



To Whom It May Concern,

My comment is in response to the list of questions that were sent to Massachusetts stakeholders for their opinion. Our company is located in Rhode Island and owns seven fishing vessels that fish those waters off Massachusetts and Rhode Island; we also depend on the independently owned vessels that do the same.

Fishermen, who make their living from the ocean, have been left out of the initial decision and planning process when siting these projects. It's not just Massachusetts fishermen that depend on these waters, but other New England states and some Mid-Atlantic states as well. All of these people are considered stakeholders and should have been involved in the project from the beginning.

This issue is not solved by simply asking us to fish elsewhere, it is very possible that the construction of these farms can have long lasting negative effects on the fish that live in the area and depend on its habitat for breeding and feeding. In turn, all of this can have negative effects on our business. We, as important stakeholders, should be considered and consulted throughout the entirety of these projects.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns.

Sincerely,

Katie Almeida
Fishery Policy Analyst