



November 14, 2018

Grover J. Fugate  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

Dear Mr. Fugate,

I'm writing regarding Vineyard Wind's E/W Layout document recently provided to the CRMC.

Reading through the document it reads as though Vineyard Wind will not be providing mitigation/compensation for the areas within their lease that have turbines orientated in an E/W orientation. To me it reads that E/W orientation IS the mitigation. Whether or not the turbines are in an E/W orientation, these fertile fishing grounds will be forever changed as a result of construction and development. We absolutely cannot lose sight of this.

As the lay out stands now mobile gear will not be able to coexist with the lobster and gillnet fisheries in the NE end of the WEA, meaning any mobile gear fishermen who wanted to risk fishing within the WEA would effectively be closed out of that area.

Due to the lack of research we have no idea what the biological and ecological effects of construction and operation will be on the species and habitat of the WEA's. If we find there are negative long-term and/or short-term effects mitigation/compensation will certainly be necessary.

Regarding transit lanes, it needs to be made clear that the industry supports at least a 4nm wide transit corridors. We've been vocal about this from the beginning and have not agreed to anything less than that, there seems to be a misunderstanding that we agreed to 2nm. We do not believe that 2nm wide lanes are safe and we have made that clear at every meeting.

There are a couple of statements in this document that I find very concerning. The first is: *"the project will not have significant adverse or long-term impact on Rhode Island Fishermen"*.

As you know I have personally provided tow tracks from our company owned vessels to Vineyard Wind and other companies. Those tracks clearly show how much fishing activity takes place within that lease area. After viewing that chart and meeting with the fishing industry it is extremely surprising and concerning that that statement can even be made.

The Town Dock: P.O. Box 608; 45 State St Narragansett, RI 02882  
PH: 401-789-2200 FAX: 401-782-4421  
Website: [www.towndock.com](http://www.towndock.com)



The next statement: *“regardless of row orientation, fishermen may still fish in any area where the turbines are located.”* It has been said many times at every meeting that not every fisherman will be willing to risk their safety fishing within the turbines and should be provided compensation for loss of grounds and income.

These statements, along with the assumption that the fishing industry agreed on 2nm transit lane widths, makes me feel that once again, either we are not being listened to or our concerns and needs are simply not being considered.

I acknowledge that there will be a reduction of turbines in the Vineyard Wind area, but that does not change the fact that, as mentioned above, fishing will be forever changed in this WEA. It needs to be acknowledged by Vineyard Wind that their construction and operation in these waters will have a long-term effect on the Rhode Island Fishing community.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,

Katie Almeida  
Fishery Policy Analyst