

Informing Responsible Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine

Maine Governor's Energy Office (the State)
with Karp Strategies and Colby College



MAINE + OSW RESEARCH PROJECT PURPOSE

The Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium is tasked with researching and understanding the potential impacts of offshore wind (OSW) to the ecosystem and existing industries.

Fishing is a critical industry for the region, and many stakeholders have been studying how the burgeoning OSW industry will impact the fishing communities, and ways to reduce potential impacts.

Before the state dedicates more time and resources for further studies, it is critical that we understand **what data currently exists**, where are **gaps in our collective research**, and what are **best practices** for this socioeconomic impact analysis.



MAINE + OSW RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

Who is the Project Team?

Lead: Maine Governor's Energy Office

Consultants: Karp Strategies and Colby College

What are the Project Objectives?

- Create a **comprehensive inventory of existing socioeconomic data** (jobs, industry data, supply chain) around Maine fishing communities and the potential impacts of OSW
- Identify gaps in data and best practices in order to develop **recommendations on where and how the State should prioritize future studies**

Why is this important?

- **Create foundation of shared knowledge** to best set up the State and the Maine fishing community stakeholders for the next phase of research and analysis on the coexistence of fishing and OSW



MAINE + OSW RESEARCH PROJECT APPROACH

1

Inventory existing data

Mixed methods analysis to synthesize existing, available data

2

Catalogue existing data

Engage with ocean users and stakeholders to center local knowledge and identify relevant data sources

3

Identify gaps & best practices

Conduct a thorough gap analysis to highlight priority areas for future data collection

MAINE + OSW RESEARCH PROJECT TIMELINE & PARTICIPATION

1 Inventory existing data

2 Catalogue existing data

Participation from interested parties working in or with Maine Fishing Communities

3 Identify gaps & best practices

Feb 2024

~6 months

July 2024