



Surfside Foods, LLC

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August 19, 2020

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Joseph Fiordaliso, President
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0305

Re: New Jersey BPU Solicitation #2 Draft Guidance Document - Section 10: Fisheries
Protection Plan

Dear Mr. Fiordaliso,

Surfside Foods, LLC (Surfside) is a vertically integrated harvester and processor of Atlantic surfclams and ocean quahogs. We operate the majority of our fleet of eight clam boats out of the New Jersey ports of Point Pleasant and Atlantic City.

We applaud the inclusion of a Fisheries Protection Plan (FPP) as a required portion of the application solicitation for offshore wind projects and support the scientifically rigorous plan to detect impacts to marine resources and measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts on fish, and on commercial and recreational fisheries required in the application. The impacts to the fishing industry cannot be overlooked, nor addressed at the last minute before a site is developed.

The FPP does not clarify the review process to determine whether plans are indeed scientifically rigorous. Governor Murphy's Executive Order No. 92 directing the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to "promote and realize the development of wind energy off the coast of New Jersey to meet a goal of 7,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation by the year 2035." puts the NJDEP in an awkward position of doing due diligence regulating while working to realize the development of wind energy. We recommend the addition of an external review panel for the FPP portion of the solicitation. It is critical that these be reviewed in an unbiased manner by those with extensive technical and scientific experience specific to New Jersey and regional fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, please reach out to me with any questions you may have concerning these views.

Regards,

Thomas Dameron

Thomas Dameron
Government Relations &
Fisheries Science Liaison
Surfside Foods, LLC