

# Island Ad-Vantages

## THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

**December 10, 2020** – Last month Governor Mills announced the State of Maine’s intention to seek the nation’s first floating offshore wind research array, located in the Gulf of Maine, to advance new technology in collaboration with Maine’s fishing industry. This is a big step in the development of commercial scale offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Maine. It builds on a research project that the University of Maine has led for several years called Maine Aquaventis, which will install a single floating wind turbine to the south of Monhegan Island in order to test this technology. The Maine Aquaventis research project uses a floating platform constructed with concrete that holds the mast and turbine. The Maine Aquaventis project has been funded by the US Department of Energy and should be in the water in the next couple of years. This design has caught the attention of Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, which intends on deploying this technology somewhere in the Gulf of Maine in the future.

Governor Mills has directed the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) to work closely with Maine’s commercial fishing industry, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and other interested parties to determine the site for the research array. To that end, the GEO has just announced plans to hold a series of initial stakeholder webinars this month to discuss Maine’s plans and how stakeholders can be involved in the process. They are offering four dates for these informational webinars to best fit with a variety of schedules and all webinars will share the same basic content. The webinars will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend. All of these meetings are open to the public, but you need to pre-register. Sessions are in the evenings from 6:00-7:30pm on December 15th, 16th, 17th, and 22nd. The ultimate location of this offshore wind energy research array is likely to be 20-40 miles, off the coast, and it’s important for fishermen to learn about this initiative, ask questions and express their opinions. For information and to register go to [www.maine.gov/energy/](http://www.maine.gov/energy/).

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to [info@coastalfisheries.org](mailto:info@coastalfisheries.org) or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at [www.coastalfisheries.org](http://www.coastalfisheries.org).

### FISHERIES LOG

#### Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Scallops: \$12/lb.

Lobsters (run): \$4.05/lb.

Bait (herring): \$82/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$1.99/gal.