



New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association

Sept. & October 2025

A Setback for Ocean Stewardship: Court Lifts Halt on Revolution Wind

By Dustin W. Delano

On September 22, 2025, a federal court in Washington, D.C., granted Danish developer Ørsted and its partner Skyborn Renewables permission to resume construction on the nearly completed Revolution Wind project. The ruling temporarily suspends the stop-work order issued just one month earlier—on August 22—by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), which had frozen the project at roughly 80% completion.

The August stop order was historic. BOEM directed Revolution Wind to halt construction “to prevent potential interference with the reasonable use of the exclusive economic zone, the high seas, and territorial waters” and flagged risks related to “national security and maritime safety.” This language signaled a major shift: for the first time, the federal government openly acknowledged that large-scale offshore wind projects may jeopardize more than just fishing access—they may pose broader dangers to navigation, defense operations, and the shared use of ocean space. The Trump administration was right to take this step, ensuring that industrial developers could not plow ahead without resolving serious concerns.

Ørsted and its allies immediately filed suit, claiming the stop order threatened to collapse the project altogether. Company executives argued that delays were costing them \$2.3 million per day and warned that if construction vessels could not complete work this fall, the project could not be finished until 2028 at the earliest. Rhode Island and Connecticut joined in the legal fight, contending the project was fully permitted and critical to meeting state energy goals.

At a short hearing on September 22, Judge Royce C. Lamberth sided with the developers. He dismissed BOEM’s justification as “flimsy,” arguing that the agency had offered only vague references to possible risks without citing actual findings of harm. He concluded that the financial harm to Ørsted outweighed the government’s case, and ordered that construction resume while the permitting review continues.

This decision is deeply troubling. Revolution Wind is not just another infrastructure project—it is a sprawling industrial footprint imposed across working fishing grounds, navigational corridors, and marine habitats, all to serve the interests of foreign energy corporations. The risks to navigation, food security, and marine ecosystems have not been meaningfully studied, yet the project now presses forward with the blessing of a court that prioritized corporate losses over ocean stewardship.

NEFSA Vice President Aaron Williams, who fishes the F/V Tradition out of Stonington, CT, underscored the stakes: “Our ocean is being auctioned off to foreign corporations, while the people who depend on it are treated as collateral damage. This court decision is a setback, but it does not erase the risks offshore wind poses to fishermen, coastal communities, and national security. We urge the administration to stand firm, appeal this ruling, and defend our ocean from becoming an industrial power plant.”

The administration was correct to act on August 22, recognizing that Revolution Wind’s march toward completion could not override national security, maritime safety, and lawful access to public waters. That stop order was not an overreach—it was a measured response to unresolved risks that threaten the long-term health of our ocean and the people who depend on it. NEFSA now calls on the administration to appeal the September 22 decision immediately. The Fight to defend New England’s waters is not about stopping progress—it is about ensuring that progress does not come at the expense of food security, generational livelihoods, and the responsible stewardship of our shared ocean.

The bigger picture is clear: offshore wind represents a policy choice to industrialize our ocean. Dense turbine arrays and exclusion zones complicate already crowded waters and heighten navigational risks. Generational fishing families are squeezed out of traditional grounds, forced to bear the burden of displacement and rising costs. Meanwhile, the ecological consequences remain unknown. From construction noise to electromagnetic fields and habitat alteration, the cumulative impacts of these projects on fish, marine mammals, and ecosystems are still poorly understood.

NEFSA Vice President Aaron Williams, who fishes out of Stonington, CT, aboard the F/V Tradition, put it plainly: “Our ocean is not an industrial park for foreign energy companies. Fishermen like me have worked these waters for generations, and we’re being told our livelihoods are expendable for a project that was rushed through without proper regard for safety, science, or the people who actually depend on the ocean every day. Halting Revolution Wind is a step in the right direction.”

Supporters of Revolution Wind tout its potential to “power 350,000 homes,” but even those projections don’t solve the intermittency problem, nor do they address the costs that inevitably fall on ratepayers and small businesses. A megawatt promised is not a megawatt delivered when the wind doesn’t blow, and the public is left with stranded assets and rising bills.

The administration’s August 22 stop-work order reasserted that national security, maritime safety, and lawful permitting come first in federal waters. That decision took political will. NEFSA applauds the administration for stepping in where state-level boosterism and industry lobbying drowned out the concerns of fishermen and coastal communities.

If we value food security, working waterfronts, and resilient coastal towns, then we must reject the wholesale industrialization of our ocean. Pausing new offshore wind construction until independent, long-term impact studies are complete, protecting core fishing grounds, and holding developers accountable to the same standards as fishermen are all essential steps. NEFSA stands with the men and women who make their living at sea. We will continue to oppose offshore wind projects that treat our ocean as a commodity and our communities as collateral damage. The stop order on Revolution Wind is not the end of the fight—it is the first honest step toward restoring balance and common sense offshore.

V-Notching: Fishermen Leading the Way in Conservation

By: *Dustin W. Delano*

At the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association (NEFSA), we know that the best conservation practices come from the people who know the resource best—fishermen. One of the most effective examples is v-notching, a practice that has protected the lobster fishery for decades and continues to prove its value today. That's why NEFSA is proud to be working alongside the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) and the New Hampshire Commercial Fishing Association (NHCFA) to strengthen and promote this important effort.

Together, we are renewing awareness of v-notching, highlighting its success, and ensuring the next generation of fishermen understand its importance. For our readers who may not be familiar with the technique, v-notching is the practice of cutting a small "V" in the right tail flipper of an egg-bearing (berried) female lobster before returning her to the ocean.

By law, notched females cannot be kept—even if they are not carrying eggs when later captured. This guarantees that proven breeders get multiple chances to reproduce, helping to sustain the stock for years to come. Every notched lobster represents countless future lobsters in the water, which is why the practice is so critical. It also stands as a shining example of fisherman-led conservation.

Unlike many top-down regulations, v-notching was born from within the industry, with lobstermen themselves leading the charge to protect their resources. The results speak for themselves: just six to eight years after v-notching rates were at their highest, lobster landings skyrocketed, offering undeniable proof that protecting breeding females works and that the conservation ethic of fishermen pays off.

A notch can remain visible for three to five molts, meaning one small cut can protect a female lobster for several years. Maine law requires v-notching of all berried females, setting the gold standard for conservation in the lobster industry, and the program is recognized worldwide as one of the most successful industry-driven fishery conservation measures.

As fishermen, we recognize that our way of life is directly tied to the health of the resource. V-notching stands as one of the strongest examples of how proactive conservation can secure both ecological sustainability and economic stability. By working alongside partner organizations in Maine and New Hampshire, NEFSA is reaffirming its commitment to this vital practice and to the principle that when fishermen take the lead, conservation thrives.



Re-Cap of our 3rd Annual Save our Fisheries Fundraiser

Our 3rd Annual Save our Fisheries Fundraiser held each year at Cook's Lobster & Ale House on Bailey Island was a smashing success despite the hurricanes happening! The boat parade, organized by NEFSA board member George Prince, happened at 5pm, just before our fundraiser started. This annual tribute, which includes a memorial service for our lost fishermen, is very moving to witness as fishermen come together in unity, each boat representing an American small business and way of life. Captain Matt Clemons, F/V Haylie Elizabeth, and owner of Inseine Bait led this year's memorial service. Matt placed a highflyer made by Joe's Ropes & Buoys and wreath made by Pam's Wreaths in front of Cook's Lobster & Ale House before joining the procession of boats led by Captain Morgan Conant F/V Knot Now. NEFSA CEO Jerry Leeman accompanied Morgan onboard. The parade proceeded north to the west shore of Bailey Island around red can #10 at Cox Ledge and into Garrison Cove. We would like to thank George Prince for his exceptional work organizing the annual boat parade and soliciting sponsors every year. George's commitment to the fisheries is second to none.

The silent auction featured amazing items with something for everyone, including a kayak, lobster traps, Dura-Brite lights, bait, gift certificates, gift baskets, art, jewelry, accessories, signed memorabilia, Get away trips and more! We would like to thank each and every donor for contributing to our cause!

There was a bounce house and face painting for the kids on site, the NEFSA booth was busy selling our NEFSA line of swag, and food and drinks were served throughout the event. Lexi James & Wildheart Band rocked the crowd well into the night and a fun time was had by all. We are looking forward to next year's event and want to thank all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. We could not have done it without you! Shout out to NEFSA Director of Development Dustin Colson for pulling off yet another great NEFSA event!



NEFSA Seeking Candidates for Director of Policy position.

New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association (NEFSA) is seeking candidates for a new position: Director of Policy.

Location: New England (hybrid). Regular travel across coastal communities and to council/commission meetings.

Position type: Full-time.

Reports to: Chief Strategist and Executive Board.

Start date: As soon as possible.

Compensation: Competitive salary commensurate with experience (\$120,000-\$150,000)

Role summary:

The Director of Policy leads NEFSA's policy agenda alongside the Chief Strategist end-to-end—identifying how federal and state fisheries actions affect harvesters, shaping how and when NEFSA weighs in, coordinating legal strategies with counsel, and working with fixer/contract lobbyists to drive progress. The Director represents NEFSA at key meetings (e.g., New England Fishery Management Council and, as needed, ASMFC), builds coalitions, and produces high-impact analyses, comments, and testimony.

Core responsibilities:

Strategy & analysis. Track and evaluate emerging and ongoing fisheries policies, rules, council actions, and science products for industry impacts across New England fisheries. Develop clear positions and decision memos that recommend when and how NEFSA should engage (comment, coalition, litigation, legislative). Translate complex regulatory/scientific materials into actionable briefings for fishermen, board members, and partners. Legal & regulatory engagement in partnerships with attorneys, scope and pursue legal pathways to challenge, improve, or defend policy (administrative challenges, litigation strategies, timelines, and record-building). Lead the drafting of public comments, petitions, testimony, and meeting interventions; manage deadlines across multiple rulemakings. Coordinate information gathering to support legal and administrative records (e.g., data requests, affidavits, FOIAs as appropriate). Government affairs & coalition building. Work alongside a fixer/contract lobbyist to advance NEFSA priorities with agencies, council/commission members, and elected offices. Build and maintain coalitions with fishermen, shore-side businesses, trade associations, conservation/science partners, and community stakeholders. Represent NEFSA at necessary council meetings (NEFMC) and, as needed, at ASMFC (and other relevant bodies/briefings). Research, communications & field engagement. Commission or perform rapid policy research, economic impact assessments, and technical reviews. Provide policy input for media, op-eds, and digital communications; prepare talking points and testimony for fishermen-spokespeople. Organizational leadership. Manage policy contractors, outside counsel, specialists, interns/fellows, steward budget lines for policy, government relations, and legal. Report regularly to the Chief Strategist and board; track KPIs and deliverables.

Key Outcomes (first 6–12 months)

Clear policy agenda and calendar mapped to NEFSA priorities and council/commission timelines. High-quality, timely public comments/testimony on top-priority actions. Active legal strategies scoped with counsel (if warranted), with records and timelines organized. Produc-

tive working cadence with fixer/contract lobbyist; measurable relationship-building with policymakers. Trusted briefings for fishermen leadership that improve participation and amplify fishermen voices.

Qualifications:

Required: 5–10+ years of experience in fisheries/marine policy, administrative law, legislative affairs, or closely related fields.

Demonstrated record shaping outcomes in complex rulemaking or litigation-heavy environments.

Excellent writer and editor—able to produce crisp comment letters, memos, and testimony under deadline.

Strong relationship-builder with credibility among fishermen, policymakers, and technical experts.

Comfort navigating the federal rulemaking process and relevant bodies (e.g., NOAA Fisheries/NMFS, NEFMC; familiarity with ASMFC).

Willingness to travel 25–35% for meetings, hearings, and community engagement.

Valid driver's license.

Preferred:

Advanced degree (JD, MPP/MPA, MS in marine policy/management) or equivalent field experience. Working knowledge of frameworks like the Magnuson–Stevens Act and administrative/NEPA processes; experience coordinating litigation with outside counsel. Familiarity with New England fisheries (including lobster), marine economics, and fisheries science basics.

Benefits

- 3 weeks paid vacation, paid sick time
- Health insurance benefits
- 401(k) match benefits
- Hybrid work environment (home + regional travel)

How to apply:

Email one PDF containing your resume and a brief cover letter (and a policy writing

sample if available) to coo@fishermenstewardship.org with the subject line "Director of Policy." Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until filled.

EEO: NEFSA is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.



NEFSA Swim for the Fishermen Fundraiser

Although conditions at sea made it too dangerous for swimmers to risk the 7-mile open-water swim from Appledore Island to the New Hampshire coast the past Saturday, registered swimmers, their teams, NEFSA supporters, volunteers, and sponsors still gathered and raised funds to benefit NEFSA. An appreciation lunch and ceremony were held featuring local seafood courtesy of Francesca Fernald of Geno's Chowder House, Glen Libby of Port Clyde Fresh Catch, and Brandon Wyman of Sarah Elizabeth II Fisheries. We would like to extend a special thank you to NEFSA members Francesca Fernald, Ward Byrne, and John Borden for volunteering, and to Bob Fernald who spearheaded and organized the campaign for his hard work and generosity. We appreciate everyone who stepped up to the plate to be involved. Thank you.

We are grateful to the following businesses for supporting NEFSA's Swim for the Fishermen. Please support these, and all businesses that support the American commercial fisheries!

Jumping Jay's Café, Portsmouth
<https://jumpinjays.com/>

Taylor lobster Company, Kittery
<https://taylorlobster.com/>

Geno's, Portsmouth
<https://www.genoschowder.org/>

Seaport Fish, Portsmouth
<https://seaportfish.com/>

Sweet Chix, North Hampton
<https://sweetchixkitchen.com/>

Moxy, Portsmouth
<https://www.moxyportsmouth.com/>

Joe's Meat Shoppe, North Hampton
<https://www.joesmeatshoppe.com/menu>

The Shanty, Portsmouth
<https://theshanty.com/>

The Icehouse, Rye
<https://theicehouserestaurant.com/>

The Atlantic Grill, Rye
<https://theatlanticgrill.com/>

Waterview Grill, Portsmouth
<https://waterviewgrillnh.com/>

Brown's Lobster Pound, Seabrook
<https://brownslobsterpound.com/>

Vida Cantina, Portsmouth
<https://www.vidacantinanh.com/>

The Oar House, Portsmouth
<https://oarhousesnh.com/>

Nichinan, Portsmouth
<https://www.nichinanrestaurant.com/>

Ore Nell's Barbeque, Kittery
<https://www.orenellsbbq.com/>

Northern Tide Charters, Portsmouth
<https://www.northerntideyc.com/trips>

Port Clyde Fresh Catch, Port Clyde
<https://www.portclydefreshcatch.com/>

Portsmouth Elks Lodge #97
<https://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodge=97>

Street, Portsmouth
<https://www.streetfood360.com/lunch-and-dinner-menu>

Markey's Lobster Pool, Seabrook
<https://www.markeyslobsterpound.com/>

The Golden Harvest, Kittery
<https://www.facebook.com/goldenharvest207/>

Upcoming Fisheries Meetings:

Maine DMR Lobster Zone Council Meetings:

Lobster Zone D Council Meeting- October 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM, Rockland Ferry Terminal, 517A Main Street, Rockland. FMI: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEDMR/2025/09/19/file_attachments/3394462/Zone%20D%20October%207%202025.pdf

Lobster Zone B Council Meeting- October 9th, 2025, at 5:00 PM, Mount Desert Island High School Library located at 1081 Eagle Lake Road, Bar Harbor. FMI: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEDMR/2025/09/19/file_attachments/3394464/Zone%20B%20October%209%202025.pdf

Lobster Zone F Council Meeting- October 15th, 2025, 5:00 PM., Yarmouth Town Hall, 200 Main Street, Yarmouth. FMI: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MEDMR/2025/09/19/file_attachments/3394485/Zone%20F%20October%2015%202025.pdf

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR):

October 6, 2025- Chapter 11 Scallops, Public Hearing, 5PM, DMR Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta.

October 7, 2025- Aquaculture Public Hearing-Lease Revocation- Charles Wallace d/b/a Petit Manan Seafood 1PM, Marquardt Building, RM 118, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta.

October 15, 2025, Aquaculture Public Scoping Session (UNE), 3PM, Saco Transportation Center, 130 Main Street, Saco.

November 3, 2025- Aquaculture Public Hearing - Benjamin Weeks, 1PM, Town of Brunswick, Council Chambers, 85 Union Street.

FMI or to register: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/meetings>

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

September 30, 2025- MA Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. 6-8PM, Virtual listen in & in-person at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Admiral's Hall, 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay, MA

September 29, -October 2, 2025- ACCSP Operations and Advisory Committees, 9-5, Portsmouth, NH

October 6-9, 2025- Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Data Workshop – October 2025, 10-5, Hyatt Centric Arlington, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA

October 14, 2025- American Lobster Stock Assessment Subcommittee, 9-11AM, Webinar.

FMI or to register: <https://asmfc.org/events/>

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

September 29-October 2, 2025- Longfin Inshore Squid Research Track Working Group Meeting 1-4PM.

October 2, 2025- Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) Working Group Meeting 9-10AM, Webinar.

October 7-9, 2025- October 2025 Council Meeting – 9-1, The Notary Hotel Philadelphia, PA.

FMI or to register: <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events>





New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association
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 Suite 204
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**Coming soon!
 A Personal Floatation Device (PFD)
 made for Commercial Fishermen!**

By: Guest contributor Liz Michaud of Green and White Hope

Let your voice be heard so it works for YOU. Green and White Hope, Inc. was founded this year with part of our mission being to innovate safety equipment for commercial fishermen. We have partnered with like-minded organizations, such as CM Marine Safety (<https://cmmarinesafety.com/>), founded by 4th generation fisherman Ben Collings Mackay. Ben has designed a PFD tailored to commercial fishermen, ensuring it meets Canadian and American standards, but he strives to ensure it will be something fishermen will wear. He seeks direct feedback from the fishing community to refine this PFD.

NEFSA and Green and White Hope, Inc. are committed to your safety. Research shows that a PFD that keeps the head above water can triple survival time in cold water like the Gulf of Maine. We invite you to share your PFD feedback and experience at our website above by the end of October. We will provide a summary of results and updates on the equipment's evolution after the survey closes. We hope that this PFD may someday become a commercial fishing mainstay and save your life or the life of someone you care for.

About NEFSA

The New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association (NEFSA) is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy group dedicated to preserving the commercial fishing heritage of New England. NEFSA aims to ensure future generations can work in the fisheries, provide sustainable seafood, and protect the livelihoods, heritage, and ocean resources of the region. FMI: <https://www.nefishermen.org/>

**Out-Reach: NEFSA at the 4th Annual
 Common-Sense Fair**

NEFSA CEO Jerry Leeman and NEFSA Director of Development Dustin Colson were at the 4th Annual Common-Sense Fair in Litchfield, ME. Jerry was a speaker at the fair talking about food security as a nation, why and how local, wild harvested, sustainable seafood is crucial for our health, our communities, and the economy, and how you can support the American commercial fisheries and all it sustains. NEFSA had a booth with information, freebies NEFSA swag for sale at the fair.

