

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETING WITH CENTRAL COAST FISHERMEN
 SANTA BARBARA
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021
 4 – 7 P.M. PT
 SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM
 113 HARBOR WAY STE 190, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93109
 HYBRID MEETING (ONLINE AND IN-PERSON)**

Meeting Participants¹

Participant	Organization
Amanda Cousart	California Coastal Commission
Mark Danielson	California Energy Commission
Jaime Diamond	Fishing: Sport
Karen Douglas	California Energy Commission
Mike Esgro	Ocean Protection Council
Chris Free	Fishing
Carolyn Groves	Fishing
Kate Huckelbridge	California Coastal Commission
Bob Kryczko	Fishing
Jeff Maassen	Fishing: Urchin
Margarita McInnis	California State Lands Commission
Tracy Mangin	Fishing
Jennifer Mattox	California State Lands Commission
Michael Nelson	Commercial Fishing of Santa Barbara
Brian Owens	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Potter	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Abby Ryder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Donna Schrader	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Kim Selkoe	Fishing
Ava Shalenberg	Commercial Fishing of Santa Barbara
Tony Shiao	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jean Thurston-Keller	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Chris Voss	Fishing: Lobster/ Commercial Fishing of Santa Barbara
Chris Williams	Fishing: Gill net
Daria Williams	Fishing: Gill net

Facilitation Team

Participants	Organization
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¹ Only those members of the public that used the sign in sheet are included here and the list of commercial fisherman at the meeting is not exhaustive because of this.

Celina (CeCe) Horbat
Jasmine King

Kearns & West
Kearns & West

Presentations

- Jean Thurston-Keller: California Offshore Wind (OSW) Energy Planning in Federal Waters
- Amanda Cousart: Federal Consistency Review

MEETING SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Public Comment

Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) could lead to bluefin and ground fish recreational fishing closures.

Sociological/Economic Impacts

- There are concerns about the lack of influence that fishermen may have when implementing future mitigation strategies.
- Members of the fishing community want to see previous examples of perceived damages and benefits from offshore wind development.
- The fishing community looks to agencies to advocate for and protect their well-being.

Public Comment Process and Engagement

- Fishermen asked for a collective benefits process for fishing communities. Structurally, they suggested bringing together four fishing representatives, four industry representatives, agency representatives, and a professional mediator. Additionally, fishermen suggested: consistent involvement from the fishing community; compensation for fishermen to participate; ongoing compensatory mitigation fund
 - Two examples referenced in the meeting include the JOFLO mechanism and the [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)
- Concern was expressed around the engagement process. It was suggested that agencies propose a revised engagement method to allow fishermen to provide feedback. Fisherman recommended creating enforceable written agreements between fishing communities and agencies. Additionally, they suggested embedding fishing industry representation at the agency level.
- Fishermen suggested that agencies could hire an industry representative to be accountable to the fishing community. Suggestions include hiring an ombuds advocate or a Sea Grant Fellow to report to fishermen.
- The fishing community expressed concern about the enforceability of agreements and seeks proper representation to advocate on the fishing community's behalf.

Land use (*including comments on port infrastructure*)

- There are general concerns regarding increased land-based transmissions that could increase power generation in areas like California that are susceptible to wildfires.

Public Q&A

Questions on the Cumulative Impacts Review Process

- Is BOEM considering marine life impacts in the primary environmental assessment?
 - BOEM continuously funds research programs and studies. See studies from the [West Coast Science Exchange](#).
- Does current funding for research consider climate change impact?
 - Research currently uses a baseline to assess climate change impacts and projects up to 30-50 years in the future.
- Does BOEM have data on previous impacts of wind development on fishing communities?
 - BOEM handouts are available [online](#) describing European and East Coast offshore wind development.

Questions on Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- What has been studied about offshore wind impacts on fishing communities?
 - BOEM's process in collaboration with the State was to look for areas with the least amount of conflict. However, when BOEM published the California wind energy areas (WEA) in 2018, there were concerns raised with the Department of Defense for the areas on the Central Coast, resulting in a compromise. The current WEA may be reduced after the environmental assessment, but additional areas would not be added to the WEA. Lease areas for activities are scheduled for Fall 2022.

Questions on Mitigation (including stipulations)

- Who will implement mitigation efforts with fishing communities?
 - The California Coastal Commission.
- How does BOEM prioritize mitigation of environmental impacts?
 - The environmental analyses under NEPA and CEQA use mitigation hierarchies ([example see attached](#)) to assess environmental impacts.

Questions on the Decision Process (multi-or single-lease winners and lease auction) and Timeline

- Who is Castle Wind, and what is their current role in this process?
 - Castle Wind is a wind developer. They are one of many developers who are applying for leasing rights for the WEA.
- When windmills go into place, who owns the windmills and profits from the windmills?
 - The bidder pays the U.S. government through the U.S. Treasury. In an auction (lease sale), BOEM may use a multifactor auction format.
- How much money is initiated through initial leases? What do you expect to receive? Is there a minimum bid?
 - Opening bids are based on size and area offering. In New York, in 2016, the final winning bid in the auction was \$42 million.

- What is the current annual rent?
 - The rent for a [commercial lease](#) is \$3 per acre per year unless otherwise established in the Final Sale Notice or [lease](#).
- Will a portion of leasing revenues be returned to the state of California?
 - Revenue sharing is built into BOEM's renewable energy regulations and apply only to projects that are closer to shore than the Morro Bay WEA. For example, the State Lands Commission will receive revenue from leasing the submerged land within state waters. In federal waters, the projects have to be much closer to shore to qualify for revenue sharing with the states.
- Can a lease be rescinded and fall apart?
 - Yes. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement can shut down a project. A project can stop due to lack of compliance with the California Coastal Act. At any time, if the lease does not comply with federal or state regulations, this can pause the project.
- What is the timing to issue a Coastal Development Permit for in-state activities and are they concurrent with federal activities?
 - Timelines differ within each organization.
- What is the Environmental Assessment (EA) review process?
 - The NEPA EA review process is different than a peer review academic process. The EA allows for stakeholder and agency review and incorporates feedback from the public.

Questions on Lease Terms

- What is the lease for?
 - Leasing permits are for wind development only.
- Who are the main regulatory agencies to uphold upcoming agreements?
 - California Coastal Commission (CCC) serves as the regulatory agency.
 - Once a framework is set up, CCC will work with BOEM to implement proposed mitigation.

Questions on the Public Comment Process and Engagement

- What are we giving feedback on?
 - Agencies want to hear from fishing communities on the best ways to coordinate mitigation efforts throughout the timeline. Agencies hope to establish a consistent framework that addresses project components and impacts with the fishing community.
- Who is the most powerful state entity based on legislation?
 - CCC has a state regulatory role requiring approval from water and land use authorities.
 - Prior to leasing, the agencies and CCC held a hearing to brief the public in September. Additionally, two upcoming meetings in the North and Central Coast are scheduled for early Spring 2022.
- Where else can fisherman provide feedback?
 - BOEM Scoping Meetings on 12/1/2021 at 5 p.m. & 1/5/22 at 9 a.m.

- The comment period ends on January 11, 2022. More information on how to comment can be found on the virtual meeting page at www.boem.gov/morrobayEA
- Will participation in offshore wind development count toward fisherman's 30x30 credit?
 - BOEM estimates around the completion of the Construction Operation Plan (COP).
- Like Tribes, can an interagency working group have fishing representation?
 - The East Coast had state specific task force groups. However, a task force is not a decision-making body because each agency has its own rules and decisions of what they can and cannot address. Fisherman mentioned the as an example, to allow people to participate.
- How does BOEM foresee engagement with fishing communities around the indirect impacts of offshore wind development? Where does it fit into the timeline? How is it funded?
 - Any framework should contain consistent involvement from now until the end of the project. Compensation for fishermen would be granted through an established entity.
- Where else will feedback be needed on these impacts of fishing on the WEA?
 - The current public comment period
 - BOEM's Environmental Assessment (EA) 60-day public comment period began November 12, 2021 and extended through 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on January 11, 2022. The input received during the comment period will be used to inform the preparation of the NEPA document. Additionally, the fishing community can provide feedback on the COP once it is released, and during the two upcoming NEPA reviews.

Questions on Lease Areas (including wind energy area extensions, size, scale and location)

- How big is the Morro Bay Wind Energy WEA?
 - 372 square miles (800-1,100 meters).
- Who is BOEM?
 - BOEM is the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. It resides within the Department of Interior (DOI) and serves as the land management agency for offshore development.
- What activities are allowed in the WEA?
 - A de facto closure is possible. BOEM will not prohibit fishing completely. Feasible activities include fish tracking and hook and line methods. The U.S. Coast Guard implements and enforces future determined safety zones.

Questions on the Project (e.g., technology, safety, engineering)

- Do other projects exist besides offshore wind to generate power?
 - BOEM sees offshore wind as an opportunity to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. BOEM looks to generate power for California and possibly export power, similar to what countries like Denmark do.
- How much power will be produced and will the Morro Bay WEA produce more wind than the [Tehachapi](#) wind farm?

- The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) is projected to produce approximately 3 gigawatts of wind energy. The Morro Bay WEA projects to power the equivalent amount of power as Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. BOEM is unsure of how offshore wind energy compares to the land-based wind energy Tehachapi wind farm generation.

Other Comments

- Does [AB 525](#) offer money to fishing communities?
 - Funding from AB 525 could potentially be allocated to fishing communities.

Agency Q&A

- Does the fishing community have an update on fishing representation from each port?
 - Ken Bates (vice-president of the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association) is leading a three-county organization on the Central Coast.
- Are there updates from the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations ([PCFFA](#))?
 - Fishing communities referenced Mike Conroy as a general point person for PCFFA. However, fishing communities advocate for more financial resources to support and sustain consistent fisherman representatives.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. PT.