

Town and County of Nantucket Select Board • County Commissioners

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C. Elizabeth Gibson
Town & County Manager

***AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE
SELECT BOARD
DECEMBER 18, 2024 - 5:30 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS***

YOU TUBE LINK FOR VIEWING ONLY:
<https://youtube.com/live/zdfPt0bhY2o>

ZOOM WEBINAR REGISTRATION LINK TO VIRTUALLY ATTEND MEETING:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EGapYMiXTm6THmo7r44y0A

- I. CALL TO ORDER***
- II. JOINT MEETING WITH COUNTY COMMISSION AND NANTUCKET PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NP&EDC)***
 1. Review Draft Findings of "The Impacts of a NOAA Vessel Speed Reduction Regulation on Nantucket/an Economic Analysis" as Prepared by UMass Amherst Donahue Institute's Economic and Public Policy Research Group.
- III. ADJOURNMENT***

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED NOAA VESSEL SPEED RESTRICTIONS ON NANTUCKET

Study by the UMass Donahue Institute Economic
and Public Policy Research Group

Rod Motamedi, Assistant Director
Michael McNally, Senior Research Analyst
Rye McKenzie, Research Analyst

Purpose of Study

NOAA has proposed a modification of the existing vessel speed restrictions with the goal of reducing the probability of collisions with right whales. The new regulations expand the ocean areas, seasons, and vessel types that will experience reduced speeds.

Its primary impact on Nantucket would be to eliminate high speed ferry service and reduce the speed of the mixed passenger-cargo ferries from November 1st through May 31st of each year.

This study aims to quantify the economic impacts of these changes in ferry service.

Methodology

This study relied on multiple sources of data, summarized below:

- Collection of written and verbal information from various Nantucket stakeholders on the impacts of the proposed regulation.
- Quantitative data on passenger volumes, commuters and commuting patterns, visitation and visitor spending, and the value of goods trade.
- Use of the IMPLAN economic impact model to measure the impacts of changes to commuting, visitation, and trade.

Analysis

The analysis combines the quantitative and qualitative data to measure the ramification of reductions in ferry service to the extent possible using transparent assumptions.

The core of the analysis focuses on changes in travel times and ferry service stemming from the elimination of fast ferries and lengthier traditional ferry trips.

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst