

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

Meeting Summary June 4, 2020

I. Meeting in Brief

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened the eighth meeting of the BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force via webinar on June 4, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the draft BOEM Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Data Gathering and Engagement Plan.

The meeting included several presentations followed by discussions with members. Members shared input regarding the proposed approach to data gathering and engagement to shape offshore wind energy (OSW) planning in Oregon. Presentations and agenda topics included:

- Opening remarks by Doug Boren (BOEM Pacific Regional Office, Office of Strategic Resources, Regional Supervisor) and Jason Miner (Oregon Governor’s Office, Natural Resources Policy Director)
- Task Force member updates with a facilitated discussion by Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West, Senior Facilitator)
- Presentation on Data Gathering and Engagement Plan by Whitney Hauer (BOEM Pacific Regional Office, Office of Strategic Resources, Oregon Task Force Coordinator) and Andy Lanier (Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Marine Affairs Coordinator) with a facilitated discussion by Sylvia Ciborowski
- Summary of action items and next steps by Whitney Hauer
- Closing remarks by Doug Boren and Jason Miner

After the meeting adjourned, there was a public input session.

Action Items

Who	What
Task Force	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide written comments to BOEM (Whitney Hauer) on Data Gathering and Engagement Plan by June 11, 20202. Contact Land Conservation and Development (DLCD; Andy Lanier) to be included in the Data Catalog Review Group, if interested
BOEM and DLCD	Revise and finalize Data Gathering and Engagement Plan and distribute to Task Force in Summer 2020

All meeting materials, including the presentation, are posted on BOEM’s Oregon webpage, under Public Engagement: <https://www.boem.gov/Oregon>.

II. Key Discussion Points

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions and Agenda Review

It was acknowledged that the meeting postponement and transition to a webinar was in response to federal and state guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key members of agency leaderships provided opening remarks and welcomed the Task Force members and the public.

The speakers thanked participants for their patience with the change in meeting date and format and emphasized that they looked forward to meeting in-person. Since the last meeting in September 2019, BOEM and the State of Oregon formed a strong partnership for the OSW planning effort, as illustrated in the joint preparation of the draft Data Gathering and Engagement Plan, and they looked forward to the conversation with the Task Force and hearing from the public.

The meeting purpose was to:

- Provide an update by Task Force members on activities relevant to OSW, and
- Review and discuss the draft Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Data Gathering and Engagement Plan, which includes a plan for the Data Catalog and Data Visualization Tools.

2. Task Force Member Updates

Task Force members were invited to provide updates relevant to OSW planning efforts.

Federal updates

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):
 - NMFS is convening a core team regarding OSW across the West Coast region, including the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers.
 - NMFS held two OSW workshops in the Atlantic region and is working with BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) to ensure developers understand agency considerations regarding Essential Fish Habitat. The agency highlighted the need to develop a science framework to better understand impacts and encouraged developers to engage with NMFS early to address the One Federal Decision process timelines.
 - NOAA signed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with BOEM and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA). The aim is to avoid impacts to fisheries, protected species, and habitats. NOAA will continue to work cooperatively with BOEM throughout the planning process.
- Department of Energy (DOE):
 - DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) held a Floating Wind Technology 101 webinar in February 2020. The webinar is posted on BOEM's Oregon webpage and NREL's webpage.

- Multiple resources are also available on environmental impacts of offshore renewable energy. DOE is issuing a State of the Science Report relating to wave and tidal energy technologies.
- DOE issued a Request for Information for OSW environmental research and related technology needs over the next several years. Participants are encouraged to review and consider submitting information so DOE can consider the needs of the West Coast.
- BOEM:
 - BOEM Pacific Regional Office initiated the West Coast Renewable Energy Science Exchange webinar series in November 2019, with four webinars to date. The next webinar is scheduled for July 2020.
 - Several BOEM-funded studies have been completed since the last meeting and the handout detailing BOEM-funded research informing renewable energy offshore Oregon was included with the Task Force meeting materials.
 - The PacWave South Project is under review. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued the Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2020 and the 45-day comment period closes the week of June 8, 2020.
 - BOEM and the Governor’s Office received a letter from RODA, which was distributed to the Task Force in advance of the meeting.
- Department of Defense (DOD):
 - DOD is coordinating with national and local bases to provide a single representative voice for key issues and the agency shared examples of DOD activities occurring along the Oregon coast such as air-to-air operations and formation flight training to consider in OSW planning.

Tribal updates

- Coquille Indian Tribe:
 - The Tribe expressed interest in determining whether OSW can provide a sustainable and resilient energy future by finding existing data gaps and to conduct studies to address those gaps in order to have the upfront understanding of the effects on fisheries, whale migrations, and the overall ecosystem.
 - Tribal members participate in the Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network (OCEAN) to assist in learning about OSW development; OCEAN has initiated engagement with local communities and leaders.
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians:
 - Tribal members participate in OCEAN and through its advocacy, OSW and coastal energy security will be included in Oregon DOE’s 2020 Biennial Energy Report. OCEAN was also established as an actively engaged stakeholder at the Oregon Public Utility Commission’s capacity and distribution system planning dockets.

- The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and OCEAN were established as stakeholders for Oregon DOE’s renewable energy siting assessment project with respect to OSW and isolated frontline community energy perspectives.

Local government updates

- Curry County:
 - The County passed a resolution in support of clean, reliable, cost effective renewable energy from OSW. Curry County is in support of carbon free renewable energy sources, the opportunity for investment in local infrastructure and reliable jobs.
 - OSW is generating interest locally.

State government updates

- Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE):
 - ODOE, with DLCD, is in the early stages of the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) which will serve to raise awareness of renewable development compatibility needs and to understanding constraints and opportunities with gathering stakeholder input. It will also evaluate energy markets and the cost-competitiveness of OSW. The first assessment is an energy industry assessment and subsequent studies will assess natural resources and military impacts. Key deliverables will include an energy siting report and a mapping tool for the State.
- Oregon Governor’s Office:
 - In the absence of planning, developers could continue to be able make unsolicited lease requests to BOEM, which BOEM would consider on an individual basis. In September 2019, the Task Force asked the State of Oregon and BOEM to collaborate to develop a draft plan for engagement and data gathering. The purpose of the meeting this Task Force meeting was to discuss the draft plan which may result in potential OSW Call Areas.
 - After meeting with BOEM and DLCD in October 2019, and hearing public comment, the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) recommended that the State engage in the planning process and appoint a Council member to represent OPAC on the Task Force. Walter Chuck, a Port of Newport Commissioner, has since been added to the Task Force and can also represent OPAC.
 - Accordingly, the State committed to conduct a planning process with BOEM, with efforts that will include data gathering and meaningful public and stakeholder engagement. The State also recognizes comments that there should be more gathering of information about potential effects to fisheries and a complete, robust process to gather input from stakeholders and coastal communities.

3. Task Force Discussion

Participants responded to the updates from Task Force members as summarized below.

- Agency collaboration: BOEM is committed to coordinating with the State in the planning process, with a meaningful and effective data gathering and engagement process that results in informing the identification of a Call Area(s) appropriate for leasing.
- Involvement with fishing interests: Support for engaging fishing user groups at the front-end of the process.
- Engagement with Task Force, stakeholders and coastal communities: The OSW planning process will include early engagement with key stakeholders. The last Task Force meeting was held in Portland and it is important that Task Force meetings also be held in the areas along the coast where offshore wind will potentially occur. It is important that Task Force and in-person public meetings be held along the coast.

4. Presentation on Data Gathering and Engagement Plan

BOEM presented the draft Data Gathering and Engagement Plan (“the Plan”) and noted that the Plan was distributed to Task Force members in March 2020. The proposed planning effort is an opportunity to create an outreach and engagement process that is effective for Oregon and to inform OSW planning and leasing decisions offshore Oregon. Key elements of the Plan document include a map of the planning area, key messages, potentially interested parties, engagement activities (e.g., public meetings, webinars, conference calls, website/email updates, etc.), and a proposed timeline for engagement. BOEM acknowledged the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to in-person public meetings along the coast and BOEM would follow government guidelines for public gatherings. Given this challenge, BOEM encouraged input from Task Force members on the use of virtual meeting approaches. In addition to discussion and feedback during the Task Force meeting, BOEM invited written comments on the Plan by June 11, 2020. After incorporating feedback, the final Plan will be distributed to Task Force members in Summer 2020.

DLCD reviewed the agency’s role in the Statewide Planning Goal 19 as it relates to the stewardship in ocean resources as well as the proposed Ocean Data Catalog and Visualization Tool for OSW planning. The presentation reviewed guiding principles for the data catalog and mapping tool, the West Coast Ocean Data Portal, the OSW Data Catalog organizational plan and features, the draft mapping visualization tool, and the proposed approach to reviewing data. BOEM and DLCD plan to convene a Data Review Working Group to identify existing environmental information and uses. The outcomes will then inform OSW planning. DLCD requested Task Force members interested in participating with the data catalog to contact Andy Lanier directly.

5. Task Force Discussion

Task Force members shared feedback on the proposed Data Gathering and Engagement Plan as summarized below.

- Data review and identification: Members appreciated DLCD’s presentation and the approach to using existing data. Recommendations included outreach regarding fishing to extend the whole coast instead of focusing on Oregon’s south, central, or north coast due to the extent of the fishing fleet area. A member suggested developing and distributing a table of data needs and gaps as available resources are reviewed.
- Implementation approach: Conceptually the Plan was supported; however, it was noted that understanding the implementation and details of those meetings is essential. It is important to provide for meaningful engagement rather than just fulfilling outreach requirements.
- Identification of Call Areas: A Task Force member requested clarification on how Call Areas are identified. BOEM clarified that after data and information is gathered, BOEM, with full coordination with the State, would be responsible for the identification of Call Areas.
- Public meeting format: Members emphasized that face-to-face meetings with coastal communities are a priority and that virtual only meetings likely would not be a sufficient replacement for in-person engagement and feedback. They recognized that waiting to hold meetings until in-person large gatherings are possible may delay the implementation timeframe but felt such in-person meetings are necessary for successful engagement. Based on past meetings regarding the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan, Task Force members expected a high level of attendance and participation.

6. Summary of Action Items and Next Steps

Next steps identified during the meeting included:

- Task Force members should provide any additional written feedback on the Plan by June 11, 2020.
- BOEM and DLCD will work together to address feedback on the Plan and distribute a final Plan to Task Force members in Summer 2020.

7. Closing Remarks

Key members of agency leadership thanked Task Force members and public attendees for their participation and flexibility with the virtual meeting format. They noted that although the commitment has been made to move forward with OSW planning, there is a long process ahead to research and gather input to inform any potential OSW planning and leasing decisions offshore Oregon.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 am.

8. Public Input Opportunity

Members of the public were invited to provide input after the conclusion of the meeting and to complete a poll to identify their affiliation. Results of the poll are included below. Eight people

provided verbal comments and three people submitted written comment through the webinar chat pod. Key themes of comments are summarized below:

- Data gathering and engagement:
 - It was recommended to deploy a MetOcean buoy in advance of identifying a Call Area to collect data and information to inform the decision-making process.
 - There was a suggestion to include the North American Submarine Association as an interested party for OSW data gathering and ensure relevant data is shared with this industry to assist in reaching solutions.
 - There was a comment that outreach to commercial fisheries to date has not been sufficient. It is critical to provide opportunities for fishery interests to engage in OSW planning, including those who fish all along the Pacific Coast from California up to Canada (e.g., albacore fisheries). Future OSW renewable energy development efforts should not result in reduction to fishing.
- Planning process timeline and meeting format:
 - There was a suggestion to advance the planning process faster than currently proposed by starting with identifying a large Call Area and run a parallel process with the State. The initial Call Area could be reduced in size based on the outcomes of the planning process.
 - There was support for the recommendation from Task Force members to delay public meetings until in-person meetings are possible.
- Planning area: There was a suggestion to extend the proposed planning area to deeper water (beyond 1,300 meters) for OSW to avoid fishing areas.
- Task Force public input opportunities: There was a comment that the public should not have to wait until the meeting adjourns before providing comments. There was a request to allow opportunity for public written comment on the Plan, in addition to Task Force comments. BOEM clarified that the public could provide verbal comments during the meeting or written comments could be sent to Whitney Hauer directly.

Affiliation Poll Results

Meeting attendees were asked to complete a poll to identify their affiliations and the results are the following, in order of percent participation:

- Federal Agency: 23.1%
- Consulting Firm: 14.0%
- State Agency: 12.4%
- Offshore Wind Industry: 10.7%
- Ocean User (e.g. ports, fishing, tourism): 9.9%
- Tribal: 5.8%
- Other: 5.0%
- Elected Official: 4.1%
- Coastal Community/Group: 3.3%
- Interested Member of the Public: 3.3%
- Environmental Group: 3.3%
- Local Agency: 2.5%
- Academic/Research Organization: 2.5%