

## Mémoire – A Fisherman’s Perspective

Graham Burke

My name is Graham Burke. I was born and raised on these Islands. My father before me was a fisherman. My brothers were fishermen. Now my sons fish these same waters.

Fishing is not only my job. It is our heritage. It is our identity.

The north side of Grosse-Île is not just shoreline — it is active lobster ground. I fish there. My sons fish there. Other fishermen work those waters daily, often close to shore — sometimes 50 to 100 feet from the ledge.

Location matters.

I understand that this wind project is land-based. But land and sea are connected here. What happens on the shoreline does not stop at the grass line.

The Environmental Impact Study did not include spatial ecological mapping of lobster fishing grounds, seabeds, crab or scallop beds, or nearshore marine habitat on the north side. Marine effects were evaluated primarily from a socio-economic perspective — meaning potential income impacts — not ecological seabed or habitat mapping.

For fishermen, that distinction matters.

If no baseline ecological mapping of lobster habitat or seabed conditions was conducted, how can indirect effects be measured later? How can we know whether changes in sediment movement, drainage, shoreline erosion, or vibration could affect the nearshore zones we depend on?

This coastline is already under pressure from erosion and stronger storms. Disturbance to dunes, wetlands, and shoreline systems could alter sediment flow and water movement — and those changes eventually reach the sea.

We do not need to prove damage before asking for precaution.

Fishing is not just today’s income. It is generational livelihood. It is how I raised my children. It is how my sons will raise theirs.

When decisions are made this close to active fishing grounds, location cannot be dismissed.

I am not opposed to renewable energy. But I am opposed to taking layered risks in a fragile coastal system without fully understanding how it connects to the waters that sustain us.

As a fisherman, I ask that precaution be applied — not only for the land, but for the sea that feeds our families and future generations.

Respectfully,

Graham Burke