

New England Fishermen Stewardship Association
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In Opposition of

LD 1895 An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Dustin Delano and I am the Chief Operating Officer for the New England Fishermen Stewardship Association (NEFSA) and also a commercial lobster fisherman of over 20 years. NEFSA adamantly opposes LD 1895, An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources.

NEFSA is an alliance of the wild harvesters of the waters off of New England, dedicated to educating the public about how best to manage our seafood resources through sound science and best practices at conservation used by fishermen, with a view toward economic well-being, ecosystem sustainability and US food security.

The Gulf of Maine is home to thousands of coexisting marine species, including endangered species, who depend on its healthy ecosystem and unwavering environment for their very existence. Beyond the affected marine species are many types of birds and bats, some of whom are also endangered species. A recent quote from Dr. Robert Barclay, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada said,

“Wind energy is booming in Alberta as else wear and bats and wind turbines don't get along very well. The wind turbines kill a lot of bats. In fact in Alberta it kills more bats than it does birds.”

Dr. Cori Lausen, director of bat conservation for the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada said,

“ all they have to do is get close to these blades and that's a low pressure zone and that literally causes the blood vessels in their lungs to explode. Sort of like a scuba diver coming up too quickly.”

A species in similar size to a bat is the Atlantic Puffin who have offshore nesting areas and are listed as having a vulnerable conservation status due to their decreasing population. Much work, such as *Project Puffin*, has taken place over the last few decades to help restore this threatened species in Maine.

A healthy Gulf of Maine is also crucial to Maine's economy. Maine's fishing industry ranks high among the state and its lobster catch is the biggest in the country. Commercial fishing is the mainstay of coastal areas, mostly dominated by lobster fishing, though many ground fishermen still work the waters of the Gulf of Maine. Offshore wind development has the VERY real potential for the commercial and recreational fishing industry to be irrevocably harmed.

Floating offshore wind turbines will stand almost 900' tall, nearly three times the height of the Statue of Liberty. Each structure will encompass nearly one square mile of area when anchoring systems are factored in. Three sets of chains, with individual links the size of pickup truck beds, will be anchored to moorings at a diagonal angle from the base. In presentations from developers, a 7:1 or as much as 9:1 slope will be necessary, causing the chains to sweep across the ocean floor, destroying all habitat within its path on every wind or tide change.

Because of the spatial impact, fishing will be impossible within wind farms. Developers like to say fishing will remain open within the arrays, but the truth is, fishing within them will be extremely dangerous as hangups will be unavoidable. Fish draggers will be unable to tow nets between turbines as they'll risk catastrophic losses from hangups. Lobstermen are required by federal law to fish a minimum of 25 traps on a trawl outside the twelve mile line in lobster management area 1 and a minimum of 45 traps on a trawl in lobster management area 3, making it impossible to lay a trawl amongst the arrays.

Another major issue lies with cable deployment. When developers lay new cables, they use jet ploughs to blow massive swaths of bottom out of the way to bury the cables. Anything in the path of the jet ploughs on the softer bottom will be completely destroyed. Of course the cable can not be buried on hard bottom so that cable will lay across the ocean floor, leaving ocean life much more exposed to the electro-magnetic fields.

Currently, the State of Maine is working on a 12 turbine, floating research array to be deployed offshore. While NEFSA is not a supporter of the research project, it is extremely important the State of Maine take full advantage of that specific array's purpose and use it for its intended

goal, RESEARCH LD 1895 makes it law for hundreds of turbines to be deployed into the Gulf of Maine by 2030 and 2035, no matter the data obtained from the states research lease. It is crucial that Maine does this right, as putting the cart before the horse will cause irreversible harm, detrimental to the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, the fishing industry, and the Maine economy.

For generations, fishermen have been true stewards to the ocean environment and are directly responsible for the current preservation of the Gulf of Maine as a result of their sustainability efforts. Every fisherman I know has a major goal of preserving the fisheries and heritage for future generations, just like they were fortunate enough to inherit. Industrializing our oceans does not provide a future for the youth in Maine to have access. Turning the Gulf of Maine into a "New York City," does not allow for wild caught seafood to continue being provided to Americans amongst times of food insecurities.

As Mainers, you've likely travelled through towns in the northern part of the state where the logging industry and paper mills once supported entire communities. Areas once filled with growing families and hopeful and prosperous dreams, were slowly ripped away. Now when you travel through, you see abandoned homes, decrepit buildings, and a real sense of struggle —forcing the youth to move away from areas where their families lived for generations. Please, do not make decisions forcing our coastal communities into the same predicament. The New England Fishermen Stewardship Association urges you to think responsibly before passing legislation which seeks to put the cart before the horse. We urge you to not take erratic, swift action that will most likely cause irrevocable harm to the Gulf of Maine. We urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1895.

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