

Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound  
American Bird Conservancy  
American Lighthouse Foundation  
Avangrid  
Barnstable Association for Recreational  
Shellfishing (BARS)  
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition  
Barnstable Historical Commission  
Barnstable Land Trust  
Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission  
Bay State Wind  
Black Dog Tall Ships  
Cahoon Museum of American Art  
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce  
Cape Cod Community College  
Cape Cod Life Publications  
Cape Cod Marine Trades Association  
Cape Cod Maritime Museum  
Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club  
Cape Wildlife Center  
Catboat Charters  
Cetacean Society International  
Crosby Yacht Yard  
Dennis Historical Commission  
Earth Island Institute/  
International Marine Mammal Project  
Edgartown Historic District Commission  
Figawi Charities, Inc.  
Freedom Cruise Line Inc.  
Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association  
Greater Hyannis Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Hyannis Civic Association  
Harwich Chamber of Commerce  
Harwich Conservation Trust  
Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit  
Hyannis Business Improvement District  
Hyannis Historical Society  
Hyannis Marina  
Hyannis Port Civic Association  
Hy-Line Cruises  
Island Queen/Island Commuter Corporation  
Littoral Power Systems  
Maria Mitchell Association  
Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative  
Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce

Mashpee Chamber of Commerce  
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe  
Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen  
Massachusetts Competitive Partnership  
Nantucket Anglers' Club  
Nantucket Historic District Commission  
Nantucket Historical Association  
Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce  
Nantucket Preservation Trust  
National Association of Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officers (NATHPO)  
National Congress of American Indians  
Orenda Wildlife Land Trust  
Osterville Anglers' Club  
Osterville Historical Museum  
Oyster Harbors Marine  
Passenger Vessel Association  
Pegasus Foundation  
Popponesset Water Stewardship Alliance  
Port of New Bedford  
Preservation Massachusetts  
Save Popponesset Bay  
South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association  
Surfrider Foundation-Cape & Islands Chapter  
Surfrider Foundation-Massachusetts Chapter  
The Chappiquiddic Tribe  
The Cultural Landscape Foundation  
Town of Barnstable  
Town of Dennis  
Town of Edgartown  
Town of Harwich  
Town of Mashpee  
Town of Nantucket  
Town of Oak Bluffs  
Town of Tisbury  
Town of Yarmouth  
United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)  
United States Lighthouse Society  
Vineyard Conservation Society  
Vineyard Wind  
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)  
Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and  
Nantucket Steamship Authority  
Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce  
Yarmouth Historical Commission

February 9, 2024

Dear Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congressman Keating:

We the undersigned write to you to urge you to introduce and support federal legislation to secure permanent protection for Nantucket Sound. Nantucket Sound is a critical resource to the economy of the Cape and Islands. Its historic, environmental, wildlife, and cultural values support commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, marine transportation, aviation, marine trades, and other businesses and industries that are vital to the region.

Permanent protection would preserve Nantucket Sound's rich cultural and tribal heritage and the historic features of its maritime history, including the role of our fishing industry. It would maintain the Sound's unique environment with respect to fish, marine mammals, and birds, and it would ensure the future environmental health of Nantucket Sound. The area is a recognized habitat for many state and federally protected species, including roseate terns, piping plovers, sea turtles, right whales, and grey seals. Protection would also promote tourism and benefit the regional economy of the Cape and Islands. As historic preservation advocates, environmentalists, commercial fishermen, tribes, renewable energy developers, businesses, chambers of commerce, municipalities, and others, we fully embrace this important preservation goal.

Nantucket Sound, Cape Cod, and the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket form an integral part of the maritime history of this country. The adjacent land areas are home to numerous historic properties, including the National Historic Landmarks of Nantucket Island, the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port, and Wesleyan Grove in Oak Bluffs. This unique ecosystem is home to many different species of wildlife, including federally protected birds, and several types of seals, porpoises, turtles, and whales. The Sound supports a fishing industry that is of historic significance and continuing economic importance. It attracts millions of visitors each year that drive our local tourist economy. Nantucket Sound has sacred value to the Native American people of the region and, as such, has been designated a traditional cultural property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only ocean-based traditional cultural property that has been recognized by the Keeper of the National Register.

We fully support protection for the historic, environmental, cultural, and tribal resources of Nantucket Sound while allowing for continued commercial and recreational fishing activities and other ecologically and economically sustainable uses of the marine environment. These include the siting of electrical transmission infrastructure from responsibly sited offshore wind projects and the development of hydrokinetic power in the Sound. We urge you to:

- designate the Sound as a National Historic Landmark to recognize this unique cultural, tribal, environmental, and maritime history.
- provide significant environmental protections to address the many threats facing Nantucket Sound, such as diminished water quality, coastal erosion, habitat degradation and other climate change effects.
- ensure that the protections that exist under state law for the waters that extend three miles from shore are extended to the federal waters located in the center of Nantucket Sound with respect to energy generation, while making certain that no regulatory or management authority of commercial or recreational fishing activities is added.
- ensure that the installation of transmission infrastructure used to connect offshore wind generation facilities, whose turbine arrays are located more than 10 miles from an inhabited area, or in upland locations, to the mainland grid, and the development of responsibly sited hydrokinetic power in Nantucket Sound, are not prohibited or otherwise impacted.

Such a bill would be precedent-setting legislation that achieves protection of the many public interest values of an entire marine ecosystem, ensures its future environmental health, and does so without imposing additional cost or management responsibilities on government or new regulatory requirements on businesses or the public. We appreciate your prompt attention to enactment of federal legislation to preserve this national treasure and critical environmental resource in perpetuity. Thank you.

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**Hy-Line Cruises**

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Owner and President  
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**Town of Edgartown**

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**Town of Harwich**

Board of Selectmen  
**Town of Mashpee**

Select Board  
**Town of Nantucket**

Board of Selectmen  
**Town of Oak Bluffs**

Board of Selectmen  
**Town of Tisbury**

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Board of Directors  
**Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce**

Yarmouth Historical Committee  
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