

Mr. Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch Coast Guard First District
408 Atlantic Avenue Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

We write respectfully to express our opposition to the proposal to establish new anchorage grounds on the Hudson River. First, we would like to say thank you to the United States Coast Guard for the years of service to our country and our community, as well as, always having the safety of the boating community as a priority of your mission.

Along with the many others up and down the Hudson River we are concerned how this proposal impacts the Hudson Valley and particularly Marlboro Yacht Club (MYC). As many others have pointed out, tug and barge traffic has increased significantly over the last several years. We at MYC are acutely aware of the impact this has on our marina. The marina at MYC has no break water to protect it from the wakes of passing tugs, ships and even pleasure boats. In years past tugs, ships and pleasure boats would slow as they pass so as to prevent their wakes from crashing our marina and avoid any damage caused thereby. It seems that those days are long-gone. Now, a significant portion of our budget each year goes to marina repair. I mention this because a significant concern of ours is that of safety, for our docks, boats and those traversing our docs on a daily basis.

The establishment of these new anchorage grounds, specifically the one proposed near MYC will significantly narrow the river passage by our club. In doing so it will force traffic, particularly tug, barge and ship traffic toward the west shore of the river and thereby closer to our marina. We are alarmed that this narrowing of the river at this point will spell increased cost due to damage sustained to our marina by the close proximity of the vessels that will now be forced to pass directly in front of our marina. At the same time, because of the narrowing of the passage we are concerned of the impact this will have generally on safe boating in the area.

Naturally we are also concerned with the environmental impact from the increased transport and storage of crude oil and the increased risk of a devastating oil spill on the Hudson River. As well as, concern for the endangered species such as the Atlantic and Shortnose sturgeon that rely on the river bottom to spawn, feed, and rest.

Also, the impact on local communities due to the air, noise, and light pollution stemming from the anchorages, as well as the impact on communities all along the Hudson River and the significant investments they have made in their local waterfronts.

Accordingly, we join with those who have expressed their concerns and call for public meetings on this proposed rulemaking. Given the scope of the proposed rules and the length of the river potentially involved, we request that the Coast Guard actively reach out to the public, as

well as, agency representatives, elected officials, environmental groups, and community leaders and to schedule and promote public meetings. We join in recommending separate meetings at each of the locations where anchorage grounds are proposed: the Kingston Hub, Milton/Roseton/Marlboro/Newburgh, Tomkins Cove/Montrose Point, and Yonkers; and propose that said meetings include both a presentation of the proposals and the opportunity for the public to comment on the record. At the very least, we suggest meeting be held at three (3) to four (4) sites along the river.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren McCurry, Commodore

Marlboro Yacht Club