

RESEARCH STUDY:

Assessing Impacts of the Block Island Wind Farm on Recreational Saltwater Fishing



With funding from Rhode Island Sea Grant, the University of Rhode Island is conducting a study on how the Block Island Wind Farm has affected recreational fishing.

The goal of this study is to better understand anglers' perspectives on how this first offshore wind farm in the U.S. has affected recreational fishing, which is critical to the coastal economy and quality of life in the region.

This project builds on other studies of the tourism and recreational impacts of the wind farm conducted by researchers in the URI Department of Marine Affairs and the Coastal Resources Center. It is hoped this study will inform management of the wind farm area and planning for future offshore energy facilities in the region.

The two-year study consists of two primary activities:



• In Summer 2018, researchers will conduct interviews with approximately twenty fishermen and others involved in recreational fishing in the area (such as charter boat captains).

Follow-up interviews will be conducted in Summer 2019.

• In Winter 2018-2019, we will survey approximately 2,500 saltwater anglers from Rhode Island and nearby states about fishing near the wind farm.

Results of the study will be available in Winter 2-19-2020 and will be shared with the recreational fishing community through RISAA and by distributing fact sheets

through Rhode Island Sea Grant.

If you have any questions, please contact David Bidwell, Marine Affairs, URI at dbidwell@uri.edu or Tiffany Smythe, Coastal Resources Center at tcsmythe@uri.edu



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WHERE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH _____

WEIGHT OF FISH _____ LENGTH OF FISH (tip of snout to tip of tail) _____

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Aquatic Resource Education Program
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place
Exeter, RI 02882