

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Board Report #9

October 16, 2022

On the morning of October 15, 2022, the CFRA Board met via Zoom for the purpose of taking action on two agenda items. They are as follows:

1. The CFRA Board reviewed, discussed and passed a motion to submit a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) to Redwood Coast Energy Authority(RCEA). This draft MOU is similar to the agreement between RCEA and Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association(HFMA) which was negotiated by Harrison Ibach(HFMA President), Noah Oppenheim(PCFFA) and Matthew Marshal of RCEA. The HFMA/RCEA agreement was executed in 2018 and has provided fishermen direct access to RCEA wind power developers, RCEA support to avoid, minimize and mitigate for OSW impacts to fishermen and was an incentive for RCEA to provide a \$20,000 grant to HFMA which has been used to form the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association(CFRA), a mutual benefit non-profit 501 c (6) corporation. Having this agreement with RCEA is important because, at present, it will be our only tool to bring California OSW Developers to the table as there are no legally binding regulations from federal and California agencies requiring OSW developers to negotiate a Fishing Community Benefit Agreement (FCBA) with California fishermen's associations. FCBA's are designed to contractually require avoidance, minimization and mitigation of impacts from non-fishing development on California's community fishing grounds. FCBA's are the "last stand" when offshore developments cannot be stopped.
2. Humboldt Area Foundation/Core Hub — Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) is a relatively long established non-profit organization known locally for management of hundreds of family trust funds used for charity, scholarships and other community projects. HAF has recently become involved in the offshore wind power business by forming the "Core Hub" group composed of First Nation tribal representatives, social justice communities, environmental justice economic communities, labor union participants, community organizations and institutions, local government, Districts and agencies. If we have

interpreted the HAF/Core Hub letter to BOEM (August 1, 2022) correctly, HAF is advocating for a very substantial increase in OSW lease sale “bid credits” directed to groups other than the impacted fishing industry. While the broad scope of the HAF request to BOEM comes as a surprise to fishermen and it advocates for parity between fishermen and other potential stakeholders, the fishing industry has recognized that “OSW developers may need to provide more than one community benefit agreement to cover other stakeholders” (fishing industry letter dated February 9, 2022).

There is some confusion as to whom HAF represents. Ken Bates and Linda Hildebrand representing HFMA met with Bryna Lipper and Amy Jester of HAF via Zoom in November of 2021. HAF staff explained that they were beginning to organize a “group” to address offshore wind in Humboldt County. The HFMA representatives explained HFMA’s involvement in representing fishermen at state and federal hearings for OSW since 2017. HAF staff was given a historical account of California’s fishermen’s association’s OSW activities since 2015 and were told about the active formation of the CFRA. HAF staff were provided with copies of the CFRA Impact and Minimization white paper and public comment documents concerning OSW development. The Humboldt Area Foundation staff were polite and attentive, but it appeared that HAF’s interest in offshore wind was moving in a different direction than impacted commercial fishermen.

Subsequently, seven California port fishermen’s associations, at the prompting from California State permitting agencies, incorporated and began operating the CFRA in January 2022. The CFRA has issued eight “Board Reports” and a number of detailed public comment documents to state and federal agencies documenting California fishermen’s concerns over OSW, all the while working in tandem with the Central Coast fishermen’s associations, PCFA and the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries.

During the week of October 3rd, Harrison Ibach, HFMA President, alerted CFRA board members that both the City of Eureka, and the County government of Humboldt were under the impression that fishermen’s groups were not engaged in the OSW discussion! Actually, nothing could be further from the truth.

Acting on Harrison’s information, CFRA Boardmember Ken Bates met with Miles Slattery, Eureka City Manager and Sean Quincey, Humboldt County staff to correct the misconception that fishermen were not engaged. This meeting took place on October 5, 2022 at noon. Mr. Quincey had earlier attended a meeting with Representative Jared Huffman, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) concerning OSW. While somewhat unclear to us, Jared Huffman may have acquired some inaccurate information that HAF was representing commercial fishermen’s interests in the OSW “bid credit” requests. This is not correct. Mr. Quincey asked CFRA to reach out to the Board of Supervisors which we did. Below is that communication.

Dear Supervisors Bass and Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some background on California fishermen's associations involvement with offshore wind projects and also ask if you might have time available to meet and discuss OSW policy as it relates to Humboldt County's fishing industry.

On October 5, 2022, I was afforded the opportunity to meet with Miles Slattery, City Manager of Eureka and with Sean Quincey, a member of your county staff, to discuss commercial fishermen's associations position and involvement with offshore wind energy. This was my first introduction to Mr. Quincey; I was immediately impressed with his knowledge of OSW history in Northern California. Both Mr. Slattery and Mr. Quincey had questions concerning local fishing industry engagement with OSW proposals.

California's commercial fishermen's port associations have a long history of working together. Our local association, Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association (HFMA) established in 1955, became engaged in OSW conversations in 2015 with the Morro Bay and Port San Luis Associations when they began meeting with international OSW developers.

In 2017, HFMA engaged with RCEA when they advocated for an OSW project on the community fishing grounds of our county. Subsequently HFMA and RCEA entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding" in 2018 to promote conversation and develop policy to allow local commercial fishing to survive OSW developments.

In 2020, HFMA and two other Northern California fishermen's associations were given a \$90,000 Ocean Protection Council grant to map fishing grounds from Point Arena to the Oregon Border. This mapping information was requested by the California Coastal Commission and State Lands staff.

Concurrently, California State Agencies (Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Lands, and California Energy Commission), repeatedly requested some sort of fishermen's group to represent Northern California fishing interests with one voice. To that end, the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation) was formed in early January of 2022 (see enclosed press release). The CFRA was established through help from RCEA in the form of a \$20,000 grant to HFMA, one of the founding associations. Karen Douglas of the California Energy Commission and Mark Gold, recently of the Ocean Protection Council advocated for state funding for the operation of the CFRA which is now being processed by OPC. The CFRA represents the ports of San Francisco, Bodega Bay, Fort Bragg, Shelter Cove, Humboldt Bay, Trinidad Bay and Crescent City.

The CFRA is actively involved in representing fishing industry concerns and developing potential solutions for overcoming the challenges to fishermen and Coastal fishing communities in our collective efforts to switch to renewable energy. We believe that the Board of Supervisors share these concerns and so we would welcome the opportunity to address the entire board if you feel that this would be beneficial to the Humboldt County Community. Thank you for these considerations.

Sincerely,
Ken Bates, President
California Fishermens Resiliency Association
Kenbatesironic@gmail.com
707-498-1904

As of October 18, 2022, there has been no response from Supervisors Bass or Wilson.

Meeting with Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF)

HAF scheduled a zoom meeting with all of their partners to discuss Offshore Wind Community Benefits and Coordination Opportunities that was to be held on October 18th. Harrison Ibach was invited to this meeting; Ken Bates and Travis Hunter of FMA were not included.

This HAF meeting was discussed at the October 15, CFRA board meeting and it was decided that Ken would reach out to HAF and request an invitation to the Core Hub meeting for both the CFRA and the Trawl Association President Travis Hunter. The CFRA Board directed the meeting representative to clearly state that the CFRA is not a participant in Core Hub actions or policy requests and is not represented by HAF/Core Hub but the CFRA appreciates the opportunity to better understand HAF's OSW goals.

In a response for a request to be invited to this meeting (October 18), Ms. Jester decided to extend invitations to Harrison (HFMA), Travis Hunter (FMA) and Ken Bates (CFRA) for a separate meeting (prior to 10/18 meeting) for the purpose of learning more about the fishermen's positions with regards to the HAF/Core Hub initiative. This meeting was scheduled for 8am and lasted one hour. Travis Hunter accurately reiterated that the fishing industry will be the largest recipient of wind power impacts for the entire duration of OSW projects. HAF staff requested a much larger degree of participation from fishermen's associations through the HAF Core/Hub group. The three association presidents all expressed concerns about the possible dilution of the fishing industry message, but agreed to future meetings with HAF staff. The CFRA message was conveyed to HAF staff, and a decision was made by the three fishermen not to attend the larger meeting.

Other Activities

Lastly, a commissioner of the Humboldt Bay Harbor District (harbor district) reported that a "closed to the public" meeting was to take place between OSW developers and the Harbor District on Thursday, October 13, at 7:30am. The meeting was canceled as the local airport was closed due to heavy fog. It is interesting to note that once again the harbor district is operating in a self-made vacuum devoid of fishing industry input!

The Humboldt Bay Harbor District recently received 10.5 million dollars from the California Energy Commission for OSW planning in Humboldt Bay. No funds have been earmarked to protect fishing industry interests in Humboldt Bay or offshore waters.

Ken Bates