# Facilitating coexistence between fisheries and offshore wind through digital stakeholder engagement technology

***Authors:***
*Khalid Kamhawi, Ithaca Clean Energy*

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In 2020, Ithaca Clean Energy conducted 140+ customer discovery interviews with offshore wind industry stakeholders as part of the National Science Foundation I-Corp program, recording widespread consensus on the following:

1. There is no automated way to share information between commercial fishermen and offshore wind ("OSW") developers.
2. Fishermen generally do not share information willingly- they usually only react to information provided to them.
3. Data exchange between stakeholders is limited and not used to minimize or assess compensation for impacts on fisheries communities.
4. Fishermen need to know the activities of OSW vessels in advance of their voyages to make optimal planning route decisions.
5. Communication between OSW projects and commercial fisheries is often conducted via email notifications, which often go unread, are static, and do not represent traceable engagement.

Our data-integrated marine stakeholder engagement application, Waterfront, is a digital platform that provides real-time, location-based notifications on OSW projects' live activities to marine stakeholders, and vice versa, via an easy- to-use mobile app. To use the tool, OSW developers upload their project-specific data to Waterfront's online dashboard for dissemination to fishermen and other marine stakeholders, who can view this information in real-time from the convenience of their mobile phones for free. Waterfront aims to reduce conflicts between OSW developers and marine stakeholders, promoting clean, renewable energy development without disrupting fisheries and other marine industries.

We will present how a multifunctional mobile application that logs and displays thematic spatial, temporal, thematic, and ecological data with ease increases volume and frequency of scientific data to better document, characterize, and mitigate OSW development impacts on marine stakeholders.