



Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

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May 14, 2025

U.S. Coast Guard First District, Commander
Rear Admiral Michael E. Platt
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

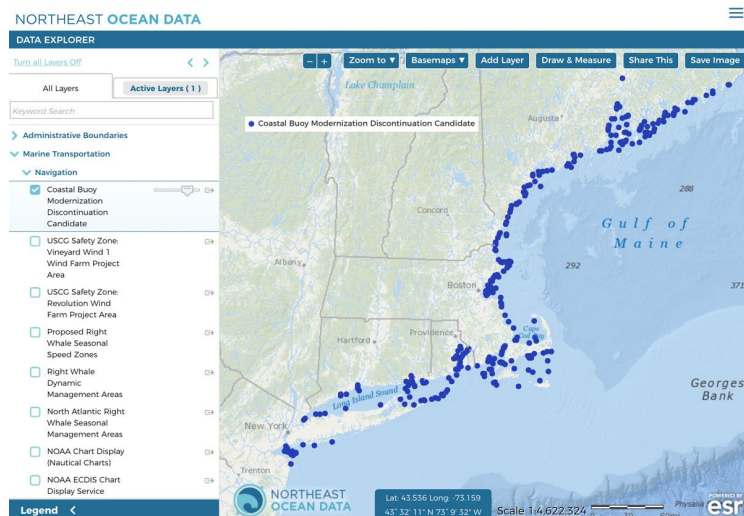
RE: Project No. 01-25-015

Dear Commander,

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) submits this letter of great concern regarding the proposed changes to proposed modifications to United States Coast Guard (USCG) Aids to Navigation meant to modernize the constellation of coastal buoys throughout New England. The ~1800 MLA Members that fish from Canada to Cape May, NJ depend upon these Coastal Buoys remaining intact to ensure they come home safely. The MLA does **NOT SUPPORT** the USCG desire to eliminate these critical aids to navigation anywhere. These are not just a buoy to the commercial fishermen who depend on them, it is a matter of life and death.

Established in 1963, the MLA is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members' collective economic interests. The membership is comprised of fishermen from Maine to Cape May and encompasses a wide variety of gear types from fixed gear and mobile gear alike. The MLA continues to work conscientiously through the management process with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Atlantic

States Marine Fisheries, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and the New England Fisheries Management Council to ensure the continued sustainability and profitability of the resources in which our commercial fishermen are engaged in.



Looking at the buoys that are slated to be eliminated, there is no possible way to select one buoy over another as each area depends upon these aids to navigate the hazards in the water around them. The USCG is asking the commercial fishermen to pick whose

life matters more and to eliminate the safety tools they have depended upon forever. This is ethically wrong and needs not be allowed.

As the ocean becomes more crowded with industrial structures these aids to navigation will become even more crucial for commercial fishermen to safely navigate the waters they have for decades. The United States Coast Guards removal of these buoys will further put the lives of the commercial fishermen in harm's way when they should be working to save them.

Thank you for your thoughtful deliberation and continued support for the commercial lobster industry here in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
Beth Casoni
Executive Director

cc.
Sen. E. Warren
Sen. E. Markey
Cong. W. Keating
Cong. S. Lynch

Comments E-mailed sent to: D01-SMB-DPWPublicComments@uscg.mil