

Charles Kelley  
Steuben

I am a fisherman from Steuben. To say that I strongly oppose offshore wind is an understatement.

There are several reasons that I oppose and I will address some of them.

As fishermen, we have been up against whale restrictions for years, so, it seems more than hypocritical to allow huge monstrosities such as these turbines to be placed in our ecosystem. The damage that they will cause to the ocean floor will be devastating. Imagine them dragging back and forth with just normal ebb and flow not to mention storms. Where are the whale activists on this issue, we have not heard a word?! We are restricted to break away gear, what about the turbines?

We do not want the coast of Maine to be the test area for the first wind project! The results will not be undone.

These turbines are huge and made up of materials that are toxic to our pristine ocean. How will the maintenance take place? They have many problems maintaining them on land, how will they do this on the ocean? The 55-60 gallons of oil that they contain will be dumped into the ocean when they malfunction, and it's 'when', not 'if'.

To say they are cost effective is a farce. They cost millions of dollars each and take approximately 15 or more years to pay for themselves. Their lifespan is maybe 20 years on land. What will it be in the salty ocean. Fishermen know that mechanisms and salt don't mix well together.

The Monhegan project is especially troubling as this is fishing grounds. It may not directly affect me but it does directly affect my industry. The fishermen are stewards of the sea. We are conservationists and why wouldn't we be? This is our life and our future at stake. The lobster industry is alive and well despite the trap limits we have been forced to comply with and they continue to be reduced.

We love our jobs and our lifestyle. We love fishing and supporting our communities and feeding people. We work hard and we are passionate about preserving our waters. My sons are 5th generation fishermen. Please do not allow offshore wind. I have researched and ask that you do the same. Common sense will tell you that our Gulf of Maine is not the place for wind turbines.

Thank you,  
Charles Kelley  
Fisherman, Steuben, Maine