

Meghan Lapp

From: Meghan Lapp
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2019 9:13 AM
To: Douglas Christel - NOAA Federal
Subject: Re: Fisheries Mitigation Plan/Vineyard Wind

Sounds good thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2019, at 9:11 AM, Douglas Christel - NOAA Federal <douglas.christel@noaa.gov> wrote:

I'm on my way to VA now. Will be there around 4. Let's catch up.

We have 2 observed trips this year completed and 1 underway last I checked. Rates are higher so using 2018 data is actually helping keep fishery open. Dockside monitoring data support the higher 2019 rate too. Due to herring rh/s cap also getting close, predicting catch is tough as the herring quota may also be factoring in too.

We can talk about methodology during the April Monitoring Committee meeting.
Doug

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019, Meghan Lapp <Meghan@seafreezeld.com> wrote:

Hi Doug,

No problem. I know this is kind of a crazy time for many comment periods, so no worries. I actually wanted to discuss the RH/S cap with you- will you be in VA Beach at all? It's my understanding (absent knowing what all boats are doing) that there essentially haven't been any observed trips and the cap is being reached due to the "phase in approach" of taking last year's RH/S ratios and applying that rate to this year's catch. Is that correct? And if so, is there any way we can remedy that?

Let me know if you are in VA to discuss or I can call and chat instead.

Thanks,

Meghan

Meghan Lapp

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Email: Meghan@seafreezeld.com

From: Douglas Christel - NOAA Federal <douglas.christel@noaa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:30 AM

To: Meghan Lapp <Meghan@seafreezeld.com>

Subject: Re: Fisheries Mitigation Plan/Vineyard Wind

Hi Meghan,

My apologies for the delayed response. I read this immediately and we have discussed this internally.

I really appreciate you sending this to us and for providing us with greater insight into a process that we have been tracking from afar, but are limited in our knowledge of the specifics. Andy and I have been discussing this with Walt and others, and we sought additional information from our CZMA office as well about the process and some of the issues highlighted in your letter.

I've been distracted preparing our DEIS comments (we're a bit late, but they'll accept them). Similar to some of your comments, we feel the DEIS underestimates landings from within the WDA.

Hope to catch up soon. RH/S catch cap is just about taken in the mackerel fishery. We're going to get some length samples to see about the 2015 and 2016 year class in this year's catch. I hear good signs for both Illex and longfin and am crossing my fingers for a good year.

Doug

On Wed, Feb 27, 2019 at 11:36 AM Meghan Lapp <Meghan@seafreezeld.com> wrote:

Hi Andy and Doug,

I wanted you guys to also have this, the email I sent to the politicals at NOAA as well as the attached documents. What happened last night in R.I. was an absolute roll over the fishing industry. The final "mitigation" plan was made public on Friday, the first public meeting about it was Saturday- a FAB meeting where fishermen showed up to oppose but were denied the opportunity to speak. I was not allowed by the chairman to give my reasons for

opposition to the plan. Last night, RI CRMC voted to pass the plan, after many many people from the fishing industry spoke opposing it. The FAB (Fisherman's Advisory Board) who negotiated the plan is comprised of individuals picked to give input on the Block Island Wind Farm originally, are small inshore vessels, and doesn't have representation from offshore vessels, no representation from the squid industry and no fish house representatives. Since the squid industry is the most affected fishery by the VW project, the fleet as well as processors relying on the product were not happy at all. At last night's meeting, Sea Fresh USA, who is the biggest processor of calamari in the US, stated that their biggest R.I. customer had heard about the VW issues and told him yesterday he would probably have to start sourcing squid from China since our product would jump in price due to the wind farm. We are losing on every angle. After last Saturday's meeting, I was able to organize a petition and with the help of owner operators and other members of the industry get over 170 signatures from boats, crew, businesses, employees and support services to sign opposing it. We have not been represented at the state process at all. We were not allowed to be part of negotiations, and we have not even been given access to the documents or information that supposedly valued our businesses that were used in negotiations. I appreciate all the work you guys are doing on the offshore wind issue, and I thought particularly with regards to the squid industry that this was important to share. Please feel free to share this with whoever you deem appropriate.

Have a great day,

Meghan

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Meghan Lapp" <Meghan@seafreezeltd.com>
To: "chris.w.oliver@noaa.gov" <chris.w.oliver@noaa.gov>
Cc: "stuart.levenbach@noaa.gov" <stuart.levenbach@noaa.gov>, "kevin.wheeler@noaa.gov" <kevin.wheeler@noaa.gov>
Subject: Fisheries Mitigation Plan/Vineyard Wind

Dear Chris and All,

My name is Meghan Lapp and I represent a commercial fishing company and vessels in the state of RI. I wanted to make the agency aware of an issue with regards to commercial fisheries affecting our state and the offshore wind process. Currently, the first proposed offshore wind farm in federal waters is undergoing the permitting phase, and at a state level is undergoing federal consistency review. A "mitigation plan" developed by the state entities and Vineyard Wind will be voted upon tonight by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, to determine federal consistency. Regardless of how that vote ends up, the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry as a whole have rejected the plan. It seriously undervalues the impacts to our businesses, both at sea and on land, and the impacts to the resource. The resource has already suffered damage at the only wind farm in the US currently- the Block Island

Wind Farm- according to testimony from both the fishermen who used to work the area (who now cannot find product in the area) and a post-construction study conducted by Brown University in collaboration with the developer.

A significant offshore squid fishery occurs both in and adjacent to the Vineyard Wind project area, and loss of that product as well as the area itself is of utmost importance to our state commercial fishing industry. Attached is a petition- developed on a very short time frame due to the fact that Vineyard Wind's final "mitigation plan" was released Friday Feb. 22, preliminarily voted upon on Feb 23 by a state advisory body (the FAB), and tonight will undergo final state determination. The industry had four days to view the plan, and devise a response to what is a completely unacceptable. The attached petition represents commercial vessels, crew, shoreside processors, engine companies, trawl manufacturers, and the support industries who will be affected. Also attached is a letter from another state dealer/vessel owner, opposing the plan, along with a letter signed by the state's three largest processor/dealers who were not included in mitigation negotiations.

As NOAA determines federal consistency review and is also charged with managing our nation's fisheries and fishery resources, I wanted to make you aware of the very real impacts should this proposed mitigation plan be approved. Real businesses will suffer real losses, without appropriate compensation or mitigation. If our fisheries are to have a future, this issue must be dealt with the first time around, as other developers will follow suit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Best,

Meghan

Meghan Lapp

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