

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Board Report #11

November 17, 2022

Meeting with Avangrid

On Sunday, November 2022, John Harker (Lead-Fisheries Outreach Coordination, for Avangrid, a wind development company from Spain) spent 4.5 hours discussing Offshore Wind (OSW) development with Linda Hildebrand and Ken Bates (CFRA board members). Mr. Harker is recently retired from the U.S. Coast Guard where he commanded two USCG boat stations and gained extensive boating and harbor experience. He has been working for Avangrid as a fisheries liaison officer for two years. Much of his work involves the Avangrid wind projects in Massachusetts and North Carolina. Avangrid is considering a bid for the Humboldt and Morro Bay areas; John traveled out here in advance of the auction and is meeting with associations that will represent fishermen that will be impacted by these wind projects.

The conversation included Avangrid's outreach efforts to East Coast fishermen, the current (and changing) economic profile of offshore wind and potential impacts to Pacific Coast fishermen from planned floating turbines, cable lanes, floating electrical substations and port closures. Mr. Harker confirmed that it will be very possible that the Coast Guard will close the Humboldt Bay entrance and federal channels during the movement of OSW turbine units; this transit could take several hours. These planned turbines are 300 feet wide by 850 feet tall and will occupy the entire 400 foot wide federal navigation channel during transport by up to five ocean service tugs. He also confirmed that the Humboldt Bay Estuary will become a "storage area" for up to 25 turbine units waiting for offshore deployment after assembly. Avangrid personnel are actively discussing the major impacts to commercial fishermen concerning OSW use of Humboldt Bay. At the end of the conversation, Mr. Harker was supplied with various CFRA documents including several comment letters to California State Agencies, BOEM and the Harbor District regarding impacts to local fishermen. It was also made clear that this meeting with only two CFRA board

members did not “check the box” for meeting with fishermen. We expect to see bidding efforts for the Humboldt WEA by Avangrid on December 6, 2022.

Eureka Open Port Meeting - Offshore Wind Power and 2022-2023 Crab Season

On November 14, 2022 at 3:00pm, the California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association and Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association held a joint open port meeting at the City of Eureka Wharfinger building. Invitations and notices were sent to all north coast fishing ports and associations, fishing processors, marine industries, and local officials and concerned citizens. The meeting was well attended, with fishermen and their families representing two ports and several associations. There were also representatives from local fish processors, Englund Marine, Z and Z Marine, Jared Huffman’s office, California Fish and Wildlife and the harbor district. Harrison Ibach (Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association, HFMA President) and Ken Bates (California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association, CFRA President) presented the six year history of OSW development. At this point Harrison admitted that it will be challenging to condense 6 years of work into a one hour meeting but they would try to do their best.

Harrison described early HFMA’s involvement with offshore wind power which began in 2017 with meetings involving California State Agencies. In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up between HFMA and Redwood Coast Energy Authority (local power provider). The purpose of this MOU was to give access to fishermen to potential developers in the Humboldt call area.

Following a series of meetings with fishermen, California State Agencies made a request that fishermen form an entity that would become a point of contact for fishing representation, thus the California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association(CFRA) was formed. Ken explained the State’s motivation in requesting the formation of the California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association (CFRA), its purpose to avoid, minimize and mitigate OSW impacts to fishermen through the development of state policies and the use of industry-to-industry Fishing Community Benefit Agreements.

Matthew Marshall, RCEA executive officer was also invited to speak at this meeting. As a local power provider, RCEA will be involved with OSW and will be working closely with the developers that will be leasing the two areas off of Humboldt. He told fishermen that he understood that fishermen would be impacted by these projects and that is why RCEA engaged with fishermen’s associations in 2017. He also gave details on the joint M.O.U with HFMA and mentioned the \$20,000 RCEA grant that allowed initial formation of the CFRA as a 501 c 6 nonprofit representing fishermen’s associations from San Francisco to Crescent City.

After these presentations, Matthew, Ken and Harrison open the floor for questions and comments. Fishermen expressed extreme concern over port access and harbor closures and had many questions concerning impacts to the harbor that would affect fishermen’s ability to transit to and from the ocean. Part of the conversation revolved around both the upcoming loss of 600 square miles of fishing grounds and the state’s goals to take an additional 2000 miles of

community fishing grounds by 2045. There were also comments concerning the absolute lack of any state policy or regulation to constrain OSW developers on the community's fishing grounds. Some had questions concerning mitigation for the impacts caused by these developments. Ken talked about Fishing Community Benefit Agreements(FCBA's) that would partially address these impacts but would have more of a band-aid effect. He went on to say that there could be funding from the developers for expanded fishing infrastructure. One fisherman commented, "what good was improved infrastructure if he couldn't get out of the harbor to go fishing?". Other fishermen said that we should oppose any development. Another topic of discussion was the possibility that all of the wind turbine units for the Pacific coast would be assembled here in Humboldt Bay. The overall tone of the meeting was one of depression with a certain amount of pure hopelessness thrown in. As with other OSW meetings in Humboldt during the past six years, there were many questions, a great deal of speculation and a lot of information still unknown. Some younger fishermen in attendance are struggling to understand how they will continue to fish.

And then Harrison led a complicated discussion of the 2022-2023 crab season.

Coming Up

There are several wind power meetings coming up in November and December in which the CFRA will take part

11/22 - Meeting with CoreHub, Humboldt County, CFRA and Port Fishing Associations

December (date not yet set) Meeting with Harbor District, City of Eureka, Core Hub, local Fishermen's Port Associations and the CFRA

12/5 - Meeting at the Harbor District with California State agencies to talk about the new terminal project. Fishermen are being invited to a separate meeting with this group later that day.

We will report on these meetings on the next issue of the CFRA Board Report.

Please note: While we are glad to meet with other groups, fishermen are represented by their fishermen's associations and no one else.

Thank you,
Ken Bates and Linda Hildebrand
CFRA Board Members