

Maryland RFI Comments



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BOEMRE

Summary of Comments Received

12 RFI Comments:

8 – Shipping & Navigational issues from industry

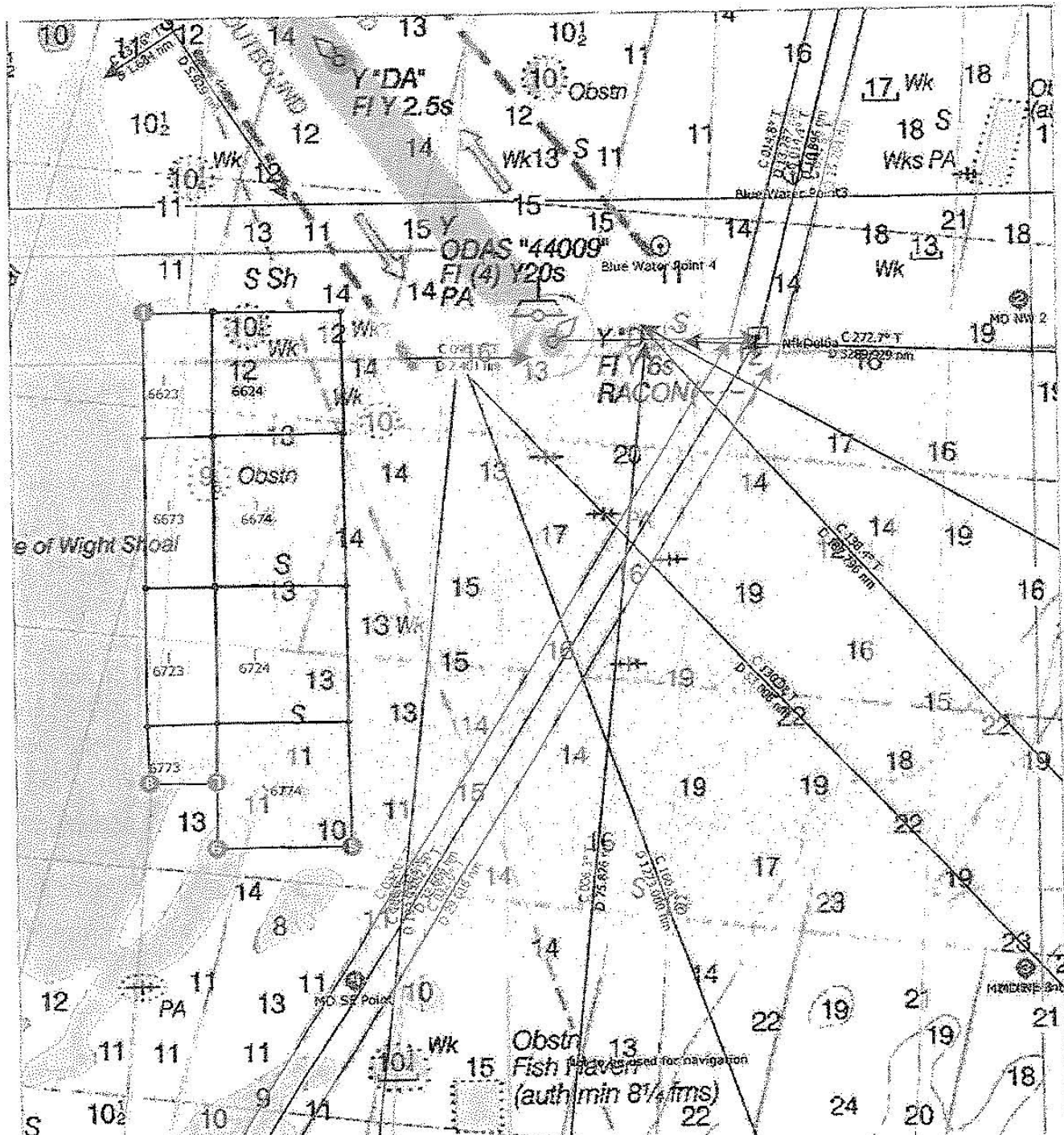
2 – Fisheries

1 – Siting issue

1 – USCG

Local Ship Captains

- Charted various courses used by vessels when inbound/outbound the southern approach to the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). Showed that all plots run through the RFI area.
- Described MD RFI area as heavily used by commercial traffic.
- Suggested that Eastern blocks not be leased due to significant traffic and navigational safety.
- Stated that area has a large volume of north / south bound tug and barge traffic.



Mariner's Advisory Committee (MAC)

- Asserted that the majority of ships entering/exiting DE Bay use the southern approach TSS.
- Stated they cannot accept a proposal that will situate a wind farm that lies completely astride of the main ship traffic entrance to DE Bay.
- Recommended a working committee be formed to address wind farms near navigational fairways.
- Requested for a BOEMRE representative for this working committee.

Maritime Exchange for DE Bay

- Suggested that the USCG should lead and complete a Port Access Route Study (PARS), sharing the information with BOEMRE.
- Suggested that the Coast Guard should take the lead on analyzing AIS data.
- Recommended the USCG and BOEMRE make the findings of this analysis available to the public before moving forward with offshore wind development.

Port of Wilmington, DE

- Concerned about RFI location adjacent to southern terminus of approach to DE Bay.
- Cited navigational and safety issues.
- Agreed with comment from the Maritime Exchange and recommendations.

American Waterways Operators

- Believes that development of the proposed RFI would increase overall obstructions to navigation and decrease marine safety.
- Supports USCG concerns and also considers development of the rest of the RFI a considerable risk to navigators.
- Does not believe buffers or operational restrictions will be enough to mitigate the problems associated with offshore wind development.

World Shipping Council

- Recommends that primary analysis of the AIS information be performed by the USCG.
- Recommends completion of a PARS either for each proposed state RFI or comprehensively for the entire East Coast.
- States using USCG expertise and data sources, the USCG should develop guidelines that would expedite the analysis a possible lease to determine if they should be excluded (similar to what DoD does).

Maryland Port Administration

- Requests a comprehensive assessment of offshore wind facilities to examine the cumulative impacts to shipping.
 - The blocks to the south and east of the traffic lanes.
- Suggested additional analysis of blocks to the west if they are offered for commercial leasing.

Maryland Energy Administration and Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- Development of offshore wind offers benefits to the State of Maryland.
 - Provides economic development, creates jobs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and creates price stability.
- Urges BOEMRE to be supportive of competitive procurement processes to reduce costs of offshore wind.
- Will continue to support efforts to make offshore wind move forward.

Fisheries

- Concerned about access to fishing
- Requested compensation for loss of fishing grounds/rights
- Suggested siting facilities to minimize conflict
- Requested investigating mitigation measures to reduce conflicts with fishing industry



Offshore Wind Developer

- Cites potential shadow effect to any projects in DE from Maryland RFI area development.
- Recommends analysis to avoid potential conflicts between close-sited wind facilities in the future.
- Recommends BOEMRE consider the issue of buffers for adjacent wind facilities.



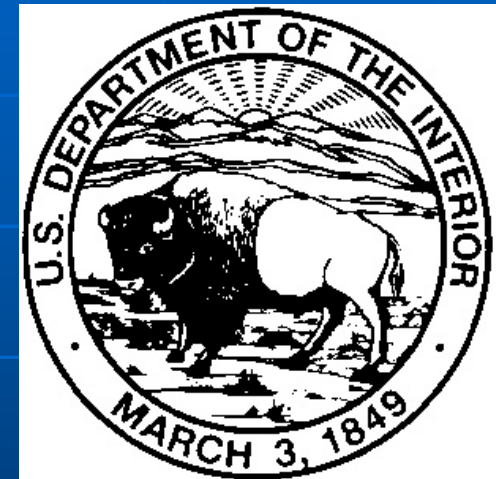
For More Information

On the Web:

[http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/Renewable
Energy/index.htm](http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/index.htm)

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Thank you!

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