

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Board Report #8

Sept 21, 2022

The Changing OSW Landscape

On Tuesday, September 14, 2022, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) invited the CFRA Board of Directors to meet with their new "wind power partners". Aker Offshore Wind is now working with RCEA for bidding on the Humboldt WEA. The meeting was only an opportunity for introductions and to educate the Aker staff as to fishermen's history with OSW development in Northern California. The Aker staff were initially confused about local, state and coastwide fishermen's associations and the new Oregon fishermen's website opposing OSW projects in Oregon and Washington. We believe that we were effective in explaining the differences and commonalities of west coast fishermen's associations. The CFRA representatives (Ken Bates, Linda Hildebrand) made it clear to the Aker staff that fishermen oppose OSW developments on community fishing grounds and that this introductory meeting did not constitute a meeting with the CFRA Board of Directors or fishermen in general; in other words, it didn't check a box. Aker Offshore Wind staff are receptive to a larger meeting to discuss the Humboldt lease sale, new wind power technologies, bid credits and impacts to the fishing industry. The CFRA will schedule another meeting for later in September. In the meantime we have sent the Aker staff the CFRA press release, CFRA membership list and the CFRA Draft Minimization and Mitigation Plan.

Complicated Changes in OSW Companies in Partnership with RCEA

In 2017, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) was working with Principal Power (a French company) and EDP Renewables (Portuguese). By 2020, EDP Renewables had formed Ocean Wind Inc. EDP Renewables doing business as (dba) Ocean Wind, Inc., engaged with RCEA for the purpose of bidding on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area. EDP Renewables (dba Ocean Winds) and RCEA jointly formed Redwood Coast Offshore Winds LLC. At a later date, EDP Renewables teamed up with another energy company, Aker Solutions. This second company, Aker Solutions (dba Aker Offshore Winds) "bought into" (partnered with) Redwood Coast

Offshore Wind LLC (a limited liability corporation). In August 2022, it appears that Aker Offshore Wind then bought out EDP Renewables' interests in Redwood Coast Offshore Wind. Aker Offshore Winds then brought in Mainstream Renewable Power. Aker Solutions owns both corporations, Aker Offshore Winds and Mainstream Renewable Power. Aker Solutions employs 40,000 people in twenty countries according to their website; they may be a Norwegian Company.

Please be aware that just like the submarine cable industry, these international energy companies are legally protected from liability challenges by multiple layers of Corporate entities". Fishermen have no such protections!

Industry Letter to State Agencies

A second fishing industry letter is being drafted to address the California State Agencies' written response to the non-enforceable, voluntary, BOEM "Guidelines for Mitigation of Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fishing". This industry letter will be circulated to all California port associations for their sign-on. Please be on the lookout for this letter. It will be distributed to fishermen via email; please share it with your association so that they will be able to sign on.

Other Bad News

Mark Gold, head of Ocean Protection Council was "removed" from this cabinet level position. Details of Mr. Gold's removal are unknown to us at this time. For fishermen, Mr. Gold's removal will have long term ramifications as Mr. Gold was at least willing to clearly hear fishermen's concerns over offshore wind energy development. Mr. Gold also serves as a California Coastal Commissioner. Mr. Gold was supportive of the formation of the CFRA and advocated for a unified voice for California fishermen. For California fishermen and their communities, possibly the best thing that could happen is that the position of OPC director be filled by someone from the ranks of the OPC organization. During our past three years of interactions with OPC, we have found their staff to be intelligent, informed, resourceful, and receptive to fishermen's needs.