



Researchers Try to Harness Power Of Gulf Stream

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Dania Beach, FL (AHN) - In the ever expanding search for renewable energy, one group of researchers are testing the waters, literally.

The Center of Excellence In Ocean Energy Technology, a state funded research center out of the Florida Atlantic University in Dania Beach Florida is working toward harnessing the gulf stream current as a source of green, clean energy.

Director of the program, Rick Driscoll, PH.D., said that if successful, the energy harnessed by using ocean current turbines could provide a third of the states power.

However, there are still many obstacles to overcome.

In a televised report, Driscoll said, "Nobody's been able to keep a buoy out in the gulf stream for more than a month or two. Our goal is to keep it out there for over a year."

Other concerns are the effect the blades of the turbines may have on the sea life. Driscoll said that the team is trying to design the systems so they do not have a "cuisineart effect' on the fish that may swim near them.

Driscoll said in the televised interview, "This is all kind of a work in progress type system."

Ideally, he said, we could see commercial systems in the water in three to five years.

Studies have determined that the southeast region of the US does not have enough wind power on a regular basis to create a steady flow of energy. On the contrary, the gulf stream has a very constant current flow, that if harnessed, could be a viable renewable energy.