



**GLOUCESTER FISHERMEN'S WIVES ASSOCIATION
 PETITION TO PREVENT OIL DRILLING ON GEORGES BANK**

The Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association (GFWA) was established 41 years ago with one ultimate mission: to protect, preserve, and promote the New England commercial fishing industry.

Since its founding, the GFWA has fought numerous battles on behalf of the fishing industry. One, which has always been a major focus, is the prevention of oil drilling on Georges Bank. We have opposed the desecration of

this pristine fishing ground since it was first proposed in the 1970's. We feel that in light of the recent disaster in the Gulf, no better time exists to call for the permanent protection of our waters. Presently, there is a moratorium on oil drilling on Georges Bank but the GFWA feels it is unwise to leave the continuation of the moratorium to the discretion of the President.

The preservation of Georges Bank is a national issue; it is the primary nursery for fish that roam the eastern coast of the U.S.; and it is the best source of healthy protein for our nation. Therefore, the GFWA is working to prevent permanently the drilling for oil on Georges Bank, which is a practice that has the potential to decimate this ecosystem and the fishing industry in New England.

We, therefore, urge all to support **H.R. 790: Georges Bank Preservation Act**: *To prohibit issuance of any lease or other authorization by the Federal Government that authorizes exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any marine national monument or national marine sanctuary or in the fishing grounds known as Georges Bank in the waters of the United States.*

Sponsor: Edward Markey of Massachusetts; **14 Co-Sponsors:** Michael Capuano (MA-8), William Delahunt (MA-10), Barney Frank (MA-4), Maurice Hinchey (NY-22), Paul Hodes, (NH-2), Patrick Kennedy (RI-1), Stephen Lynch (MA-9), James McGovern (MA-3), Richard Neal (MA-2), Ms. Chellie Pingree (ME-1), Ms. Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1), John Tierney (MA-6) Ms. Niki Tsongas (MA-5), Peter Welch (VT). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

We the undersigned join the GFWA in supporting Rep. Edward Markey's proposed legislation (H.R. 790) to prevent offshore oil drilling on Georges Bank.

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Please return to GFWA, 2 Blackburn Center, Gloucester, MA 01930