



## Meeting Summary

### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

### Humboldt Wind Energy Area

### Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting

*Tuesday, January 25, 2022*

*9 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT*

#### I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted public outreach to inform the development of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA), located approximately 20 miles offshore from the City of Eureka in Humboldt County, California. BOEM hosted two virtual meetings during the 45-day public comment period to outline its formal environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to solicit public input on issues to be considered. The first virtual meeting took place on January 25, 2022, and the second on January 26, 2022. The public comment period ends on February 10, 2022.

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, Tribal Nations, and local governments. Public participants represented the fishing industry, developers, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and the press. A total of 114 people registered for the event, and 89 public participants attended the meeting.

The meeting recording and transcript are available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/humboldt-wind-energy-area>

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide information on the Humboldt WEA and Draft EA.
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.
- Solicit public input on the WEA and Draft EA.

This document summarizes key outcomes and next steps from the meeting. It focuses on public comment input received rather than the formal presentations made. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. Kearns & West facilitated the meeting.

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Meeting Highlights
  - A. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - B. Overview of Humboldt Draft EA
  - C. Clarifying Process Questions
  - D. Public Comment Opportunity
  - E. Closing and Next Steps
- III. Appendices
  - A. Agenda
  - B. Public Participant List
  - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
  - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
  - E. Poll Results

## II. Humboldt Draft EA Meeting Highlights

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### *1. Morgan Lommele, Facilitator, Kearns & West*

The meeting opened with a welcome to participants, a summary of meeting objectives, and guidance on navigating the Zoom webinar. The facilitator presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations and the second identified the number of participants planning to provide oral comment at the meeting. Appendix E contains polling results. The facilitator explained that participants can provide public comments surrounding the content of the Draft EA and explained the process of making a public comment.

#### *2. Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific Office*

Mr. Yarde thanked attendees for their involvement and participation in the meeting. He described the Executive Orders that initiated the Humboldt WEA, the process leading up to the Humboldt Draft EA meeting, and where it fits in the NEPA process for the Humboldt Draft EA.

### B. Overview of Humboldt Draft EA

This session provided an overview of the Humboldt WEA Draft EA, status updates, and next steps.

#### *Sara Guiltinan, Renewable Energy Specialist, BOEM Pacific Office*

Ms. Guiltinan is acting in the position of CA Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordinator for BOEM's Pacific Office while Jean Thurston-Keller is on military leave. Ms. Guiltinan presented an overview of BOEM's planning approach for offshore wind energy, BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process, determination of the current call area, the leasing and environmental review processes, and next steps for offshore wind energy development in Humboldt County. Ms. Guiltinan went over opportunities for input from members of the public, the creation of task forces for special interest groups, and the ongoing collaborative processes within BOEM and various agencies. She noted that the final call area has the potential to produce up to 1,605 MW to power 560,000 homes.

*Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, BOEM Pacific Office*

Ms. Gilbane presented the NEPA process, went over the content of the Draft EA, and explained the types of information BOEM is seeking from the public on the Draft EA. Ms. Gilbane highlighted the Tribal and Government to Government consultations during the development of the Draft EA. Ms. Gilbane explained the types of data that inform the resource assessment sections within the Draft EA, focusing on potential impacts related to or on fisheries, fishing communities, noise, environment, vessel traffic, environmental justice, and the economy. She explained that the Final EA will be published in Spring 2022 and will inform the process of the proposed sale notice. All participants were invited to submit comments on the content of the Draft EA and to direct further questions to BOEM subject matter experts or to [Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov](mailto:Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov).

### C. Clarifying Process Questions

Members of the public asked clarifying questions related to the Humboldt WEA or Draft EA presentation. BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered the following topics:

- Buoys: installation, maintenance, decommissioning.
- Draft EA: the lack of data and topics covered.
- Impact to fisheries.
- Timeline of Final Sale Notice and auction.

Appendix C contains additional details on public clarifying questions and responses.

### D. Public Comment Opportunity

Appendix D contains individual public comments on the Humboldt Draft EA. Ms. Lommele explained that comments were being recorded and that BOEM would not respond to public comments. Commenters were allotted 3 minutes to speak.

A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- **Outreach:** Concern about the lack of detail and outreach to commercial fishing groups on the North Coast.
- **Fishing industry:** Request to spend more time understanding various fishing industries and development's impact on them.
- **Tribal Groups:** Request to integrate Tribes into the process.
- **Climate Impacts:** Request to consider impacts from climate change.
- **Labor:** Request to consider the use of labor, especially earlier in the process.

### E. Closing and Next Steps

Lisa Gilbane thanked participants for their time and comments, and encouraged them to submit further comments via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), Docket: BOEM 2021-0085 online, or by mail due, All comments are due by Feb 10, 2022 at 8:59 pm PST. Ms. Gilbane referred to BOEM's website: <https://www.boem.gov/HumboldtEA> for detailed public comment information and to view recordings of the meetings.

### III. Appendices

#### A. Agenda

## AGENDA

### BOEM California Humboldt Draft Environmental Assessment Meeting

#### Registration Information

[https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tx35BnedSaqJnY\\_AxZ16Sg](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tx35BnedSaqJnY_AxZ16Sg)

January 25, 2022

Meeting: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

#### Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Solicit public input on the WEA and Draft EA.
- Answer questions related to the Draft EA.

#### Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
9:00 – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Webinar Instructions and Guidance</b>	Kearns & West Facilitator
9:05 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Overview of Humboldt Draft EA</b>	Sara Gultinan, BOEM Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Clarifying Questions on Draft EA</b>	Kearns & West Facilitator
10:15 – 11:50 a.m.	<b>Public Comment</b>	
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Lisa Gilbane, BOEM
12:00 p.m.	<b><i>Adjourn Meeting</i></b>	

## B. Public Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Affiliated Group
Mike	Woods	W.F. Baird and Associates	Other
Jen	Ford	City of Morro Bay, City Councilmember	Government
Brian	Benito		Business/Industry
Mario	Cortez	Eureka Times-Standard	Press
Casey	MacLean	Rep. Jared Huffman	Government
Iars	Samuelsson	The American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)	Non-governmental organization
Jonah	Margulis	Aker Offshore Wind	Business/Industry
Scott	Willits	Redwood Infrared	Business/Industry
Delia	Kelly	ODFW	Government
Michael	Gerace	Yurok Tribe	Tribal/Indigenous
Laura	Casali		Government
Jenny	Vick	HDR	Business/Industry
Erica	Felins		Government
Jason	Pearce		
William	George	USCG	Government
Mary	Sanger	350 Humboldt	Community-Based Organization
Carrie	Andrews		Business/Industry
Carlaine	Johnson	SeaJay Environmental	Other
Adam	Canter	Wiyot Natural Resources Department	Tribal/Indigenous
Jim	Bennett	BOEM	Government
Nancy	Kirshner-Rodriguez	Business Network for offshore wind	Non-governmental organization
Rob	Holmlund	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	Government
Sharon	Kramer	H.T. Harvey & Associates	Business/Industry
Nancy	Diamond	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Jenny	Briot		Business/Industry
Cory	Barringhaus		Business/Industry
Arlene	Merems	ODFW	Government
Yelena	Nowak	Oregon Trawl Commission	Business/Industry
Hank	Sims	Lost Coast Communications	Press
Richard	Charter	Coastal Coordination Program, The Ocean Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Christopher	Potter	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Lane	Johnston		Non-governmental organization

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Affiliated Group
Adam	Stern	Offshore Wind California	Business/Industry
William	Standley	Bureau of Land Management, California Coastal Natl. Monument	Government
Jocelyn	Gwynn	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
John	Nakayama		Business/Industry
Margarita	McInnis	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Lena	Lee	NPS	Government
Lisa	Gentry		Government
Amy	Sparks	H. T. Harvey	Non-governmental organization
Robert	Collier	Cierco US Corp	Business/Industry
Jeff	Jahn	NOAA Fisheries	Government
Dan	McCulloch	Nor Cal Carpenters Union	Non-governmental organization
Cathy	Chandler-Klein	350humboldt	Community-Based Organization
Melodie	Meyer		Tribal/Indigenous
Mike	Okoniewski	West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group	Business/Industry
Mark	Gregory	USCG	Government
Victoria	Cornish	Marine Mammal Commission	Government
Mike	Olsen	Aker Offshore Wind USA LLC	Business/Industry
William	Matsubu	Wiyot Tribe	Business/Industry
Kristina	Kunkel	SCO	Government
Jacqueline	Moore	PMSA	Business/Industry
Daniel	Tangney		Community-Based Organization
Mike	Cullen	Aker Offshore Wind	Business/Industry
Torbjorn	Prestegard		Other
Kate	Kelly	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Susan	Chambers	West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Business/Industry
David	Stoms	California Energy Commission	Government
Colleen	Weiler	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	Non-governmental organization
Ciara	Emery	Rep. Jared Huffman	Government
Kori	Cordero	Yurok Tribe	Government
Elizabeth	Bradley	Tetra Tech	Business/Industry
Paula	Sola		
EJ	Marohn	Equinor Wind US	Business/Industry
Brian	Owens	Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Government

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Affiliated Group</b>
Sophie	Godfrey-McKee	NOAA	Government
Douglas	Boren		Government
Larry	Oetker		Government
Jeff	Beeson	NOAA PMEL	Government
Eddie	Ahn	Brightline	Community-Based Organization
Zach	Fuerst		Business/Industry
Daniel	Chandler		Non-governmental organization
Jessica	Govindu		
Brian	WHITE	KP Public Affairs	Business/Industry
Heather	Richards	E&E News	Press
Alden	Lundy	BOEM	Government
Crystal	D'Souza	CDFW	Government
Bryan	Sanderson	Anbaric Development Partners	Business/Industry
Maia	Cheli	Schatz Energy Research Center	Academia
Emily	Fan Michaelson		
Elizabeth	Greene	Anchor QEA, LLC	Other
Tamara	Baumberger	OSU and NOAA PMEL	Academia
Marianne	Bithell	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Travis	Hunter	Hunters Offshore Enterprises, Inc.	Business/Industry
Matthew	Marshall	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Jay	Staton	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Government
Robert	Stoddard	bp America, Inc.	Business/Industry
Jim	Lanard	Magellan Wind	Business/Industry
Sarah	Xu		Community-Based Organization

## C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses

Participants asked clarifying questions in the Zoom Q&A box after both presentations. Detailed descriptions of questions and responses are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

- **Question:** Will an attendees list be provided for today's event?
  - **Response:** Yes, they will be provided.
  
- **Question:** How many buoys will be installed during site assessment and characterization?
  - **Response:** We don't know until we get a site assessment plan. However, the Draft EA considers one per lease. There won't be more than three temporary installations. Trips that would be required to maintain the buoys and deploy them.
  
- **Question:** After reading the Draft EA on fisheries impacts, my first read is that the Humboldt WEA is not that important to our fisheries, although there seems to also be some of your literature to the contrary. What amount of impact to our fisheries would make you reconsider where you are siting this WEA? Are there any rules or guidelines on how to reconsider siting?
  - **Response:** We are not saying the lease area is unimportant to fisheries. There is no line on impact thresholds that would eliminate an area from leasing, it is a judgment call based on consideration of all potential resource impact and other uses. The siting decision is not based on fishing alone. The Draft EA looks at the impacts from the site and characterization level of impact to fisheries. If there is more information you would like us to consider, please submit via email.
  
- **Question:** How will the buoy mooring chains be released from the anchors that are 1,626' to 3,575' underwater during decommissioning?
  - **Response:** We don't have the answer right now. It would be necessary to get all the engineering information when we get a site assessment plan.
  
- **Question:** The webpage notes that the purpose of the Draft EA is to determine whether environmental impacts and socioeconomic impacts from leasing have been adequately analyzed. BOEM requests public comments on the adequacy of this environmental analysis. However, the Draft EA lacks sufficient detail of habitat, fish, and fisheries to determine if BOEM's analysis is adequate. Could you clarify how best to comment at this juncture?
  - **Response:** We tried to create a document that is appropriate based on the level of information available and decision making at this point. If commentors have additional information they would like to provide, especially regarding habitat, fish, and fisheries, it will be used in our process. The focus of the Draft EA is to discuss the impacts related to the proposed action and the Draft EA includes data relevant to our decision.



- **Question:** Approximately when will the "Final Sale of Notice" and "Auction" occur?
  - **Response:** The milestone for the Proposed Sale Notice, which precedes the Final Sale Notice, is Spring of 2022, and there will be a 60-day public comment period. The Final Sale Notice will be published shortly thereafter, around Summer of 2022. BOEM's target timeline for the auction is Fall of 2022.
  
- **Question:** Is there a breakdown of topics covered in the "other" category of public comment received from scoping?
  - **Response:** The EA provides a summary. We also post information online, including meeting summaries.

## D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity

The following comments were received during the meeting. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

Mike Okoniewski, West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group.

- **Comment:** The process is rushed, and fishermen are busy. BOEM should go to their communities and speak to them. Few people (highliners) in Eureka are aware of what is happening or have been approached. This reflects a lack of understanding of how important the processes are. This area is very important to fishermen. Fishermen are irate that they have not been approached or had the chance to get involved. BOEM's process seems homogenized, but fisheries are not homogenized. The current process is inadequate

Mary Sanger, 350 Humboldt.

- **Comment:** Due to the urgency of the climate crisis, the Draft EA is inadequate. These studies are an essential first step to understanding the potential environmental risks related to site development. Expressed appreciation for the no-action alternative, which refers to the risks of climate change, the history of Tribes and how they are integral to the development process. 350 Humboldt supports moving ahead with environmental assessment as laid out in BOEM's document.

Travis Hunter, Hunters Offshore Enterprises, Inc.

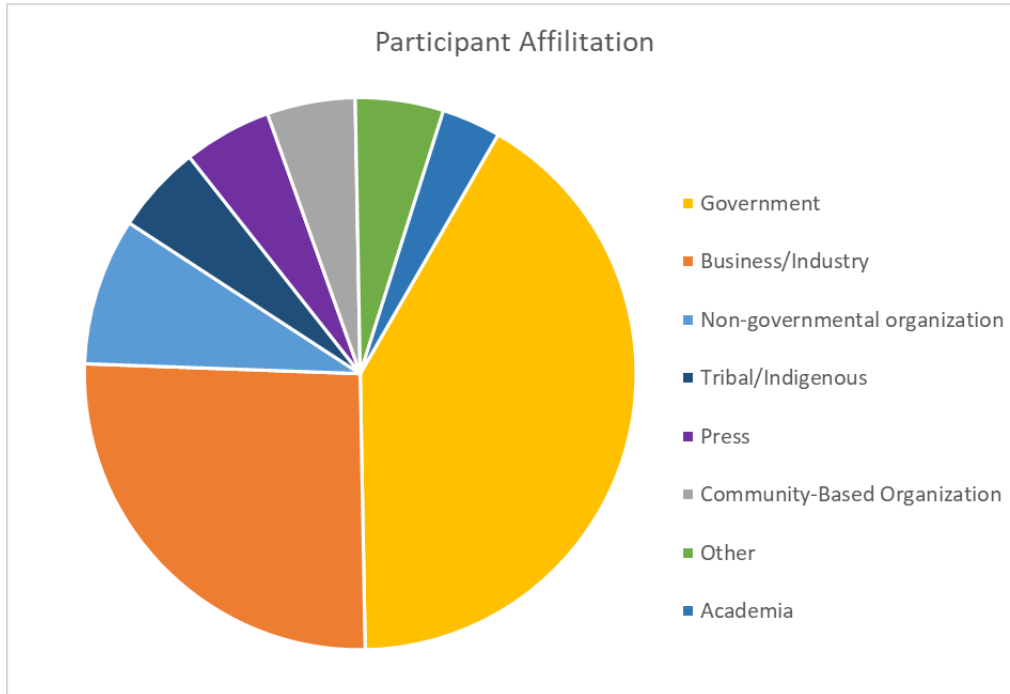
- **Comment:** The EA does not adequately highlight the importance of the fishing industry or how displaced the fishing industry would be from the call area. The Draft EA needs more discussion on transmission lines from the call area to the shore and how this will impact or displace fisherman. It's disappointing that the leasing process is so early in the process and takes place before establishing impacts to others using the area.

Dan McCulloch, Nor Cal Carpenters Union.

- **Comment:** Indicated support for development and asked that labor and skilled and trained workforce be considered.

## E. Poll Results

Participant Affiliation Pie Chart



Participant Affiliation Table

<b>Affiliated Group</b>	<b>Number</b>
Government	24
Business/Industry	15
Non-governmental organization	5
Tribal/Indigenous	3
Press	3
Community-Based Organization	3
Other	3
Academia	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>