



# NJDEP Research and Monitoring Initiative: Project Fact Sheet

## Monitoring the Socioeconomic Impacts of New Jersey's Offshore Wind Development on Recreational Fisheries Economy

### Research Motivation

- The objective of this project is to establish a baseline for recreational fishery activities, spending habits, and perspective regarding offshore wind development to understand socioeconomic changes in fishery and tourism during and post construction.

### Principal Investigators and Institutions

**Lead Principal Investigator:** Dr. Pankaj Lal, Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center (CESAC), Montclair State University

**Collaborators:** Dr. Aditi Ranjan, Montclair State University

Dr. Meghann Smith, Montclair State University

Jeffrey Brust, NJDEP, Bureau Chief of Marine Fisheries

Michael Russel, NJDEP, Chief Economist

Joseph Cimino, NJDEP, Marine Resources Administration Administrator

### RMI Research Priorities Addresses

- (1) Further scientific understanding by producing credible, scientifically rigorous data, analysis, and reporting.
- (14) Determine the effects of offshore wind development, artificial reefs and fisheries exclusion zones on recreational fisheries.

### Geographic Scope

Areas off NJ coastlines, including Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), where recreational fishing occurs.

### Methods or Approaches Used

- Systematically review subject-related documents and administer two surveys to all NJ Saltwater registry registrants: i) Saltwater registry database survey and ii) a Qualtrics based survey. These surveys will be distributed multiple times to evaluate change in angler behavior and opinion.
- Use of mathematical regression models and multipliers to assess behavioral and economic effects on anglers and recreational fisheries.

### Expected Outcomes or Deliverables

- Establish a preconstruction baseline for recreational fishing activities, perspectives, and spending habits.
- Evaluate changes in angler perspectives on OSW over the project duration and identify areas for improved public outreach and education
- Technical report and manuscript quantifying potential socioeconomic impacts to the recreational fishery in NJ resulting from OSW development

### Regional Coordination / Collaboration / Data Sharing

- This project involves collaboration between state and community stakeholders.
- The research findings will be made available through presentations, publications, and collaborative discussion.

**Project Completion Date:** May 2025

**Total Project Budget:** \$440,983