

NEW LONDON SEAFOOD DISTRIBUTORS

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Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879
Attn: Jeffrey Willis, CRMC Executive Director

RE: New England Wind Federal Consistency Review:

My name is Gary Yerman and I've been a Commercial Fishermen for 49 years. My son Scott and I are the owners of the New London Seafood Distributors, a New London CT based unloading facility formed in 1989. It has been the home and landing dock for a dozen Connecticut and Rhode Island commercial fishing vessels. We provide fuel, ice, packing and shipping for inshore boats and offshore boats that have been working the wind lease areas for decades.

When the idea of offshore wind was originally discussed, we were as skeptical as everyone. We dug in deep to figure out including going to Europe to discuss how fishermen work with the offshore wind companies. After years of real diligence, we could not find a reason why wouldn't co-exist with proper oversight.

After several years of research commercial interaction and serving the fishing industry, I fully support Avangrid's efforts. Avangrid is one of the few firms that have provided opportunities to the commercial fishing fleet in a meaningful way. Several boats that utilize New London Seafood have been able to do substantial Scout work with Avangrid and by all accounts, they are helpful and committed to using local fishermen whenever they can. My personal dealings with Caela Howard and John Harker have always been professional and supportive.

I understand the balance that needs to be struck and how important the waters in question are. However, Scott and I have seen the effort Avangrid puts in to working with the community and believe they will continue to work with port towns to provide opportunities and reduce conflicts. Scott himself has done scout work between fishing trips and is able to pay for upgrades and keep his crew employed full-time. I have been through the ups and downs in this business over nearly 50 years and I can say with confidence that Avangrid is providing a chance for fishermen to stay in this business. In addition to operating New London Seafood Distributors, I am the fleet manager for Sea Services North America, which allows me to help others take advantage of the financial and safety benefits of working in this industry.



Gary Yerman