SPEAKER BIOS

Webinar Series: Climate Change Effects on Recreational Fishing and Boating

Jennifer McCann
U.S. Coastal Programs Director and National Sea Grant Offshore Wind Liaison
University of Rhode Island/GSO – Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and Rhode Island Sea Grant

Jennifer McCann is the director of U.S. Coastal Programs at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant. In part because of her leadership in siting the Block Island Wind Farm through the Ocean SAMP process, McCann has recently been invited to serve as the National Sea Grant Offshore Wind Energy Liaison to build Sea Grant’s capacity on this topic. McCann leads research and provides technical support on blue economy related topics to government decision makers, the private sector and the public both locally and abroad. At the request of diverse coastal stakeholders, in 2019/2020 McCann led a process to define Rhode Island’s blue or ocean economy and identify strategies and recommendations to ensure this sector continues to thrive. MacCann is winner of the Rhode Island Saltwater Angler’s Annual Environmental Award (2020), Peter Benchley Ocean Award (2017), and a 2017 Graduate of Leadership Rhode Island. McCann also served as URI’s lead for developing and facilitating the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area
Management Plan (Ocean SAMP), which led to the siting of the first offshore wind farm in the United States. McCann has also played a leadership role in the development and implementation of plans for the siting of land-based renewable energy and a comprehensive management and marketing approach for Rhode Island’s shellfish resources and blue economy. McCann has led national efforts to develop indicators, monitoring protocols, and modeling tools for improved social and environmental management of offshore renewable energy.

**David Monti**  
*No Fluke Fishing LLC*

Monti grew up on the water and has been shellfishing, fishing, and boating all his life. He held a scallop license on Nantucket for 15 years, where he scalloped during the fall and winter months. Monti holds a master captain’s license and works as a charter fishing captain and often fishes in Rhode Island and Block Island Sound as well as Narragansett Bay. He is the fishing columnist for the Providence Journal (the major daily newspaper in RI), The Sun Chronicle daily in Attleboro, MA, and writes for ten weekly newspapers. He also is a regular contributor to the Marine Fish Conservation Network blog and a writer and editor of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association Magazine. Monti writes about the environment, fishing policy, regulations and ocean issues such as spatial planning, offshore wind farm development, climate change impacts on fish and fishing as well as fishing tactics and strategies. He is a recreational fishing advocate, is vice chair of the RI Marine
Fisheries Council, serves as an active board member of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (the largest recreational fishing association in the northeast with over 7,500 affiliated members), is a member of the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association and is a founding board member of the American Saltwater Guides Association.

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<th>Todd Corayer (Session 1) Award-winning Fishing Writer, Kayak-fishing Sharpie and Fish Advocate</th>
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<td>Corayer has been writing, speaking about, advocating for, and videoing fishing in Rhode Island and the greater New England area for over 25 years. His work has covered how to fish the south side of Block Island, fly fishing for Atlantic salmon in northern Maine, the best fall freshwater fishing in Rhode Island, how to not catch steelhead fish in upstate New York, smallmouth bass fishing on the Penobscot River, and everything else in between. His work has appeared in On the Water Magazine, The Fisherman, and numerous other fishing publications and writes a weekly column for the Southern RI Newspapers called Fish Wrap. Corayer is an expert kayak fisherman and has lectured on the subject several times. Last May, he gave a well-attended seminar for the RI Saltwater Anglers Association on the “Four Seasons of Kayak Fishing.”</td>
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Willy Goldsmith, Ph.D. (Session 1)
Executive Director, American Saltwater Guides Association

Goldsmith is a fisheries scientist and conservation advocate who serves as the Executive Director of the American Saltwater Guides Association. His research interests focus on better understanding the dynamics of recreational fisheries in order to improve management outcomes for both marine ecosystems and fishing communities. Prior to joining ASGA, Goldsmith was a Senior Associate with the Lenfest Ocean Program, where he engaged with fishery stakeholders on key management issues and communicated policy-relevant research to decision-makers. Previously, he was a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow in the office of Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), working on a broad array of marine, fisheries, climate change, and energy topics. Whenever he has a free moment, you can find him with a fishing rod in hand as he is an avid angler.
Jon Hare, Ph.D. (Session 1)
Director, NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Hare holds one of NOAA Fisheries’ top science positions in the nation. For the past six years, Hare has served as Director at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and prior to that was Director of NOAA’s Narragansett, Rhode Island Lab. He is an expert on climate impacts on fish and habitat. Hare has presented to anglers numerous times on climate change including the effects of climate change and variability on marine fisheries in the Northeast region. His 2016 Northeast Fish and Shellfish Climate Vulnerability Assessment study assessed the vulnerability of 82 invertebrates and finfish and in December 2021, Hare, fellow NOAA colleagues, and research partners assessed the vulnerability of 53 marine, estuarine, and riverine habitats in the Northeast United States to climate change. The new habitat assessment helps us draw correlations, explaining how climate is impacting the areas where the fish we love to catch, eat and or release live, feed, and often spawn.
| **Joe Mariani (Session 1)**  
Regional Vice President, Safe Harbor Marinas |
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Mariani grew up fishing both recreationally and commercially in Niantic, CT. After gaining field experience working on local charter boats and in tackle shops throughout southern New England, Mariani returned to the academic world at the University of Rhode Island and graduated with a master’s degree in Marine Affairs in 2008. He began his professional career at Save The Bay in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where he worked as a boat captain before transitioning to working full time operating marinas. Currently, Mariani works as the Regional Vice President for Safe Harbor Marinas in Rhode Island. Outside the office, Mariani remains an avid fisherman and docks his boat in South Kingstown’s Snug Harbor, where he and his family reside.

| **Pamela Rubinoff (Session 1)**  
Coastal Management and Climate Extension Specialist  
University of Rhode Island/GSO – Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and RI Sea Grant |
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Since joining the URI in 1996, Rubinoff has championed efforts to mainstream natural hazards and coastal community resilience into both US-based Rhode Island coastal management initiatives and international development programs through decision-support tools, policy creation, extension and training. This work builds interdisciplinary collaborations across science (physical, natural and social), coastal management, and community extension approaches; it supports URI partnerships of faculty and
students with government, non-profit organizations, and private sector initiatives.

Rubinoff works with communities to enhance resilience using adaptation techniques through planning, capacity building, and outreach activities. Current efforts focus on building community constituencies – through business leadership in an urban environment, and neighborhood leadership in a suburban community – to gain momentum to support local actions on reducing flood risk. She regularly designs and delivers programs to build practitioner and professional capacity.

Abbie Schuster (Session 1)
Charter Captain and Fishing Guide, Fish Conservationist and Advocate

Schuster owns Kismet Outfitters based out of Martha’s Vineyard, MA. She was born and raised in Connecticut and is a lifelong fly angler. She is both a fresh and saltwater guide and has guided in New England, Montana, Washington State and Alaska. Additionally, she offers instruction and hosted travel. Along with light tackle and fly fishing guiding, Schuster often advocates for fish conservation and growing fish to abundance so there are more of them in the water for all of us to catch, eat and/or release. She witnesses the impacts of climate change on fish and habitat firsthand as she guides her clients to the fish. She is also passionate about yoga and serves as a yoga instructor.
**Greg Vespe (Session 1)**
*Executive Director, RI Saltwater Anglers Association*

Vespe was appointed Executive Director of RISAA at the end of 2021. Prior to this appointment, he was a ten-year member, and did two terms serving on the Board of Directors. For years he chaired the Association’s Education Committee, so he was the perfect choice to facilitate the panel of anglers and boaters as he has done it many times at RISAA seminars. Vespe is a real sharpie when it comes to fishing; he has landed over 1,000 striped bass and caught a 15+ pound summer flounder (fluke) last year, which is a great accomplishment for any angler. Considered one of RI’s top anglers, he has presented seminars for RISAA and other local clubs, including multiple times at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show.

**Mike Wade (Session 1)**
*Watch Hill Outfitters, Owner, Climate/Fish Advocate and Expert Fisher*

Wade is owner of Watch Hill Outfitters in Westerly, RI, a full service outfitter providing bait, tackle, gear, kayak rentals and a charter fishing service. Wade is also an active fish conservationist. This past winter, he authored an editorial on climate impacts on fish and habitat and used the example of caching bait outside the door of his business due to the climate impact of coastal flooding. The editorial appeared in the Westerly Sun daily newspaper. He is an avid angler and fishes throughout the region along the coast, off Watch Hill reefs, and off Block Island and Fishers Island. He has in-depth knowledge of running an aquaculture
business and is a believer in renewal energy to help stem the tide on climate change impacts. His unique style of retailing employs expert anglers to consult customers on how to achieve their fishing objectives.

Gregory DeCelles (Session 2) Ørsted Offshore North America

As a Senior Environmental Permitting Specialist in Fisheries Science for Ørsted Offshore North America, on its strategic permitting team, Greg is the lead fisheries science person for Ørsted on the East Coast. Prior to joining Ørsted two years ago, he was an Aquatic Biologist for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for four years and also served as a Fisheries Research Biologist at the School for Marine Science. At Ørsted, Greg developed and implemented one of the industry’s first research and monitoring plans for the South Fork Wind Farm off Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Greg said, “The guiding principles developed at the Block Island Wind Farm have been applied to South Fork’s Monitoring Plan. We are committed to conducting sound, credible science, and biological surveys, developed in coordination with the commercial and recreational fisheries as well as state and federal agencies.”
Richard Lipsitz (Session 2)
Captain, Recreational Fisher, and a background in environmental engineering

Richard Lipsitz is a charter captain of the vessel Frayed Knot and an avid angler himself. He is a member of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association and the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association. Richard and his Frayed Knot team took first place in the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament including first place for a 47.5-pound striped bass as well as second and fourth place awards for bluefish. He is an active volunteer for Project Healing Waters, helping to coordinate vessels at Allen’s Harbor marina to take veterans and active service persons fly fishing as part of a physical and emotional rehabilitation program. Richard understands the fishing, habitat, and environmental impacts of climate change, having seen them firsthand on the water when he is fishing and serving as President of Waterman Engineering Co. Richard recently retired from The Waterman Engineering Co., which focused on environmental engineering as a key component of their business.
Chris McGuire is the Marine Program Director for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts. He shapes marine priorities at the state level while harnessing the Conservancy’s global experience and scientific expertise to develop innovative conservation solutions. Chris is focused on conserving Massachusetts’ critical marine and coastal systems by developing market incentives to encourage more sustainable fishing through partnerships with commercial fishermen; advancing conservation positive ocean planning efforts; and using natural solutions to reduce the risks of climate change.

Chris leads monitoring projects in the New England groundfish fishery, and has been the principal investigator on collaborative research projects focused on iconic New England species like Atlantic cod and halibut. Chris serves on state, regional and federal advisory committees and working groups, and regularly presents his work at national and international workshops and conferences.
James Monti, MD (Session 2)
Recreational Fisher, Family Fisherman, Emergency Room Medicine

Jim Monti has fished for many years as a recreational angler. Over the past few years, he has been introducing his sons Jude and Rowan to saltwater fishing. The trio has fished for groundfish such as summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass along the southern coastal shore off Pt. Judith and in Narragansett Bay. Later on, he purchased a larger boat and was able to travel a bit further. Last year they fished for bluefin tuna, Mahi, and other species further offshore and around Block Island. After his youngest son Rowan got a taste of bluefin fishing he said, “Now all I want to do is fish for bluefin.” The Montis live in Warwick, Rhode Island. Jim is also a specialist in emergency medicine.

Meredith Moore (Session 2)
The Ocean Conservancy

Meredith serves as Director of the Fish Conservation Program for The Ocean Conservancy. She started her career studying astronomy and then switched to the ocean and fisheries. She directs the fish conservation program at Ocean Conservancy and works on clean water, and climate change issues, and is an expert on Federal Fishing Law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and how it can be strengthened to address climate impacts on fish and habitat. She is an experienced diver and her work in the Nation’s capital targets decision-makers to have them make the right policy decisions to ensure healthy ecosystems and strong coastal communities. On March 31, 2022, Meredith was appointed by the Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo to NOAA’s
Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) which advises the Secretary of Commerce and NOAA on all living marine resource matters.

**Jonathan Stone (Session 2)**

*Save The Bay*

After growing up in suburban Boston and spending summers on Buzzards Bay, Jonathan Stone first moved to Rhode Island in 1976 to attend Brown University, before going on to earn an MBA at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Business Administration and beginning a finance career in Seattle and Boston. His love of the sea brought him back to the Ocean State in 1989, when he promptly joined Save The Bay as a member and swimmer. Like many Rhode Islanders, Jonathan has always enjoyed a deep connection to the Bay, where he regularly swims, kayaks, and fishes. Taking the helm of Save The Bay gave him a unique opportunity to play a leadership role in protecting Narragansett Bay and inspiring the next generation of Bay stewards. During his tenure, Save The Bay has successfully challenged ill-conceived and damaging infrastructure projects, sounded the alarm on changing climate conditions, completed dozens of habitat restoration projects, achieved major legislative victories, expanded Save The Bay’s environmental education programs, and strengthened its financial foundation. Before taking the helm at Save The Bay, Jonathan commuted to Boston, where he worked in financial services as a securities analyst, investment manager, and co-founder of an investment management company. During these years he also served on the Board of the Gordon
School in East Providence and joined the faculty of Providence College as an adjunct professor.

### Chris Willi (Session 2)

**Block Island Fishworks Outfitters and Charter Fishing**

Capt. Chris Willi is a fishing guide with a 50-ton master’s license and towing endorsement. He is IGFA Certified with 15 years of guiding experience. He is the owner and operator of a fishing retail store and guide service on Block Island, RI. Chris also produces custom hand-tied flies built to customer specifications for all species of gamefish. The Block Island Wind Farm is in Chris’s backyard, giving him a good incentive to fish there and around the area almost every day in season for both pelagic and groundfish. Capt. Willi hosted the highly successful Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament last year, after a short hiatus.