



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0432 | FAX 978 465 3116
Eric Reid, Chair | Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director

January 18, 2023

Capt. Jerry Leeman
F/V Teresa Marie IV
Via Email

Dear Captain Leeman:

Thank you for your January 9 letter about the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research study addressing the effects of electrical cabling on fish larvae. We were previously aware of this study and agree that it has concerning implications for the possible effects of high voltage direct current cabling on larval behavior and resulting predation rates. While most projects off the Atlantic coast are planning for alternating current transmission cables, this is not uniformly the case, and we are uncertain about the types of cables that might be used for projects in the Gulf of Maine. Our understanding is that HVDC cables are preferred for longer distance transmission.

The Council actively tracks offshore wind development in the region and is closely following the development of wind energy planning areas, and eventually lease areas, in the Gulf of Maine. Our comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, including recent letters on research and commercial leasing within the Gulf of Maine, are available here:

<https://www.nefmc.org/library/nefmc-comments-to-federal-agencies>. These comments are intended to provide specific input based on the Council's more general Submarine Cable and Offshore Wind Policies, which were approved in December 2020 and 2021, respectively. Those documents are available here: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/nefmc-habitat-policies-for-offshore-energy-aquaculture-submarine-cables>.

We agree that the Council should work together with the fishing industry to advocate for environmentally responsible offshore energy development. Please contact us if you have additional information to share, or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director