

# EXHIBIT A



Sumona Majumdar &lt;sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org&gt;

## Thank you for submitting a FOIA request.

U.S. Department of the Interior &lt;doi-webforms@ios.doi.gov&gt;

Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 2:58 PM

Reply-To: do-not-reply@ios.doi.gov

To: sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org

Submitted on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 - 5:58pm

Submitted form:

Your Name: Sumona Majumdar

Mailing Address: 2150 Allston Way, Suite 460

City: Berkeley

State or Country: CA

Zip or Postal Code: 94704

Address Type: Business

Daytime Phone Number: 510-859-9120

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: [sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org](mailto:sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org)Confirm E-mail Address : [sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org](mailto:sumonamajumdar@earthisland.org)

Your Organization: Earth Island Institute

Are you filing the request on behalf of another party? Yes

If so, who are you filing the request on behalf of? I am making this request on behalf of the International Marine Mammal Project, a project of the Earth Island Institute. Collectively, these entities actively inform the public on matters affecting oceans and marine life. Through scientific research, publications, educational programs and events, and advocacy, these entities have become very involved in efforts to protect marine ecosystems and marine life. These entities have initiated public campaigns, litigated, and publicly commented on numerous federal actions that directly affect marine ecosystems and marine life.

Contact Information Certification: I certify that the above statement(s) concerning who I am filing the request on behalf of are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If I want to receive greater access to records about a person I represent, I will submit proof that the person consents to the release of the records to me, as discussed in 43 C.F.R. § 2.9.

Bureau/Office: Office of the Secretary (OS)

Relevant park, refuge, site or other location:

Request Description:

I am requesting any documents you may have which contain information related to the National OCS Program Public Meetings held in the following locations: Annapolis, MD (1/16/18); Jackson, MS (1/16/18); Dover, DE (1/18/18); Austin, TX (2/6/18); Salem, OR (2/6/18); Tallahassee, FL (2/8/18); Sacramento, CA (2/8/18); Hartford, CT (2/13/18); Columbia, SC (2/13/18); Trenton, NJ (2/14/18); Albany, NY (2/15/18); Richmond, VA (2/21/18); Anchorage, AK (2/21/18); Washington, DC (2/22/18); Raleigh, NC (2/26/18); Boston, MA (2/27/18); Atlanta, GA (2/28/18); Providence, RI (2/28/18); Concord, NH (3/5/18); Olympia, WA (3/5/18); Baton Rouge, LA (3/6/18); Augusta, ME (3/7/18); Montgomery, AL (3/8/18). This request includes, but is not limited to, documents related to preparation and planning for the meetings, instructions to BOEM and/or its staff, materials presented to the public at the meetings, and any memorializations of the meetings created or received by the Office of the Secretary (e.g., transcripts, recordings, minutes, etc.). I am also requesting any documents you may have which contain information related to any other meetings between third parties and any individuals in the Office of the Secretary regarding the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, including, but not limited to, visitor logs, meeting attendance, presentations, and meeting memorializations (e.g., transcripts, recordings, minutes, etc.). The relevant date range for the requested documents is January 20, 2017, until the present.

Such documents need not be identified by title or "draft"/"final" designations if to do so would compromise the agency's decision-making process. In such cases, I ask that you merely delete such revealing designations and release the balance.

This request is not meant to be exclusive of any other records which, though not specifically requested, would have a reasonable relationship to the subject matter of this request.

In the event that access to any of the requested records is denied, please note that the FOIA provides that if only portions of a requested file are exempted from release, the remainder must still be released. I therefore request that I be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable. I further request that you describe the deleted material in

detail and specify the statutory basis for the denial as well as your reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies in this instance. Please separately state your reasons for not invoking your discretionary powers to release the requested documents in the public interest. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination, and in formulating arguments in case an appeal is taken. The agency's written justification might also help to avoid unnecessary litigation. I of course reserve my right to appeal the withholding or deletion of any information and expect that you will list the office and address were such an appeal can be sent.

Access to the requested records should be granted within twenty (20) working days from the date of your receipt. Failure to respond in a timely manner shall be viewed as a denial of this request and the requesters may immediately file an administrative appeal. Thanking you in advance for your prompt reply.

Requester's Communication Preferences: Electronic communication via email

Document Disclosure Preferences: Electronic copies via email

Select the applicable reason why you are requesting expedited processing:

Justification for Expedited Processing:

Expedited Processing Certification:

Please select the appropriate statement: I am requesting a waiver or reduction of fees.

I agree to pay fees up to this particular amount:

To assist in determining my requester category to assess fees, you should know that I am: an individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use

Affiliated Organization:

Check the boxes to the right to confirm that you meet the Department's fee waiver criteria:

- Disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government.
- Disclosure of the information is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Please explain why your request for a waiver of fees or a reduction in fees is justified.:

These documents will illuminate the operations and activities of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Interior as it fulfills its requirement to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage. As such, their release will significantly contribute to public understanding and oversight of the Department of Interior's operations, particularly with respect to its efficacy of public outreach and its responsiveness to public input.

We will analyze the data presented in the released documents and disseminate our findings to the public through our website and social media. Additionally, the information may be used in our newsletter or in an article in the Earth Island Journal, a subscription-based magazine published by Earth Island Institute. These materials will not be used for commercial use or gain.

I thus also request that you waive any applicable fees since disclosure meets the statutory standard for waiver of fees in that it is clearly "in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public," 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A). In this regard, I reiterate that I have no intention of using the information disclosed for financial gain. If for some reason, the fee waiver request is denied, while reserving my right to appeal such a decision, please let me know the basis for the denial and an estimate of the fees associated with this FOIA request.