President Trump Opens Marine Monument to Commercial Fishing

President Trump has opened the only national marine monument in the Atlantic to commercial fishing. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument was established in 2016 by President Obama and includes nearly 5,000 acres of the coast of New England. The monument is noted for its biodiversity, and opening up the area to commercial fishing will have a devastating effect on that ecosystem.

> *Opening up the nation's only marine national monument in the Atlantic will help no one but a handful of fishers while risking irreparable damage to the marine wildlife that have no other fully protected areas off our eastern seaboard…Ancient and slow-growing deep sea corals, endangered large whales and sea turtles, and an incredible array of fish, seabirds, sharks, dolphins, and other wildlife—these are the species and habitats that will pay the price."*
>
> *Bob Dreher, senior vice president of Conservation Programs at Defenders of Wildlife*

The area is home to four seamounts, 3 underwater canyons, more than 54 species of deep-sea corals, and is a frequent feeding ground for whales, sharks, seabirds, dolphins, turtles, and other species. Many of the corals are more than 1,000 years old.

President Trump's decision comes a day after he signed an executive order removing the need for environmental review before going forward with projects like pipelines and highways. The opening of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing, leaving more

than 1,000 species open to the damage caused by the industry, is only the latest of the President’s systemic dismantling of environmental protections in the United States.

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Sources:

- *Trump Illegally Eliminates Protections for First and Only Monument in the Atlantic Ocean* – NRDC
- *Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument* – NOAA Fisheries