



Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

May 27, 2020

Mr. Jerry Barnes
Fifth Coast Guard District
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Mr. Matt Creelman
Fifth Coast Guard District
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Re: Port Access Route Study: Seacoast of New Jersey Including Offshore Approaches to the Delaware Bay, Delaware; Docket No. USCG-2020-0172

Dear Mr. Barnes and Mr. Creelman:

The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) hereby submits the following request for a public meeting regarding the United States Coast Guard's Port Access Route Study (PARS) of the New Jersey Seacoast and approaches to the Delaware Bay, Delaware.¹

RODA is a membership-based coalition of fishery-dependent companies and associations with the mission of improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses. Our approximately 170 members are comprised of major fishing community groups, individual vessels, and shoreside dealers operating in federal and state waters of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Pacific coasts.

Due to significant concerns of area usage and potential conflicts by our members, we would like to formally request a public hearing prior to the initiation of the regional PARS study. With the forthcoming build-out of large infrastructure projects on the Outer Continental Shelf, such as offshore wind energy areas, our members are concerned by the imposition of additional navigational hazards. As existing ocean users, commercial fishermen would like to aid USCG in identifying potential conflicts and potential mitigation measures for analysis, to inform a comprehensive PARS study.

We look forward to engaging with the Fifth Coast Guard District throughout the course of the PARS process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lane Johnston
Programs Manager, Responsible Offshore Development Alliance

¹ 85 Fed. Reg. 26695 (May 5, 2020).