

Save Sears Island; Save Penobscot Bay; Save Mid-coast Maine

Sears Island has tremendous value in its current undeveloped, natural condition, providing important ecological services to the region and state, especially for fisheries. Yet, in November 2021, the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) proposed that Sears Island become the State of Maine's "centralized hub for assembly and launching of floating foundations as well as erection of the WTG (wind turbine generator) components onto the (floating) foundations," clearing the path to make Sears Island a new industrial site.

If MDOT and the State of Maine are serious about protecting the environment, the new offshore wind facility should be at Mack Point, an existing industrial site, not on Sears Island.

Three primary reasons include:

- Sears Island's current undeveloped, natural condition, provides important ecological services to the region and state, especially for fisheries.
- Once begun, the proposed development at Sears Island opens the door for expansive industrialization of Penobscot Bay, radically altering more than 300 of the island's 940 acres and changing the entire Penobscot Watershed forever.
- Build-out at industrial Mack Point consolidates industry in one location, economizes on existing infrastructure and replaces and remediates some of Mack Point's past outdated coal, oil and gas history.

To counter the current threat to Sears Island, Penobscot Bay and all of mid-coast Maine, it will be necessary to (1) enlist all those who would be adversely affected by Sears Island and Penobscot Bay becoming an industrial site and waterway and (2) engage a legal team capable of intervening in the regulatory process. Development of Sears Island threatens our long-standing natural-resource-based economy; the fishing industries; homeowners; burgeoning technology, fine art and craft businesses; local food producers; quality-of-life entrepreneurs and many others who understand Penobscot Bay's international reputation as a healthy place to live, work and visit.

If an OSW facility is to be built in Penobscot Bay, we believe it's appropriate to locate that facility at Mack Point even as we simultaneously protect the outstanding Sears Island and Penobscot Watershed ecology.

August 2022