

## **CFRA Board Report # 29**

**January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025**

**April 1, 2025**

### **Summary —**

Since the inauguration of the Trump administration, American and international offshore wind power developers are witnessing an abrupt “about face” in the federal government’s advocacy for offshore wind power projects. Many projects now in the permitting pipeline are stalled waiting for federal re-evaluation, some international developers have abandoned U.S. projects and the international developers still standing are shedding hundreds of employees..

California is actively seeking a way to continue pursuing its ambitious OSW goals. The short-term net result of all this turmoil, is a definite slowing down of financing, permitting, and progress, both on the part of OSW developers, the state and the Coastal Commission’s Fishermen’s 7C working group tasked with constructing a “statewide strategy” for the co-existence between California’s fishing communities and ocean industrialization projects. These projects include offshore wind energy, tidal and wave energy, offshore mining, and export and data subsea cable projects.

If this wasn’t enough, criticism of the California Coastal Commission’s oversight authority by President Donald Trump and Governor Gavin Newsom as well as a bill proposed by Representative Kevin Kiley, Republican of California, aimed at supplanting the Commission's authority, has 7C fishermen greatly concerned as to the outcome of the wildly unbalanced negotiations between OSW developers and California’s coastal fishing communities.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/22/us/trump-newsom-california-coastal-commission.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

**January, February, March** - Coastal Commission Fishermen’s 7C Working Group. Ten CFRA affiliates participate as fishing industry representatives on the 7C group. The CFRA Executive Directors continue to attend and contribute draft documents to the overall 7 C Group and Subgroups 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. CFRA was invited to one SG 4 tribal meeting and has made comments on Subgroup 4 (Tribal Fisheries) during presentations to the larger 7C group.

- **January 6** - CFRA sponsored pre-meeting for fishermen participating in the 7C process. This was an opportunity for fishermen reps to review the 7C agenda and share concerns and opinions with the rest of the group. Topics included, support of

Coastal Commission, site survey work and monitoring and compensatory mitigation which includes both direct payments and resiliency funds.

- **January 7** - Day one of the 7C meeting # 5. This included opening remarks from Kate Huckelbridge, and a review of the work being done by subgroup 4 on Tribal Fisheries. The full group reviewed work done by Subgroup 6 on compensatory mitigation and Subgroup 3 on Impacts.
- **January 7** - CFRA sponsored meeting. 7C Fishermen met to follow up on 7C day 1 meeting, and discuss the day 2 agenda
- **January 8** - this was day 2 of Meeting #5 of the 7C Working Group - sessions included presentations on “A Methodology for Comprehensive project-level Socioeconomic Analysis, a further discussion on Subgroup 3 ( Impacts), and next steps. The next 7C meeting will be May 6-7, 2025
- **February 17** - Ava Schulenberg of the California Lobster and Trap Fishermen Association reached out to the CFRA for information on the CFRA as a member association. Information was sent and we are waiting for a decision by their board.
- **January 21** - Meeting with Peter Halmay (at the San Diego Fish Market) to discuss membership in the CFRA for the San Diego Fishermen’s Working Group. He said that he would bring it before the board at next month’s meeting.
- **February 4** – CFRA newsletter, published every other month, went out.
- **February 21** – Attended state offshore wind/port development conference virtually
- **March 12** - The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries submitted a paper co-authored by Carrie Pomeroy and Carly McCaw (Institute of Marine Sciences, UC Santa Cruz) to the California Coastal Commission’s 7C Working Group. This project was co-funded by the CFRA. Their research identifies, defines and explains the relevance of social cohesion, social capital, adaptive capacity and resilience to fisheries, fishing communities and OSW development; and how these concepts have been addressed in relevant contexts. This document can be found on the CFRA website under Resources. [https://www.californiafishermensresiliencyassociation.com/\\_files/ugd/1298ad\\_e13f57de192749ffb2a71d6373fedc90.pdf](https://www.californiafishermensresiliencyassociation.com/_files/ugd/1298ad_e13f57de192749ffb2a71d6373fedc90.pdf)
- **March 12** - SubGroup 6 (compensatory mitigation) - three breakout groups were established. One group will discuss “direct payments” and another will discuss resiliency funds. Fishermen, developers and state agencies will be represented in

both of these groups. The third group is made up of staff from the Coastal Commission.

- **March 13** - 7C Subgroup 3 meeting on Impacts - review and revision of documents.
- **March 20** - 7C Subgroup 5 - Socio-economic Analysis - presentation by Melissa Errend of Northern Economics
- **March 24** - Interview with Ava Gandhi a graduate researcher at the University of New Haven in the Marine Policy and Management Program. She is conducting a thesis study on the experience of fishermen within fishermen and offshore wind collaboratives (ROSA, RODA, CFRA, etc.) we were contacted because of our affiliation and volunteer work with the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association. The purpose of this research is to understand how and why fishermen join or participate in these alliances and to learn more about their perspective of this collaborative approach.
- **March 26** - Monthly meeting with Eureka Port Fishing Representatives, RWE and Vineyard Offshore - This was the third meeting between Eureka port fishermen, the CFRA and OSW developers, RWE and Vineyard Wind. These meetings are an opportunity for local fishermen and developers to seriously engage with each other over the local challenges of OSW. These meetings include Harrison Ibach of HFMA, Travis Hunter of FMA, Ken and Linda Bates representing the CFRA, Lucia Ordonez of Vineyard Offshore and Rick Robins of RWE. RWE and VO report that there have been several layoffs nationwide, but that their California OSW projects are still moving forward. They reported that the CEC is hiring Triton Anchor to conduct core penetration tests in the lease areas off of Humboldt and Morro Bay, during the month of May 2025. So far, this company has not reached out to fishermen to give notice of this work which is just a month away. The CFRA has reached out to the CEC for more information. Vineyard Wind reached out to Triton Anchor for additional information.
- **March 26** - Interview with David Beron of the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) Over the past decade, they have facilitated planning processes for offshore wind development in the United States across sectors, states, and interests. As part of this work, they are carrying out background research on resiliency funds and how they can further enhance project benefits for fishing communities. CBI will share this learning to colleagues on the east and west coasts. He reached out to the CFRA because they want to learn about our experience with resiliency funds and feel that

our experience can inform others interested in establishing resiliency funds across the US. CBI is part of the facilitation team for the 7C Working,

- **March 26-28** - CFRA sponsored meetings for fishermen who will be participating in the SG 6 breakout groups to discuss direct payments and resiliency funds. This was an opportunity for fishermen to seek guidance from other fishermen as they prepare for the breakout groups discussion with developers and state agencies.
- **March 31** – CFRA board meeting - (agenda and minutes available upon request) — The CFRA Board of Directors met via zoom at 5:00 PM to:
  1. Approve resolution to accept the terms and conditions of Ocean Protection Council Phase 2 Grant Agreement C0210414. This OPC Grant provides CFRA funding in the amount of \$396,990.00 for grant deliverables and terminates on March 30,2027
  2. The board discussed how best to disseminate the CFRA Samoa Heavy Lift Terminal Project public comment document to Humboldt County residents. Staff will report back at the next board meeting.
  3. The Board set a date of April 22, 2025 for the annual “in person” CFRA Board meeting to be held in Fort Bragg at the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association office in Noyo Harbor. All CFRA members are welcome.