

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

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CFRA Board Report #33

January 1, 2026 - April 1, 2026

<https://www.californiafishermensresiliencyassociation.com>

CFRA Phase 1 Grant Closeout Summary

The CFRA Phase 1 grant closed on March 30, 2026. In January 2023, the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA) was engaged by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to administer honoraria payments for participants in the California Coastal Commission's 7C Fishermen's Working Group. This effort addressed a critical gap, as no state mechanism existed to compensate fishermen and tribal representatives for their participation in offshore wind (OSW) planning processes.

CFRA assumed this responsibility to support the timely formation of the 7C working group and to advance its mission of minimizing and mitigating impacts of OSW development on the fishing industry. The two-year 7C process has now concluded, and the Statewide Strategy is posted on the Coastal Commission website.

To implement the honoraria program, CFRA amended its OPC reimbursement grant to include honoraria administration, secured supplemental funding from the South Bay and Central Coast Cable Fisheries Liaison Committees, and established a line of credit to address cash flow constraints associated with upfront payments. These actions ensured sufficient working capital and continuity of payments.

In October 2023, SB 286 (McGuire) was signed into law, formalizing compensation for eligible participants. The legislation established compensation at \$50 per hour, up to \$500 per day, and

provided up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement for qualifying participants. This created a consistent and authorized framework for stakeholder compensation throughout the two-year 7C Statewide Strategy process.

Eligible participants included commercial fishermen, uncompensated fishing association representatives, and tribal representatives not otherwise compensated. CFRA implemented a structured and transparent payment process that included verified attendance tracking, eligibility confirmation, payment processing through an accounting firm, reporting to OPC and the Coastal Commission, and annual tax documentation (1099s).

To date, CFRA has administered honoraria and travel reimbursements to 9 commercial fishermen, 3 fishery representatives, alternates serving in representative roles, and 4 tribal representatives. Honoraria reports are available on the CFRA website.

CFRA maintained a conservative approach to program expenditures. Cost controls and evolving program dynamics influenced fund utilization, including the use of centralized meeting locations to reduce travel costs, the lack of compensation for subgroup participation, and changes in the 7C process, including abandoning industry-to-industry agreements and evolving mitigation administration structures away from fishing industry involvement. As a result, a portion of grant funds remains unspent.

CFRA has successfully established and administered a first-of-its-kind honoraria program supporting equitable participation in offshore wind planning. We greatly appreciate the support of OPC, the California Coastal Commission, and Senator McGuire.

Activities supporting Phase 1 of the CFRA OPC Grant

February

- **February 5** - CCC Meeting - Th9 - Statewide Strategy
- **February 17** - Submitted public comment letter to the CCC concerning the 7C Statewide Strategy

March

- **March 2** - Mtg. W/ Mary Nishimoto
- **March 4** - Mtg w/ Steve Scheiblaue - discussion of white paper
- **March 10** - Met with Abby Mohan to discuss Phase 1 (7C) grant close-out.

Activities supporting Phase 2 of the CFRA's OPC Grant

January

- **January 1 - CFRA Board Report**
- **January 1 - Quarterly Report submitted to OPC**
- **January 1 - CFRA bank statements submitted to accountant**

February

- **February 4 - CFRA Staff Meeting**
- **February 15 - Prepared summary for CFRA March newsletter**

March

- **March 4 - CFRA Staff Meeting**
- **March 5 - Attended Humboldt Bay Shellfish Growers Meeting - one of the objectives of this meeting was to identify key aspects of shellfish production and how they may be impacted by the heavy lift terminal development in Humboldt Bay and beyond. There were several speakers at this day long workshop. The CFRA white paper on "Assessing Impacts from the Humboldt Bay Heavy Lift Terminal was cited by some of the speakers.**
- **March 10 - Met with Abby Mohan of OPC to discuss Phase 2 grant**
- **March 10 - CFRA Staff Meeting**
- **March 18 - CFRA Staff Meeting**
- **March 24 - Met with Abby Mohan of OPC to follow up on 3/10 discussion of Phase 2 grant**
- **March 26 - Met with the Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries and Northern Economics.**
- **March 30 - Prepared Agenda and remarks for upcoming CFRA Board Mtg on 4/1/26**

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. We always appreciate the feedback that we have gotten from you.

Ken Bates, Linda Hildebrand and Michael Kraft
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association

