

For Immediate Release – April 29, 2010

*Attachment: Clean Ocean Action's Letter of Support to Fishermen's Energy
regarding their pilot project*

Contact: Cindy Zipf, 732-872-0111

Press Statement from Clean Ocean Action regarding Fishermen's Energy of New Jersey's announcement of deployment of environmental monitoring buoy at proposed site of their offshore wind pilot project.

Fishermen's Energy's deployment of their environmental monitoring buoy is an important first step for their planned offshore wind pilot project. This initial effort to begin collecting site specific data will supplement additional pre-construction monitoring activities at the proposed site and is consistent with Clean Ocean Action's recommendations provided in our attached letter to Fishermen's Energy supporting their pilot scale project. (See attached letter.)

Participating Organizations

1. Alliance for a Living Ocean
American Littoral Society
Arthur Kill Coalition
Asbury Park Fishing Club
Bayberry Garden Club
Bayside Saltwater Flyrodders
Belford Seafood Co-op
Belmar Fishing Club
Beneath The Sea
Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network
Berkeley Shores Homeowners Civic Association
Cape May Environmental Commission
Central Jersey Anglers
Citizens Conservation Council of Ocean County
Clean Air Campaign
Coalition Against Toxics
Coalition for Peace & Justice
Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club
Coast Alliance
Communication Workers of America, Local 1034
Concerned Businesses of COA
Concerned Citizens of Bensonhurst
Concerned Citizens of COA
Concerned Citizens of Montauk
Dossil's Sea Roamers
Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce
Environmental Response Network
Explorers Dive Club
Fisheries Defense Fund
Fishermen's Dock Cooperative
Fisher's Island Conservancy
Friends of Island Beach State Park
Friends of Liberty State Park
Friends of Long Island Sound
Friends of the Boardwalk
Garden Club of Englewood
Garden Club of Fair Haven
Garden Club of Long Beach Island
Garden Club of Morristown
Garden Club of Navesink
Garden Club of New Jersey
Garden Club of New Vernon
Garden Club of Oceanport
Garden Club of Princeton
Garden Club of Ridgewood
Garden Club of Rumson
Garden Club of Short Hills
Garden Club of Shrewsbury
Garden Club of Spring Lake
Garden Club of Washington Valley
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Highlands Business Partnership
Highlands Chamber of Commerce
Hudson River Fishermen's Association/NJ
Interact Clubs of Rotary International
Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
Jersey Shore Audubon Society
Jersey Shore Captains Association
Jersey Shore Running Club
Junior League of Monmouth County
Junior League of Summit
Kiwans Club of Manasquan
Kiwans Club of Shadow Lake Village
Leonardo Party & Pleasure Boat Association
Leonardo Tax Payers Association
Main Street Wildwood
Marine Trades Association of NJ
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Monmouth County Association of Realtors
Monmouth County Audubon Society
Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater
Montauk Fisherman's Emergency Fund
National Coalition for Marine Conservation
Natural Resources Protective Association
Navesink River Municipalities Committee
Newcomers Club of Monmouth County
NJ Beach Buggy Association
NJ Commercial Fishermen's Association
NJ Council of Dive Clubs
NJ Environmental Federation
NJ Environmental Lobby
NJ Marine Educators Association
NJ PIRG Citizen Lobby
NJ Sierra Club
NJ Windsurfing Association
Nottingham Hunting & Fishing Club
NYC Sea Gypsies
NY/NJ Baykeeper
NY Marine Educators Association
Ocean Advocates
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean County Citizens for Clean Water
Ocean Divas
Ocean Wreck Divers
Outreach/First Presbyterian Church of Rumson
Piscataway Saltwater Sportsmen Club
Raritan Riverkeeper
Riverside Drive Association
Rotary Club of Long Branch
Saint George's by the River Church, Rumson
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club
Save Barnegat Bay
Save the Bay
SEAS Monmouth
Seaweeders Garden Club
Shark River Cleanup Coalition
Shark River Surf Anglers
Sheepshead Bay Fishing Fleet Association
Shore Adventure Club
Shore Surf Club
Sierra Club, Shore Chapter
Soroptimist Club of Cape May County
South Monmouth Bay of Rumson
Staten Island Friends of Clearwater
Strathmere Fishing & Environmental Club
Surfers' Environmental Alliance
Surfrider Foundation, Jersey Shore Chapter
TACK 1
Terra Nova Garden Club
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Mon. County
United Boatmen of NY/NJ
United Bowhunters of NJ
Volunteer Friends of Boaters
Waterspout
Women's Club of Brick Township
Women's Club of Keyport
Women's Club of Long Branch
Women's Club of Merchantville
Zen Society

Clean Ocean Action



Ocean Advocacy
Since 1984

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Rhonda Jackson, Director, Communications & Outreach
Fishermen's Energy of New Jersey, LLC
PO Box 555
Cape May, New Jersey
08204

December 16, 2009

RE: Fishermen's Energy of New Jersey Proposed Offshore Wind Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. Jackson:

Clean Ocean Action (COA) is a regional, broad-based coalition of 125 conservation, environmental, fishing, boating, diving, student, surfing, women's, business, service, and community groups with a mission to improve the degraded water quality of the marine waters of the New Jersey/New York coast. It is Clean Ocean Action's mission to investigate, review, and question proposals that may affect ocean water quality in the NY/NJ Bight.

Clean Ocean Action appreciates the recent briefings by Fishermen's Energy of New Jersey (herein "FENJ") regarding your proposal to construct a pilot-scale offshore wind project. As proposed, the project would have a nameplate capacity of 20 MW (approximately 4 – 8 turbines depending on the turbines used) and be located off of Atlantic City within New Jersey state waters. Your commitment to proactively engage the interested public is commendable. Early public involvement, beginning with the planning stage, promotes more efficient review of projects as they move through the permitting process, and serves as a model for public involvement for other offshore wind developers.

COA supports FENJ's decision to begin with a true pilot scale project before advancing to a full commercial scale operation. Although several offshore wind projects have been proposed in the coastal waters of the United States, no such development currently exists. This important first step is also consistent with the recommendations of New Jersey's Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Wind Turbine Facilities in Coastal Waters (herein the "BRP") which determined that a pilot project was needed to inform the current dearth of information and experience with offshore wind in the United States: *"It is expected that a carefully planned, executed and limited offshore wind test project will yield important information*



currently unavailable.”¹ The BRP went on to provide the following recommendations on how a test project should be developed: “*Planning for a test project must proceed with caution; its development must be preceded, accompanied, and followed by collection and analysis of scientifically valid data and monitoring of environmental and economic impacts of the project. Much can be learned from taking this more precautionary, stepwise approach to offshore renewable energy development. Pilot projects are critical for demonstrating viability, identifying any limitations or problems with the technology, and evaluating potential predicted and unexpected environmental impacts.*”² The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (herein the “NJDEP”) recently proposed new coastal management rules that include regulations to support small-scale pilot projects in state waters. The NJDEP contends that such projects “*will be useful in assessing the impacts of large scale wind turbines located offshore of New Jersey.*” The proposed rules would allow up to 5 wind turbines located at least 2.5 nautical miles offshore and also require the collection site-specific ecological data prior to construction, as well as ecological monitoring during construction and operation.³

We urge FENJ, NJDEP, and appropriate federal and state agencies to work together with the public, to apply the recommendations of the BRP to this pilot scale project which can be deployed at a reasonable cost and timeframe in order to assess viability and provide initial environmental data that can help inform future commercial-scale deployment. Available ecological data, including recent information collected during the NJDEP Ecological Baseline Study, should be used by the NJDEP to assess the appropriateness of the proposed area for offshore wind development and to identify taxonomic groups that inhabit the proposed project area. These data should also be used to design preconstruction studies that will further characterize the site, identify potential impacts and inform construction and operation monitoring efforts.

COA appreciates FENJ’s outreach efforts and commitment to continued engagement of the interested public throughout project development, including ongoing involvement in the development of pre-construction monitoring studies. FENJ’s commitment to a transparent process was further demonstrated by your agreement to provide COA with copies of FENJ’s formal proposal and permit applications upon submission to NJDEP, as well as copies of the ecological and risk analyses being conducted for FENJ as support for the pilot project.

Clean Ocean Action looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with FENJ as we work together to begin the process of offshore renewable energy development.

Sincerely,



Cindy Zipf
Executive Director



Jennifer Samson, Ph.D.
Principal Scientist

cc: open letter

¹ Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Wind Turbine Facilities in Coastal Waters. Final Report to Gov. Jon S. Corzine. April 2006. page xi, last visited 08/20/09 <http://www.state.nj.us/njwindpanel/docs/finalwindpanelreport.pdf>

² Ibid, page 14.

³ Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:7E-7.4 <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/rules/proposals/090809a.pdf>