

# Offshore Wind Support

## UNH research: outdoor recreationalists favor wind farms

Wednesday, December 19, 2018



LAKE ERIE.

From boaters to anglers, outdoor recreationalists are surprisingly supportive of offshore wind development, new research from UNH has found. Also unanticipated was the strong support across the entire political

SUBSCRIBE TO THE UNH TODAY NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE TO UNH TODAY RSS

### RELATED LINKS

**Not Taking the Plunge**

**Seeing the Hikers for the Trees**



**MICHAEL FERGUSON, ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR OF RECREATION  
MANAGEMENT AND POLICY.**

spectrum, from liberals to moderates and conservatives, with respondents seeing offshore wind development (OWD) as having a positive impact upon their recreation experience.

“These findings are unique because most previous studies show that recreationists tend to oppose energy development on or near public lands and protected areas,” said Michael Ferguson, assistant professor of [recreation management and policy](#) and lead author of the study, published recently in the Journal of Great Lakes Research. “But most of the respondents in our research embraced the idea of offshore wind development. Besides the benefits of renewable energy, they saw it as a benefit to the entire community and region, creating tourism opportunities and enhancing their own recreation experiences.”

In the [study](#), researchers from UNH and The Pennsylvania State University examined factors influencing water-based recreationists’ perceptions towards OWD in general on Lake Erie. As part of the study, respondents were asked questions about recreation frequency, OWD support and opposition, political orientation and perceptions towards climate change. Of the 242 respondents, nearly one-half identified as boaters, with the

remaining evenly split between beach users and anglers; all were largely repeat day trip visitors. The results of this study suggested significantly high levels of support for OWD among the water-based outdoor recreationists at Lake Erie across the political spectrum.

“Besides the benefits of renewable energy, outdoor recreationalists saw offshore wind development as a benefit to the entire community and region, creating tourism opportunities and enhancing their own recreation experiences.”

“Offshore wind energy development has been slow to develop in the United States for various social, ecological and political reasons,” said Ferguson. “But our findings suggest that recreationists may be open to it and supportive of it.”

Some examples cited for support include unique recreation and tourism attractions like boat tours to OWD sites, better fishing opportunities, especially in areas that lack natural structures that would attract more fish (like rocks and reefs) and more job opportunities in areas such as construction and tourism-related businesses like rentals and restaurants.

*Contributing to these findings are Andrew Mowen, principal investigator and professor of recreation, park, and tourism management at The Pennsylvania State University; Alan Graefe, co-principal investigator and professor of recreation, park and tourism management at The Pennsylvania State University; Samantha Powers, doctoral student in recreation, park and tourism management at The Pennsylvania State University; Nate Trauntvein, assistant professor of kinesiology and health science at Utah State University; and Jeffrey Jacquet, assistant professor*

*of environment and natural resources at The Ohio State University.*

*This work was supported in part by Pennsylvania Sea Grant.*

WRITTEN [Robbin Ray '82](#) | Communications and Public Affairs |

BY: [robbin.ray@unh.edu](mailto:robbin.ray@unh.edu) | 603-862-4864

RESEARCH

## RELATED ARTICLES



August 23, 2021 | NH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

# UNH Scientists Receive \$650,000 Grant to

# Study Genetics of Costly Dairy Cattle Disease

---



September 16, 2021 | ALUMNI

## UNH Research Finds Witnessing Abuse of Sibling Can Lead to Mental Health Issues

---

# Institute on Disability/UCED



University of  
New Hampshire

December 2, 2021 | COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## Telehealth and Individuals with IDD: Challenges and Best-Practices

---



University of New Hampshire

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community  
and for friends of UNH.

The stories are written by the staff of **UNH**  
**Communications and Public Affairs.**

Email us: [unhtoday.editor@unh.edu](mailto:unhtoday.editor@unh.edu).



UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234  
Copyright © 2022 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-  
2964 (Relay NH)

[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) •  
[ADA Acknowledgement](#)

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#)  [CONTACT](#)  
[US](#)