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Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2021 11:27 PM

To: Thurston-Keller, Jean <Jean.Thurston-Keller@boem.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: BOEM Humboldt Scoping Meeting (tomorrow) and PFMC Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting (Sept 1) - Reminder

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Jean,

I've seen BOEM's video of how California gray whales and their baby whales will supposedly swerve to avoid anchor cables of wind farms off the California coast. There's no evidence to suggest they will respond in that manner, however, or will even see the cables in front of them.

Like other baleen whales, California grays have limited forward vision. It's a product of evolution: they feed by coasting through the sea and straining plankton from warm water near the ocean's surface. Because hunting for prey is unnecessary, so is acute forward vision.

Today I came across [this article](#) describing how 46 dead humpback whales washed ashore within months after New England's Block Island Wind Farm opened in December, 2016. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) labeled the die-off an "unusual mortality event" - and they've continued to wash ashore since, together with several specimens of the endangered North Atlantic right whale, of which only 365 individuals are known to exist.

Block Island has five turbines; Humboldt will have 60. What assurance, before Humboldt Wind Energy Area becomes operational, do Californians have dead gray whales won't be washing ashore with greater frequency? Is there any plan to erect a few turbines so we can see how migrating whales are impacted, before sixty turbines are operational and it's too late?

I feel BOEM and developers are in a headlong rush to build wind farms, whatever their environmental impact, and there is a potential environmental disaster in the making.

Sincerely,

Carl Wurtz
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