

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, JULY 19, 2022
2:00 – 5:00 P.M. PT
IN-PERSON MEETING

Meeting Participants

Participants

Organization/Agency

Susan Zaleski	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Doug Warren	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Abigail Ryder (call-in)	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
John Romero (call-in)	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Eli Harland	California Energy Commission
Amanda Cousart (call-in)	California Coastal Commission
Eric Wilkins	California Department of Wildlife
Margarita McInnis	California Department of Wildlife
Chris Potter	California Department of Wildlife
Scott Flint	California Energy Commission
Eli Harland	California Energy Commission
Max Liebergesell (call-in)	California State Lands Commission
Jennifer Mattox (call-in)	California State Lands Commission
Eric Endersby	City of Morro Bay
Bill Barrow	Fishing
Sheri Hafer	Fishing
Tom Hafer	Fishing
Bill Barrow	Fishing
Jerimiah O'Brien	Fishing
Steve Scheiblaue	Fishing
Brianna Haugen	University of Santa Cruz
Christopher Kubiak	

Facilitation Team

Participants

Eric Holmes
CeCe Horbat

Organization

Kearns & West
Kearns & West

Meeting Materials

- Hand Out: Central Coast
 - Map of Proposed Lease Sale Areas
 - Presentation: PSN for the Pacific Wind Lease Sale 1 (PACW-1)
 - BOEM's Commercial Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process
 - How to provide public comment on the PSN
 - BOEM staff contact information
 - Federal Register: Pacific Wind Lease Sale 1 (PACW-1) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf in California—Proposed Sale Notice
- Materials Folder: Central Coast
 - Map of Proposed Lease Sale Areas
 - Presentation: PSN for the Pacific Wind Lease Sale 1 (PACW-1)
 - 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
 - Central 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 Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Map
- Summary of the Morro Bay Wind Lease Area Mutual Benefit Corporation

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of the meeting, hosted by CDFW 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. The meeting focused on questions and discussions between agency staff and members of the fishing community. Six 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), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and California State Lands Commission (SLC). Per the request of fishing community attendees, agency representatives provided meeting updates in lieu of presentations after the discussion portion of the meeting.

Summary of Feedback from the Fishing Community (Discussion, Comments and Questions)

Fishing community participants shared their concerns, interests, suggestions, and questions with state and federal agency staff. The topics discussed are organized alphabetically. A popular point of discussion among the participants focused on the 2.5% credit designation and Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) details.

Adaptive Management

- When fishermen asked about adaptive management, BOEM mentioned this topic will occur during the construction operations phase (COP).
- CEC continues to explore new technologies to develop and use for monitoring environmental impacts.

California Energy Commission's (CEC) AB525 Goals

- Fishermen asked if CEC's targets to develop 10-15 GW of wind energy by 2045 still holds true. CEC clarified that the goal of 15 GW by 2030 already includes the current BOEM work and is not in addition to current projects. However, to meet the AB525 goals, CEC needs to explore other areas.
- CEC mentioned that the Energy Commissioner plans to hold the next [business meeting](#) to provide public comment on August 10th. The meeting would discuss CEC's wind energy report and potential recommendations. Public meetings from the CEC are subject to the [Open Meetings Act of California](#).
- Fishermen asked CEC about the feasibility of the state's offshore wind goals. Currently, the feasibility is unknown due to the agency's need to verify adaptive management and because offshore wind energy production is not currently operating. CEC believes they can develop another 1.6 GW for Humboldt's WEA and potentially 3 GW in Morro Bay's WEA. By assessing technology platforms and anchors, offshore wind could potentially double GW from the two call areas. To estimate this data, BOEM and NREL looked to maximize several types of infrastructure explored.

California Energy Commission – Energy Production

- While CEC is exploring offshore wind, fishermen asked about the future of gas as an energy source. CEC eventually hopes to develop technologies to move away from gas to meet the state's goal to have clean energy by 2045, a goal of SB100. SB100 requires CEC to explore other energy sources in addition to offshore wind including terrestrial wind, rooftop solar, and even aqueducts to phase out greenhouse gas producing energy sources as much as possible.

Credit Discrepancy

- Most comments from fishermen revolved around the 2.5% credit. Fishermen wanted to know how the credit was designated, how will this be enforced, and if the credit percentage is negotiable. BOEM mentioned that the credit percentage has flexibility and does not come from the cash bid of the lease sale. Currently, the 2.5% credit does not necessarily equate to a specific dollar amount.
- Fishermen expressed concern that 2.5% is not enough of an incentive for lessees to collaborate with the fishing community.
- Fishermen asked how the credits would distribute among the various groups of concern. While 2.5% is designated for fishing, fishermen are concerned about missing potential financial compensation. BOEM is currently working on outlining how credits will be

distributed among impacted groups with the caveat that onshore impacts are harder to predict than offshore impacts.

- BOEM shared with participants that the 2.5% credit is a draft point for impacted communities and lessees to create an agreement between parties. The credit system is new for California and BOEM expects to make changes and welcomes receive feedback on the terms of the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). BOEM continues to monitor the work from BOEM Atlantic projects to help inform BOEM Pacific's work.
- Fishermen proposed specific numbers, asking if the percentage could increase to 50%. While BOEM can't guarantee 50% would be accepted, different percentages could be a possibility. Any changes in the percentage would need to balance out with other parts of the credit designation. Overall, the numbers have some flexibility and are being considered by BOEM. Ultimately, BOEM is required to assure receipt of fair market value for lease sales in the OCS.

Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)

- Members of the fishing community want to see CBA money go to groups directly impacted by offshore wind and believe an agreement should be finalized before the construction operations phase (COP).
- In the past, fishermen had a negative experience with cable companies regarding similar community benefit agreement structures. Members of the fishing community asked if BOEM has the authority to enforce community benefits agreements (CBAs). BOEM shared that they do not have the enforcement power of leasing companies and CBAs created. BOEM hopes that lessees will act in good faith when upholding CBA terms with members of the fishing community.
- For CCC, the CBA needs to be finalized before approval of the COP. The timeline does not equate to a specific date; however, lessees need to determine impacts and if impacts exist, how they are addressed. CCC can provide impact assessment support if impacts are not outlined before the COP.

Diablo Canyon

- Fishermen expressed concern about the status of the Diablo Canyon wind energy area for offshore wind and asked if the offshore wind will override the potential designation offshore Diablo Canyon as a National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash Heritage Marine National Sanctuary). If this area becomes a National Marine Sanctuary, BOEM will have no authority to lease here. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act guides BOEM's authority and direction.
- Both the CEC and BOEM are aware of the sensitivities of Diablo Canyon as it is important to both Tribes and fishing communities. Additionally, any utilization of Diablo Canyon also requires Department of Defense (DOD) approval.

Energy Alternatives

- Fishermen expressed concerns over CEC's consideration of hydrogen, mentioning that the larger Morro Bay community may not be interested in hydrogen fuel storage.

Labor/Manufacturing

- When asked about manufacturing requirements in Morro Bay, BOEM shared that the set guidelines require 20% of manufacturing to take place in California. Unfortunately, BOEM cannot reinforce this guideline. Currently, labor agreements are being considered by BOEM to understand what they can authorize.

Leasing Information

- The lease auction occurs no sooner than 45 days after publication of the Final Sale Notice (FSN). At this point, BOEM expects the FSN to come out around October of 2022 or before 2023.

Marine Sanctuary Intersections with Offshore Wind

- Fishermen asked about the rules of permitting lines in a designated National Marine Sanctuary. The balance between the two intersecting projects will continue to be discussed and shared out once more information becomes available. BOEM knows that existing cable lines currently run through existing sanctuaries but for this project, BOEM is unsure if cable transmission lines are necessary at this time. From the federal government's perspective, the Biden Administration values both conservation and energy projects. BOEM continues to collaborate with NOAA on an as-needed basis.

Request for Reassurance to Support Fishermen

- Fishermen believe that the amount of wind energy proposed by federal and state governments is too much for Morro Bay.
- Fishermen seek reassurance that developers uphold agreements and financial support systems.
- Fishing communities stated that the proposed credit is not enough to fully cover the losses fishermen will experience once wind energy is developed.
- One method of support for fishermen is to create a direct line of communication with developers to report issues or unforeseen impacts from offshore wind.

Site Assessment/Data

- Once BOEM or the lessee completes a science and monitoring site assessment, regardless of the outcome, fishermen asked what would require the need for adaptive management to occur post windfarm implementation. Draft mitigation guidelines are specific to the COP stage and help make sure things are available. BOEM shared that they are still discussing this topic. BOEM still needs to decide what specific data they want to collect and estimate how it may change over time. Factors BOEM may consider when finalizing this info include survey type, potential impacts, potential gaps, and the need for valid, robust data.
- Fishermen are concerned that the lessee's site assessment will have problems and suggested BOEM utilize the estimated 30-year-old survey data from NOAA.
- Fishermen asked about the baseline data BOEM must use for comparison once offshore wind is in place. BOEM mentioned that the lessee is responsible for gaps that exist in existing BOEM data. Lessees would fill the data gaps during the lessee's survey data collection.
- Fishermen stressed the importance of having baseline control data to compare conditions before and after offshore wind development. During the Marine Protected Area process, fishermen mentioned that the lack of before and after control data negatively impacted the case for fishermen to show how MPAs impacted their industry.
- CEC partnered with the National Association for Science and Monitoring to understand the potential impacts. CEC feels confident that they can properly mitigate or address potential fishing impacts as they carry out AB525.

Science Survey Corridor

- Fishermen suggested BOEM create a corridor within the Morro Bay WEA to measure the effects of offshore wind. Fishermen proposed a survey corridor at 35 by 35 latitude

miles, at 4 miles due West and 2 miles due east. They described this location is a concern for fishing communities.

Wind Turbine Monitoring Equipment

- BOEM hopes to add equipment on the turbines to monitor initial impacts. However, details of potential monitoring equipment (placement, type, or design) have yet to be developed.

SUMMARY OF MEETING UPDATES

Per the request of fishing community attendees, updates occurred after the discussion portion of the meeting. Summaries from both agencies and the fishing community are summarized below in order of appearance.

California Energy Commission Update

CEC's strategic plan looks at goals, potential development areas, port infrastructure, transmission infrastructure, economic benefits, and workforce development. A draft of this plan is expected in 2022.

Story Maps

During the meeting, Brianna Haugen from UC Santa Cruz updated participants on the ArcGIS Morro Bay story map project in collaboration with the fishing communities. This project includes variables like gear, substrate, habitat, homeport, and landing points information shared by members of the fishing community. Funding for this project came from grants from the Ocean Protection Council. The funding helped compensate fishermen \$150 for their time and knowledge to contribute to the project. Members of the fishing community hope this data informs strategies for adaptive management. To supplement the variables, the story map includes narratives from fishermen. The Humboldt Bay story map is currently available at the following [link](#). Members of the fishing community want these projects to help understand the impacts of fishing. This data shows potential fishing impacts based on previous knowledge.

Participants discussed Data Basin's capacity to restrict data access and limit download access to avoid anyone from negatively using their own data against them.

To comment on the PSN, BOEM provided a list of questions to guide commenters. BOEM mentioned that narrative form and Q&A format are both acceptable to submit PSN comments.

Fishermen Agreement

From past experiences, fishermen felt left behind in the MPA process. While fishermen do not necessarily support offshore wind, they want to be involved to ensure they are not left behind or taken advantage of. Sheri Hafer provided an overview of the current agreement fishermen are working on with Castle Wind in Morro Bay. The agreement helps fishermen establish resilience so they can keep fishing. The agreement has been a project in the making for the last eight years. Collectively, 90-100 fishermen have signed on to the agreement. Hafer highlighted the following aspects of the agreement.

- **Payments:** Fishermen worked with wind developers to develop terms for a compensation plan to distribute to fishermen before, during, and after the construction of offshore wind.

- **Trustee Fund/Committee:** Once construction starts, the lessee adds payments into a trustee fund. The fund can accrue as much as \$1.5 million a year. A committee for the fund includes fishermen from Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo, commercial fishermen, the Harbor Director, and a Wind Developer representative.
- **Communication:** Wind developers agreed to provide opportunities for open lines of communication and protocols supporting fishermen.

Upcoming Meetings

As the meeting ended, CDFW mentioned that they do not have any other meetings scheduled or planned on the BOEM leasing process. However, the CEC may have stakeholder meetings under AB525. CEC's AB525 meetings may have similar agencies at upcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm