

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 674

To prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of Maine, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of Maine, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northeast Fisheries
5 Heritage Protection Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL OFFSHORE WIND**
7 **ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN LOBSTER MAN-**
8 **AGEMENT AREA 1.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The New England fishing industry has been
2 an integral part of the history, culture, and economy
3 of the region for over 400 years.

4 (2) In 2023, the New England commercial fish-
5 eries landed an estimated 415,966,992 pounds of
6 catch, valued at \$1,350,533,650, which supports
7 thousands of fishermen, their families, and commu-
8 nities that depend on these ocean resources.

9 (3) The United States lobster fishery, with
10 Maine and Massachusetts producing 93 percent of
11 the lobster harvest, is one of the most valuable fish-
12 eries in the country with commercial landings total-
13 ing 113,007,821 pounds valued at \$582,433,794.

14 (4) Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of
15 Maine is a critical and highly productive fishing
16 ground for halibut, tuna, flounder, redfish, black sea
17 bass, monkfish, mackerel, rock and sand crab, mus-
18 sels, hardshell and softshell clams, oysters, scallops,
19 conchs, squid, and lobster.

20 (5) In 2024, the Biden Administration’s Bu-
21 reau of Ocean Energy Management announced the
22 Final Wind Energy Area for commercial offshore
23 wind development in the Gulf of Maine, which ex-
24 cluded all of Lobster Management Area 1.

1 (6) President Trump recently issued an Execu-
2 tive Order temporarily withdrawing from disposition
3 for wind energy leasing all areas within the outer
4 Continental Shelf citing the importance of marine
5 life ensuring that the United States is able to main-
6 tain a robust fishing industry.

7 (7) The permanent protection of Lobster Man-
8 agement Area from commercial energy leasing and
9 development would avoid conflict with the New Eng-
10 land commercial and recreational fishing industries
11 and preserve a vital fishing ground for future gen-
12 erations.

13 (b) PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL OFFSHORE WIND
14 DEVELOPMENT IN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA 1.—
15 Notwithstanding section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf
16 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337), no lease, license, permit, or
17 other authorization may be issued for the development of
18 commercial offshore wind energy in Lobster Management
19 Area 1.

20 (c) GULF OF MAINE OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT EN-
21 VIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
24 Comptroller General shall conduct a study to assess
25 the sufficiency of the environmental review processes

1 of the national Marine Fisheries Service, the Bureau
2 of Ocean Energy Management, and any other rel-
3 evant Federal agency for offshore wind projects in
4 the Gulf of Maine in place as of the date of enact-
5 ment of this section.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under
7 paragraph (1) shall include consideration of the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (A) The impacts of offshore wind projects
10 in the Gulf of Maine on—

11 (i) marine mammals, including
12 whales;

13 (ii) finfish;

14 (iii) benthic resources;

15 (iv) the commercial and recreational
16 fishing industries, including marine equip-
17 ment retailers, onshore processors, fish
18 markets, and other shoreside businesses;

19 (v) air quality and greenhouse gas
20 emissions;

21 (vi) cultural, historical, and Tribal re-
22 sources;

23 (vii) marine invertebrates;

24 (viii) essential fish habitat (as that
25 term is defined in section 3 of the Magnu-

1 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
2 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802));

3 (ix) plankton abundance and distribu-
4 tion;

5 (x) recreation and tourism; and

6 (xi) fisheries-dependent communities.

7 (B) How each agency described in para-
8 graph (1) determines which stakeholders to con-
9 sult with regard to offshore wind projects in the
10 Gulf of Maine and if a timely, comprehensive
11 comment period is provided for local representa-
12 tives and interested parties with regard to such
13 offshore wind projects.

14 (d) LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA 1 DEFINED.—In
15 this section, the term “Lobster Management Area 1” has
16 the meaning given the term “EEZ Nearshore Manage-
17 ment Area 1” in section 697.18 of title 50, Code of Fed-
18 eral Regulations (or a successor regulation).

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