

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

November 11, 2021 – I have been invited to join the Fisheries Working Group of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) effort to create an Offshore Energy Roadmap. This group includes several fishermen from across Maine as well as the leaders of other groups that work with commercial fishing. The 2-year planning initiative is funded by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The overall goal is to create a roadmap that considers how the development of offshore wind energy might be deployed off the coast of Maine that takes into account ecological impacts, impacts on current uses including fishing, impacts on wildlife, as well as value chain considerations such as workforce and shoreside infrastructure. A set of working groups is meeting every few weeks through this coming winter to address these issues.

Earlier this year Governor Mills signed into law a bill that prohibits the development of offshore wind energy in state waters, with the exception of the test site that will eventually have one floating turbine off the coast of Monhegan. So, this roadmap effort is intended to help inform future development further off the coast in federal waters. Concurrently, the GEO is submitting an application to the federal government to establish a lease site off of Casco Bay to establish a wind energy research array. This area is about 16 square miles and could eventually have up to 12 floating turbines. Its intent is to be able to study the impacts and provide information that will be considered in larger scale energy development.

It is not clear to me how, and if, the findings of this effort will be used by the federal Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM), or if these findings will be embraced by energy companies that want to develop wind turbine arrays in the Gulf of Maine. Fishermen are understandably concerned about impacts to the ecosystem and the loss of fishing territory. There are also plenty of unanswered questions about the feasibility of the technology, the waste stream and value chain of these machines, and the overall economics and realistic contribution to renewable energy goals. Stay tuned. You can learn more at: www.maine.gov/energy.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (select): \$6.55/lb.

Lobsters (shedder): \$5.55/lb.

Bait (pogies): \$65/bu.

Fuel (diesel): \$3.05/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: 55.9°F (avg. for this date: 53.9°F)

Bottom Temperature: 54.7°F (avg. for this date: 51.5°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org