



DO YOU KNOW?

The Gulf of Maine is a 36,000 square mile body of water encompassed by the coasts of New England, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and Georges Bank.

The Gulf of Maine and George's Bank are some of the richest fishing grounds in the world. High levels of nutrients, strong currents, and heavy winds make these waters extremely productive, turbocharging the marine food web. These intense conditions also create some of the most violent ocean storm events.

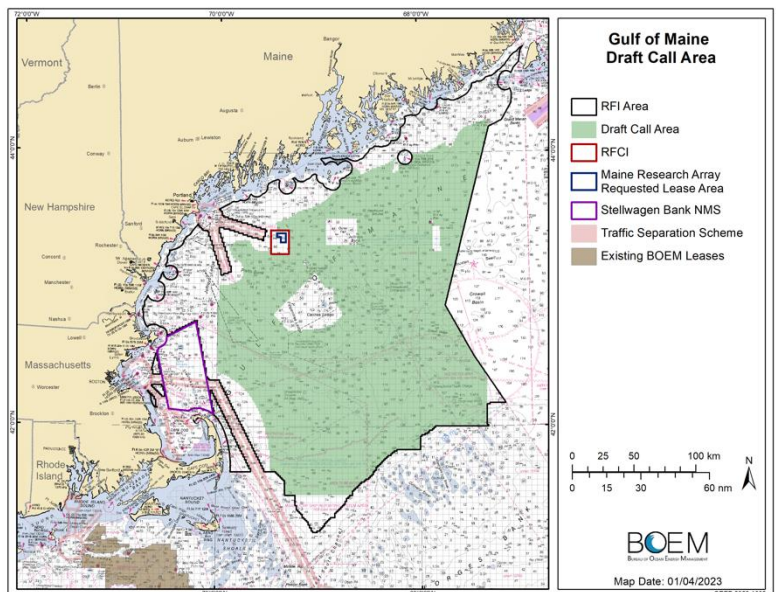
Fisheries of the Gulf of Maine have fed local and Indigenous people living here for thousands of years. For the last 400 years the earliest forms of modern transoceanic fisheries were developed and operated here, and Gulf of Maine seafood has fed the people of the United States, Europe, and the world ever since.

An organization called Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association formed in 1969 to protect Gulf of Maine fishing grounds from foreign industrial fishing fleets, push back against factory trawling in the region, and to conserve the local fishing way of life. In 1976 the US Congress passed a law called the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which created regional systems for fisheries management and eventually banned foreign fleets from fishing within 200 miles from the US coast, our Exclusive Economic Zone.

The New England Fisheries Management Council was created to work with fishermen to initiate the conservation of the Gulf of Maine and surrounding areas from the damage the foreign fleets did to all stocks of fish. Under these new management systems, much of these fishing grounds have been closed to commercial fishing for the purpose of conservation and remain so to this day.

For the last 54 years destructive projects have been proposed to be built in these waters, such as:

- Offshore oil rigs
- Fish farms
- Seabed sand and gravel mining
- Ocean dumping grounds
- Tire reefs
- Artificial islands
- Liquefied natural gas facilities





With the leadership of the fishing industry and the support of the public the disastrous impacts of these projects have been avoided. While LNG terminals were built, today they are out of commission because our intense weather has damaged the terminals and they were not able to operate safely.

Today, the Gulf of Maine is facing a new threat from industrial development. In 2022, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has decided, without the consent of fishing communities, to start the process of putting the Gulf of Maine for lease to place about 1,000 floating turbine platforms some 800 feet tall in the Gulf of Maine. BOEM has placed over 21,000 square miles of the Gulf of Maine (that's over 50% of the entire Gulf!) into consideration for industrial energy development, including all that comes along with it:

- Seismic surveys using pneumatic airguns that kill marine life and disturb fish
- Areas that are off limits to certain fishing gear seasonally or permanently
- Areas that become unsafe for Coast Guard search and rescue operations
- The placement of thousands of miles of electrified cables
- Increases in fog due to nucleation of moisture in the air by turbine blades
- Known and unknown changes to the environment and creatures that live in it

These new wind energy projects might have the life span of 25 years. By that time, our fishing communities could be gone forever.

To place wind turbines in the Gulf of Maine, developers are discussing ways to remove all boulders from the bottom of the ocean and flatten developed areas, dig down into the seabed to place transmission cables, cover them, and line up the boulders on each side of the cable and make sure no one fishes there.

Both NOAA and Mass Division of Marine Fisheries have said at public meeting that they cannot do stock assessments in those areas, severely impacting the way we will fish.

The US Coast Guard has stated at meetings that if anything happens to a vessel or a fisherman operating between turbines they will not be able to be rescued via helicopter.

And of course, the loss of fishing grounds will severely reduce the opportunity to harvest our extraordinary seafood bounty, impairing our ability to feed ourselves, our fellow citizens, and the world.

Despite all of this, putting wind turbines in the Gulf of Maine is vocally supported by our state and federal governments. ***Do you want this to happen to your fishing grounds?***