

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**MULTI-AGENCY OFFSHORE WIND MEETING WITH CENTRAL COAST FISHERMEN**  
**MORRO BAY**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021**  
**12 – 3 P.M. PT**  
**MORRO BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**715 HARBOR ST, MORRO BAY, CA 93442**  
**HYBRID MEETING (ONLINE AND IN-PERSON)**

Meeting Participants<sup>1</sup>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Alan Alward	Fishing: Sablefish
Bill Barrow	Fishing: Crab/Salmon/Albacore
Amanda Cousart	California Coastal Commission
Roger Cullen	Fishing: Sablefish/Ground fish
Mark Danielson	California Energy Commission
William Diller	Fishing: Sablefish/Ground fish
Karen Douglas	California Energy Commission
Eric Endersby	Morro Bay Harbor Department
Mike Esgro	Ocean Protection Council
Jeff French	Fishing: Dungeness/Salmon
Owen Hackleman	Fishing: Sablefish/Ground fish
Sheri Hafer	Fishing: Prawns/Rockfish/Seashore
Tom Hafer	Fishing: Prawns/Rockfish/Seashore
Kate Huckelbridge	California Coastal Commission
Jennifer Mattox	California State Lands Commission
Margarita McInnis	California State Lands Commission
Wayne Moody	Fishing: Retired
Brian Owens	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Potter	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Abby Ryder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Steve Scheiblaue	Fishing: Alliance of Communities
Donna Schrader	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Jean Thurston-Keller	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Facilitation Team

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Celina (CeCe) Horbat	Kearns & West
Jasmine King	Kearns & West

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Presentations

- Jean Thurston-Keller: California Offshore Wind (OSW) Energy Planning in Federal Waters
- Amanda Cousart: Federal Consistency Review
- Morro Bay Commerical Fisherman's Organization ([Agenda](#))
  - Alan Alward: Direct impacts on local fishing fleet
  - Sheri Hafer: Lessons from Europe and studies on impacts
  - Jeremiah O'Brien: History of joint liaison cable and commercial fishery benefit agreement and history of Castle Wind Mutual Benefit agreement
  - Steve Scheiblauber: Fishery community benefit agreement

## MEETING SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Public Comment (*all comments represent feedback from members of the fishing community*)

### Cumulative Impacts

- There are concerns around increased pollution due to windfarm waste polluting the water. ([See LCA on Offshore Wind Energy](#))
- There are doubts about wind energy as a sustainable option, considering the needs of fishermen.
- There are concerns over equipment catching fire and impacting fishing insurance for fishing communities.

### Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- There are concerns the wind energy area disrupts bottom fishing.
- There are concerns over the impacts on albacore in the wind energy area (WEA) specifically around drifting.
- Fishermen suggested presenters study the impact of electromagnetic fields on cable fisheries (sharks, crabs, eels etc.)
- There are concerns around impacts on sablefish as a non-dominant, yet important fishing resource for fishermen.
- Fishermen disagreed with the following statement mentioned by presenters: the farther from shore, the lower concentration of fishing.
- The fishing community believe fish tickets do not count as an accurate source of data collection.
- Members of the fishing community requested that BOEM study the impacts of a wind farm impact on upwelling. Possible concerns include changes in water temperature, wind vortex directions, oxygen levels, and phosphorous levels.

### Navigation (*including vessel traffic and transit corridors*)

- There are concerns with navigation impacts, radar equipment functionality, and visibility due to wind farm development.

- It was suggested that agencies consider pulse compression radar (cost estimates up to \$6,000) to address visibility. Fishermen mentioned financial support for updated safety equipment was used in past community fishing agreements.

#### Mitigation (including stipulations)

- It was suggested that agencies consider the use of concrete mattresses.
- Fishermen asked for good communication with agencies to establish mitigation strategies.

#### Sociological/Economic Impacts

- There are concerns around wind area development resulting in a loss of territory and decreased earning potential. Reduced fishing areas affect the ability to fish, increase pressure on fish and reduce overall income.
- Fishermen brought up previous costs of cable exposure in other windfarms that can impact Morro Bay fishing.

#### Comments on public comment process/engagement

- Fishermen suggested having a legal entity that energy companies and BOEM work with to present consistent agreements to fishing communities.
- Regional port-centered entities could represent fishing communities in community benefits negotiations.
- Fishermen appreciated working with Castle Wind and were able to work out a community benefits agreement. Fishermen liked the Castle Wind Mutual Benefits [Agreement](#) model and want to see this embodied elsewhere. This agreement allowed the fishing community to receive funding for projects and research. However, this process took time and they do not want to redevelop and renegotiate due to the time commitment required of them.
- Fishermen referenced the [Joint Liaison Cable/Mutual Benefits Agreement](#) as a positive engagement process, allowing fishermen to purchase equipment and cover travel costs associated with their contributions.
- Fishermen shared other potential concerns learned from other wind farm development processes, including:
  - Moderate to major impacts on commercial fishing
  - Increased electric bills.
  - Electronic monitoring system (EMS) data showing 2x-3x increase in traveling distance for fisherman and an increase in cable route problems in some European fishing communities.

#### Public Q&A

##### Questions on Fish and Essential Fish Habitat

- How far did albacore data go back? Is BOEM aware of the 20-year cycle?
  - Logbook data from BOEM goes back to 1995.
- Can agencies give fishermen access to rockfish conservation areas (RCA)?
  - BOEM does not have the authority to regulate fisheries or fishing access. However, BOEM is funding an ongoing study that seeks to map out all closures,

formal and de facto, along the West Coast according to different gear types, and these study maps may be useful to fishers to have discussions with the relevant agencies that control fishing access. Additionally, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council makes the decision on opening and closing the RCAs, so this question is better addressed in their process.

#### Questions on Navigation (including vessel traffic and transit corridors)

- What is the feasibility of designating a fishing transit safety zone?
  - The US Coast Guard controls and develops all potential transit routes.

#### Questions on Environmental Justice (including comments on vulnerable populations and benefits to underserved communities)

- How are you avoiding bias and racism within the WEA and are there economic reports that considered inequity?
  - An environmental justice analysis is required for federal projects to monitor and report on inequities including economic impacts associated with racial and ethnic backgrounds.

#### Questions on Department of Defense (DOD)-related comments

- Why is DOD the main stakeholder in this project?
  - DOD is not the most important stakeholder. DOD expressed more concern with offshore wind development in the Central Coast than in the North Coast. BOEM worked with state agencies and fishing communities in addition to DOD. DOD did not reach out with concerns until after the first wind energy area (WEA)'s development in 2018. DOD requested offshore wind development move closer to shore. BOEM's current WEA considers data, outreach, and DOD negotiations.

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

- How long would the site assessment take, can it be sooner than 5 years?
  - Site characterization assessment to develop the Construction Operation Plan (COP) can take 1-5 years (2 or 3 minimal). COPs can extend past 5 years if requested.

#### Questions on Lease Terms

- Can the California Coastal Commission add conditions for wind energy developers?
  - Yes. Wind energy development is a collaborative process with BOEM and other state and federal agencies.
- How will lease parcels be determined?
  - The environmental review process identifies acceptable lease parcel areas.

#### Comments on lease areas (including wind energy area extensions, size, scale, location)

- Will Diablo Canyon be reconsidered as an option within the wind energy area (WEA)?
  - At this time, DOD does not want to see Diablo Canyon within the WEA. This may change in the future.
- What are the existing sources for gathering fishing data determining the WEA?

- Fishing data come from port-specific vessel monitoring surveys, fishing ground potential, monitoring data, logbook data, and landing tickets.
- What fishing activities are possible in the WEA?
  - Currently, bottom contact gear is not possible in the WEA. Other determined activities are TBD.

#### Agency Q&A

- How can we increase the resilience of fishing communities?
  - Developers could create a community development agreement with fishing communities and devote funding structures to support agreements.
- Would you want to talk more about sable fish impacts?
  - Some fishermen are interested in future conversations around sable fish impacts.
- Do you think the Castle Wind is fair and what worked?
  - See the materials provided to agencies from fishermen.
- What entities need to be thought through more?
  - The current community benefits agreement does not have a structure for financial distribution to fishing communities. Fishermen suggested that the dispersal entity should not be a 501(c)(3).

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. PT.