

Testimony to the US Commission on Ocean Policy  
by Mark Rodgers  
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My name is Mark Rodgers, I'm the Communications Director of Cape Wind Associates. We are working to secure permits to build America's first offshore wind farm on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound. We would harvest the winds on this shoal five and a half miles off the south shore of Cape Cod, to provide, on average, half of the power used on Cape Cod and the Islands from clean, renewable energy.

The United States has a vast supply clean renewable offshore energy resources that can provide us with a cleaner environment, a more stable climate, and a safer energy future.

The Cape Wind project is a private sector initiative that embodies many of the policy objectives articulated in the Act of Congress that created the US Commission on Ocean Policy such as "engaging the private sector in innovative approaches for sustainable use of marine resources" and in "investing in technologies designed to promote national energy security". US offshore wind resources are abundant, inexhaustible, sustainable and secure. Europeans are now greatly accelerating their use of ocean based wind power which they first pioneered twelve years ago.

There is no reason why the US should be left behind.

Atmospheric pollutant deposition is one of the threats to healthy oceans that I know this Commission is addressing. Fossil-fueled power plants are a significant source of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and mercury into our environment. Yet perhaps the greatest environmental threat to marine life from our dependence on fossil fuels is from global climate change, fueled by our CO2 emissions. Changing water temperatures threaten the habitats of fish and marine mammals and it is increasingly clear that warming oceans are resulting in plankton declines which form the base of the food chain for many marine mammals. Ocean based wind turbines offer us a chance to turn the corner; we can start using the ocean to produce nonpolluting energy that can allow us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

Your Stewardship Working Group is charged with finding responsible and sustainable uses of our ocean areas. With our nation's oceanfront population growth and growing coastal energy needs, we are faced with the choice of providing more polluting power plants inland or harvesting the significant renewable energy potential of our oceans from wind, tidal and wave power. Of these ocean renewable technologies, offshore wind is the farthest along in being commercially available and cost competitive and it is consistent with the Stewardship Working Group's goal to promote ocean policy that enables the nation to use its ocean resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Your Research, Education and Marine Operations Working Group is studying offshore power generation as well as several areas of oceans policy that would be positively impacted by offshore wind power such as sea-level rise, coastal land loss, and ocean pollution. This Working

Group is also studying sustainable tourism. Having spoken with many school teachers and administrators and with some professionals who work in eco-tourism, we are convinced that Cape Wind would become a major attraction for visitors and for school field trips as a source of sustainable tourism, a physical demonstration of our working with the ocean to help protect our sensitive marine ecosystem.

Many now recognize the significant environmental and economic benefits of offshore wind power. Cape Wind has have received favorable editorials in the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Providence Journal and USA Today. Several leading environmental organizations such as Greenpeace, Conservation Law Foundation, and Union of Concerned Scientists have written in support of the goals of Cape Wind.

Greenpeace has closely studied Europe's twelve years of experience with offshore wind power and they have this to say about the Cape Wind project:

*“The Cape Wind project will bring added benefits to eastern Massachusetts, including cleaner air and water, improved health, jobs, millions of dollars in investment, and the potential for greater tourism and fishing opportunities. Overall, the benefits of safe, clean, sustainable, home-grown wind power far outweigh its costs... The Cape Wind project could mark the beginning of a major energy transformation that will improve the quality of life, health, environment and security for all Americans.”*

Cape Wind Associates respectfully ask this Commission to use your unique perspective and expertise to make recommendations that encourage and expedite our nation's development of ocean based renewable energy to help protect the health of the ocean and to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to ocean stewardship. Thank you.