS FARMER: I can hear you  
18 great. So the first question that we have for  
19 you on

20 commercial fishing has -- it's  
21 multiple parts. So I'm going to try to break  
22 it out into sort of two pieces.

23 So the first part of the question  
24 is: How do fishermen and processors have

1 their voices heard? Who represents their  
2 concerns?

3 URSULA HOWSON: Okay. Thank you,  
4 Isis. First of all, my name is Ursula Howson,  
5 and I

6 am a fishery rep for BOEM.  
7 Fishing is of important use to the Exclusive  
8 Economic Zone that BOEM must  
9 consider in its decision-making; therefore,  
10 BOEM regularly engages with commercial and  
11 recreational fishermen to understand their  
12 concerns from both a biological and a  
13 socioeconomic impact perspective. This has  
14 been accomplished through focused engagement  
15 with regional fishery management councils,  
16 participation at statewide fishery advisory  
17 group meetings, and the convening of the  
18 national academy fisheries steering committee.

19 BOEM incorporates fishing industry  
20 recommendations into the leasing process by  
21 issuing guidelines to leaseholders, by  
22 including lease stipulations to develop and  
23 implement a fisheries communication plan, by  
24 developing a fishery industry web page, and by

1 working closely with state partners to address  
2 regional fisheries monitored and associated  
3 with potential impact of offshore wind  
4 development.

5 In addition, during the SEIS  
6 comment period, BOEM continues to reach out to  
7 the fishing community to ensure the scope and  
8 the content of the SEIS is understood, the  
9 commenting procedures are clear, and to  
10 determine if additional engagement is needed.

11 Next week, BOEM will participate  
12 in a virtual town hall hosted by the  
13 Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, or  
14 RODA. This town hall will bring together RODA  
15 members and other commercial fishermen for  
16 additional discussion of the SEIS.

17 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.  
18 And for the second part of that question, how  
19 does BOEM apply our fisheries data  
20 on both fishing grounds and from fisheries who  
21 have decades of fishing data? Is BOEM  
22 considering the impacts of the cost and  
23 productivity on the fishing community and  
24 seafood and food security?

1                   URSULA HOWSON: I'll answer that  
2 question. Regarding where -- fisheries data  
3 sources, we

4                   use the best available data  
5 throughout the fisheries both spatially and  
6 temporally for our analyses. We also rely on  
7 published information on current and former  
8 fishing grounds.

9                   For example, for impact solely  
10 from the wind development area, we looked at  
11 local sources such as the Rhode Island  
12 Department of Environmental Management, as  
13 well as regional sources, such as the National  
14 Marine Fisheries Service.

15                   In the SEIS, we supplemented the  
16 draft -- the draft EIS with regional  
17 cumulative analyses.

18                   We value the total economic  
19 benefits of the fishing and processing  
20 industry by analyzing the shoreside first  
21 point of sale value from impacted areas in  
22 order to understand the magnitude of the  
23 expense revenue in both dollars and  
24 percentages.

1           The percentages exposed don't  
2 appear to indicate measurable impact to  
3 seafood in reports. Sections 3.11.1.1 and  
4 3.11.2.1 of the SEIS address the impacts of  
5 future offshore wind activities, and the  
6 cumulative impacts of a proposed action on  
7 commercial fisheries and for-hire recreational  
8 fisheries.

9           For the value of commercial  
10 fisheries, Appendix B includes Table 3.11-2,  
11 and that shows the value and volume of  
12 commercial fishery findings by port for 2016  
13 through 2018.

14           Table 3.11-3, which shows the  
15 average annual percentage of total Mid  
16 Atlantic and New England fishery revenue  
17 exposed to offshore wind energy development by  
18 a fishery management plan from 2010 to 2020.

19           And then Table -- Table 3.11-4,  
20 which showed the average annual revenue from  
21 all lease areas for exposed port groups from  
22 2013 through 2018.

23           ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.  
24 So the next question is: Why was fishery

1 data previously unavailable, and  
2 where did the new data come from in the  
3 Supplemental EIS?

4 URSULA HOWSON: Thanks, Isis. Not  
5 all of the fisheries data presented in  
6 the SEIS are entirely new.

7 There's a monitoring system, or B and F data,  
8 were included in the draft EIS. But the focus  
9 is they don't know location and the intensity  
10 of effort.

11 However, as a result of the public  
12 comments on the draft EIS regarding layout,  
13 new data fields were included in the SEIS to  
14 show vessel direction. These data allow for  
15 frequentation of polar histograms that helps  
16 explain the direction of travel in the wind  
17 development area and beyond.

18 These polar histograms show how  
19 the orientation of vessels transiting and  
20 fishing within the Southern New England lease  
21 area should vary by activity, by fishery, and  
22 by area. They could be found in Appendix B,  
23 Figures 3.11-1 through 3.11-6.

24 Previously, BOEM did not have

1 access to that data field and vessel -- at the  
2 vessel level information because it was  
3 protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
4 Conservation and Management Act.

5 So we had to work closely with the  
6 National Marine Fisheries Service to access  
7 and analyze that information.

8 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.

9 And so the last question that I have for you

10 is whether it's possible to pull a  
11 hydraulic sea clam dredge or a tow net through  
12 -- in between a wind turbine generator a mile  
13 -- that are spaced a mile apart. And I'm  
14 assuming they mean one nautical mile apart.

15 URSULA HOWSON: Thanks, Isis.

16 BOEM believes it is possible to tow a net or

17 a dredge through a wind energy  
18 area. However, our analysis relies on the  
19 testimony of fishermen that the risks posed by  
20 the offshore wind facilities may preclude some  
21 fishing methods, fishing under certain  
22 conditions.

23 Ultimately fishing in a wind  
24 facility is going to be the decision of the

1 fishing vessel operator. Impact to structures  
2 or mobile tending gear such as dredges, and  
3 such as trawls are analyzed in the SEIS in  
4 Sections 3.11 -- 3.11.1.1, and 3.11.2.1, and  
5 in Appendix B in Table 3.11-1.

6 ISIS FARMER: And thank you,  
7 Ursula. And so I think we're just -- maybe we  
8 just

9 need to pause for a moment to see  
10 if we get any additional questions.

11 CHRISTINE DAVIS: As we -- oh,  
12 yeah, I was going to say, as we wait, just a  
13 reminder that you can submit comments and  
14 questions in writing to BOEM, and also online  
15 at regulations.gov. So I just wanted to point  
16 that out as we wait for the final questions to  
17 come in.

18 I just want to thank everybody for  
19 joining us today and the previous days. It's  
20 been a pleasure and a privilege to be with  
21 everyone. I thank BOEM and my colleagues.  
22 And more importantly thanks to those in the  
23 public that have participated in this process  
24 and have provided comments and asked



1 questions.

2           So Isis, I think you have one more  
3 question. And you know, we'll give it just a  
4 few more minutes. It is quite late, but if  
5 you want to put a question in the Q & A box,  
6 we will be wrapping this up very shortly.

7           ISIS FARMER: So we got two more  
8 questions. And so I'll take the first. And  
9 one --

10           the -- one of the questions we  
11 received is: Is the town hall open next -- is  
12 the town hall next week open to the public?

13           And so I -- I'm assuming -- I  
14 guess I initially thought this question was  
15 referring to additional virtual public  
16 meetings, and, you know, today is our last  
17 one. But I would mention that our virtual  
18 meeting room web page will be open throughout  
19 the 45-day public comment period, which again  
20 closes on July 27th. So I'll mention that.  
21 And that information, which includes  
22 prerecorded presentations and posters, will be  
23 available -- will be available on our website  
24 throughout the public comment period through

1 July 27th.

2                   And so the town hall that I think  
3 was mentioned might be referring to the RODA  
4 town hall meeting. And so for that question,  
5 as well as our last question, I'm going to  
6 turn things back over to Ursula Howson. And  
7 so I'm just going to give her a minute to get  
8 her -- her camera turned back on as well as  
9 her line unmuted.

10                   URSULA HOWSON: Okay, Isis. So,  
11 yeah, I apologize, what was the -- we were  
12 addressing the one question that came in, is  
13 that the one?

14                   ISIS FARMER: That's correct. And  
15 actually, it's -- if you don't mind, I'm going  
16 to -- you know, back to one previous question  
17 that we got specifically about fishing  
18 landings.

19                   So one question that also came in  
20 was about how we measure commercial fishing  
21 landings.

22                   So specifically, it asks when we  
23 account for the amount of a tow that takes  
24 place within a wind energy area, or I guess in

1 this case, within the Vineyard Wind  
2 development area, but we do not include the  
3 overall value of the tow, if it was started  
4 outside of that area.

5 So Ursula, would you mind  
6 providing us with some clarification on that?

7 URSULA HOWSON: Sure. Yes, that  
8 is a good comment, and we will

9 consider that for the SEIS. There  
10 is data available that is based on VMS

11 point data in dealer reports. If  
12 any point from that trip fell into a wind  
13 development area, it was counted as a trip.

14 The DEIS, specifically, Table  
15 3.4.5-7A use weighting. So the more of the  
16 trip in the wind development area, the heavier  
17 the weight is; and the less in the wind  
18 development area, the less weight that trip  
19 has to the overall analysis.

20 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.

21 And so with respect to the -- I guess the

22 last part of the question, where  
23 we were going to go back to the question about  
24 the town hall meeting that's being hosted by

1 the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance,  
2 do we know if that meeting is open to the  
3 public?

4           URSULA HOWSON: If you could just  
5 bear with us for one minute. We believe that  
6 the town hall is open to the public, but  
7 people do have to register -- yes, that has  
8 been confirmed. And if we could get the  
9 website, or the URL for it, that would be  
10 helpful, if you will. Just stand by.

11           The link is on RODA's website for  
12 registration. And I believe it's RODA.org --  
13 excuse me, RODAfisheries.org. So it is  
14 <https://RODAfisheries.org/events/>. And let me  
15 spell that out for you.

16           Again,  
17 <https://RODAfisheries.org/events/>. And I  
18 believe someone will put it in the chat. And  
19 I just state that for everyone on the phone.  
20 Again, that was RODAfisheries.org/events/.  
21 And the town hall is open to the public, and  
22 you may register through that website.

23           ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.  
24 And so we're getting a couple of messages

1 through the chat, so if we wouldn't mind just  
2 pausing here for a moment to make sure that we  
3 have all the questions answered.

4           URSULA HOWSON: I believe I may  
5 need to repeat the answer for the last  
6 fisheries related question. Can someone  
7 confirm that?

8           ISIS FARMER: Yeah, I think I'm  
9 going to -- yes, I'm going to confirm that for  
10 you Ursula.

11           So that question was about when we  
12 are looking at tow information. Let me go  
13 back under our answered questions so that I  
14 can make sure that I'm reading the question  
15 accurately for tow information.

16           Yeah, so the question was: When  
17 you measure commercial fishing landings, don't  
18 you take into account the amount of the tow  
19 that takes place in the wind energy area? And  
20 again, in this case, we're talking about the  
21 Vineyard Wind 1 development area. And do not  
22 include the overall value of the tow if it  
23 started outside of that area.

24           So would you mind giving us the

1 answer to that question again? The person who  
2 submitted that question lost audio and so  
3 wasn't able to hear the response.

4 URSULA HOWSON: Okay. Are we  
5 confirmed that she's back on? Hopefully?

6 ISIS FARMER: Yep, yep. She just  
7 put in the chat saying she's back on the line.  
8 Yep.

9 URSULA HOWSON: Great. So the  
10 comment was that we believe that it is  
11 a good comment, and we will  
12 consider it for the SEIS.

13 There are data available that are  
14 based on VMS data -- VMS point data, and VMS,  
15 again, that's a motoring system, point data  
16 that link dealer reports. If any point from a  
17 trip for this data set fell into a wind  
18 development area, that it was counted as a  
19 trip. The DEIS, specifically Table 3.4.5-7A,  
20 uses weighting. So that more of the trip in  
21 the wind development area -- the more of the  
22 trip in the wind development area, the heavier  
23 the weight; and the less of the trip in the  
24 wind development area, the less weight that

1 trip has to the overall analysis.

2 But again, we will consider that  
3 in the SEIS. There's simply not enough time  
4 this evening to address that in a lot of  
5 detail, but -- but it will be in the SEIS.

6 ISIS FARMER: Thank you, Ursula.  
7 And I just wanted to, again, say, you know,  
8 thank you for everyone who's  
9 submitted questions and also provided us with  
10 comments this evening. You know, we  
11 appreciated that you waited until the end to  
12 have your questions answered. We just wanted  
13 to make sure that given that it was our last  
14 virtual meeting, that we gave everyone the  
15 amount of time necessary to be able to make  
16 sure that they were able to provide their  
17 comments on the record. So we thank you for  
18 your patience.

19 And with that, I'm going to turn  
20 it back over to Christine.

21 CHRISTINE DAVIS: All right.  
22 Thank you, Isis.

23 And thank you, everyone, for being  
24 with us the last few days and tonight as we --

1 as we go late into the evening.

2 I wanted to mention a couple of  
3 things. You know, the public comment period  
4 is still open until July 27th, and there are  
5 opportunities to provide comments in writing  
6 and online.

7 Also, the meetings have been  
8 recorded, and as Isis mentioned earlier, the  
9 first meeting has already been posted. The  
10 other meetings will be posted as they are  
11 available. So if you want to go back and  
12 listen to parts of it, you can go back and do  
13 so.

14 I think that's what I have for  
15 comments. I really do appreciate everybody  
16 who has

17 provided comments, the folks that  
18 have answered the questions, and everybody  
19 that has participated in this process. So I  
20 wanted to say thank you so much. It's been a  
21 real pleasure and honor to work with everyone.

22 And stay safe and be well. I'll  
23 turn it over to Jim now for final remarks from  
24 BOEM.



1                   JIM BENNETT: All right. Thank  
2 you, Christine. To close, I just want to say  
3 thank you to the team, to Isis, here at BOEM,  
4 with ERM, who denote that they made a best of  
5 a -- of the situation.

6                   We've had some effective  
7 communication here in this virtual  
8 environment, and again, thanks to all of you  
9 for your patience and participation in this  
10 process, and for Massachusetts officials who  
11 joined us as well.

12                   I want to repeat, BOEM oversees  
13 the expeditious and orderly development of  
14 energy and available resources on the Outer  
15 Continental Shelf with environmental  
16 safeguards. That is our responsibility.

17                   And your input is critical. And  
18 we at BOEM remain committed to working with  
19 all of you to ensure the success of offshore  
20 activities, protecting our oceans and coasts  
21 and the communities that depend upon them  
22 while still allowing the United States to  
23 remain a global energy leader and innovator.

24                   So one final thought, again, as a

1 reminder, the public comment period is open  
2 until July 27th, and there are a number of  
3 ways that you can participate in that process  
4 as it is displayed on your screen.

5 So thank you again and I hope  
6 everyone stays well. Bye now.

7 OPERATOR: This concludes today's  
8 conference, you may disconnect at this time.

9 (The meeting was adjourned at 9:44  
10 p.m.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

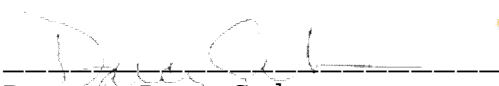
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Norfolk, SS

I, Darcy Lee Schramn, a  
Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public  
in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
do hereby certify that the foregoing Public  
Information Meeting was taken before me on  
July 2, 2020. The said testimony was taken  
digitally and transcribed under my direction.  
To the best of my knowledge, the within  
transcript is a complete, true and accurate  
record of said Meeting.

I am not connected by blood or  
marriage with any of the said parties, nor  
interested directly or indirectly in the  
matter in controversy.

In witness whereof, I have  
hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this 23rd  
day of July, 2020.

  
-----  
Darcy Lee Schramn  
My Commission Expires:  
April 4, 2025

