

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

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Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Board Report #10

November 1, 2022

On October 31, 2022 at 9:00 am, CFRA board members, RB Pincombe, Ken Bates and Linda Hildebrand and HFMA president, Harrison Ibach had the opportunity and privilege to meet with Representative Jared Huffman and his staff, Ciara Emery, John Driscoll, and Casey Maclean. The congressmen's team is competent, engaged and informed concerning the challenges posed by offshore wind development.

BOEM Lease Sale

The first topic of discussion was the BOEM lease sale process. There was general agreement that there had been only minor changes between the public lease sale draft and the final notice. Neither the commenting public nor Rep. Huffman's suggested changes to this document received much attention from BOEM. BOEM did increase the bid credits for a community benefit agreement (CBA's) for individuals harvesting in the wind energy lease areas from 2.5% to 5%. But that is still a far cry from the 20% bid credit advocated for by fishermen's associations and Rep. Huffman. Some of the developers that provided comments to BOEM's sale notice (PSN) were also supportive of a 15% bid credit.

There was a brief discussion of how California state agencies had advocated for the formation of the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association and supported the makeup of its membership and the stated goals of the entity. It was exactly stated that the CFRA understands the need to engage in the conversion to renewable energy, and while all fishermen opposed the continued loss of fishing grounds, it is the CFRA's position that its goal is for the fishing industry to survive these OSW developments through collaboration with Federal and State agencies and developers to promote long term solutions to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts through industry-to-industry fishing community benefit agreements (FCBA's). Rep. Huffman was supportive of California port fishermen's associations working together as a group to tackle these challenges.

Fishermen's Engagement with OSW

Harrison stated that OSW is a new and complex process with no given direction. Fishermen are along for the ride [maybe with little control of the direction]. He also stated that we [fishermen] are not shying away from involvement and are willing to talk with any group or individual. This brought the group to the subject of other potential impacted stakeholders. Ken Bates cited the February 9, 2022 "Fishing Industry" letter sent to California State Agencies concerning FCBA's that was signed by a dozen California fishermen's associations. In that letter it states that the "OSW developers may need to negotiate more than one benefit agreement to cover various impacts that will occur to other groups of stakeholders.

Both Harrison and Ken clearly stated that other groups may decide to make a claim to benefits for perceived impacts, but that those claims are outside of the fishing industry impacts.

Fishermen continue to represent fishermen and collectively we are concerned that fishermen's positions and concerns will be diluted or lost through inclusion with other non-fishing groups.

Rep. Huffman did not disagree with our position and suggested that some of the impacts that these non fishing groups were considering were somewhat abstract in their conception of the impacts.

Working Group

Collectively, the group had questions about the proposed BOEM working groups - Is it national, will it actually influence policy? No one at the meeting had any answers to these questions, but Rep. Huffman asked Ciara Emery to look into it. To date, the CFRA is hoping to motivate State Agencies to form the working group (as per Coastal Commission Permit Condition #7) before the December lease sale.

First Physical OSW Impacts

Ken explained that the first physical OSW impact occurred on the community fishing grounds when Northwest National Laboratory retrieved a Lidar Buoy that they had deployed earlier; the 11,000 pounds of anchors and chain attached to the buoy were abandoned on the trawl grounds just northwest of the Humboldt WEA. Impact #2 is the planned "conversion" of Redwood Terminal in Humboldt Bay from fishing to wind power infrastructure. Rep. Huffman offered his help to fishermen through his local staff's communications with the Humboldt Bay Harbor District. This will be greatly appreciated.

Fishing Grounds Loss

Rep. Huffman posed the question, "could WEA's qualify as a contribution of protected areas for the 30 x 30 initiative"? Harrison brought up the lack of scientific studies documenting potential impacts to marine life by turbines, cables, sub-stations, etc. It was pointed out that there has not been any new fishing grounds created and so perhaps "closed areas" could be reopened to offset fishing grounds lost to OSW development.

What can my office do?

Rep. Huffman asked fishing industry representatives directly how he and his staff could help further efforts for commercial fishing to coexist with offshore wind. Ken responded with a

request to try and promote FCBA's both with California State permitting agencies and OSW developers. Fisheries/OSW engagement in Northern California is seriously lacking, with only the Redwood Coast Energy Authority(RCEA) advocating for FCBA's. Ken stated that FCBA's will not fix everything, but at present they are fishermen's only hope to create engagement with developers.

Rep. Huffman also offered to engage with the California Coastal Commission through the efforts of his staff.

In our view, this was a very positive meeting with Jared Huffman and his staff. At the end of the meeting Rep. Huffman suggested scheduling more such calls throughout the process.

Other Business

Virginia Bass, Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, has responded positively to the proposal that the CFRA will make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. We have also reached out to the City of Eureka and asked to be put on the agenda for a similar presentation.