

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETING WITH CENTRAL COAST FISHERMEN**  
**SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**113 HARBOR WAY STE 190, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93109**  
**MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022**  
**3:00 – 5:00 P.M. PT**  
**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Meeting Participants**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Abigail Ryder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Lisa Gilbane	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Sara Guiltinan	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Amanda Cousart	California Coastal Commission
Chris Potter	California Department of Wildlife
Craig Schuman	California Department of Wildlife
Eli Harland	California Energy Commission
Jen Mattox	California State Lands Commission
Ava Schulenberg	Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Kim Selkoe	Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Garret Rose	Fishing: Crab/groundfish
Zack Robinson	Fishing: Gillnet
Nicholas Tharp	Fishing: Groundfish + nearshore
Chris Vodd	Fishing: Lobster
G Cota	Fishing: Lobster
Michael Nelson	Fishing: Lobster
Tony Luna	Fishing: Lobster/crab
Miles Wallace	Fishing: Lobster/urchin
Eliza Harrison	Fishing: Seaweed
Mary Nishimoto	Joint Fisheries Liaison Officer (for oil and gas)

**Facilitation Team**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Eunice Lee	Kearns & West
Jasmine King	Kearns & West

**Meeting Materials**

- BOEM Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process
- Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Map

## Presentations

- Sara Guiltinan: California Offshore Wind (OSW) Energy Planning in Federal Waters
- Amanda Cousart: CA Coastal Commission's Consistency Determination
- Eli Harland: AB525 Overview

## DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting was held in-person at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The purpose of the meeting was for state and federal agencies to share information and updates with fishing communities affected by the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) and to gather input and comments from fishing community participants. Eighteen participants of the fishing community attended representing a variety of fisheries. Government participants included representatives from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), California Coastal Commission (CCC), California Energy Commission (CEC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and California State Lands Commission (SLC).

The meeting included presentations from BOEM on California Offshore Wind Energy Planning, the CCC on the Coastal Commission Consistency Determination for Morro Bay, and the CEC on an overview of AB525. The meeting incorporated time for questions and discussion throughout the meeting and was facilitated by CDFW staff.

## 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.

### Engagement with Fishing Community

- Fishing community participants suggested it would be helpful to share data and facts regarding energy production levels, the amount of households powered, and the cost to consumers.
- Fishing community participants suggested that the Community Benefits Agreement that has been worked on in Morro Bay be used as the basis for future engagement with the fishing community. Another model fishing community participants shared was the Regional Technical Working Group for oil & gas which provided per diem for fishermen from the federal government to attend meetings. The oil & gas fisheries liaison office is a working product of this group.
- Fishing community participants shared that the community should be able to choose their liaison, even if the salary is paid by the lessee.
- Fishing community participants expressed that it would be helpful to share information and suggested hosting workshops to review documents and interpret the information would be helpful given the busy schedules of the fishing community.
- Fishing community participants suggested that State agencies and BOEM continue consistent engagement with the fishing community. A general question was posed to the participants about how best to engage with them because CCC and CSLC have regulatory authority to represent fishing community interests.

### Impact To Marine Life

- Fishing community participants expressed concern about the impacts to marine life and suggested BOEM share information available on the impacts.

### Interagency Collaboration

- Fishing community participants suggested BOEM align with CCC and SLC and identify methods to offset impacts to fishing communities.
- Fishing community participants inquired about the role of state agencies on wind farm development. CCC representatives explained the role of the Coastal Zone Management Act and that the Consistency Determination is a vehicle to provide stipulations to federal leases. The CCC also has continual monitoring requirements through the CZMA.

### Offshore Wind Energy Lease and Funds

- Fishing community participants expressed concern that the Government, particularly the federal government is positioned to profit from the money generated from the lease sales.
- Fishing community participants suggested the offshore wind energy projects have an environmental review.
- BOEM representatives explained that there are two sources of revenue from the leases: the lease auction and an annual right fee. This money goes to the General Treasury of the U.S. Government. CEC representatives explained that NY Bight leases potentially brought in large sums at auction because the state is mandated to buy the energy produced (power purchase agreement), but this does not exist in California (i.e., through the CPUC) can decide not to buy the energy produced, so offshore wind has to compete in the marketplace.
- Fishing community participants inquired about the length of the lease and the process that occurs after the lease.

### Renewable Energy Source

- Some fishing community participants inquired about the proposal of offshore wind energy and suggested onshore wind energy. As an example, the Vandenberg AFB was discussed as it has turbines on land and the military conducts smart cost benefit analysis.
- Fishing community participants expressed concern about the inflow of leasing money to the federal government from developing wind farms. BOEM and State representative briefly explained the benefits of offshore wind over onshore wind in terms of increased capacity factor.
- Some fishing community participants inquired about the efficiency of wind farms as a renewable energy source because diesel would be used for ships constructing and servicing turbines. A BOEM representative offered to direct participants towards lifecycle studies which examined lifecycle carbon emissions of wind farms and showed lowered carbon production compared to oil and gas production.

### Wind Energy Area and Development

- Fishing community participants expressed concern on the source of data that was used to calculate energy production estimates.
- After BOEM representatives provided the estimate that 370 mi<sup>2</sup> would power approximately 1 million households, the fishing community participants shared concern about the size of the optimal area for energy demand.
- Fishing community participants shared that they are not against the notion of renewable energy.
- Fishing community participants suggested conducting tests by placing turbines on buoys before building structures. An elaboration of this suggestion was a request for a pilot

wind farm prior to a commercial wind farm, however not in state waters (such as the proposed projects under review by the SLC off the coast of Vandenberg AFB).

- Fishing community participants shared concern about California proceeding with developing wind energy and suggested BOEM finish environmental review of proposed wind energy areas before leasing these areas are leased. BOEM explained that one of the reasons the area is leased prior to intensive investigations by a lessee is because the lease provides a contractual agreement which allows the government to regulate lessee activities such as site assessment and characterization surveys that take place. As a follow-up, fishing community participants expressed concern over the bias of surveys undertaken by the lessee and asked about government oversight of lessee activities. BOEM representatives explained that its sister agency, BSEE, has a compliance process including review of surveys and marine mammal observers. CCC explained that the State of CA also reviews surveys as stipulated in the Consistency Determination reviews.
- Fishing community participants inquired about access to the site during the leasing and development process. BOEM explained that it does not have the regulatory authority to prevent other marine users from entering wind energy areas during leasing and development.
- Fishing community participants inquired about the materials used to build the wind turbines.