



*Investing in North Carolina's research enterprise where it starts.*

## Harvesting Clean Energy

New technology produces clean energy from the interactions between fresh and salt water

The natural salinity gradients along the North Carolina coast are an untapped yet significant energy resource. This project will advance a cutting-edge technology that can harness these gradients for electricity generation, energy storage, and wastewater treatment. The team, which includes multiple UNC universities, local start-up companies, consultants, and coastal utilities, will conduct a comprehensive technical, economic, and environmental assessment of this technology and its impact on North Carolina. The findings will help expand North Carolina's clean energy sector, attract industrial investment, and provide foundational research for future funding opportunities in coastal energy technology development.



**NC STATE**  
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL



**East Carolina**  
UNIVERSITY



Erin D. Hopper, PhD  
Research Director  
erin.hopper@northcarolina.edu  
roi.northcarolina.edu

Christopher S. Brown, PhD  
Vice President for Research and  
Graduate Education  
csbrown@northcarolina.edu