

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETINGS WITH NORTH COAST FISHERMEN
SALMON TROLLERS MARKETING ASSOCIATION
19292 SOUTH HARBOR DRIVE
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021
2:30 – 5:30 P.M. PT
HYBRID MEETING

Meeting materials

- Meeting Agenda
- NC_OSW Fishing Reference Document

Presentations

- BOEM Leasing Presentation

Meeting participants¹

Amanda Cousart	California Coastal Commission
Mark Danielson	California Energy Commission
Eli Harland	California Energy Commission
Kate Huckelbridge	California Coastal Commission
Margarita McInnis	California State Lands Commission
Becky Ota	California Department Fish & Wildlife
Brian Owens	California Department Fish & Wildlife
Chris Potter	California Department Fish & Wildlife
Abigail Ryder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Jean Thurston-Keller	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Toni Cannia	Salmon Trollers Marketing Association

Facilitation team participants

Eric Holmes	Kearns & West
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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.

MEETING SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Presentations

- Jean Thurston - Keller - BOEM leasing process.
- Amanda Cousart - California Coastal Commission federal consistency process.

Public Comment

Sociological/Economic Impacts

- The pattern of fishable waters being taken away from the fishing community can't be sustained. The only way to move forward is to give back to the community when something is taken.
- In areas like San Francisco, new construction requires at least 25% local labor. If development were to occur in the proposed area, that could mitigate the loss of jobs.
- There is the potential for fishermen to transition to employment with lessees.
- The local fishing economy is suffering and would appreciate mitigation that could improve local infrastructure or provide marine vessel upgrades.

Birds

- Vessels encounter bird strikes at night. A wind farm could negatively impact local seabird populations.

Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- The proposed project location looks to be in an area where deep ocean upwelling occurs.
- Constructing multiple turbines will change the patterns of wildlife behavior, including where animals swim and feed.
- Previous acoustic surveys conducted in the area drove marine life out of the local waters for several days. If similar practices are anticipated for turbine development, the survey team and fishing fleet need to coordinate.
- A positive effect of OSW may be an artificial reef effect.

Comments on public comment process/engagement/educating public

- Fishing fleets have been established in the region for more than 100 years. During that time, the community has looked over these coasts. Now the role of fisheries has been ignored in lieu of other commercial interests. The stewardship of those before us has been discarded and current fishermen feel disregarded.
- Future meetings need to offer more information beyond what was available at this meeting. Very little progress can be made without having a clearer picture.

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

- Conducting fishing operations near a wind farm seems risky. The buffer zones need to be established.

- Earthquakes in the region could threaten transmission lines.
- The fishing industry considers wind energy development a negative for fishing operations and feels helpless to change the situation.

Public Q&A

Sociological/Economic Impacts

- As a fishing community, we have come to meetings like this and more often than not the organizations at the other end of the table ignore our requests or provide inadequate mitigation. What can you do for the fishing community this time around?
 - Agencies want to determine what we can do within our legal abilities to help you. Our goal is to minimize the impacts to the fishing community.
- Is there a plan for compensatory mitigation if this lease area were to be developed?
 - A common issue raised during these meetings is that compensatory mitigation disincentivizes fishing. Other fishing communities have expressed interest in looking at additional mitigation frameworks beyond monetary compensation. There would be benefit in looking at the better mitigation practices employed by cable companies.

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

- Why is the ocean a prime area to develop wind energy? There must be significant challenges to maintenance and construction offshore.
 - The policy goal is to make California energy fully renewable by 2045, so all possible options must be considered. We understand there is a lot of skepticism that a development in this part of the ocean could withstand the environmental conditions, but the engineers in charge of designing the turbines think it is possible.
- How is power transferred?
 - Underwater transmission cables will be used, but at this stage in the process we don't know what that will look like. Common elements like turbines, cables, substations, and more will be used. However, without a proposal from a bidding organization, we can't say how those elements will be arranged.
- Do wind farms link cables or are they separate?
 - The transmission cables will intertwine and connect the turbines. The cable will be either a few hundred feet down or rest on the sea floor, and then run to a floating substation. The best practice is to bury the cable using horizontal directional drilling, but that can't always be achieved.
- When you lay the cables, does that prevent us from doing bottom work?
 - If the cables are buried then you should be able work, but if they are unburied, the area would be restricted.
- Will the lease holders be required to bury?
 - The Best Management Practice is to bury when possible, but if the sea floor prohibits that, they will lay on the bottom of the ocean. It may be possible to go around rocky substrate to then allow burying.
- What sort of permitting process will be required of lease holders?
 - They will have to comply with rigorous and thorough CEQA and NEPA processes as well as additional review.

Agency Q&A

- CDFW: We will plan on circling back early next year. Is there a preferred time to meet?

- Before salmon season, which might be in May. Late February or March could be the best time for a follow-up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m. PT.