

MEETING SUMMARY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETINGS WITH NORTH COAST FISHERMEN
CRESCENT CITY HARBOR DISTRICT
101 CITIZENS DOCK ROAD
CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2022
3:00 – 6:00 P.M. PT
IN-PERSON MEETING

Meeting Participants¹

| Participant | Organization |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Jean Thurston-Keller (call-in) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management |
| Amanda Cousart | California Coastal Commission |
| Crystal Desouza | California Department of Fish & Wildlife |
| Margarita McInnis (call-in) | California Department Fish & Wildlife |
| Brian Owens | California Department Fish & Wildlife |
| Christopher Potter | California Department Fish & Wildlife |
| Jay Stanton | California Department Fish & Wildlife |
| Mark Danielson | California Energy Commission |
| Eli Harland | California Energy Commission |
| Max Liebergesell | California State Lands Commission |
| Jennifer Mattox | California State Lands Commission |
| Brad Pettiuger | Commercial Fisherman |
| Randy Pincombe | Commercial Fisherman |
| Vito Pomilia | Commercial Fisherman |
| Victor Pomilia | Commercial Fisherman |
| Randy Smith | Commercial Fisherman |
| Troy Wakefield | Commercial Fisherman |
| Mike Okoniewski | Consultant (Pacific Seafood) |
| Wes White | Crescent City Harbor Commissioner |
| Brian L Stone | County Harbor Commissioner |
| Todd (call-in) | Not Specified |

¹ Some participants called in via phone and did not specify their affiliation

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Annie (call-in) | Not Specified |
| Jessica Cejnar (call-in) | Not Specified |
| T Petrick (call-in) | Not Specified |

Facilitation Team Participants

| Participant | Organization |
|--------------|-----------------|
| CeCe Horbat | Kearns and West |
| Jasmine King | Kearns and West |

Meeting Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Humboldt Wind Energy Area Map (CDFW)
- Assembly Bill 525 Strategic Plan for Wind Energy Offshore California and Establishing Offshore Wind Megawatt Planning Goals (CEC)

Presentations

- Amanda Cousart: Consistency Determination
- Eli Harland: AB 525 Strategic Plan

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of the meeting was for state and federal agencies to share information and updates with fishing communities affected by the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) and to gather input and comments from fishing community participants.

Fishing Community Concerns and Comments

Over the course of the meeting, fishing community participants shared a variety of concerns, interests, suggestions, and questions with state and federal agency staff. Summaries of their comments, organized by key themes, are listed below.

Assembly Bill (AB) 525

- Fishing community participants expressed concern that energy targets are based on models that do not realistically balance expectations and reality and asked about the relative importance of offshore wind goals vs. fishing needs to the California legislature. They also asked for an explanation for how the 10GW target was set and whether inflation and supply chain issues factor into energy targets. CEC representatives explained that the 10 GW number comes from the 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report, which is one of several factors that the CEC is required to consider when establishing the planning goals required by AB 525. The Core Scenario, one of several scenarios, presented in the report included modeling results to meet the state's renewable energy

and zero-carbon policy to achieve 100 percent of retail electricity sales coming from renewable energy and zero-carbon resources by 2045. The model selected 10 GW of offshore wind energy in the Core Scenario portfolio and showed that a diverse resource portfolio that included 10 GW of offshore wind energy would reduce the 2045 total resource costs by \$1 billion. CEC clarified that the agencies cannot respond on behalf of the California legislature, but AB 525 was passed by the California legislature in 2021 and signed by the governor. AB 525 directs the CEC to develop a chapter as part of the strategic plan covering “Potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.” Furthermore, CEC representatives said that supply chain issues will be addressed and considered in the strategic plan that CEC will be developing as required by AB 525, and while inflation is not specifically identified in the legislation as a considering factor, the need for a domestic workforce and manufacturing capabilities is considered by CEC when establishing megawatt planning goals for 2030 and 2045.

Cables/Transmission Lines

- Fishing community participants asked about the status of transmission lines. State Lands Commission shared that they oversee subtidal areas in state waters and issue leases for transmission lines. The cables are expected to be buried one meter below the seabed.
- Fishing community participants also asked about who is responsible for maintenance issues with cables/transmission lines. Agency staff mentioned that line maintenance is not part of the CCC Consistency Determination currently, however, fishing communities can influence monitoring protocols when the time comes.

Consistency Determination

- Fishing community participants inquired about the commenting process on CCC's Consistency Determination. The CCC shared that they try to address comments on an ongoing basis. Comments are accepted via email or mail (see website instructions). Replies to comments will be reflected in the final Consistency Determination. Comments close on April 1, 2022. However, people can also provide verbal comments on April 7, 2022 (Hearing Date) via Submit Speaker Request. CCC also mentioned that comments made on the Consistency Determination are made public.
- Fishing community participants inquired about how the Consistency Determination plan will incorporate the impacts to water currents from offshore wind turbines. The CD staff report did incorporate information into the analysis from Integral associates on upwelling impacts. In the addendum to the report, we added pertinent info from the North Sea study.

Data Collection

- Fishing community participants stated that the current buoy off Humboldt Bay does not provide an accurate model as it does not account for context of the changing current within Humboldt Bay.

Decommissioning Offshore Wind Turbines

- Fishing community participants asked what plans exist in place for possible wind turbine decommissioning. Wind energy developers are required at various stages to conduct performance bond surveys. Performance bonds are based on a construction plan developed by developers and approved by BOEM. The East Coast has similar protocols in development. Leases in a WEA for offshore wind are for approximately 25-30 years

and developers are required to have a decommissioning plan in place to remove all facilities and clear the seafloor of obstructions by the end of the lease term for a project to be accepted. Decommissioned turbines are removed by marine salvagers who take structures apart. However, BOEM's process is different.

- Fishing agreements with developers and industries can address lost gear conflicts as they arise. Agencies shared that the fishing community will have a say in how conflicts are resolved through fishing agreements.

Economic Impacts

- Fishing community participants shared how impacts from offshore wind will reduce the already declining viable income from the fishing industry. They shared that the loss of fish processing plants will impact the economic quality of the area. Additionally, rehiring and staffing currently strains fishing communities economically.

Enforcement Ability/Routine Scheduling

- Fishing community participants inquired about the enforcement that exists to enforce and monitor offshore wind activity. BOEM's sister agency, the federal agency, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) conducts monitoring and is the point of contact for enforcement. BSEE inspections occur on a regular and random basis. Inspections will monitor possible seismic events. BSEE is responsible for approving construction and operations plans. CCC also formally reviews offshore wind survey plans required for wind developers to conduct. Once offshore wind is in place, BSEE would be responsible for cable monitoring.
- In addition to BOEM and BSEE, fishermen wanted to know what other agencies represented at this meeting might have a role in enforcement of offshore wind activity. State Lands Commission (SLC) would only have enforcement responsibilities on conditions within a SLC lease (not a BOEM lease) on projects entering state waters, such as transmission cables. California Energy Commission (CEC) does not have a regulatory or enforcement role for wind energy developed in federal ocean waters. The CEC has exclusive certification jurisdiction for thermal power plants with a generating capacity of fifty megawatts or more. The Coastal Commission has direct enforcement authority over coastal development permit conditions within the coastal zone.

Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- Fishing community participants shared that California has one of the largest shrimp bids even if the data fluctuates. After reading about impacts in Europe, some fishermen are concerned that offshore wind activity will impact temperature and salinity of the ocean. They are worried that turbine winds could destroy sensitive prawn and anchovy fishing changing fishing migration patterns.

General Questions

- Fishing community participants asked what role CDFW plays in this process. CDFW's role with offshore wind development is as a key point of contact between the fishing community and the other agencies involved in offshore wind to ensure engagement is continuous throughout the process. CDFW is a state agency that assists with environmental review through its role as a Trustee Agency. Finally, CDFW has assisted

with providing data for the California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff report of the Consistency Determination review.

- Fishing community participants inquired about the length of an offshore wind lease. BOEM shared that a lease lasts 32 years.

General Comments

- The nature of fishing schedules and workloads limit their capacity to provide input.
- Fishing community participants shared that offshore wind development poses a major threat impacting fishing livelihoods. Groundfish, a popular fish found in the WEA is the “bread and butter of fishing year-round”. Fishing infrastructure directly impacts the industry, and these impacts will reverberate up coast as well. Incoming wind energy infrastructure will result in a reduction of the quality of fishing facilities. Developing ten gigawatts of offshore wind energy in California will put fisherman out of business. Fishermen want to stay in the industry and do not want to go out of business and be forced to adapt to a new profession.
- Fishing community participants expressed preference to use a pilot project testing wind energy over models and studies that lack evidence of how Northern California waters and fishing will be impacted by offshore wind.
- Fishing community participants also believe that the alternative route corridors do not necessarily account for safety in the WEA.

Offshore Wind: Costs

- Fishing community participants asked about how many windfarms are needed to make offshore wind feasible in Humboldt Bay. Agency members referred to a recent study by National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) model that used certain assumptions about the development of the global floating offshore wind supply chain. The study showed that by 2030, 10 gigawatts of offshore wind energy would make floating offshore wind feasible assuming model assumptions would hold true. In passing AB 525, the CA legislature finds that one gigawatt of offshore wind energy requires about 100 - 120 square miles of sea space for development with current technologies. The CEC is required to establish megawatt planning goals for 2030 and 2045 under AB 525. These goals will be a part of developing a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments off the California coast in federal waters.
- The cost of offshore wind per kilowatt is determined by public utilities. Current cost estimates from a NREL study are \$70-\$80 dollars per megawatt or seven cents per kilowatt for a ten gigawatt site. However, the current cost estimate does not consider port infrastructure or transmission. Location of the wind turbine battery storage placement is currently unknown, but the location will be considered with project proposals and other infrastructure upgrades.

Other Offshore Wind Examples

- Multiple fishing community participants asked if agencies are looking at the European studies around offshore wind. Fishing community participants asked agencies to consider the lessons learned from the European fixed bottom wind turbines. Another testimony in Europe described cables breaking, causing dragging and damaging lines

across the ocean floor. Fishermen encouraged that they take these findings into consideration to show uncertainty for offshore wind.

- The agencies base information and estimates of how offshore wind will impact the areas from local data collection, surveys, studies, and models. Agencies have not used European findings due to California's Pacific Ocean ecological differences from the North Sea.

Agency Discussions and Comments

Toward the end of the meeting, agency members asked questions about ways to engage with the fishing community. Summaries of their comments, organized by key themes, are listed below.

- Agency members asked about the best way to engage and who might be missing from the conversation. Fishing community participants suggested staying connected with fishing agencies like the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), Ken Bates in Eureka and Scott McMullen, representing the cable companies were additional names mentioned.
- Agency members asked about fishing profit margin of fish processing. Fishing community participants shared that the buyback for fishermen would have to be 9-15% off the top.
- Agency members asked about the desire or ability for the fleet to fish further south than Point Arena. Fishing community participants stated that there are no existing fishing markets.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. PT.