

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETING WITH CENTRAL COAST FISHERMEN**  
**MORRO BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**715 HARBOR ST, MORRO BAY, CA 93442**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**  
**1:00 – 3:00 P.M. PT**  
**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Meeting Participants**

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Organization</b>               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Abigail Ryer       | 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 |
| Crystal Desouza    | California Department of Wildlife |
| Margarita McInnis  | California Department of Wildlife |
| Eli Harland        | California Energy Commission      |
| Jennifer Mattox    | California State Lands Commission |
| Maren Farnum       | California State Lands Commission |
| Max Liebergesell   | California State Lands Commission |
| Wayne Moody        | Fishing: Albacore/retired         |
| Alan Alward        | Fishing: Albacore/sablefish       |
| David Schumacher   | Fishing: All types                |
| Bill Blue          | Fishing: Black cod/crab           |
| Bill Barrow        | Fishing: Crab/salmon/             |
| Jeff French        | Fishing: Dungeness crab + salmon  |
| Garret Rose        | Fishing: Groundfish/crab          |
| W.T. Ward          | Fishing: Halibut/salmon           |
| Harold Morris      | Fishing: Live fish                |
| Owen Hackleman     | Fishing: Sablefish                |
| Dennis Peck        | Fishing: Salmon                   |
| Ross Rickard       | Fishing: Salmon                   |
| Mark Tognazzini    | Fishing: Salmon                   |
| Sherrri Hafer      | Fishing: Spot prawns/nearshore    |
| Tom Hafer          | Fishing: Spot prawns/nearshore    |
| Carrie Pomeroy     | Not Specified                     |
| Christopher Kubiak | Not Specified                     |
| Erica Crawford     | Not Specified                     |

**Facilitation Team Participants**

| <b>Participants</b> | <b>Organization</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Eunice Lee          | 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 Morro Bay Fire Department. 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.

### Bids, Auctions, and Leasing

- Fishing community participants inquired about the bid amounts and where the money goes. BOEM representatives explained that the money goes to the U.S. Treasury.
- Fishing community participants asked about the deposit amount and the timeframe for developers to pay the full lease. BOEM representatives explained that a 10% deposit is required, and the full amount must be paid in 10 business days.

### California Coastal Commission (CCC) Consistency Determination

- Participants asked when the CCC Coastal Determination will be made available online.

### Environmental Impacts

- Fishing community participants expressed concern regarding the potential of offshore oil spills from ships striking the turbines.

### Engagement and Outreach with the Fishing Community

- Fishing community participants expressed that communication and coordination with fishermen regarding site assessment and characterization surveys could help prevent

gear and fishing conflicts and suggested a minimum 21-day notice to fishermen. They also shared that a fishing liaison and a dedicated primary government contact would be helpful.

#### Energy Statistics and Goals

- Fishing community participants expressed concern that the State's renewable energy goals for 2045 are too high and would be detrimental to the fishing industry. They asked how the goals were identified and what data the goals were based on.
- Fishing community participants shared the concern that the cost of offshore wind energy will be too high for consumers.
- Fishing community participants asked about the viability of alternative methods of energy production, specifically wind turbines on land and nuclear energy.

#### Impacts on Fishing Communities, Mitigation, and Community Benefits Agreements

- Fishing community participants shared that the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area overlaps the ground fishing zone. Additionally, they suggested that payments to the community should be made during the construction phase of the development process, as this phase will have the largest impact by displacing fishermen.
- Participants expressed concern over OSW developers complying with Community Benefit Agreements.
- Fishing community participants voiced preference to work directly with OSW developers, pointing to how Castle Wind has worked effectively with fishermen in the past.
- Fishing community participants noted that rather than BOEM being responsible for mitigation, BOEM should be responsible for holding developers accountable for mitigation.
- Fishing community participants inquired about how OSW developers not complying with agreements would be identified, how self-reporting of non-compliance will be verified, and if developers would be fined for non-compliance.

#### Wind Turbine Reliability

- Participants expressed concern over the reliability of the wind turbines.
- Participants wanted to know about the life cycle of the wind turbines and the general energy requirements to maintain the wind turbines.

#### Surveys and Data

- Some fishing community participants shared that the leasing process should move forward after surveys are conducted around the WEA and after BOEM studied the potential impacts.
- Fishing community participants shared that Morro Bay has fishing cycles that rotate every 6-7 years and suggested that BOEM and the State consider current and historical changes in fishing. They shared GIS maps presenting data on cyclic fishing changes.