

# Boosting offshore wind

## Zinke seeks plans for energy project in waters off LI

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PRINCETON, N.J. — U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a powerful endorsement for offshore wind energy at a symposium here Friday, and announced a call for new proposals for a wind energy area off Long Island.

Zinke said wind energy was a key part of the Trump administration's plan for greater energy independence, saying it was "morally the right thing to do" in place of seeking resources in conflict-ridden areas.

He called the offshore wind industry a virtual "blank slate" with "enormous potential."

His speech included announcement of a formal "call

for information and nominations" from companies interested in potential wind energy areas for the New York Bight off Long Island's South Shore.

Fishermen have sued to block a lease already issued to Statoil in that area, which they consider a vital scallop and squid ground.

Zinke emphasized the importance of protecting fisheries and the fishing industry, saying they'll be important stakeholders in a five-year plan being developed by the department.

"We don't want to cripple or hurt the fishing industry," he said. "They are concerned. Fishing is a very important industry."

The new area identified by Zinke is considerably larger than four wind energy areas listed by New York State as part of its recently released offshore wind master plan. Notably, the federal area includes a large swath of water directly off the entire South Fork of Long Island, one that Alicia Barton,



Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke

chief executive of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, said the state's plan "does not support."

Barton applauded Zinke's announcement of the broader New York area, calling it an "important first step in the process" of developing the area and New York's wind energy industry.

Zinke also appeared to throw cold water on President Donald

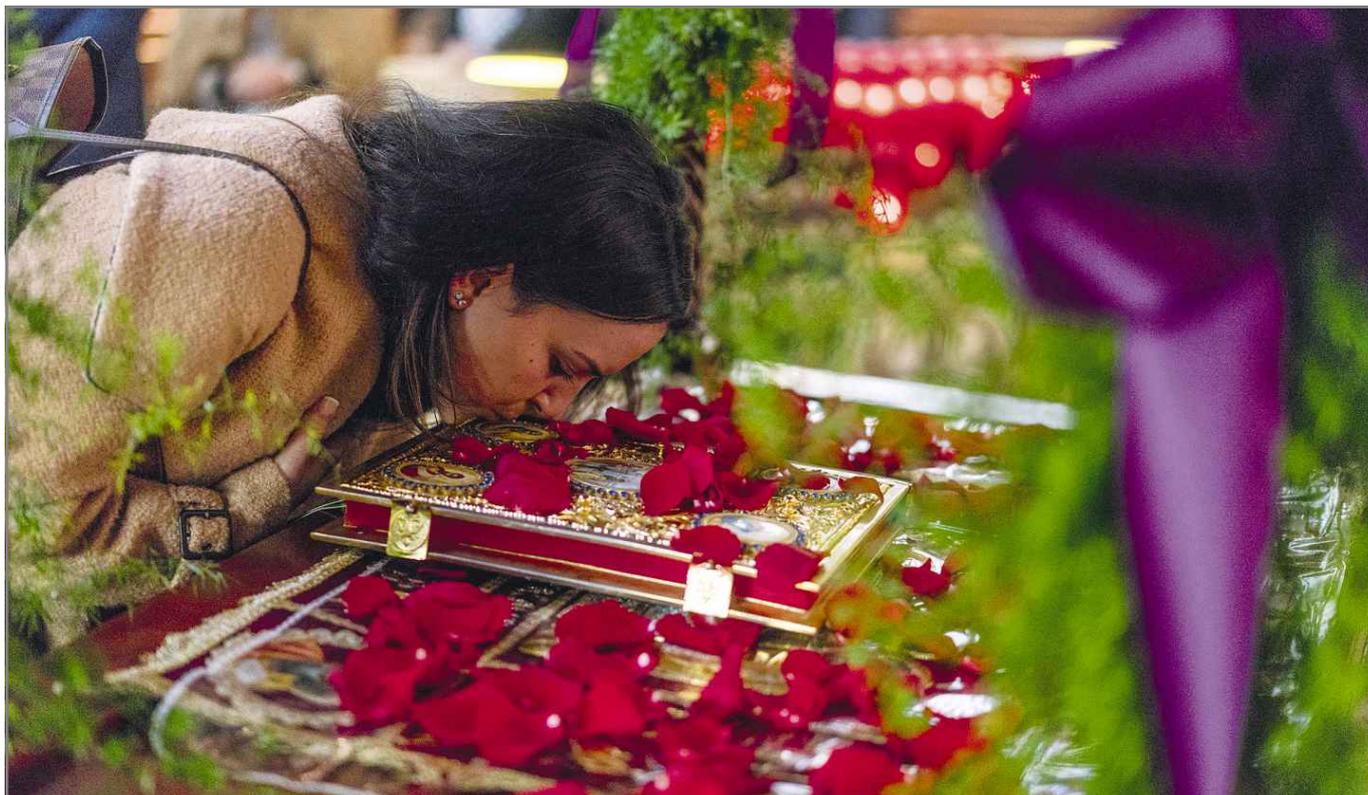
Trump's announced plan to allow offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling off the entire U.S. coast, saying opposition has been fierce and resources limited, particularly off the East Coast.

"There's very little if any oil and gas reserves known off the coast of New York," or the mid-Atlantic plate. There's also "no infrastructure" to start oil and gas drilling there. Only the governors of two states — Maine and Georgia — didn't oppose the plan, he said.

Oil and gas drilling, he said, is also a "greater risk" than offshore wind or onshore oil and gas drilling. Zinke said the department would take the opposition into account when developing the offshore plan.

Barton of NYSERDA took note. "We're glad to see him acknowledging all those factors," she said. New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, she said, "can't be more clear what a bad idea" East Coast drilling would be.

EPA / MICHAEL REYNOLDS



JOHNNY MILANO

## Easter weekend for Greek Orthodox

Worshippers kissed the Epitaphios, a symbolic representation of Christ, and passed their children underneath it during a celebration of Good Friday by Greek Orthodox Christians at the Archangel Michael Church in Port Washington.

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### CORRECTIONS

Findings about Long Island roads deemed unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists were presented at the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College in East Farmingdale on Thursday. A story Friday misspelled the name of the college.

John Bruckner, the newly promoted president of National Grid's New York operations, played quarterback at Newfield High School. A story published Friday in the business section misstated his football position.

### CLARIFICATION

Jamie Ballerini, 39, of Palm City, Florida, was arrested in July 2014 for allegedly robbing a motorist of his car keys in Farmingdale, Nassau County police said. The charges were dismissed in March 2015, county court records show. Newsday didn't report that the charges were dismissed.

### THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1927** Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover's image and voice were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of TV.  
**1962** Nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.  
**2017** President Donald Trump concluded his two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, saying he had developed an "outstanding" relationship with the Chinese leader.