

February 17, 1969

Commander  
Third Coast Guard District (OAH)  
Governors Island  
New York, New York 10004

Subject: Proposed Buoy Removal in Local Notice to Mariners  
No. 5, dated January 30, 1969

Dear Sir:

Speaking for the Off Soundings Club, we would strongly urge that "Shelter Island Sound North Channel Entrance Bell Buoy" be allowed to remain in its present location.

Twice a year, in mid July and mid September, the Off Soundings Club holds races for approximately 200 (two hundred) sailing yachts.

For well over fifteen years this particular Bell buoy has been used both as a finish line and turning mark for these races. The reason for the choice of this mark for the above purposes are significant in your deliberations, I feel.

1. A mark of the course or finish line should not be in or near a tight passage in order to minimize maneuvering hazards both to non-participant commercial and recreational vessels and to the fleet itself.
2. The mark should not be in an area subject to severe tidal currents.
3. The mark should be clear of headlands adversely affecting normal wind patterns.

This elimination is of great concern to us, in that we feel a



strong responsibility to lay out the safest course possible for the participants. This race, incidentally is the largest event of its kind on the east coast.

We trust that this appeal will be considered favorably and would appreciate direct word as to your decision, in that we must either confirm or adjust our plans promptly.

I am enclosing copies of the courses sailed by the Off Soundings Club as possible assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Donald P. Robinson  
Race Secretary  
Off Soundings Club

**Enclosures**

- cc: B. du Pont
- J. English
- H. Scheel
- W. White
- W. Ames
- G. Wolfe
- C. Patterson
- E. Raymond