



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

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O. C. Offshore Wind Farm

(PASADENA, MD) - Last night at the MSSA Atlantic Coast Chapter meeting, Dave Blazer of BluewaterWind LLC, discussed a proposal to build a wind farm ten to twelve miles off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. The wind farm would consist of 200 wind turbines standing 30 stories high and covering forty square miles. The wind farm is predicted to create enough energy to power 130,000 homes in Maryland.

The harnessing of wind energy has been around for thousands of years and has recently become very popular as global warming and renewable energies have taken the spotlight. Wind turbines are often seen in the U.S. on top of mountains or in the plains. However, there are no operating offshore wind farms in U.S. waters. As of right now there are several projects in different stages happening in the northeast including New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Rhode Island.

The first offshore wind project was installed in Denmark in 1991. Denmark relies upon more wind power, as a percentage of the country's electricity usage, than any country in the world. Twenty percent (20%) of the country's electricity comes from wind power. Much of this wind energy comes from offshore wind parks.

One of the main concerns at the meeting last night was economic value and if the energy created would actually stay in Maryland. Mr. Blazer stated that a long term contract would have to be signed by the state and BluewaterWind to make sure that happened.

Among the other concerns brought by the MSSA were the impact on migratory fish species and the impact it would have on fish habitat. Mr. Blazer stated that these wind turbines would act as artificial reefs and potentially be great fishing locations.

Since 1991 Denmark has researched and studied the impact of offshore wind farms on the environment. Several studies performed as part of this monitoring program have shown that wind farms have very little impact on the environment, during their construction and during their operation.

Mr. Blazer stated, "Denmark's real life experience can help us here in the United States to make informed, responsible decisions about offshore wind energy."

The MSSA plans on having Mr. Blazer speak about this project at the next board of directors meeting in December.

BluewaterWind LLC has a website in which you can find more information. www.bluewaterwind.com

Sincerely,

Dave Smith, Associate Executive Director

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