



June 30, 2016

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

Re: Request for Public Meetings Regarding Proposed Rulemaking: Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River; Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY. Docket Number USCG-2016-0132

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment at this early stage in the United States Coast Guard's consideration of new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River. I am writing on behalf of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater to formally request that the Coast Guard hold a series of public meetings regarding the recently proposed rules to establish anchorage grounds along the Hudson River (the "Proposed Rules"). See Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River; Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY, 81 Fed. Reg. 37168. Clearwater requests that the Coast Guard schedule public meetings so that the public and other stakeholders throughout the Hudson Valley can fully understand the rationale behind the Proposed Rules and clearly communicate their concerns. Because there will surely be considerable public concern about the siting of the anchorages, it is most efficient to gather public input as early in the process as possible. Public meetings are necessary and appropriate considering the material and substantial impacts resulting from the Proposed Rules. The proposal affects both the ecological health of the Hudson River and the quality of life in numerous Hudson Valley communities.

The Potentially Significant Environmental and Community Impacts Support A Full Public Meeting under Coast Guard Rulemaking Procedures. This proposal involves designating a total of over 2,000 acres of the Hudson River Estuary as anchorage grounds. The Estuary is a critical habitat and spawning ground for numerous fish species, including federally-listed endangered species, including the Atlantic and short-nose sturgeon. New York State has made it a priority to restore the biological integrity and productivity of the Estuary and is actively working with local partners to do so.

As an organization that uses the Hudson River on a daily basis, we recognize the importance of safe travel on the Hudson, which has a long tradition as a working river. It is essential that transportation is balanced with other elements of ecological and economic health in the Hudson Valley, including tourism, fisheries and vibrant communities. A thorough and complete record requires open and transparent participation through public meetings.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you as you proceed with analyzing the proposal for anchorage locations.

Sincerely,

Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director
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