

May 3, 2021

To whom this may concern,

I am writing today as an extremely concerned Maine commercial fishing family member, that will be directly affected by Offshore Wind Energy Development.

I would like to express my support for Bill LD 101 an Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. I firmly oppose offshore wind development on every level, anywhere in the Gulf of Maine.

BOEM expanded its cumulative impact analysis, the 420 page report finds most options for completing the work will have moderate to negligible impacts on marine mammals, sea turtles, environmental justices issues, cultural resources with major impacts weighing on the FISHING INDUSTRY. The BOEM analysis report duly noted, " the overall cumulative impacts on commercial fisheries and for-hire recreational fishing" could be "major" because the "FISHING INDUSTRY" would experience unavoidable disruptions beyond what is "normally acceptable" because of LOST FISHING GROUND, CONSTRUCTION, NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS, AND LOST FISHING GEAR.

Negative Impacts:

One of the 1st effects Offshore Wind Energy Development has on the nearby surroundings is physical damage caused by the construction at the sea floor, the main effects of this are seafloor habitat destruction and sediment suspension in the water columns, caused by the disruption of sand and silt from the seafloor. Sediment suspension is likely to have a negative impact on fauna by increasing turbidity, mobilising contaminants and smothering sessile suspension- feeding animals, such as corals, sponges and anemones. A reduction in visibility can also affect photosynthesis in algae and disrupt key behaviors in visual animals.

Noise Pollution

One of the main issues caused by the construction and operation of Offshore Wind Energy Development is that they emit a lot of noise into the marine environment. Known as marine pollution, this can affect the behaviors of marine animals as well as potentially causing serious injury.

Electromagnetic fields

Another potential issue with Offshore Wind Energy Development is electromagnetic fields (EMF's), which are generated by the transportation of the acquired energy through electric cables that are built into the seabed. They could have an effect on the behavior or physiology of fauna which use electroreception for detecting prey or conspecifics. What are the specifics regarding cable location and proximity of fishermen gear? This issue will most certainly be problematic and result in losing more lobsterfishing grounds. Even so with habitat destruction, seafloor disturbance and an electromagnetic field, crustacean's may be non-existent.

Non-Indigenous Species

One of the most overlooked issues associated with Offshore Wind Energy Development is the introduction of non-indigenioius and invasive species, which presents a threat to biodiversity. Artificial structures including Offshore Wind Energy Development, oil rigs, breakwaters and ports are known to promote the spread of non-indigenous species, which can disrupt trophic webs and cause shifts in the populations of native species, normally with a negative impact on the overall ecosystem.

Sunlight Glare

Offshore Wind Energy Turbines and sunlight glinting on turbines can cause flashing light, even though most blades are a dull color its still a

concern with water reflection. This may seem completely irrelevant to those of you sitting behind a desk all day but from a sternman's perspective, I whole-heartedly admire my Captain for enduring each unfavorable circumstance that he is dealt with on a daily basis.

#### Dirty Facts

Lubricants and fossil fuels, how are these negative forces factored into the equation of Offshore Wind Energy Development? Gear oil is used in lubricating gearboxes; grease is used on the main rotor shaft bearing, yaw bearing, pitch drive gears, blade bearing and generator bearing. Hydraulic fluid is used in hydraulic systems for blade pitch control. Wind turbines can hold up to 400 gallons of oil at a time. Wind turbines cannot be built and cannot operate on a large scale without fossil fuels. Bloomberg states, "workers wearing goggles and masks were scrubbing off a copper-colored lubricant that dripped down from the turbine, they'd wrap cloth around it's base, to absorb further leakage and stuffed contaminated soil and stones into trash bags". Clean oil, not believing it! Nothing is totally safe, no one will convince me that enormous equipment such as wind turbines never malfunctions. No matter if the malfunction be minor or major, if its on the ocean it could be fatal either way to a commercial fishermen.

Report DE-EE0005380 Page7 of 175

I find this report rather concerning since I have a son, a father, two brothers, a son-in law, uncles, cousins and friends that fish on this very same ocean that some individuals desire to place Offshore Wind Turbines. "Potential Interference with Electromagnetic Systems", for marine navigation, the effect of offshore wind farms on marine radars installed on boats and shipping vessels was modeled. We used XPATCH and the EREPS model to simulate the electromagnetic scattering and propagation over ocean surfaces. It was found that wind farm scattering could produce a confusing navigational picture if a boat being tracked is inside a wind farm. There would be a minimal interference to tracking of vessels operating outside the farm. These findings confirm the earlier U.S Coast Guard determination on the Cape Wind project that "The Coast Guard's assessment of impact on navigation safety falls within the moderate ( AVERAGE) impact level." The case when the radar is inside the wind farm was not studied.... further study is needed to fully characterize their effects. This was rather disturbing to me as I would feel more confident in having my family and friends out navigating the waters along side this colossal equipment knowing that studies had been done proving a better than average impact level. Then theres the issue of not enough concern surrounding a report hadn't even BEEN STUDIED YET..someone please explain why?

Offshore wind turbines can potentially disrupt electromagnetic signals used in telecommunications, navigation and radar services. The degree and nature of the interference will depend upon: The location of the wind turbine between the receiver and the transmitter. Characteristics of the rotor blades. This is NOT reassuring to me. All commercial fishermen depend on their radars, bottom machine, fathometer and various other types of devices EVERY DAY- when considering the concerns with radar use, it is critical. As a lifelong resident of Downeast Maine, I can testify to the fact that almost some part of every day during the summer and fall months consists of dealing with foggy conditions. Fishermen of recent generations are more familiar with the technology of modern computerized

machinery and have become reliant on the computerized knowledge of radars etc in their day to day routines. A radar is a crucial piece of equipment to a fisherman and the thought of Offshore Wind Turbine interference is very disturbing!!

On the surface Offshore Wind Energy Development may possibly seem to some like an environmental solution but look beneath the waves, in this case there is so much more to consider, more than one may choose to think. Please people, do your research and try to put this all into perspective- there are far too many negatives and not enough research in this particular situation. All the DMR data is in black and white, Maine greatly depends on its commercial fishing industries to survive. This issue may not be of great importance to individuals that will not be directly impacted by these colossal disturbances but indirect impacts can still have lasting effects. I urge you to look at the trickle down effect regarding the potential harm facing our commercial fishing industries with the Offshore Wind Energy Development. I do not use the word potential lightly, as there is NOT enough research done to give exact repercussions from such a colossal project on the OCEAN.

So many important factors need to be assessed before considering Offshore Wind Development. I do NOT feel on any level that important factors, whether it be directly or indirectly have been assessed. Maybe the question needs to be asked, " how is it possible to do an accurate assessment without having the proper data regarding this precise situation? " As an individual that will be affected directly because I come from a long line of fishermen, I do NOT desire any areas of Maine to be used as an EXPERIMENT ! Consenting to these untested ideas sounds completely preposterous. Yes, I have researched the information available regarding existing Wind Developments, however from the information available I see no comparisons available to this precise situation.

Fishermen have been the backbone of Maine for many generations, they are some of the most outstanding individuals possessing strong work ethics, pride, virtue, respect and value. Direct failure to fishermen could lead to thousands of Maine businesses greatly suffering. Consider for a moment, If buying stations do not get their harvested products, they will be forced to close, all the bait and fuel supply chains will lose customers as the result of a trickle effect. Hardware stores, boat shops, gas and diesel mechanic shops, grocery stores, financial institutions, doctors offices, hospitals, restaurants.. the list is endless if Offshore Wind Development fails us! This is scary, commercial fishermen bend over backwards to comply with all regulations so just for a second put yourself in the boots and oil gear of a fisherman. "What if you no longer have the resources to provide for your family, how will this effect your mental health, your pride and self esteem" ? You and I both know something of this magnitude developed in our ocean waters where financial survival is vital, could lead to major negative impacts.

Offshore Wind Development should NOT be developed in an area where so many communities depend solely on the resources taken from its waters! Logically speaking, I like to see the glass half full but regarding the current situation we are facing, there are just too many things that CAN and more than likely will go wrong with this colossal ocean project. Commercial fishermen can not afford failure, this would have devastating effects on a substantial number of families and businesses. Commercial fishermen are unique, fishing is our inherited sense of family identity for generations and generations, the values, traditions, culture

and artifacts have been handed down by previous generations. It is absolutely NOT RIGHT to interfere with a mans heritage!! Do your homework people, if we lose commercial fishing what are we expected to do to provide for our families.....

Thank You

Bridgette Alley  
Addison Maine