

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

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California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA) Press Release
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AXYS Technologies Avoids Impact to Northern California Fishing Grounds

On February 23, 2024, AXYS Technologies announced their intention to anchor two metocean data collection buoys on the Northern California commercial fishing grounds. This announcement was met with serious concerns from "bottom contact" fishermen - long liners and trawlers, as it was the initial intent (via federal permits) to abandon the buoy anchor systems at the termination of the AXYS project. The California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA) responded to the AXYS project via two letters of opposition to the abandonment of the buoy anchoring systems, after previously opposing the abandonment of 11,000 pounds of steel anchor blocks, heavy chain, and lower anchor rode on the California fishing grounds by Northwest National Laboratories of Washington State in October of 2020. Abandonment of six tons of anchors on community fishing grounds that have been safe and free of obstructions for generations presents great risk to fishing gear and fishermen.

Much to AXYS Technologies' credit and working with RWE Renewables, a Northern California OSW lease holder, the AXYS team redesigned the buoy anchor system to facilitate complete removal upon the project's termination. Collaboration between AXYS and RWE will result in ocean weather data collection both outside and within the OSW lease area, with the possibility of wind and wave data being available to local fishermen and mariners.

AXYS is a Canadian company established in 1974, located on Vancouver Island specializing in measurement equipment and services to shed insights on key questions while respecting the ocean environments.

The CFRA is a California nonprofit established by commercial fishermen's associations to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts from non-fishing ocean development. The CFRA receives funding from the California Ocean Protection Council.

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