

THE COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY

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May 21, 2010

Kristin Decas
New Bedford Harbor Development Commission
P.O. Box 50899
New Bedford, MA 02745

Re: South Terminal Marine Park Expansion Project



SDMS DocID 518535

Superfund Records Center
SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 3.1
OTHER: 578535

Dear Kristin-

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay (the "Coalition") is pleased to offer its support for the proposed South Terminal Marine Park Expansion Project ("South Terminal project"). The proposed project will help to revitalize the port as a state of the art marine terminal and advance the City of New Bedford toward becoming a support center for offshore wind energy production in New England.

The Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy. We represent more than 6,700 individuals, families, organizations, and businesses in Southeastern Massachusetts and our main office is located in New Bedford's historic waterfront district.

The South Terminal project involves the extension of the existing South Terminal bulkhead to the south by approximately 800 feet and creation of a solid-filled pier that will support heavy equipment and cargo. Ultimately, the project will result in a dredged basin in front of the bulkhead to support large international cargo ships and a channel with sufficient draft to allow entrance to large international vessels.

The long-term impacts of this project include the alteration of 6.6 acres of coastal habitat, including the loss of 0.71 acres of isolated wetlands and 2.99 acres of Land Under the Ocean that will be lost as Essential Fish Habitat and shellfish habitat due to the installation of the bulkhead and the filling behind the bulkhead to create the facility.

The Coalition understands that the mitigation strategy is currently focused on projects that specifically address the impacted resources. While appropriate, it is also important to consider projects that will provide the greatest overall environmental benefit for New Bedford Harbor. Substantial resources will be spent on this mitigation plan. As an urban harbor, more benefit may come from this investment if other alternatives are explored.