

# Supporting Fisheries Access in the Gulf of Maine through Scenario-testing & Visual Simulations



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## HOW THE STUDY WORKS

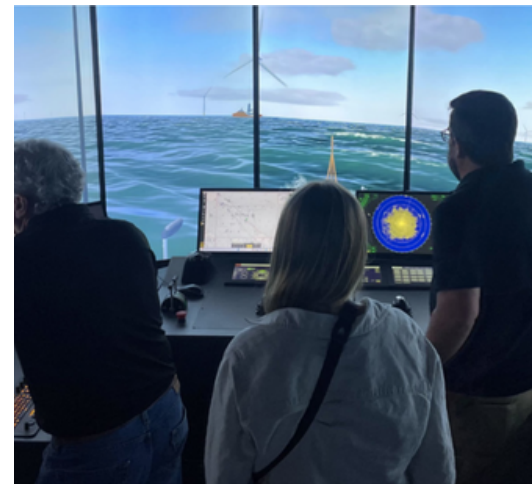
- The first phase of the project includes **initial simulations** and **baseline testing** to **identify problems** within current wind array designs.
- The second phase of the project will **improve** and **test new ideas** based on **fishermen's feedback** from the first workshop.
- GMRI will use the **STAR (Situation, Task, Action, and Result)** method to help participants **explain their thinking during** and **after** the simulations.

## EXPECTED IMPACT

- Develop **actionable recommendations** for array layouts, spacing configurations, and gear innovations that **enhance fishing access** and **safety** within offshore wind lease areas.
- Build **trust** and **capacity** within the **fishing community** through this collaborative approach.
- Contribute to a **more sustainable** and **mutually beneficial** coexistence between these critical ocean-based industries.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project explores how fishing operations can coexist with floating offshore wind (FOW) developments in the Gulf of Maine. Using virtual simulation technology at the United States Maritime Resource Center (USMRC), **the project involves local fishermen in testing diverse fishing gear types with various simulated FOW designs**, identifying operational challenges and refining solutions for improved compatibility. The goal is to generate actionable data and strategies that support sustainable fishing access in FOW areas.



## WHY THIS MATTERS

- As **offshore wind energy projects expand** in New England, there are growing concerns from the **fishing community** regarding **potential conflicts**, including **restricted access to traditional fishing grounds**, **gear entanglement risks**, and **navigational safety issues**.
- This project addresses the critical challenge of **enabling coexistence** between **fishing operations** and **floating offshore wind developments** in the Gulf of Maine.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Enable fishermen to **visualize** and **experience** their fishing operation in a floating offshore wind environment so they can **identify barriers** and **propose solutions**.
- Develop **guidance** for designing **construction** and **operational plans** that accommodate fishing activities.
- Create **tools** and **resources** that will make the complexities of floating offshore wind **more accessible** to a **broader range** of stakeholders.

