

Facilitation Team Participants

Participant	Organization
Eric Holmes	Kearns and West
Jasmine King	Kearns and West

Meeting Materials

- Map of Proposed Lease Sale Areas
- Selected Questions of Interest for Fishermen Stakeholders from the PSN
- BOEM's Commercial Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process
- How to provide public comment on the PSN
- BOEM staff contact information
- Federal Register Notice: Pacific Wind Lease Sale 1 (PACW-1) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf in California—Proposed Sale Notice
- North Coast Proposed Leases
- Bidder's Financial Form Addendum: Draft Bidding Credit – Requirements and Restrictions
- Draft Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585
- Selected BOEM-Funded Research Informing Renewable Energy Offshore California
- CEC Presentation Slides on Energy Planning and AB 525

Presentations

- Scott Flint, California Energy Commission: Context of Offshore Wind (OSW) Energy Planning in State Waters
- Jennifer Miller, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: Context and Background of OSW Energy Planning in Federal Waters

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. The meeting focused on questions and discussions between agency staff and members of the fishing community. 13 participants of the fishing community attended, representing a variety of fisheries. Agency participants included the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), California Coastal Commission (CCC), California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

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.

Accountability and Enforcement

- Fishing community participants were concerned that there would be a buffer or prohibition on towing over buried transmission lines. BOEM referred to documented interactions between fishermen and buried cables where there have been cable corridors or prohibitions. At this time BOEM cannot say what policy would be implemented.
- The fishing community participants clarified that the Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association has asked that the Fisheries Compliance Officer be screened and employed by local commercial fisherman's associations but funded by the developer. The job protocols should be jointly developed by the fisherman's associations and the developer. The situation on the East Coast has been an impetus behind these extreme measures, and on the West Coast there is concern that fishery interests may be misrepresented. BOEM has recognized the need to assure the liaison is a neutral party.
- Fishing community participants asked about a fisherman committee that was supposedly in development during the consistency determination report for the Humboldt WEA to give fishermen a seat at the table, however, the formation of this committee appears to be perpetually delayed by agencies and it is unclear why.
- The fishing community participants requested more information on appropriate actions to take if site assessment work violated the agreements set forth in the consistency determination, and if BOEM has the power to terminate site assessment activities. BOEM clarified that there is a project coordinator to contact in the event of non-compliance issues and they will support an investigation and implement remedies when appropriate.

Communication

- Fishing community participants expressed frustration that input from previous community engagement activities has not been reflected in agency decision making, feeling that there have been no significant changes to OSW planning since the fishing community was engaged.
- Fishing community participants were curious if the state of California would be able to push back on federal agencies if it received sufficient feedback from environmental, fishery, and other stakeholder groups indicating that proposed OSW activities would result in considerable damages to the community and environment for regions of interest identified by both the state and federal government.

Community Benefit Agreement

- The Fishing community participants emphasized that the proposed WEA will impact the local industry and expressed concern that it could put an end to many multi-generation family businesses. It was noted it is difficult to compensate for a loss of a business, and a proposal to re-train people for new jobs would not be an adequate action. BOEM noted they are working on identifying areas with the most tension between OSW and stakeholders with the intent to seek out some sort of resolutions.

Construction and Maintenance of Wind Energy Turbine

- Fishing community participants were curious how the wind turbines would anchor and operate in the waters proposed by CEC and BOEM. Furthermore, it was not clear to them why areas at depths over 700 fathoms (1,280 meters) were not considered. BOEM responded by noting that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory has identified a maximum feasible water depth of 1,300 meters for current wind turbine construction. At

longer timescales, such as 30 years from now, deeper turbine installations may be possible.

- Fishing community members referenced the actions taken at Long Island Junction where lines lacked proper measures to affix them to the sea floor and issues arose with proper cable insulation. BOEM reiterated that Long Island Junction was a state project, and the agency was responsible for only a small portion of the transmission line. Since then, BOEM has taken a firm stance on using horizontal directional drilling as the best practice for tunneling cables.
- Fishing community participants called into question the carbon accounting of an OSW project when considering the energy required to build and then maintain towers and feel that BOEM should consider investigating additional energy solutions that would be less carbon intensive. BOEM stated its authority is limited to granting leases for energy development and marine minerals in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Data

- Fishing community participants highlighted their efforts in contributing fishery data for agency consideration but felt that little action was taken with it. Agency representatives said that fishing data was used extensively in developing call areas and then refining them into wind energy areas.

Economics/Job Security

- Fishing community participants questioned if BOEM could seek a better compromise between siting OSW projects in waters with greater transmission costs that would not impact fisheries as dramatically.
- Fishing community participants see OSW as an unproven technology with considerable hurdles to overcome before it is reliable. BOEM spoke to ample terrestrial and ocean wind projects which have contributed to the R&D of future OSW. The technology that will be employed off the California coast should not be considered experimental and is in fact commercially viable.

Food Security /Seafood Impact of Eureka Fishing Industry

- Fishing community participants emphasized that food insecurity is at an all-time high, and negatively impacting the fishing practices directly contributes to continued food shortages.

Leasing Process

- Fishing community participants expressed confusion why the leasing process has advanced when there are still ongoing site assessment and planning activities. BOEM explained that one of the reasons leasing happens prior to the conclusion of intensive investigations by a lessee is because the lease provides a contractual agreement which allows the government to regulate lessee activities. However, BOEM funds studies at all phases of planning and development and referred to the handout “Selected BOEM-Funded Research Informing Renewable Energy Offshore California” which is also available on their website.
- When discussing the bidding credits the fishing community participants asked where the 2.5% came from and if the value is fixed. Participants requested the number rise to 15% or 20% and be specified as a fishing community benefit. The 2.5% credit was felt to be low for the fishing community, and participants noted they view themselves as the most

impacted group if offshore wind is developed. BOEM responded that the 2.5% would come from the total sale and it is not fixed. The agency is actively seeking comments on the topic.

- Fishing community participants were concerned that the lease sites would be fenced or closed off when developed. BOEM responded that there will be no fences or authorities to enforce the areas as an exclusive zone.
- During discussions on the management of the lease sites fishing community participants were concerned that there would be a buffer zone. BOEM could not confirm if there will or will not be a buffer zone. If one were established, it would likely be around 100 feet.
- When discussing the OSW leasing process fishing community participants noted that Humboldt fishermen are the first to feel the impacts from site survey activities, and often one of the first actions taken is implementation of radar buoys which have a history of being “decommissioned in place” or abandoned. Fishermen requested that no infrastructure be left abandoned by OSW surveys so future fishermen can continue to catch in the region. BOEM assured the fisherman that its regulations require the decommissioned seabed to be returned to its original state. BOEM also noted there is a decommissioning bond in the construction and operations plan (COP) and one associated with the lease.
- Fishing community participants were curious if a lessee and/or project could go bankrupt. BOEM clarified that bankruptcy is possible, but the project can be acquired by another party under the same terms and conditions.

Location

- Fishing community participants noted that the call area overlaps with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Humboldt fishing waters significantly impacting bottom trawling. Records demonstrate that the call area will impact historic fish landing with over 60 years of fishing history.
- Fishing community participants recalled previous meetings where agency staff indicated that one consideration of WEA location is where transmission is likely easiest. However, the placement of the transmission line has not been determined. Fishermen then asked if would it be possible to move the WEA to a more agreeable transmission line location.

Wildlife Impacts

- Fishing community participants expressed concern that the transmission lines will produce a magnetic field inhibiting the migration of fish populations, and anecdotal evidence from fishing communities in Ireland was referenced suggesting that the fish populations decreased after the construction of OSW and implementation of underwater transmission lines, which are believed to produce electromagnetic fields. BOEM referred to previous research that demonstrated the electromagnetic signal decreases to nearly zero when transmission cables are buried at a depth of 2 meters, which is the best practice the agency endorses. However, bury requirements vary depending on the risks involved and thus cables may not always be buried at a depth of 2 meters, but a minimum of 1.5 meters is reflected in agency documents. There is a risk cables will overheat and fault at depths greater than 2 meters.
- When discussing impacts from the transmission lines fishing community participants discussed situations where cables emit heat and alter the ecosystem around them due to increased water temperatures. Alterations include warmer temperatures attracting anchovies which in turn draw larger fish to concentrate along cable corridors producing more attractive fishing waters. BOEM reassured participants that requirements have been established in the operations plan to implement temperature distribution sensing

technologies around the buried cables to proactively detect any such externalities. BOEM encouraged the fishing community participants to share peer-reviewed research on the impacts of underwater cables and increased water temperatures.

- Fishing community participants reminded agency staff that the WEA overlaps with Essential Fish Habitat areas. Within this area, fishing gear cannot contact the hard bottom.
- Fishing community members were concerned about the impacts OSW will have on seabirds. BOEM could not speak to the issue because there are no details on development at this point such as turbine height, rotor width, spacing between turbines, etc.

Closing and Comments

At the close of the meeting, agency members offered closing thoughts and asked questions about future ways to engage with the fishing community.

- It was noted that the comment period ends August 1st, 2022.
- The auction date is set for the end of the year, but a date has not been finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. PT.