

# CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

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Good Afternoon Committee Members, Guest Speakers and Hearing Participants.

My name is Ken Bates, I am a commercial fisherman, fishing out of the Port of Humboldt Bay since 1974, and before that I fished out of San Pedro. I have been directly involved in California Offshore wind power developments since 2018. I am also one of the founders of the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA).

The CFRA was incorporated as a 501-c-6 nonprofit in January of 2022 to establish a "point of contact" for California Commercial fishermen's port associations in their collective efforts to coexist with offshore wind energy developments. The CFRA was established with the support of California State Agencies including the California Coastal Commission, State Lands, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Energy Commission. The CFRA is funded by the Ocean Protection Council.

The CFRA's goals are to increase long term resilience in fishing communities through industry-to-industry agreements managed by regional fishermen's management committees.

The CFRA has submitted extensive written comments on expected impacts to commercial fishermen from OSW development statewide, but especially in the Humboldt Call Area (WEA).

Today, I would like to describe another impact to fishermen — the loss of continuity within State agency staff. One thing that has proven very beneficial for us is to have a "point of contact" in each agency, a person that we can call and will answer our questions. We appreciate the agency staff that have worked hard to cultivate relationships with fishermen. However, when a staff person leaves, we feel that the whole process of re-establishing a working relationship starts over. We have experienced staffing changes at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Coastal Commission and the Energy Commission. A case in point: after significant staffing changes within the Energy Commission, new staff have now hired a consulting firm to conduct yet another set of "fishermen's meetings" to repeat everything that we have already done over the last six years.

Fishermen would like to see robust coordination between state agencies in their outreach to fishermen. This lack of coordination and continuity between state agencies is negatively impacting fishermen abilities to effectively participate in the OSW planning process.

We feel that State Agencies are struggling to meet the increased demands of OSW development. We believe that the complex planning and permitting of OSW development by the Coastal Commission has been loaded onto staff members who already have other critical responsibilities in that agency. This permitting process is critical to the forward progress of renewables and the protection of fishing resources.

Please make funds available to the Coastal Commission to hire additional full time positions dedicated to both OSW outreach to fishing communities and long term planning. These additional staff positions will require funding for at least the next 12 years. The Coastal Commission is the only State Agency mandated to protect commercial fishing, a coastal dependent activity. Having more than one staff devoted to OSW permitting will provide long term continuity between fishing communities and this state agency that is critical to California's transformation to renewable energy. We appreciate and support Senator McGuire's request of additional funding for the Coastal Commission

We wish to offer our sincere thanks to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee and all of the State Agencies for their strong support of California's fishing communities and fishing families.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Ken Bates