



**MAINE COAST
FISHERMEN'S**
ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2017

Fishermen's Association stands with local community opposition of the Maine Aqua Ventus wind project

At its Annual Meeting held on October 10, 2017, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution expressing its opposition to the Maine Aqua Ventus offshore wind project which is proposed to be developed two miles south of Monhegan Island.

The resolution expresses the sentiment of the Fishermen's Association and its members that the project and the proposed landing of high voltage cables onshore in the Town of St. George, Maine would have detrimental impacts on the local fishing industry and the fishing community.

"Fishing has been the cornerstone of St. George for centuries," said Gerry Cushman, Chairman of the Fishermen's Association and fifth generation fisherman. "The Aqua Ventus project threatens lobstering and commercial fishing both now and for future generations of fishermen. Fishing is part of the fabric of Maine. We all need to do all we can to make certain that we preserve fishing as an opportunity for our children and our children's children."

Working waterfronts throughout the state of Maine are disappearing as development projects emphasize new and outside interests over those of traditional Maine industries and culture. Offshore wind is a new threat to fishing livelihoods as it has the potential to take away important fishing grounds that fishermen rely on to catch groundfish, scallops, lobster, and shrimp. While the Aqua Ventus project may be small in scale now, questions and deep concerns remain about the long-term ramifications of this shift in ocean and waterfront use.

Ben Martens, Executive Director added, "Fishermen throughout Maine are worried about the long-term impacts this project, and others like it, will have on Maine's fishing communities. We are working to preserve vibrant working waterfronts throughout Maine and stand in solidarity with the fishermen of St. George in opposition to this project."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 and led by commercial fishermen who, as stewards of the marine ecosystem, promote and advocate for the restoration of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem while balancing the needs of Maine's iconic



fishermen and fishing communities. The Fishermen's Association works to provide a voice for fishing communities, strengthen the health of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, and help maintain the viability of fishing businesses through advocacy, education, outreach, and collaborative research projects. For more information please visit www.maine coast fishermen.org

