

Powering Progress in the Philippines

**Turning community perceptions into
effective offshore wind developments**

This report explores local views on offshore wind energy and how these shape our plans, partnerships, and progress. It forms an integral part of the *Perception Study on Offshore Wind in the Philippines 2025*, led by Ocean Energy Pathway in partnership with Gabay Research Philippines Inc.



Message from Ocean Energy Pathway

Effective community engagement begins with a clear understanding of how communities perceive development initiatives. Perception surveys are a critical tool in this process, providing evidence-based insights into local perspectives, concerns, and misconceptions related to offshore wind energy. Achieving an understanding of community perceptions is essential for enabling informed dialogue, strengthening collaboration, and building long-term trust.

In the Philippine offshore wind sector, community support plays a critical role in navigating regulatory processes, particularly licensing and permitting. Well-informed and meaningfully engaged communities are more likely to support projects and contribute to securing local support and social license. Engagement efforts must therefore be inclusive, reaching a diverse range of stakeholders such as coastal communities, fisherfolk, environmental organisations, and Local Government Units (LGUs), and ensuring that their perspectives are reflected in project development.

This Community Perception Report presents a consolidated analysis of how selected communities view offshore wind development. It offers valuable insights for the government agencies, project developers, and partner organisations working to accelerate offshore wind deployment in the Philippines, particularly in designing approaches that respond to community needs.

We extend appreciation to the Local Government Units, particularly coastal barangays and household respondents, whose participation made this study possible. Their openness and willingness to share perspectives have been invaluable in building a more grounded understanding of community sentiment toward offshore wind initiatives.

We also acknowledge Gabay Research Philippines Inc. for their strong methodological research and commitment to data integrity. Despite operational challenges posed by natural hazards, including typhoons and earthquakes, the research team ensured timely and reliable data collection.

It is our hope that this report will inform future engagement strategies, communication plans, and policy discussions, ultimately supporting more inclusive and sustainable offshore wind development in the Philippines.

Rizaller “Jun” Amolo
Country Head, Philippines
Ocean Energy Pathway

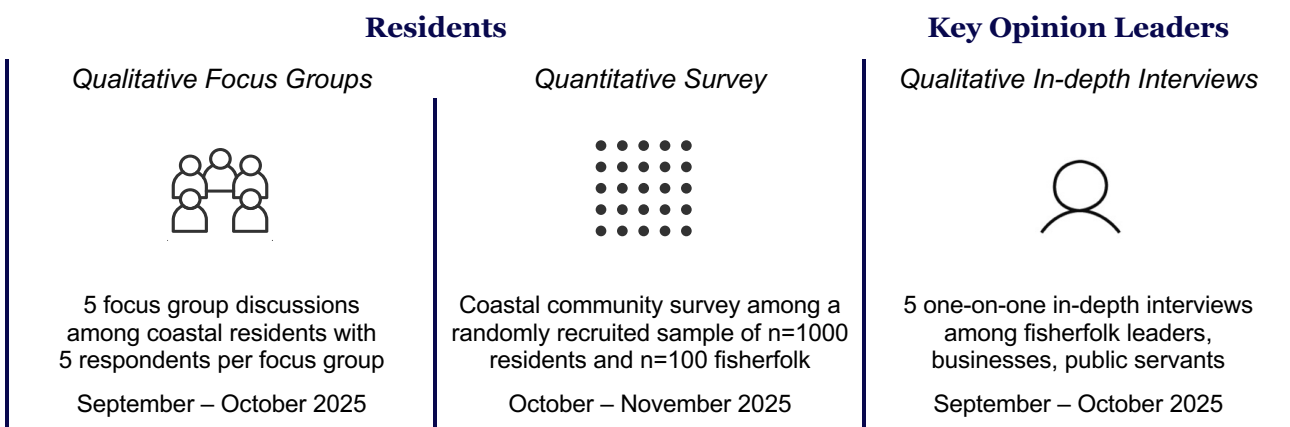
Executive Summary



Advancing offshore wind energy with coastal communities in the Philippines

Purpose of the community perception study

As the Philippines prepares to expand its offshore wind (OSW) industry as part of its broader renewable energy transition, understanding how coastal communities perceive and experience OSW is critical to how projects are planned, communicated, and implemented. Thus, the *2025 Perception Study on Offshore Wind in the Philippines* was undertaken to examine the lived realities of communities in areas identified for development, as well as their awareness, expectations, concerns, and attitudes toward OSW across different coastal settings. Led by Ocean Energy Pathway in partnership with Gabay Research Philippines Inc., the research utilised focus group discussions among residents, in-depth interviews with key opinion leaders, and a community survey conducted across five OSW development regions—Ilocos Norte, Camarines Sur/Norte, Guimaras, Cavite, and Batangas. The findings provide a grounded view of how local context, livelihood conditions, and information flows shape perceptions and support for OSW energy.



What the communities are telling us

Coastal residents generally report experiencing an imperfect yet peaceful life - one shaped by unstable income, high costs of essentials, and disaster risk. Small-scale fishing remains economically and culturally central even as catches decline and pressures increase (e.g., illegal/unsustainable fishing activities and other disruptions). These realities influence how communities view OSW energy: economic promises generate initial support but must be followed by concrete steps towards livelihood development and inclusion to avoid community fatigue and disillusionment.

Public awareness of the concept of offshore wind remains low overall and uneven across sites, with higher awareness observed in areas where engagement has already taken place. Ilocos Norte shows the most mature engagement, while other areas—especially Cavite—have limited or rumor-level awareness. Information tends to be downstream from the local government units (LGUs) and residents claim that they tend to learn about projects through word-of-mouth, community meetings, barangay leaders, free TV, or Facebook. Importantly, only 2% of residents report awareness of any actual OSW development activity in their area.

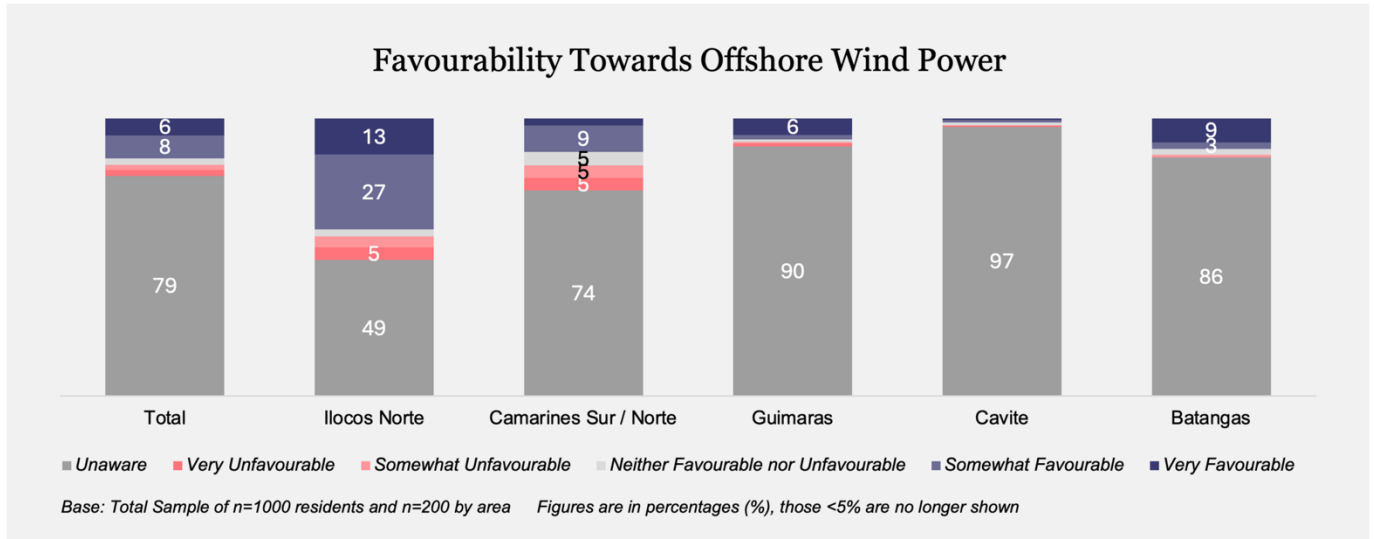
Recommendations on community engagement to advance OSW energy in the Philippines

There is no one-size-fits-all approach. Institutions must remain flexible to local contexts while upholding integrity. The most actionable cross-site steps include:

- **Build trust even before project-specific engagement begins.** Establish early, coordinated communication led by government and trusted intermediary organisations to explain the broader rationale for OSW and address community concerns even before proposals are introduced.
- **Start at the barangay level and treat communities as active partners.** Developers must engage fisherfolk associations and barangay residents early - before positions harden - so they can shape decisions and livelihood programmes.
- **Close information gaps with full, practical project details.** Developers must consistently communicate the non-negotiables communities ask for: location and distance from shore, number and layout of turbines, restricted areas, seabed/cable implications, construction timelines, and realistic impacts on fishing access. Coordination with the municipal and provincial local government helps strengthen the credibility of the information and build public trust.
- **Create simple, two-way communication channels.** Barangays remain the most effective channels for consultation and dispute resolution; establishing a barangay-facing presence (e.g., developer's satellite offices) supports transparency and continuity.
- **Make safeguards credible: livelihoods and environment.** Communities need clear protection measures for marine life and fishing activity, as well as skills development and livelihood opportunities. Thus, developers must involve local experts and national agencies (e.g. BFAR, DA, DENR, DOE) to strengthen credibility.
- **Use the channels people already trust.** Developers must complement barangay engagement with mass media (e.g. free TV, Facebook, radio, or YouTube) and use local dialect to ensure understanding. Collaborating with the municipal local government also helps establish authority, align messaging, and coordinate the use of communication channels at scale across barangays.



Key differences in community perceptions and priority actions



- **Ilocos Norte** - more advanced engagement, but with visible opposition to manage
- **Camarines Sur/Norte** - moving forward, but needs transparency and empowerment
- **Guimaras** - building trust and fisheries/environmental protection are key challenges
- **Cavite** - lowest awareness; start with fundamentals and establish communication lines
- **Batangas** - high ecological sensitivity; in need of clarity around the effects of OSW

Community buy-in is critical in large development projects

Effective stakeholder engagement sees host communities as active partners, and not mere beneficiaries of livelihood compensation packages. The goal for proponents is to build trust.

Who to involve	Who to collaborate with
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisherfolk communities and associations - Local government units (barangay) - Marine-related business operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local government units (municipal) - Municipal Development Council - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office (BFAR)
Who to keep informed	Who to consult
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil Society Organisations - People’s organisations - Department of National Defense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local government unit (provincial) - Department of Energy (DOE) - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Department of Agriculture (DA) - Philippine Coast Guard - Philippine Ports Authority - Maritime Industry Authority

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List of Acronyms

- BFARMC - Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
- CREZ - Competitive Renewable Energy Zones
- DA - Department of Agriculture
- DENR - Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- DOE - Department of Energy
- EY - Ernst & Young
- GEAP - Green Energy Auction Programme
- GW - Gigawatt
- IUU - Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (fishing)
- LGU - Local Government Unit
- MENRO - Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office
- NREL - National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- OSW - Offshore Wind
- PEP - Philippine Energy Plan
- PPA - Philippine Ports Authority
- USAID - United States Agency for International Development

Introduction

The Philippine Government is prioritising growth of renewable energy, including offshore wind so that it can ensure the country can meet growing demand at the same time as strengthening energy security and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

However, as the country looks to build out offshore wind, it must ensure communities buy-in to the wider objectives of the Government. To help understand this and help the Philippine Government and other national and community organisations get a clearer picture, Ocean Energy Pathway commissioned Gabay Research Philippines Inc. to explore local views on offshore wind energy.

This report shows that Philippines' coastal communities see their lifestyle positively, but have concerns about unstable incomes, high costs of essentials and vulnerability to the risk of disasters such as typhoons. The realities in their lives of course heavily influence their perceptions about offshore wind. They see it as a potential benefit that can help bring greater economic stability. However, they also worry about how offshore wind could add to instability in their communities if it doesn't deliver on economic potential, or impacts on their environment or on their access to fishing grounds.

The lessons from this work are clear. As projects come forward, project developers need to work through established community links to engage coastal communities, listening to concerns and being transparent about project options, designs and potential impacts. Then as projects move into construction and operation, the offshore wind sector needs to work constructively with local partners to ensure jobs and economic development are delivered in and around local areas where wind farms are built.

In short, communities want a win-win from offshore wind. It's reasonable that they can expect jobs that flow from offshore wind construction and operation, that projects when built out help protect the global and local environment and the livelihoods that currently depend on local ecosystems and that they are involved early on in relevant discussions about projects.

This work helps point to the aspirations and concerns of Philippines' coastal communities and how communities can be meaningfully involved. As the Philippines moves toward the development of real projects, active community engagement and involvement can help to make sure that national goals are able to line up with local needs, and that the Philippines can follow and add to best practice in how communities and wind farm projects can work and live alongside each other to mutual benefit.



Overview of Renewable Energy in the Philippines



1 Overview of Renewable Energy in the Philippines

The Philippine government is prioritising the expansion of renewable energy, including offshore wind, to meet growing electricity demand, strengthen energy security, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2023–2050, renewable energy is positioned as a central pillar of the country’s sustainable economic development, with offshore wind as a key technology to diversify the power generation, which remains highly dependent on coal.

1.1 Planning in the Last Decade

Comprehensive planning for the renewable energy sector has taken a clearer direction in the past decade. In 2020, the Philippines published a report called ‘Ready for Renewables – Grid Planning and Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) in the Philippines’. Led by the Department of Energy (DOE), and in collaboration with National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the document contains technical details to facilitate public and private investment towards renewable energy and to enhance the coordination of power systems planning in the process.

The CREZ is defined as ‘a geographic area with high concentrations of cost-effective RE and strong developer interest’ (DOE, 2020). For wind energy, the report identified opportunity capacity for each island cluster.

Table 1.1A Estimated CREZ opportunity capacity (in MW)

Estimated CREZ Opportunity Capacity (MW)	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
	54,115	25,429	14,443

The CREZ report also mapped out the optimal zones for wind development facilities. The map referenced and updated the wind energy resource atlas initially compiled by the US Department of Energy Laboratory in 2001 (USAID, 2001).

Four field sites fall within the zones identified in both documents. Batangas does not fall within any of the identified CREZ, albeit the province is located in close proximity to the Mindoro wind energy zone (Mr1).

Table 1.1B Code assignment of five field sites in the US Department of Energy Wind Energy Atlas of the Philippines and the CREZ document

Area	Wind Energy Atlas Code	CREZ code
Ilocos Norte	Region 1 Batanes and Babuyan Region 2 Northern Luzon	L6
Camarines Sur	Region 5 Southeastern Luzon, Catanduanes, and Masbate	L12
Guimaras	Region 7 Panay Negros Cebu and Siquijor	N2
Cavite	Region 4 Southern Luzon, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon	L2
Batangas	Region 4 Southern Luzon, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon	-

1.2 Mid-Term Planning (2025–2030)

Despite ongoing planning efforts, the Philippines' current power generation mix remains dominated by fossil fuels – approximately 62% of the annual electricity mix (International Energy Agency, 2023), as opposed to renewable energy sources' 22% estimate of overall energy mix (Department of Energy, 2023). According to the International Energy Agency, the Philippines is also a net importer of energy, exposing the power sector to fuel price volatility and supply risks, reinforcing the government's focus on accelerating domestic renewable energy development.

The CREZ document figured in the renewable energy roadmap presented in Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2023-2050. The PEP is a mid-term plan that establishes a policy framework and strategies to anchor all national policies, programming activities, and investment support schemes.

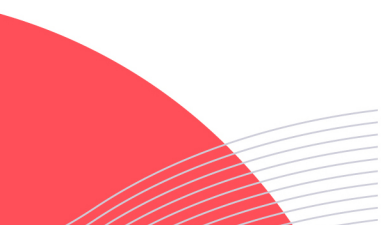
The Philippines' mid-term plan for wind energy involves significant expansion, particularly in offshore wind capacity, to support the national goal of increasing renewable energy's share in the power mix from 22% to 35% by 2030. While the plan includes onshore wind projects, offshore wind is a key focus for rapid growth and is supported by government auctions and the identification of high-potential sites.

- Setting the Mid-term Objectives (2025–2030)
 - Offshore wind auctions: The fifth round of the Green Energy Auction Programme (GEAP) at the end of 2025 was dedicated to offshore wind, and is estimated to add 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of new capacity to the country's energy mix, with energy delivery slated to begin between 2028 and 2030.
 - Initial offshore energy production: The Department of Energy (DOE) is targeting the production of the first offshore wind energy by 2028.
 - Projected capacity: By 2028, at least 10 offshore wind projects are expected to be generating power of 6.72 GW capacity combined.
 - Overall renewable energy goal: The mid-term efforts for wind energy contribute to the country's broader target of a 35% renewable energy share in the power generation mix by 2030.

- Policy and Institutional Foundations Achieved
 - Offshore wind roadmap: The government, in partnership with the World Bank, developed a Philippine Offshore Wind Roadmap in 2022. It sets targets for two growth scenarios and provides recommendations for establishing a robust offshore wind industry (World Bank Group, 2022).
 - Service contracts: As of June 2025, the DOE awarded 92 offshore wind energy service contracts, with a total potential capacity of over 65 GW (Department of Energy, 2024–2025). These awarded service contracts represent an advanced offshore wind pipeline in Southeast Asia and are broadly consistent with industry databases that track offshore wind projects across Luzon and Visayas in various stages of development.
 - Facilitating development: The DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have signed an agreement to coordinate on site identification and environmental impact assessments for offshore wind projects.
 - Enabling infrastructure: The government is working with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to repurpose ports to support the installation and maintenance of offshore wind projects. These facilities aim to ensure the smooth transporting, installation, and maintenance of offshore wind turbines or wind farms. Ports in areas like Mindoro and Panay are being studied so they can be repurposed to support the offshore wind (OSW) energy industry.

The Philippines' ability to attract offshore wind investment is underpinned by its liberalised power sector and long-standing renewable energy policies. The Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 enabled private sector participation across the power industry, while the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 introduced incentives to support renewable energy development. As a result, the Philippines has attracted strong interest from both international and domestic developers and is ranked by Ernst & Young as the most attractive renewable energy market among ASEAN-6 (Ernst & Young, 2024).

Overall, while the Philippines has established a strong policy framework and a sizable offshore wind pipeline, translating national ambition into operational projects will depend on local acceptance and sustained community support. Understanding how coastal communities perceive offshore wind, and how information and engagement currently reach them, is therefore essential to identifying risks and opportunities for development.



Research Objectives and Methodology



2 Research Objectives and Methodology

Building on the roadmap of OSW in the country, a study was launched by Ocean Energy Pathway in partnership with Gabay Research Philippines Inc.

As the Philippines advances OSW development through national roadmaps, service contract awards, and supporting policies, there is a need for systematic evidence on how community engagement is currently understood and experienced at the local level. Planning and institutional coordination may be progressing but less is known about how information is disseminated through local government units, and how coastal communities interpret and respond to these efforts.




A study was therefore undertaken to address this gap by examining community knowledge, perceptions, and expectations related to OSW across key development areas. Doing so provides an empirical basis for responsive engagement and advances OSW development through community and stakeholder support.

2.1 Research Objectives

- Understand communities surrounding OSW areas in terms of lifestyle and livelihood
- Capture the attitudes, expectations, and misconceptions regarding OSW
- Identify the factors that influence and shape knowledge on OSW
- Identify ongoing initiatives including triggers and barriers to engaging in OSW development

2.2 Methodology

Interviews were conducted in five key OSW development regions—**Ilocos Norte** (Burgos, Bangui), **Camarines Sur/Norte** (Tinambac, Mercedes), **Guimaras** (San Lorenzo, San Enrique, Nueva Valencia), **Cavite** (Maragondon, Ternata), and **Batangas** (Calatagan, Balayan)—with the following approaches, sample sizes, and data collection dates.

Residents		Key Opinion Leaders
<p><i>Qualitative Focus Groups</i></p>  <p>5 focus group discussions among coastal residents with 5 respondents per focus group</p> <p>September – October 2025</p>	<p><i>Quantitative Survey</i></p>  <p>Coastal community survey among a randomly recruited sample of n=1000 residents and n=100 fisherfolk</p> <p>October – November 2025</p>	<p><i>Qualitative In-depth Interviews</i></p>  <p>5 one-on-one in-depth interviews among fisherfolk leaders, businesses, public servants</p> <p>September – October 2025</p>

Coastal Communities: Living Situation and Outlook



3 Living Situation and Outlook

Effective stakeholder engagement treats host communities as active partners, requiring a deeper understanding of how they view the world.

3.1 Current Living Situation

Coastal living brings challenges, yet residents view it positively overall

Residents have been living in their respective communities for decades, with the majority being very satisfied with their situation (51%) and fewer who are very dissatisfied (15%). The level of living satisfaction in a locality can influence how residents react and adapt to possible disruptions in their communities, such as the introduction of offshore wind developments and their impact on their quality of living and source of livelihood.

Figure 3.1A Degree of satisfaction with living in the area

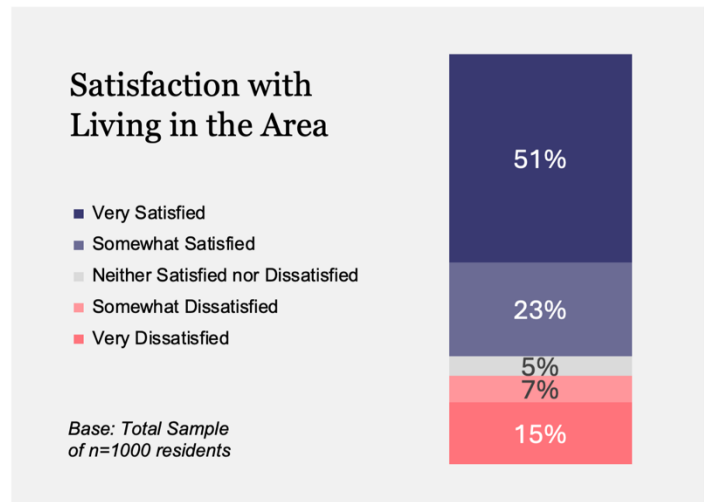


Figure 3.1B Work status and source of livelihood

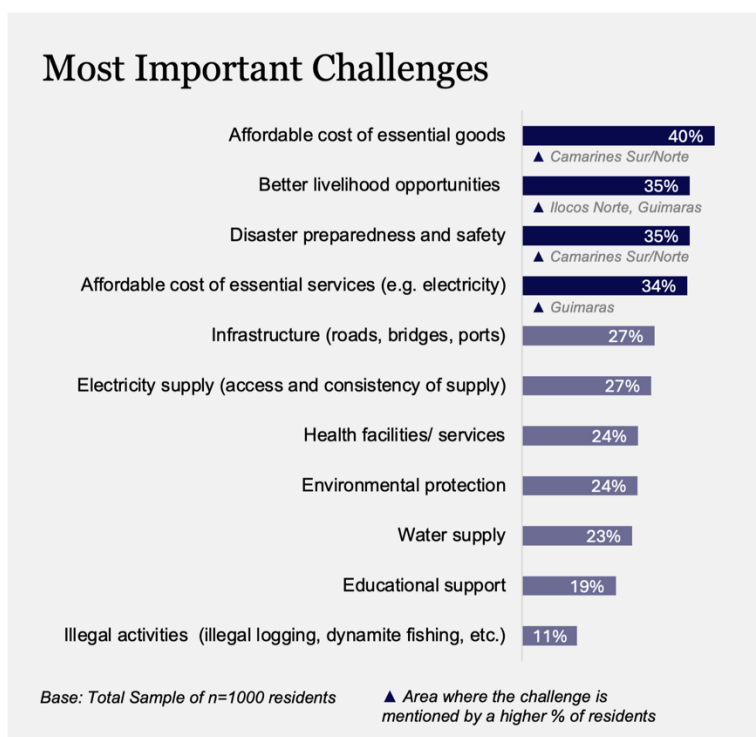


Small-scale fishing is both an income and food source for households

Fishing-related workers comprise a sizable portion of the population (10%), second only to skilled workers (15%) which represent the largest source of livelihood. And while nearly half of coastal communities are not working, fishing remains an integral part of daily life as a source of food for the household. It is important to note, however, that older generations prefer that the youth pursue college education and more stable sources of income.

3.2 Challenges Experienced by Residents

Figure 3.2A Most important challenges that affect satisfaction



Gaps in affordable essentials and livelihood opportunities

Abundant in natural resources but financially limited, residents in coastal communities see affordable essentials and livelihood opportunities as the most important challenges that when addressed, would improve their living condition. Cost of essential services (34%) such as electricity is also a top issue, more so in Guimaras.

Disaster risks are also of concern (35%) and are voiced out more in Camarines Sur and Norte.

As residents face unstable finances, the challenge is to advance OSW development in ways that actively strengthen livelihoods, rather than adding further pressure to already fragile local economies.

Site	Economic Situation
Ilocos Norte	Residents deal with fluctuating financial security because changing sea conditions and declining local yields reduce what they can bring home, while rising costs and the need to source supplies from other areas shrink their earnings.
Camarines Sur/Norte	Families face financial difficulty as fishing grounds are becoming oversaturated from the growing number of fisherfolk, the shortage of equipment needed for upscaled fishing methods, and the need to rely on additional income sources.
Guimaras	Residents face financial pressure as local resources are shrinking due to competing uses of the shoreline, fishers from neighboring provinces fishing in Guimaras waters, and weak enforcement against activities that reduce fishing space.
Cavite	Residents experience financial strain because local disruptions—such as dredging, shoreline changes, unresolved land issues, and weak institutional support—directly affect their daily economic activities and reduce their stability.
Batangas	Household earnings are unstable because seasonal conditions and environmental pressures strongly affect their ability to generate income, and their reliance on activities influenced by tourism makes their financial situation change quickly.

Table 3.2A Key points on economy and livelihood realities – gathered from qualitative interviews

3.3 The State of Fisherfolk



Narratives of fisherfolk share some commonalities across sites in terms of routines, equipment, and socioeconomic challenges. Fisherfolk go out to fish in the early morning or late afternoon until midnight depending on what they want to catch and their fishing equipment. They observe fishing calendars, and in some cases, switch livelihood during closed seasons.

As small-scale fishers, many have noted the reduced amount of catch over the years. They mainly attribute this change to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) activities such as trawling and overfishing. They still recognise the value of small-scale fishing in meeting their food needs at the household level. Female respondents have also noted how fishing remains to be their main source of fresh food.

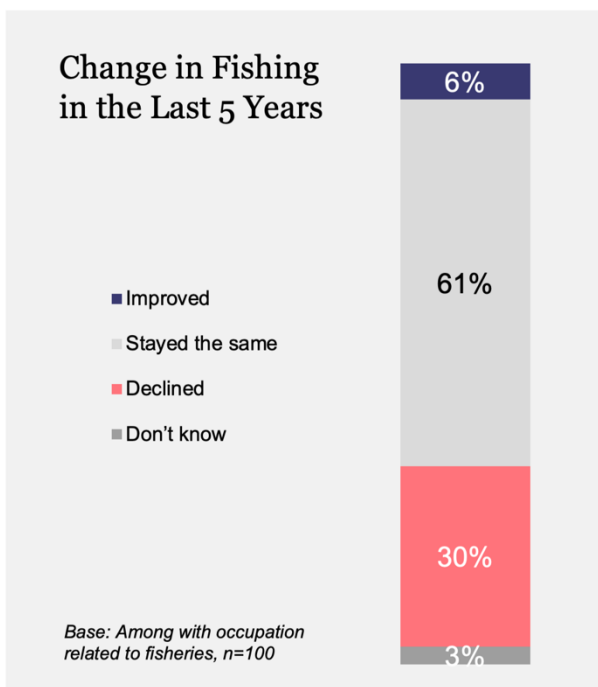


Figure 3.3A Change of fishing in the last five years in terms of catch or income

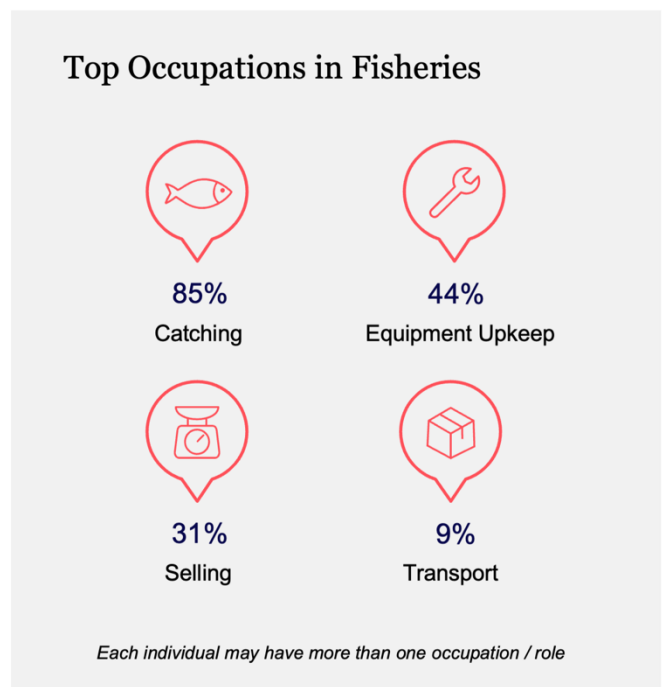


Figure 3.3B Top fisheries-related occupations among residents

Public Perception of Offshore Wind Energy



4 Public Perception of Offshore Wind Energy

Advancing OSW development requires an understanding of how attitudes toward OSW vary across communities, effective messaging and channels, as well as aligned support from public and private sectors.

4.1 Awareness of the Concept of Offshore Wind Energy

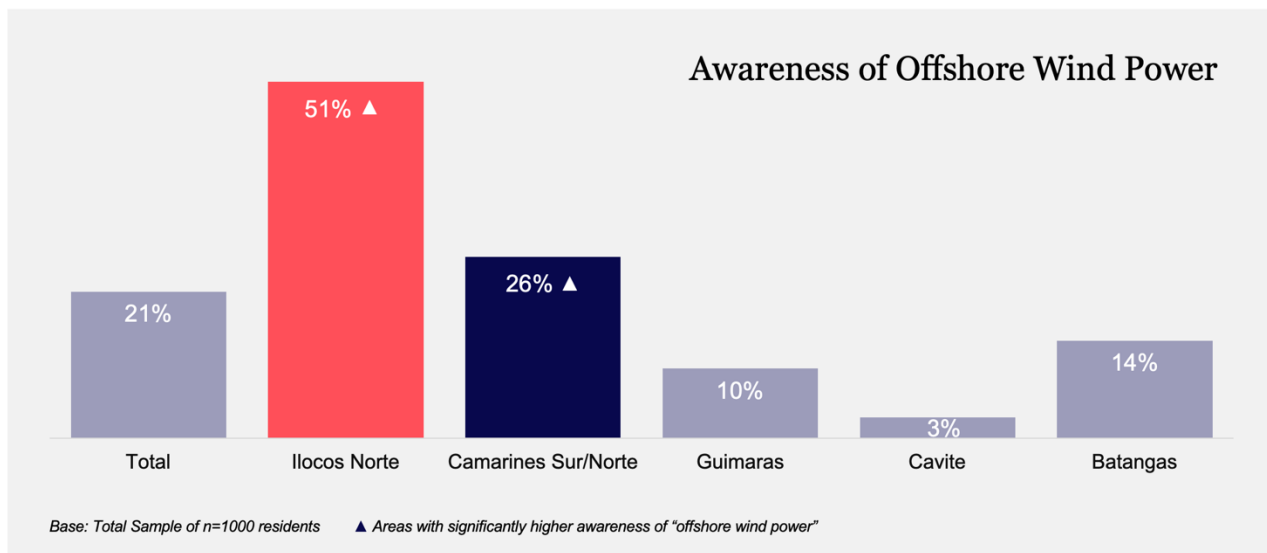


Figure 4.1A Awareness of 'Offshore Wind Power' by area

Awareness of OSW varies greatly across areas and remains generally low, increasing in locations where OSW development has progressed beyond early discussion stages

Ilocos Norte's higher awareness of OSW (51%) stems from both public and private engagement, while Camarines Sur/Norte's high awareness (26%) is driven by public sources. Advancing OSW in Guimaras, Cavite, and Batangas will require efforts from both sectors.

Top Sources of OSW Awareness

- Word-of-mouth from family/friends ▲
- Community / Barangay meetings ▲
- Free TV
- Private Energy Companies ▲
- Facebook
- Barangay Captain ▲
- Government Agencies (e.g. DENR) ▲

▲ Reaches more residents in Ilocos Norte

▲ Reaches more residents in Camarines Sur/Norte

'Very helpful for places with no electricity'

'Electricity that comes from the shore'

'Helps save on electricity'

- Sample opinions on OSW power

Information is downstream from the LGU to the communities

In Ilocos Norte, diverse perspectives on OSW development emerged during previous public consultations that involved technical experts from the academe and representatives of national government agencies. In contrast, Cavite is the least aware of OSW power as a concept, where even the barangay representatives have not received information from the municipal government regarding potential projects.

Information Spread on OSW Energy

Table 4.1A Information spread on OSW based on qualitative interviews

	Community Level	Local Government Unit (LGU) Level
Awareness of Offshore Wind	<p>Ilocos Norte</p> <p>Multiple public consultations were made. A proposal is at the advanced stages of the compliance procedure. A non-government organisation has also expressed their opposition.</p> <p>The initial consultations involved fisherfolk, then expanded to residents of coastal barangays. Researchers and experts from DENR and a local state university were also invited to speak during succeeding public hearings.</p> <p>Marine studies have been completed, and ongoing land surveys are being done in San Lorenzo for port utility construction.</p>	<p>National government agencies have touched base with the local government to facilitate the progression of the proposal.</p>
	<p>Camarines Sur</p> <p>Sectoral consultations have been conducted since 2024, and feasibility studies are currently ongoing. The presentations included proposed locations of windmills, but results from the study have not been released yet.</p>	<p>Barangay officials were invited to attend several consultations about the proposed offshore wind project. The municipal government is also aware of the proposal.</p>
	<p>Batangas</p> <p>A small-group consultation with fisherfolk leaders was held. A marine depth survey was conducted, and a wind speed monitoring instrument was installed in 2023. There have been no formal invitations for public consultation.</p>	<p>The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) called for a meeting with the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) presidents to discuss a proposal about OSW.</p>
	<p>Guimaras</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Proposals have not been cascaded to the community; however, the association head held a discussion with fellow leaders about an offshore wind proposal at the Enchaves municipal waters.</p>
	<p>Cavite</p> <p>None</p>	<p>There has been no formal discussion about offshore wind at the municipal government level, only rumors about its location.</p>

4.2 Perceived OSW Benefits and Risks

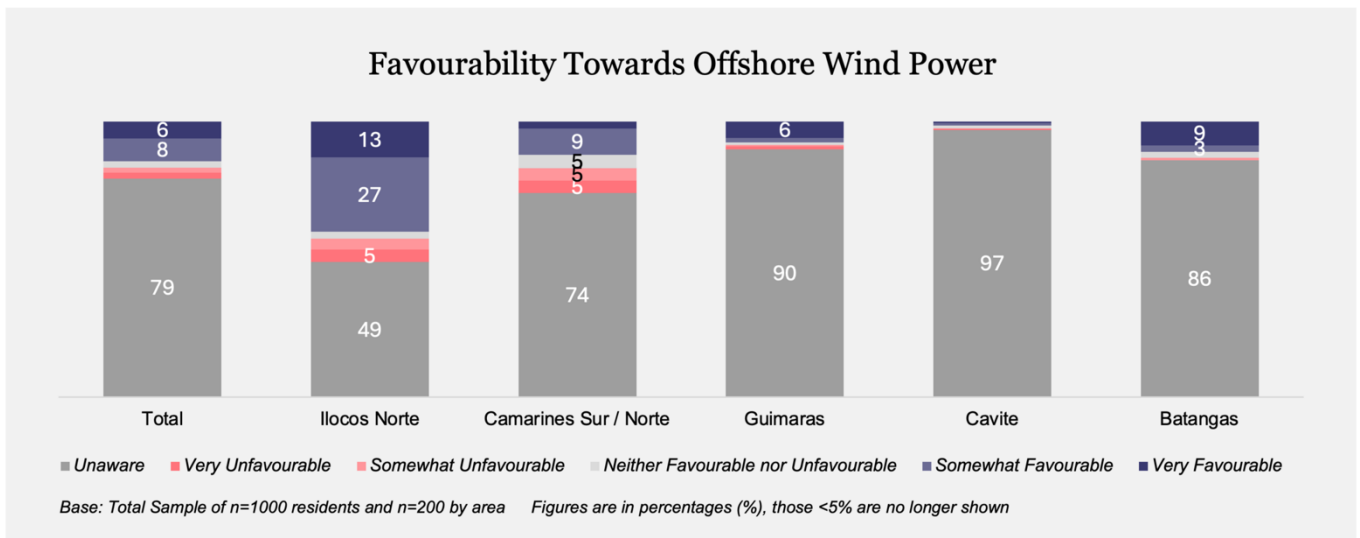


Figure 4.2A Favourability towards offshore wind energy by area

Ilocos Norte represents a more developed example of OSW energy engagement

Multisector engagement in Ilocos Norte has built public support for OSW energy, but further improvement is needed. Camarines Sur and Norte are moving in the same direction but still need to raise awareness, explain the benefits, and address concerns. Other areas also require outreach, with Guimaras and Batangas showing promise if trust-building and environmental safeguards are in place.

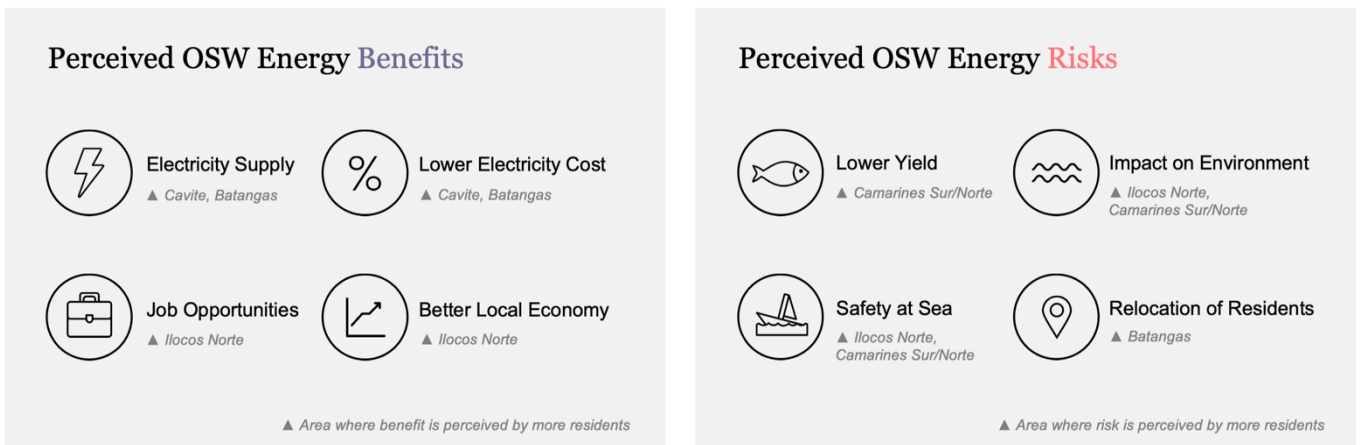


Figure 4.2B Leading perceived benefits and risks associated with offshore wind energy

Economic advantages help advance OSW discussions, but only if environmental and fishing-related risks are credibly addressed

While residents find the potential economic benefits of OSW appealing, these do not yet outweigh concerns that fishing livelihoods and already fragile local incomes could be negatively affected if risks are not managed. Shifting views will require closing information gaps, building trust, and providing credible safeguards for livelihoods and the environment.

Openness to Offshore Wind Energy Projects



5 Openness to Offshore Wind Energy Projects

Community involvement is critical in project development, and effective stakeholder engagement means consulting locals throughout the process.

5.1 Awareness of Local Offshore Wind Energy Projects

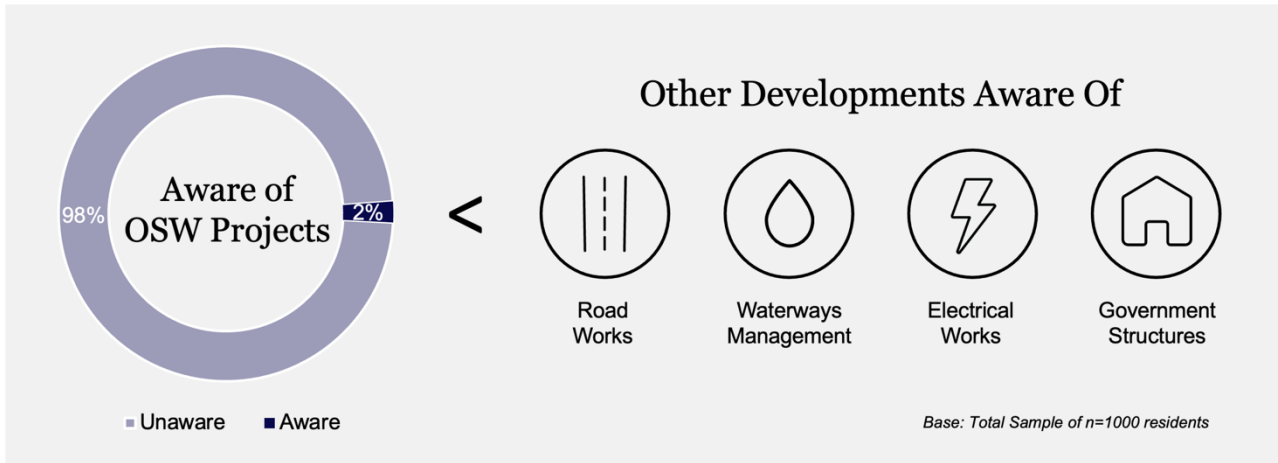


Figure 5.1A Awareness of offshore wind energy projects and other developments

Discussions surrounding OSW projects have yet to progress into widespread acceptance

Very few are aware of any actual activity—only 2% report knowing of a proposed local OSW energy project. Most instead notice road works (36%) and other infrastructure improvements. With offshore wind efforts still largely at the discussion stage, residents who already have limited time remain uncertain and disengaged. Future community engagements must therefore focus on clear, consistent, and barangay-level communication, explain environmental safeguards, livelihood opportunities, and skills development while working closely with fisherfolk and local leaders.

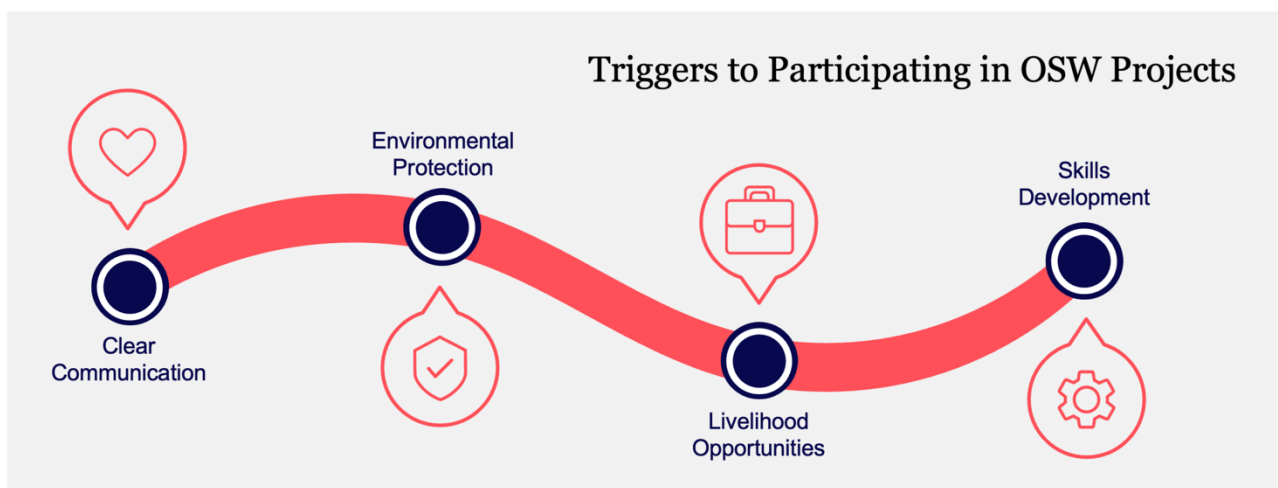


Figure 5.1B Top triggers that can help the community be more open to OSW projects

5.2 Openness to Initiatives and Institutions

Site	Factors Affecting Openness to Initiatives
Ilocos Norte	Apprehensions on the impacts of construction and operation to marine life. Opposition groups actively organising and lobbying to halt the project.
Camarines Sur/Norte	Disempowerment rooted from a top-down approach to securing community consent, lack of clear details about structures. Potential upside is the boost in tourism.
Guimaras	Experience during pre-development phases was unsatisfactory (e.g. lack of immersive consultation with fisherfolk, lack of clear details about the structures).
Cavite	In the absence of detailed project information, residents speculate that the structures might reduce trawling in municipal waters and act as alternative reefs
Batangas	Verde Island pass is the centre of marine biodiversity in the world. Massive construction would disrupt the life cycles and migration patterns of marine life

Table 5.2A Factors affecting openness to OSW energy initiatives – gathered from qualitative interviews

Trust begins in the community and can extend towards larger institutions when information is transparent, risks are addressed, and promises are kept

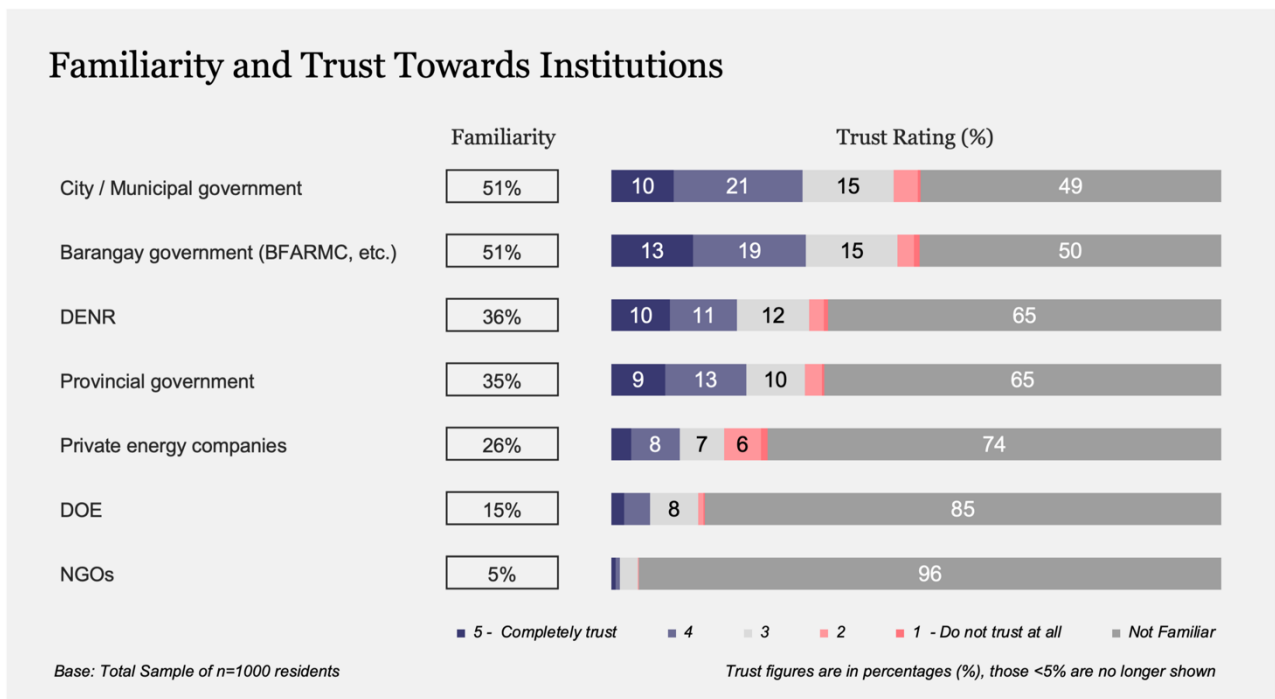


Figure 5.2A Total percentage of residents who are familiar with and trust relevant institutions

5.3 Role of the Community

‘The fishing community felt they were not sufficiently consulted in the pre-development phase of [other structures]...’

- Qualitative observations in Guimaras

Drawing on residents’ experience with other structures, communities should be engaged as active partners of offshore wind initiatives to shape decisions and locally relevant livelihood programmes.

- Consult early at the barangay level so fisherfolk and residents can help shape decisions
- Provide full project details upfront to build trust and enable informed participation
- Provide simple, accessible ways for residents to engage in two-way communication
- Communicate in the local language and partner with local experts to clarify challenges
- Beyond local meetings and word-of-mouth, media channels also help reach more people

Top Media Sources on Local Projects



Free TV



Facebook



Radio



YouTube

Base: Total Sample of n=1000 residents

Note: Information received through media may come from different sources e.g. LGU, family/friends, private institutions

Figure 5.3A Top media sources of information to learn about development projects or initiatives in the community

Recommendations



6 Recommendations

The recommendations below are directly informed by the study's findings, which show that limited awareness, information asymmetry, and past experiences of exclusion shape the attitudes within communities in response to OSW proposals. Addressing these early is essential to reducing risk and aligning national goals with community expectations.

While community support is important across development sites, there is no one-size-fits-all way to engage

Effective engagement sees host communities as active partners, and not mere beneficiaries of livelihood compensation packages. Thus, the central challenge for any initiative lies in building credibility, in which crafting a thorough and transparent community engagement framework may be explored, one that will be seriously considered by relevant parties. In this regard, developers are expected to engage directly and in detail with the communities with the help of the barangay local government units, ensuring communications are reinforced.

Developers are also expected to collaborate with diverse institutions, people organisations, and government bodies. Identifying the key players and their role in the initiatives ensures the application of appropriate strategies to build trust and secure cooperation:

<p style="text-align: center;">Who to involve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fisherfolk communities and associations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bantay Dagat (sea patrols) ● Local government units (barangay) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local chief executives - Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council - Barangay Development Council ● Marine-related business operators 	<p style="text-align: center;">Who to collaborate with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local government units (municipal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) - Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council ● Municipal Development Council ● Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office
<p style="text-align: center;">Who to keep informed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civil Society Organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Save the Children - Shoreline Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran (SKKI) - Philippine Eagles Riders Club Inc. ● People's organisations ● Department of National Defense 	<p style="text-align: center;">Who to consult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local government unit (provincial) ● Department of Energy (DOE) ● Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ● Department of Agriculture (DA) ● Philippine Coast Guard ● Philippine Ports Authority ● Maritime Industry Authority

Table 6.1A Stakeholder matrix – who developers should involve, collaborate with, inform, and consult

At the core of the engagements are those involved in fisheries as well as barangay units. Information on grassroots and sectoral organisations can be requested from relevant municipal government offices. In the case of marine and environment sector, proponents may seek the assistance of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

Specific Areas	Fisherfolk Organisations
Brgy. San Lorenzo, Bangui, Ilocos Norte	BFARMC
Brgy. Sogod and Brgy. Salvacion Poblacion, Tinambac, Camarines Sur	*Fisherfolk organisation is yet to be formally registered to the municipal government. Officers of the organisation were elected in September 2025
Brgy. Suclaran, Brgy. Cabano, San Lorenzo, Guimaras	Cabano Fisherfolk Association Assosayon ng Magagmay na Mangingisda sa Suclaran (AMMS)
Brgy. Bucana, Ternate, Cavite	Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Bucana
Brgy. Gulod, Calatagan, Batangas	Gulod Fisherfolk Association

Table 6.1B Sites and identified fisherfolk associations to involve

Awareness and openness directly correlate to trust-building

Ilocos Norte represents a more developed example of OSW engagement, whereas Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte are on a similar trajectory but require stronger efforts from developers, in coordination with barangay and municipal government units, to raise awareness, articulate benefits, and address concerns. Across sites, a recurring finding is the need for pertinent details that would inform communities and redefine their perceptions about wind farms. Information asymmetry compounds with the state of their political engagement and confidence towards the local government. Distrust builds from a lack of transparency, limited information, and top-down approaches that focus on municipalities and disenfranchise barangays.

Proponents may utilise free TV, Facebook, radio, and YouTube in disseminating public information; however, barangay units remain as the most effective conduits and platforms for information dissemination, consultation, and dispute resolution. Barangay units are the frontline of government services, and locals often avail of their services more often, especially in geographically isolated areas. Establishing satellite offices at the barangays may help gain community trust and maintain transparency.

Implementing effective communication strategies and addressing concerns specific to each development site can foster and strengthen community support

Table 6.1C Summary of participant inquiries and challenges per site

Specific Areas	Concerns and doubts about the impacts projects will have on fishing communities
Brgy. San Lorenzo, Bangui, Ilocos Norte	<p>Infrastructure: The need for technical details on the distance of the structure from the shore, and from their fish aggregating devices (payaw).</p> <p>Economy and livelihood: Programmes such as alternative sources of livelihood would alleviate the concerns in case feasibility studies revealed major impacts on fishing.</p>
Brgy. Sogod and Brgy. Salvacion Poblacion, Tinambac, Camarines Sur	<p>Economy and livelihood: For fisherwomen, there are also concerns on the effects on shell and crustacean life as they are their main catches. Such changes may affect both livelihood and their own household consumption, with potential food security implications.</p> <p>Male fishers were also hopeful about the health benefits they could get from social responsibility programmes.</p>
Brgy. Suclaran, Brgy. Cabano, San Lorenzo, Guimaras	<p>Infrastructure: Placement of cables on the seabed might disturb corals and the quality of marine ecosystems in the area. Likewise, these might hinder fisherfolk from navigating the waters and conducting their livelihood.</p> <p>Social responsibility: Clear information is needed on how offshore wind projects may affect fisherfolk communities</p>
Brgy. Bucana, Ternate, Cavite	<p>Infrastructure: There is inability to gauge the full impact of the proposed offshore wind as there are limited details available to them on the matter.</p> <p>Some of their inquiries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and distance from shore, number of turbine posts, and stretch of offshore wind turbines • Radius of restricted area surrounding the wind turbine • Programmes to support potential loss of livelihood
Brgy. Gulod, Calatagan, Batangas	<p>Infrastructure: There is uncertainty of the tangible effects of the offshore wind to their life and community as they were still not well-informed about pertinent details of the project e.g. location and number of wind turbines.</p> <p>Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on migratory birds and reproductive cycle of marine mammals • Length of period after construction needed to restore natural marine life • Stretch of turbine placement vis-a-vis the nautical highways

Given the fragile economic conditions documented in most fishing communities, OSW initiatives generally sustain better support if they are seen to strengthen livelihoods, rather than introduce additional uncertainty or loss among residents.

Government's role in early, pre-project communication

There is a need for earlier, pre-project communication that goes beyond developer-led engagement. With awareness of offshore wind remaining low across most sites and information largely flowing through informal or limited channels, communities often encounter OSW discussions without sufficient context on why projects are being pursued or how national priorities relate to local concerns. In this regard, national and local government units have an important complementary role in communicating the broader policy rationale for OSW, setting expectations on safeguards for livelihoods and the environment, and clarifying how community feedback will be seriously addressed. Clear, consistent government messaging cascaded through municipal and barangay levels can help reduce speculation, address information asymmetry, and establish credibility of site-specific engagement by developers.

Intermediaries to broker early dialogue and shared understanding

Intermediaries such as relevant industry bodies, civil society organisations, or other local and experienced community-facing NGO partners can further support this process by facilitating early dialogue and shared understanding before formal project proposals are introduced. Communities place greater trust in information that is perceived as transparent, coordinated, and supported by credible institutions and local representatives. By convening neutral, non-project-specific discussions and supporting the translation of technical issues into accessible language, these actors can help prepare communities for more detailed engagement. This approach reinforces, rather than replaces, developer responsibilities by ensuring that when project-level consultations begin, communities are better informed, expectations are more realistic, and engagement can focus on addressing site-specific impacts and opportunities.

Importance of language in communicating the project proposals

Communicating OSW in local languages and accessible formats is essential to ensuring communities can meaningfully understand, question, and engage. Responding clearly to community inquiries and translating concerns into practical actions strengthens trust, particularly where livelihoods and environmental conditions are closely linked. Engaging experts from local state universities and trusted institutions can further enhance credibility by providing impartial, authoritative input that communities recognise and value.

Turning insights into action

As OSW development advances, government agencies, intermediaries, and project developers may apply the insights from this study to shape engagement that clearly links OSW to favourable outcomes and demonstrates management of environmental and livelihood risks. Doing so will enable projects to progress in a manner that is trusted and locally grounded.

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