



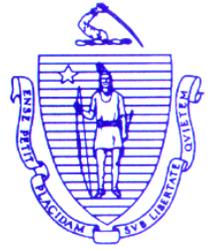
Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Deval Patrick
Governor
Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
Secretary
Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

February 14, 2014

New Bedford Conservation Commission
City Hall
133 Williams Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Commissioners:

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) has reviewed the Determination of Applicability by Jeffrey Stieb, Executive Director, New Bedford Harbor Development Commission, for the Palmers Island Lighthouse Restoration Project in New Bedford Harbor in the City of New Bedford. Existing marine fisheries resources and potential project impacts to these resources are outlined in the following paragraphs.

The waters surrounding Palmers Island are mapped quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) habitat. Waters adjacent to the project site have habitat characteristics suitable for this species. Land containing shellfish is deemed significant to the interest of the Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.34) and the protection of marine fisheries.

Marine Fisheries offers the following comments for your consideration:

- To avoid impacts to bordering shellfish habitat, the barge used in the lighthouse restoration work should not ground at any time.

Questions regarding this review may be directed to John Logan in our New Bedford office at (508) 990-2860 ext. 141.

Sincerely,

John Logan
Fisheries Habitat Specialist

cc: Briscoe Lang, Pare Corporation
Robert Giard, Thomas Ringuette, City of New Bedford
Neil Churchill, Christian Petitpas, DMF

JL/cp