

Attention George Detweiler:

I am writing in reference to the rerouting of ship traffic to help save the endangered right whales. Right whales are critically endangered, and their numbers are declining. Protection is important even if route changes will increase the costs to commercial ship traffic. The United States has an obligation and the authority to regulate ship traffic entering U.S. ports. In its Paris analysis the Coast Guard should at the outset analyze all of the routing measures that were put forth by the National Marine Fisheries Service last fall, not just Cape Cod Bay, as suggested in the federal register notice. The Coast Guard should also consider expanded protection beyond times and areas suggested in the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking. They should specifically consider routing measures to protect whales within the Cape Cod Bay critical habitat as well as the adjacent area called "off race point" from December through May of each year to protect whales entering and leaving this site. This issue is very important and needs to be addressed. Sincerely,  
Michelle Reukauf Docket reference number USCG 2005-20380