

Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound
American Bird Conservancy
American Lighthouse Foundation
Avangrid
Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition
Barnstable Historical Commission
Barnstable Land Trust
Bay State Wind
Black Dog Tall Ships
Cahoon Museum of American Art
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
Cape Cod Community College
Cape Cod Gateway Airport Commission
Cape Cod Life Publications
Cape Cod Marine Trades Association
Cape Cod Maritime Museum
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
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
Great Island Associates
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
Popponeset Water Stewardship Alliance
Port of New Bedford
Preservation Massachusetts
Save Popponeset Bay
South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association
Surfrider Foundation-Cape & Islands Chapter
Surfrider Foundation-Massachusetts Chapter
The Chappiquiddic Tribe
The Cultural Landscape Foundation
Thornton W. Burgess Society
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 21, 2025

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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Catboat Charters

David Kaplan
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Historic Commission
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Earth Island Institute/ International Marine Mammal Project

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Edgartown Historic District Commission

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Freedom Cruise Line Inc.

Angela Sanfilippo
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David Duquette
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Massachusetts Commercial Fishermen

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Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

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Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

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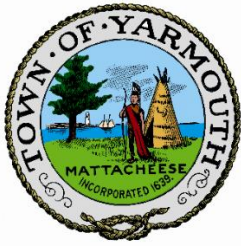
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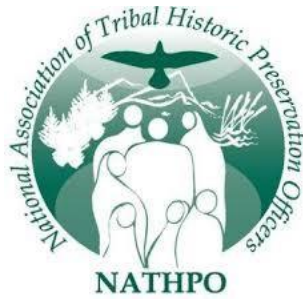
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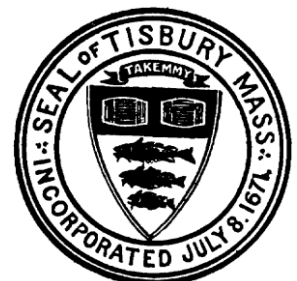
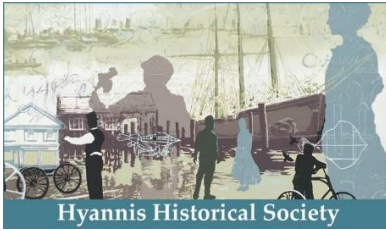


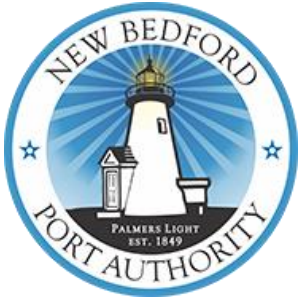
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