

RI Seafood, Climate, and Energy Symposium

Date: Monday March 4

Location: Mosby Center (230 S Ferry Rd, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02874) [Directions here](#)

Hosted by the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island in partnership with the Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign

8:00 Coffee and pastries

8:30 Welcome – Fred Mattera (Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island)

8:45 Offshore Wind: Updates on Mitigation and Compensation

- Guests: Travis Lowry (Vineyard Wind); Orsted staff, Fishermen's Future Viability Trust
- Overview: Vineyard Wind and Orsted have compensation programs available to Rhode Island fishermen that are directly impacted by these projects. Staff from Vineyard Wind and Orsted will provide an overview of these programs and how to apply. Additionally, Rhode Island has received funding through the Fishermen's Future Viability Trust to benefit the broad Rhode Island seafood community, however input is needed to guide the use of these funds.
- Outcomes:
 - Receive updates on status of compensation programs for projects in the construction phase.
 - Learn how and where to apply for these compensation programs and who to contact to access data to show eligibility.
 - Provide input on priorities for Fishermen's Future Viability Trust funding

9:45 Offshore Wind: Listening Session with CRMC on Including Fishermen's Input in the Permitting Process

- Guests: Jeff Willis and Kevin Sloan (CRMC)
- Overview: Under Rhode Island's Ocean Special Area Management Plan, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is required to consult with an appointed Fishermen's Advisory Board (FAB) prior to approving new offshore wind-related projects. However, in September 2023, all nine of the FAB's members resigned, citing a view that fishermen's priorities were no longer being adequately considered in the review process for federal permits. In this session, we will review what's happened since in the CRMC's wind farm-related permitting activities, and discuss ways that fishermen's input can be better incorporated in this process in the future.
- Outcomes:
 - Provide background on the differences of reviews for a State Permit versus a Consistency Certification.

- Receive updates on the status of each wind farm project that is currently moving through permitting.
- Collect input from participants on how the CRMC can structure a new and improved process to collect and incorporate fishermen's input into offshore wind permitting.
- Collect input from participants regarding the possible inclusion of Rhode Island in a 11-state regional compensation fund for offshore wind impacts to fisheries.

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 Rooftop Solar: Making a Fishery Friendly Climate Solution Go Viral

- Guests: Dana Goodman (NEC Solar)
- Overview: Receive a "Solar 101" overview from a local solar installer who is offering a new bulk discount program for fishing families in Southern New England. Get your questions answered, and understand how to take advantage of this new program.
- Outcomes:
 - Fishing families: Sign up to get a solar quote for your residence from NEC.
 - Seafood businesses: Be first in line to receive tailored solar and energy efficiency advising if a program is created and funded.

11:30 Powering Vessels in a Post-Diesel World: The Fishing Industry Leads the Way

- Overview: Hear from Rhode Island fishermen Tim Rovinelli and Sarah Schumann about a national mobilization project led through the Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign to put fishermen in the driver's seat of their own energy transition. Learn about a task force that will soon form at the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island to chart an action agenda that makes the case for robust state and federal support for innovation and adoption of energy-efficient and low-carbon power technologies in Rhode Island ports and fisheries.
- Outcomes:
 - Provide input into national policy recommendations.
 - Sign up to join a CFCRI task force on low-carbon fishing (stipends available)

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:15 Climate-Ready Fisheries and Resilient Fishing Communities: What's the Next Chapter?

- Overview: The last decade has seen a proliferation of research and workshops related to climate-ready fisheries, climate adaptation, and resilient fishing communities – including Rhode Island's own fishing industry blueprint, the Resilient Fisheries RI project. But as the environmental and policy landscape evolves, is it time for a refresh? In this session, we'll take a look at the priorities identified by Rhode Island fishermen in years past, review progress towards

these goals, and ask participants to tune up our talking points for the years ahead.

- Outcomes:
 - An updated set of priorities and talking points that fishery leaders can draw from to advance climate-ready fisheries and resilient communities.

1:45 Fishing Community Engagement in RI's 2025 Climate Action Strategy

- Guests: Liz Stone (RI Department of Environmental Management)
- Overview: Learn about the Rhode Island Executive Coordinating Council on Climate Change (EC4) and its 2025 Climate Action Strategy process. The Commercial Fisheries Center of RI and the Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign are preparing to mobilize a fishing community task force to participate in this process. The task force will work with decarbonization modelers to consider the most "fishery friendly" pathways to attain Rhode Island's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Outcomes:
 - Sign up to join a CFCRI task force that will engage with the EC4's 2025 Climate Action Strategy process (stipends available)

2:30 Break

2:45 RI Food Policy Council Food, Climate, and Environment Working Group

- Guest: Nessa Richman (RI Food Policy Council)
- Overview: Learn more about the working group's effort to engage land and food sectors in climate work to plan for long-term multi-stakeholder efforts, and measure climate resilience and equity benefits.
- Outcomes:
 - Sign up to join the RIFPC Food, Climate, and Environment Working Group

3:00 Information and Input Session: RI Food System Planning for 2030

- Guests: Jason Jarvis, North American Marine Alliance and commercial fisherman; Julianne Stelmaszyk, RI Commerce, Food Strategy
- Overview: Learn about the State's effort to develop a statewide Food Vision and Strategic Plan for 2030 that will chart a path for a more resilient, sustainable and equitable food system in Rhode Island. This session will serve as a listening session for the commercial fishing and seafood industry to understand what's at stake and the most pressing challenges and priorities for how to support a thriving industry in the years to come.
- Outputs:
 - Develop a current set of challenges and priorities for the industry and ways to get involved in the planning process.

3:45 Additional Announcements

4:00 Closing Remarks – Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island