

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Board Report # 23 **October 1 to November 23, 2023**

November 23, 2023

The CFRA Board met three times during this time period, produced comment letters and facilitated 7C Working Group (7CWG) activities. Here are the details in chronological order.

October 10, 2023 - The CFRA staff met in the morning with Rick Robins and Deidre Boelke of RWE Renewables to discuss and review the joint RWE/Vineyard Offshore draft fisheries communications plan that would be presented publicly later on that day.

October 10, 2023 - RWE and Vineyard Offshore hosted a hybrid meeting for commercial fishermen at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka for the purpose of explaining their Fisheries Communication Plan (FCP) and getting public comment input from fishermen. Fourteen fishermen attended this meeting in person and there were twenty five participants that attended via zoom. Many of the comments and questions did not address the draft communications plan but instead centered around the viability of these OSW projects, gear loss claims and financial compensation.

October 14, 2023 - The CFRA submitted a public comment letter to BOEM opposing the two Southern Oregon draft call areas. This letter is available to view on the CFRA website.

October 19, 2023 - CFRA Board Meeting. The CFRA Board met via zoom. Also in attendance were Justine Kimbal of OPC and Steve Sheiblauber of the Alliance for Communities for Sustainable Fisheries who were both invited to make presentations. This meeting included:

1. OSW industry fisheries communication plans update (add) see website
2. CFRA public comment letter to BOEM regarding Oregon Wind Energy Areas and negative impacts to fishing and the environment
3. Report on OPC/CFRA status by Justine Kimbal who is the climate change analyst for OPC

4. Report from Steve Scheiblauber on California Coastal Commission's 7C Fishermen's Working Group (7CWG)

The Coastal Commission has announced the members (and their alternates) for the 7CWG (see attached list). Kearns and West will facilitate the 7CWG meetings, the first meeting to be held via zoom on December 6, 2023. The CFRA and 7CWG fishermen members are advocating for Coastal Commission staff to set the tone for this process by presenting a review of policy and directives for offshore non-fishing developments and protection of fishing as a central coastal dependent activity statewide.

There are seven CFRA members that were selected to represent California commercial fishermen on the 7CWG. Additionally, the Coastal Commission staff granted a late request from the Yurok tribal government to add a third tribal representative to the 7CWG. The CFRA welcomes the participation of those tribal governments with commercial fisheries interest and participation, especially tribal concerns over the plight of wild salmon populations both in river and ocean habitats.

October 22, 2023 - New CFRA Grant Manager hire - The CFRA Board met via zoom to interview Michael Kraft DBA Kraft Consulting for the subcontractor position of Grant Manager. Following the interview and discussion, a motion was made and seconded to hire Mr. Kraft for this position. He was hired with a unanimous vote from the board.

October 22, 2023 - The CFRA commented on the Central Coast Golden State Wind Fisheries Communication Plan, suggesting edits to the FCP. Many of these edits were incorporated into the revised draft FCP

November 9, 2023 - Honoraria for 7CWG participants - the CFRA Board met via zoom to discuss and finalize 7CWG honoraria payment options. The board chose "fixed rate compensation". Honoraria for 7CWG members has been somewhat compromised by differences in rates between SB 286 provisions and previous OPC/Coastal Commission calculations. Using the fixed rate honoraria will streamline bookkeeping and extend availability of funds.

November 9, 2023 - The CFRA submitted a letter of opposition to the installation of yet another "Data OSW Weather Buoy" on the Humboldt trawl and longline fishing grounds. Opposition to this (and previous OSW buoys) is based on the permitted abandonment of 11,000 pound steel anchor weights and additional heavy link steel chain and parted rode on community fishing grounds. No developer or subcontractor should be allowed to "decommission in place" [read: abandon junk they don't want to pay to retrieve] anything on the ocean floor. So far, no state or federal permitting agency responsible for the "abandonment" policy has responded to CFRA concerns.

November 17, 2023 - The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF) and the CFRA jointly hosted a “pre-meeting” (to the December 6th meeting) of the 7CWG fishermen participants. Topics of discussion at this meeting included:

- Flexibility in upcoming 7CWG meeting scheduling
- The need to get started before site survey operations are permitted on the fishing grounds
- Reading assignments for 7CWG members to understand what has been accomplished to date for state policy requests, nonprofit fishing legal entities, and impact lists
- Agreement among the group that the Coastal Commission is the critical agency in the 7CWG process
- Need to address permitting deficiencies before site survey begins.
- Additional 7CWG “pre and post meetings” will be scheduled throughout the entire process.