

# Offshore Wind Development and Associated Impact on Recreational Fisheries in New Jersey: A Socio-spatial Approach

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## INTRODUCTION

- Offshore wind is rapidly being developed to generate renewable carbon-free electricity for the grid.
- The development of offshore wind farms (OWFs) faces resistance, especially from the recreational fishers. Few empirical studies have been conducted to assess the OWFs impact on recreational fisheries.
- This research focuses on charter boat captains' and owners' perception.

## METHODS

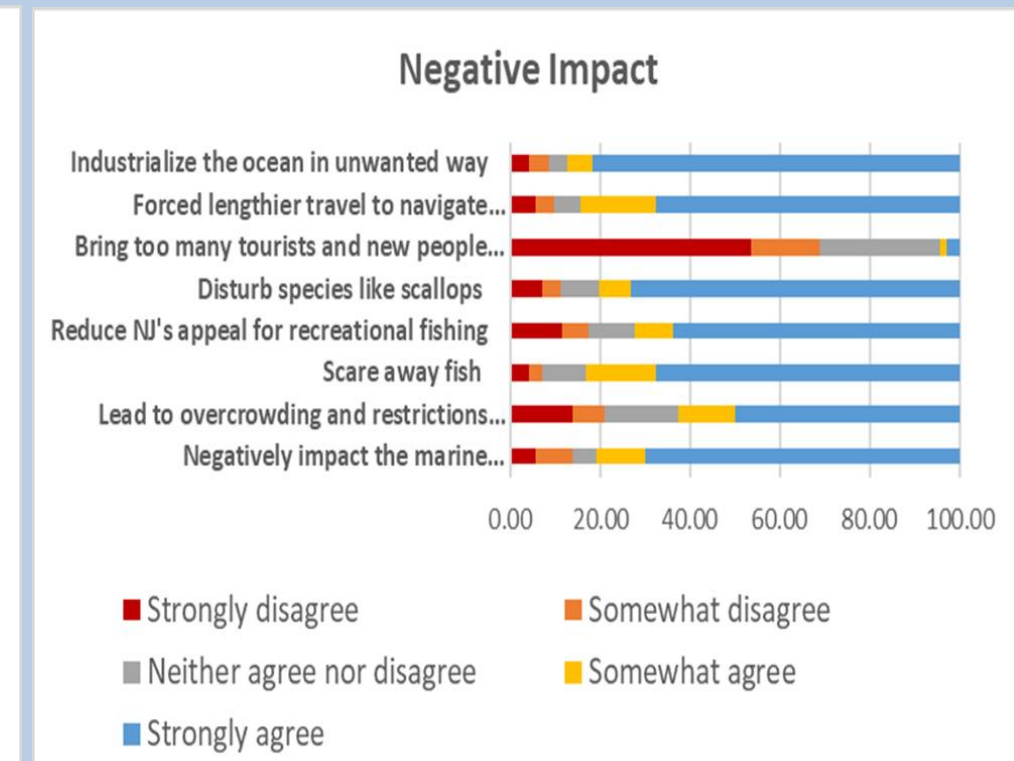
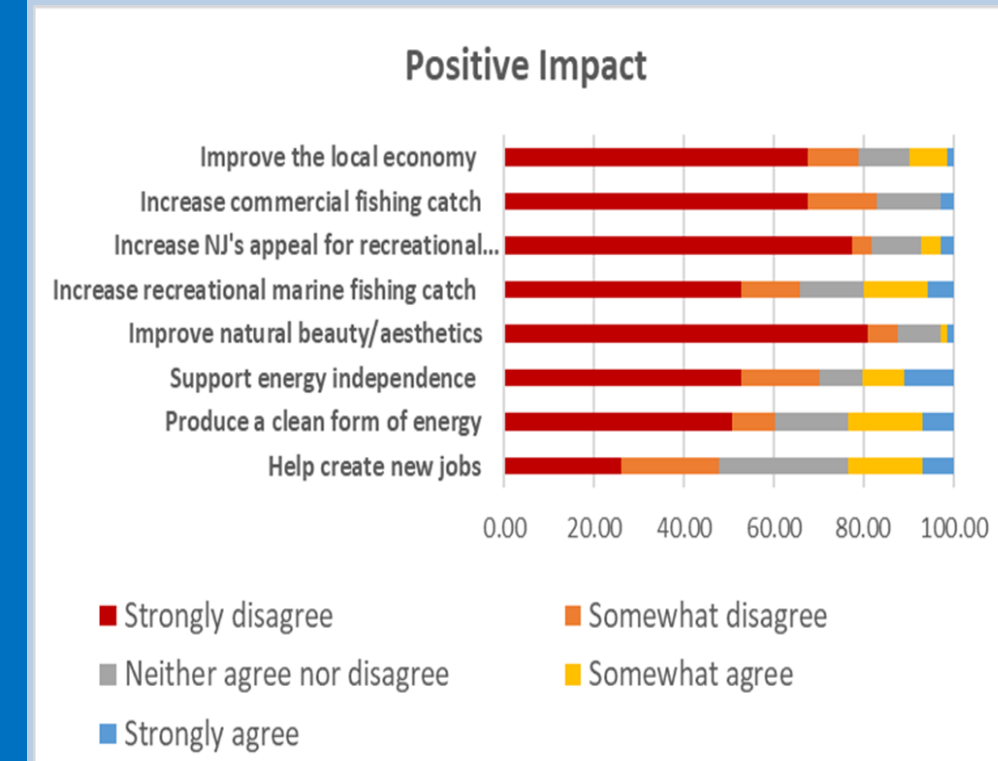
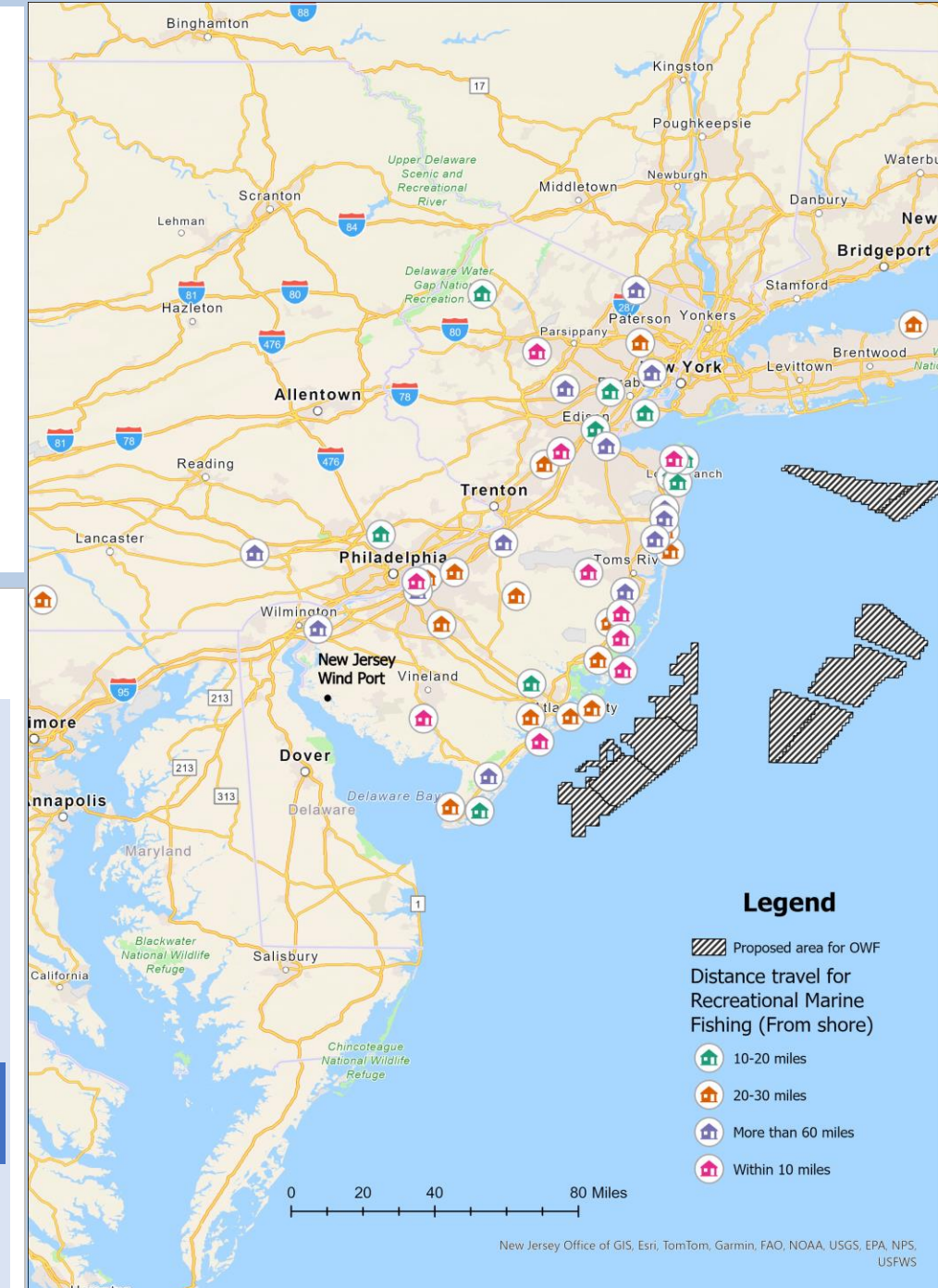
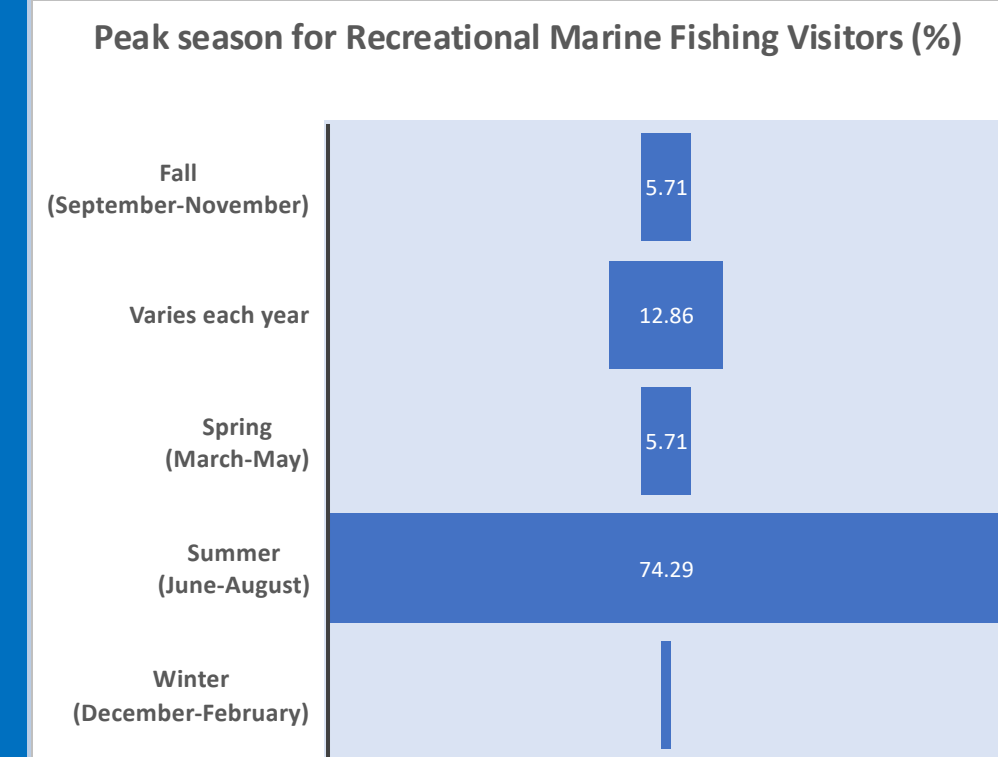
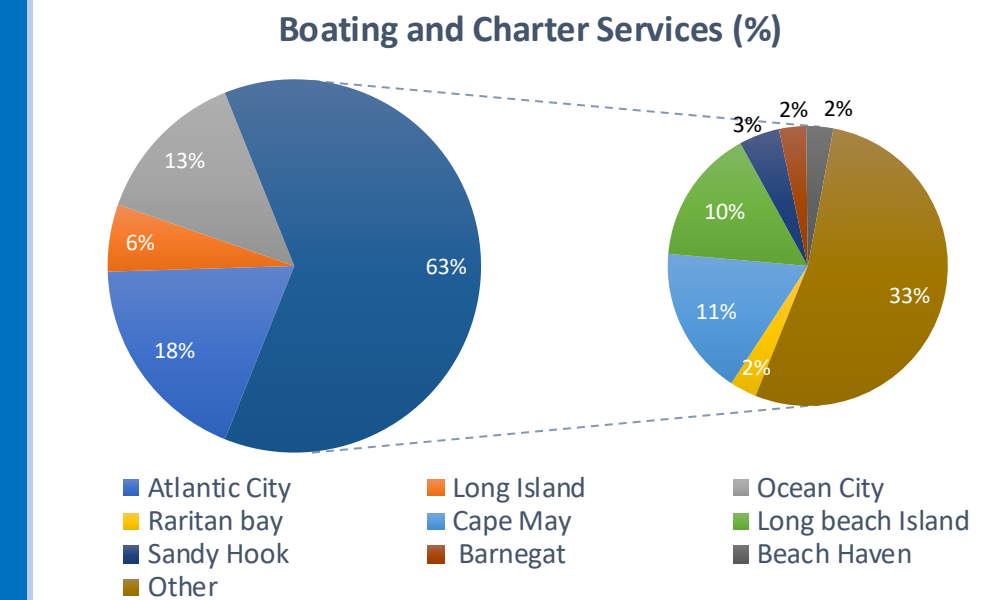
- Online survey of boat captains and owners (Contact list: NJDEP, 2023) using Qualtrics and analysis was done using JMP Pro.
- Survey: February-March 2024, and achieved 22% (n=79) response rate.

## RESULTS

- 91% of boat captains and owners were opposed to OWF development.
- Result highlighted concerns regarding issues such as the industrialization of the ocean in unwanted way (82%); disturbing marine species like fishes and scallops (73%); and negative impact towards marine environment (70%).

## DISCUSSION

- Survey respondents advocated for science-based evidence that demonstrates minimal impact on the marine ecosystem and a phased approach of OWF development whereby a single demonstration project is developed before scaling up to others.
- Findings underscore the critical need for communicating with these recreational fishing boat captains, understanding the reasons behind their opposition to OWF, and making concerted efforts to ameliorate their concerns.



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