

OFFSHORE
WIND



NEW ENGLAND
FISHERMEN

IN THE GULF OF MAINE

**COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY OFFSHORE WIND CONFERENCE
MAY 13TH, 2022 – BOSTON, MA**

For Immediate Release:

On May 13th, 2022, more than fifty leaders and members of the Massachusetts seafood industry gathered to address the looming threat of ocean industrialization – namely, offshore wind energy development.

A national and regional understanding of the threats offshore wind development poses to our fishing communities, sustainable seafood and vital ocean resources is poorly understood. Acknowledging this short coming, the meeting sought to build awareness among industry participants on the facts and identify key areas of concern that the seafood industry has in order to help educate our neighbors, colleagues and the public.

At the meeting, industry participants developed and ratified a short document showcasing where impacts of ocean industrialization will be most acutely felt. These impacts focused on key topics: the fishing economy, coastal communities, the shortcomings of offshore wind permitting process to authentically engage impacted small businesses, health of the natural environment and ocean ecosystems, domestic food security, and affirmation that seafood is the healthiest choice for both people and the environment and therefore must be protected.



The value of our small businesses comes from the sea: fish and fishing. The seafood industry does not want to be displaced or replaced by offshore energy development. It does not seek handouts in the form of mitigation or compensation, even though these may be important considerations once steps have been taken to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts. We want to protect our sustainable and renewable ocean food resource, food security and the people and industry that delivers it.

There remain many outstanding questions for offshore wind corporations and public officials championing this new form of energy. We caution leaders and the public to consider what might be lost if untested, rampant industrialization is allowed in some of our most productive and beautiful natural areas. It is vital to enter into offshore energy development with eyes wide open. Thus, we seek to raise awareness in order to ensure the continued existence of our sustainable fisheries.

Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative

Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership

Northeast Seafood Coalition

RODA

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