



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
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March 31, 2020

Chairwoman Pam Marsh
Oregon Houe Committee on Energy and the Environment

RE: WCSPA Comments on HB 3375

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Helm, Vice Chair Brock Smith, Speaker Kotek and Committee members:

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association represents small, medium and large seafood processors in all three West Coast states. We process the products you likely see in your local seafood market or grocery store, such as Dungeness crab, a number of species of rockfish, pink shrimp, salmon and tuna. Our members depend on the success of fishermen to access sustainable fishery resources offshore. Thus, we are concerned about placement of wind energy devices in prime fishing grounds.

Oregon's offshore waters are rich with seafood resources, but each species has distinct seasonal habitats, even though many habitats overlap. Some species inhabit small areas, while other species are highly migratory, traversing thousands of miles in the Pacific Ocean. Other species are here during only certain times of the year and in certain areas.

Depending on the size of the turbines, more than 400 wind turbines may be necessary to produce 3 gigawatts of power. This could take up several hundred square miles of ocean area. Federal agencies have not made clear what fishing – sport/commercial, or gear types – could also fish these areas. Some gear types, such as trawl fishing or bottom longline fishing, could not co-exist in the same areas as floating turbines.

Placement of offshore wind turbines requires serious time, thought and planning. Turbines placed in water deeper than 700 fathoms, or the equivalent of about 1,300 meters, would be beneficial because fewer fishermen use those grounds. Wind energy companies and federal agencies are reluctant to consider waters deeper than 1,300 meters due to cost constraints. However, the cost of displacing established fishing businesses is, to our processors and coastal communities, much, much greater.

We appreciate Section I (g) of the -1 amendment that includes consideration of the seafood industry and fishing communities with respect to offshore wind. Fishermen and processors are established businesses upon which many ports and infrastructure were built; the federal process already excludes us from having "a seat at the table" on Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Task Forces. Consultation with us and inclusion of our fishing and processing practices prior to selecting sites for offshore wind development would help ensure both industries can co-exist and make our ports and coastal communities even stronger. Neither state leaders nor communities should have to face the decision of one industry over another.

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council could provide a good forum for communities, fishermen, processors and other ocean stakeholders to provide comment and true engagement. OPAC has, in the past, welcomed open discussion about marine reserves and wave energy. Members of OPAC have vested interests in Oregon's territorial sea, of course, but many issues do not stop at the territorial sea boundary. Fishing is one. Offshore wind is another. OPAC has the representation to lead these discussions and provide valuable insight and planning advice about how to minimize effects of offshore wind on existing ocean users.

In closing, I recommend this legislation, and any future legislation concerning offshore wind development in either Oregon's territorial sea or offshore waters, include specific language to ensure fishing industry engagement through OPAC or similar entities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Susan Chambers
Deputy Director