

New Bedford's Mayor Jon Mitchell statement on the Biden Administration's designation of a new priority Wind Energy Area

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell released the following statement on the Biden Administration's designation of a new priority Wind Energy Area in the New York Bight:

"The Biden Administration's designation today of new wind energy areas in the New York Bight leaves no doubt that America's offshore wind industry is now in full gear. New Bedford has much at stake in these developments.

For nearly a decade, we have been positioning ourselves to become a leader in offshore wind, and will soon host the deployment of the Vineyard Wind project, America's first industrial-scale offshore wind farm. As the industry rolls out, New Bedford will support wind farms not only off of Massachusetts but in the Bight as well, leading to the creation of well-paying jobs for our residents.

"At the same time, most of the seafood caught in the Bight, by dollar value, is landed in New Bedford, America's top commercial fishing port. We are grateful that in determining the boundaries of the new wind energy areas, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has taken pains to balance the interests of the wind and fishing industries based on the best available scientific data. While some tailoring of the boundaries may be necessary to avoid the most heavily fished areas, the announcement represents substantial progress after years of inaction.

We look forward to our continued work with the Biden Administration to launch an industry that will be a pillar of America's response to climate change, while preserving the established interests of commercial fishermen." – Mayor Jon Mitchell