

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

_____)	
FISHERIES SURVIVAL FUND, <i>et al.</i>)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.) Civ. No.
)
SALLY JEWELL, <i>et al.</i>)
)
Defendants.)
_____)	

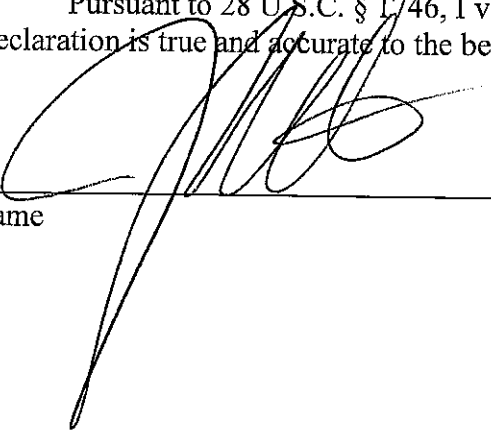
DECLARATION OF MAYOR JON MITCHELL

I, Jon Mitchell, declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Mayor of the City of New Bedford and the Chairman of the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission, which is the port authority for the Port of New Bedford. I submit this Declaration in support of the above-captioned action concerning the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's proposed leasing of an area of ocean off the coast of New York, which is commonly referred to as the New York Bight.
2. The Port of New Bedford is the nation's most economically productive fishing port with annual fish landings valued at \$369 million as of 2014.
3. Together the City and Port are the center of the seafood industry on the East Coast, with over thirty processors and distributors, ranging in size from high-volume international wholesale to small-scale local retail businesses, along with a full array of supporting service businesses.
4. Many New Bedford vessels regularly fish for scallops, fluke and other species in and around the New York Bight.
5. During my administration, the City also has become a national leader in the development of the offshore wind industry. With its proximity to some of the most fertile wind areas in the world, New Bedford is poised to become the center of the industry on the East Coast, just as it is for fishing industry. Among other initiatives, my administration established the New Bedford Wind Energy Center, the only local economic development agency of its kind in the U.S., and has facilitated investment in port infrastructure and workforce training programs to support the industry.

6. My administration has undertaken these efforts with the firm belief that through careful planning the commercial fishing and offshore wind industries can successfully co-exist in the Port of New Bedford and out in the North Atlantic Ocean.
7. We worked successfully with BOEM to facilitate the input of the fishing industry on the designation of the wind lease areas south of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In light of that input, BOEM established those lease areas in such a way that will enable both industries to operate safely and profitably side-by-side.
8. The City of New Bedford is joining this lawsuit because in its assessment of the New York Bight for offshore wind development, BOEM has not properly considered the legitimate concerns of the fishing industry.
9. I believe the opening of the New York Bight for offshore wind leasing, as currently proposed, will cause direct harm to existing fishing interests in New Bedford and elsewhere.
10. I make this Declaration based on my personal knowledge.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I verify that all of the factual information contained in this Declaration is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge


Name

12/7/16
Date