

## The Effect of Offshore Wind Turbines on Beach Experience: Preliminary Results from 2013 Coast Day

While offshore wind farms have been proposed along the East Coast of the US, their impact on coastal tourism is subject of debate. This presentation aims to describe the survey instrument and results from a convenient sample of 2013 Coast Day attendees that tackles this question. Approximately 200 passerbys participated in this survey that simulated offshore wind farms at various distances from shore with the aid of large printed representations. The sample population was very local (>50% from Sussex Co. ), highly educated (>50% Bachelor's or higher), and held favorable views towards offshore wind power (>85%). Data indicate that a greater proportion of individuals anticipate inferior beach experience as wind farms approach shore. Similarly, the proportion of individuals expressing a desire to cancel their beach trip also increases as wind farms approach shore. Finally, a very basic econometric model is estimated from demographic variables acquired during the survey, and is presented along with a plan for more sophisticated econometric estimations.

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