

# CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

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## **CFRA Board Report # 12**

November 24, 2022

### **CFRA Receives State Funding**

In November 2022, the CFRA received a State of California funding grant from Ocean Protection Council, a cabinet level state agency. The grant, "Enhancing Industry-to-Industry Cooperation on Offshore Wind Fishing Community Benefit Agreements", will fund the CFRA operation in two phases over a projected five year period.

The grant establishes the CFRA and its California member port association as the fishing industry's "point of contact" for OSW developers and California state agencies. The grant requires the CFRA organization to produce two fishing community benefit agreement draft contracts, monthly CFRA board reports, white papers concerning the value of fishing grounds, lists of expected OSW impacts, and policy documents concerning avoidance, minimization and potential long term promotion of fishing fleet resiliency. All CFRA reports are public documents and available for anyone to read. . The OPC grant will facilitate the construction of a website to view all CFRA efforts and activities.

### **Meeting with Humboldt Area Foundation**

On November 22, 2022 at 4:00 PM, CFRA Board Members Linda Hildebrand and Ken Bates, along with Fishermen's Marketing Association president Travis Hunter and Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association president Harrison Ibach, attended a meeting requested by Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) staff. Also in attendance was Sean Quincey representing Humboldt County. This was the fourth CFRA meeting with HAF staff in the past year and a half. Unlike a year ago, HAF is now making a persistent effort to enlist commercial fishermen's associations to endorse the HAF/CoreHub position on promoting offshore wind and collecting community benefits from OSW developers

Ken explained that the HAF was moving in a very different direction from the fishing industry's attempts to survive the loss of thousands of square miles of fishing grounds and displacement from port of Humboldt marine facilities. Fishermen's organizations are hoping to avoid and minimize negative impacts through industry-to-industry FCBA's with financial mitigation of impacts as the last step. HAF/ Core Hub is requesting mitigation funds up front directly from OSW developers through negotiated community benefit agreements and potential bid credits.

When asked by Travis and Ken to describe the "operational impacts" that the HAF/CoreHub participants will experience by OSW development, HAF staff was unable to actually articulate any expected impacts to their stakeholder group. HAF staff mentioned "avian strikes", "vessel traffic" and possible "collisions". Travis wanted to know "what did they know about these things?". It was not clear to the fishermen in attendance if "collisions" referred to vessel to vessel collisions, vessel to turbine unit collisions or whale/ship strikes. For fishermen, this was an example of an organization representing issues that they know little about.

All three association presidents repeated their collective membership's request that "fishermen are representing fishermen", which has been fleet policy for the past six years. HAF is a local entity focused on potential social and cultural impacts by OSW `developments. Commercial fishermen through their respective associations are dealing with OSW development across California, Oregon and Washington which will have massive long term impacts to fishing. Additionally, fishermen have been repeatedly cautioned by politicians and legal counsel not to allow the fishermen's position on wind power to be diluted by other diverse groups.

### **County of Humboldt Wind Power Resolution**

Late Tuesday afternoon, Humboldt County staff sent, via email, a two page resolution supporting OSW developments and the HAF/Core Hub position on OSW. The resolution was brought up in the last portion of the Tuesday HAF/Core Hub zoom call. Ken Bates had read the draft resolution, Travis Hunter had skimmed it and Harrison had not yet seen it. When asked by Sean Quincy what we thought about the draft, fishermen were collectively unfamiliar with the resolution details and could not comment.

At about 4pm on Wednesday November 24, fishermen received a final version of the Resolution to be approved on the Humboldt County Consent Calendar (no public comment) on Tuesday November 29, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. Ken Bates, on behalf of the CFRA Board of Directors immediately drafted the following language to be included into the resolution as the final version lacked any specific or significant mention of the west coast commercial fishing fleet.

Our requested language is as follows:

*"WHEREAS, Humboldt Bay has historically been California's largest fishing port with North Coast fishermen still contributing forty million ex-vessel dollars to the local economy" and "WHEREAS, the cumulative loss of community fishing grounds and port fishing infrastructure to OSW development will fall squarely onto fishermen, the fishing industry and the underserved North Coast fishing community"*

*“The County of Humboldt will work collaboratively with fishermen’s associations to comply with Coastal Act section 30234, which states “facilities serving the commercial fishing and recreational boating industries shall be protected and where feasible upgraded. Existing commercial fishing and recreational boating harbor space shall not be reduced unless the demand for those facilities no longer exists or adequate substitute space has been provided. Coastal Act, Section 30234*

The CFRA requested that this resolution be removed from the consent calendar, opened for public comment and allow the elected supervisors the opportunity to approve or remove the suggested CFRA edits at the November 29th meeting as they may move.

### **Other Important News**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is scheduling an online webinar to discuss sea space planning for additional offshore windpower lease areas in California waters as per Assembly Bill 525 goals . The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the location of additional areas on California’s community fishing grounds to accommodate 2000 additional square miles of turbine arrays and hundreds of miles of cable lanes. There may also be a report on lease sale results for the Morro Bay and Humboldt WEA’s and a mention of the State’s efforts (or lack of) to assemble the fishermen’s working group described in “Condition #7 documented in the Coastal Commission report Th8a. This meeting is on December 8 at 1:00pm, more details and a link to follow.

Chris Potter of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said that California State Agency representatives plan to be in Eureka on December 5th to meet with Brightline Defence and HAF/Core Hub group concerning OSW development in Humboldt. Fishermen have been invited to a separate meeting to meet with these State Agencies.

This week two CFRA Board Members were interviewed by Kevin Stark of KQED/NPR concerning OSW Development in California. Dick Ogg of Bodega Bay relayed extensive information to the reporter covering fishing ground loss, cable lanes and port challenges.

If anyone has anything that they would like to contribute to these reports, simply call or email Ken.

**Please forward these reports to the rest of your membership. Your efforts will help to keep the fishing fleet informed.**

**Thanks**

**Ken Bates and Linda Hildebrand  
CFRA**