



Are you on board?

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August 10, 2018

Mr. Robert Boeri
Project Review Coordinator
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114

RE: DCR Mooring Application Boston Harbor

Dear Mr. Boeri:

We are writing in response to the Office of Coastal Zone Management's (CZM) request for comments regarding the Federal Consistency Review of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) application to install 103 public moorings within the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park Area.

Boston Harbor Now is the non-profit partner of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership and works in concert with its municipal, state, federal, and non-profit partners to plan, activate, and advocate on behalf of Boston Harbor and its islands and waterfront.

We are reaffirming our strong support for the mooring permit application by DCR to install long-awaited moorings within the Boston Harbor Islands. The new moorings will provide needed access for private boaters to the Boston Harbor Islands that is safer and more carefully regulated than anchoring.

Except for Spectacle Island, the pier and dock structures on DCR's islands are primarily designed to accommodate the public ferries and official DCR vessels with little to no touch-and-go facilities for other vessels and no place to dock for longer periods of time. With more than

50,000 recreational boaters in Boston's coastal metropolitan area, the new moorings will provide a significant improvement in access to these islands for this community who have been advocating for mooring facilities and increased opportunities to enjoy the islands.

Installation of these moorings is also consistent with the policy and programming goals of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to:

make the Boston Harbor Islands system—with opportunities for education, recreation, and restful solitude within an urban area—an integral part of the life of the region and the nation by protecting the islands and their associated resources while at the same time improving public knowledge and access.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We hope you agree that this application meets the federal programmatic and consistency standards required to approve this application and is essential to increasing access to this significant park and its natural assets.

Sincerely,



Jill Valdes Horwood
Director of Policy