



## Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
**NEPA Humboldt WEA Scoping Meetings**

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*  
*9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. PT*

### I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted public scoping to inform the development of an Environmental Assessment on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA), located approximately 21 miles offshore from the city of Eureka in Humboldt County, California. During the 45-day scoping period, BOEM hosted two virtual public scoping meetings 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 public scoping period ended on September 13, 2021.

The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom platform. Participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, tribal nations, and local government. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the press. Approximately 98 participants combined attended the morning and evening meetings.

Recordings of the meetings and transcripts are available at the following link:  
<https://www.boem.gov/HumboldtEA>

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide information about the Humboldt WEA environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Humboldt WEA.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the Humboldt WEA Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the scoping process.

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. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West (K&W).

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Scoping Meeting Highlights
  - A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- B. Agenda Review
  - C. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Wind Energy Leasing in California
  - D. Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt County
  - E. Public – Clarifying Questions and Answers
  - F. Public Input Opportunity and Discussion
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  - C. Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses
  - D. Comments and Questions from the Public Input Opportunity
  - E. Poll Results from Both Meetings

## II. Scoping Meeting Highlights

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

#### 1. *Jenna Tourjé (9:00 a.m.) and Eric Poncelet (5:00 p.m.), Facilitators with Kearns & West*

Both meetings opened with a welcome to participants, followed by a summary of scoping meeting objectives and guidance on navigating the Zoom Webinar. The facilitators presented two polls for the participants: the first identified participant affiliations, and the second determined the number of participants planning to provide oral comment later in the meetings. See Appendix E for the polling results.

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

Rick Yarde presented on BOEM’s environmental assessment process. He explained the purpose of the scoping meeting and where it fits in the NEPA process for the Humboldt Environmental Assessment. He noted that BOEM is coordinating with the California Energy Commission and other California state agencies. He welcomed Tribal participants, thanked them for their continued participation, and introduced Sara Gultinan, BOEM Pacific’s Tribal liaison.

### B. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Wind Energy Leasing in California

This segment of the meeting communicated BOEM’s role in future renewable activities within the State of California, particularly related to BOEM’s Offshore Renewable Energy Program (OREP) and leasing process. This session also clarified the timing of this scoping meeting relative to the entire BOEM leasing process.

Jean Thurston-Keller, BOEM Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordination and Project Lead for BOEM’s Pacific Office, presented an overview of BOEM’s offshore wind energy development responsibilities, the leasing and environmental review processes, and the next steps for offshore wind energy development on the north coast. She described the current planning analysis phase and the publication of [the identification memo](#) in July 2021.

Ms. Thurston-Keller reiterated the amount of interagency coordination, regulatory processes, and stakeholder engagement and consultation that still must occur, noting that there will be another opportunity for a 60-day public comment period after the proposed sale notice that precedes the leasing phase. She explained that there are two areas that BOEM is considering for leasing: the Humboldt WEA and the Morro Bay Call Area, both of which will have their own environmental review processes. Ms. Thurston-Keller invited further questions on the BOEM California Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Process to be directed to herself at [jean.thurston-keller@boem.gov](mailto:jean.thurston-keller@boem.gov).

### C. Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt County

Rick Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific, presented on the Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt County. Mr. Yarde highlighted this scoping meeting as the first step in the environmental assessment process, detailed the type of public comment that BOEM hopes to gain in the scoping process, and pointed to some of the intergovernmental agency consultation that will occur during the environmental assessment through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, the Coastal Zone Management Act with the California Coastal Commission, the Endangered Species Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Mr. Rick Yarde explained the types of data that have been received, including relevant data on impacts to fisheries, fishing communities, viewsheds, noise, environmental, vessel traffic, and potential economic benefits. Mr. Yarde concluded his presentation by inviting participants to submit comments and to direct further questions to Lisa Gilbane at [Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov](mailto:Lisa.Gilbane@boem.gov).

### D. Public Clarifying Questions

Participating members of the public asked clarifying questions related to scoping for the environmental assessment on the Humboldt WEA. BOEM provided oral responses during a designated Public Clarifying Question session that covered such topics as:

- Size of the WEA.
- Sequence of steps in the BOEM leasing process.
- Competing uses.
- Avian impacts.

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

### E. Public Input Opportunity and Discussion

Ms. Tourje and Mr. Poncelet invited participants to provide oral public comment. A summary of the public comments organized by key themes is provided below.

- Climate crisis – Several participants acknowledged the need to divest from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emitting power sources to mitigate the climate emergency. They also requested that the process speed up due to the urgency of the climate crisis.
- Contracting – Participants mentioned the desire to contract with local, regional, or national developers instead of international companies.

- Research and impact analysis – Participants expressed the importance of conducting thorough and holistic studies that encompass enough baseline data to understand potential impacts to ecosystems and species, on and offshore. Attendees also expressed need to collect existing data on potential economic impacts.
- Tribal engagement – Participants mentioned the need to conduct more outreach to tribes.
- Support for offshore wind energy development – Several participants expressed their general support for offshore wind energy development in California.
- Collaboration and coordination – Participants highlighted the need to conduct the leasing process in such a way that stakeholders are not divided and fighting for their own interests, perhaps by following previous projects that fostered collaboration. Participants also mentioned the need to collaborate with other maritime uses by highlighting the work already being done with the Department of Defense (DoD).
- Transmission capacity – Participants inquired about the need to construct more transmission infrastructure and at what phase of BOEM’s planning process developers will be made aware of this so they can plan for it.
- The BOEM authorization process – Participants inquired whether BOEM would consider revising their process to gather more information on impacts before announcing lease sales to the public and to developers.
- Fisheries and fishing communities – Commenters noted the lack of existing data on Albacore fishing and the need to speak to fishing communities to adequately fill data gaps.
- Appreciation – Several comments expressed gratitude for the stakeholder involvement and engagement in this process.

Appendix D contains a more detailed accounting of the public comment provided.

## F. Overview of Action Items and Closing Remarks

Rick Yarde thanked participants for their time and comments provided. He encouraged participants to continue to submit further comments via mail and email. Mr. Yarde described the next steps in the Environmental Assessment process and explained that as soon as the draft Environmental Assessment is released in early 2022, the public again will have the opportunity to provide comment.

Ms. Tourje and Mr. Poncelet concluded the meetings by inviting participants to go to [boem.gov/HumboldtEA](https://boem.gov/HumboldtEA) to provide further public comment and to view recordings of the scoping meetings.

### III. Appendices

#### A. Agenda

## AGENDA

### BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar

#### Webinar Registration

August 24, 2021: 9:00 am – 12: 00 pm PST

Registration Link: [https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ntFdegn7QxmAIANyht8pcw](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ntFdegn7QxmAIANyht8pcw)

August 24, 2021: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm PST

Registration Link: [https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8oS9NnJ0SpSzwoe9miknnQ](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8oS9NnJ0SpSzwoe9miknnQ)

#### Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) environmental review process.
- Inform comments on the Humboldt Wind WEA.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the Humboldt (WEA) Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Answer questions related to the scoping process.

#### Agenda

Time (PT)	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:00 – 9:05 am 5:00 – 5:05 pm	<b>Webinar Instructions and Guidance</b>	Kearns & West, Facilitator
9:05 – 9:10 am 5:05 – 5:10 pm	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Rick Yarde, BOEM
9:10 – 9:20 am 5:10 – 5:20 pm	<b>Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in California</b>	Jean Thurston-Keller, Task Force Coordinator, BOEM
9:20 – 9:30 am 5:20 – 5:30 pm	<b>Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt County</b>	Rick Yarde, BOEM

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Time (PT)	Agenda Item	Presenter
<p>9:30 – 10:00 am 5:30 – 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Clarifying Scoping Process Questions</b> <i>Interested individuals will be provided an opportunity to ask clarifying question on the environmental scoping process.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will submit their questions via the Zoom Q&amp;A function. Relevant questions will be read aloud by the facilitator.</i></p>	
<p>10:00 – 11:50 am 6:00 – 7:50 pm</p> <p><i>(or until public comment ends)</i></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p><i>Participants may provide input verbally during the meeting by clicking the “raise hand” icon to enter the queue or dialing *9. Those who wish to provide verbal input will be given a 3-minute time amount. The queue of comments and questions will be moderated by the facilitator.</i></p>	
<p>11:50 – 12:00 pm 7:50 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks/ Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Rick Yarde, BOEM</p>

## B. Public Participant List

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Category</b>
Rafik	Albert	EPD Solutions, Inc.	Business/Industry
Alan	Alward	F/V Longfin	Community-Based Organization
Patricia	Angeles		Academia
Leonel	Arguello	Redwood National Park	Government
Jenna	Bader	Surfrider Humboldt	Community-Based Organization
Dylan	Bardin	Humboldt State University	Academia
Cory	Barringhaus	ESA	Business/Industry
Curt	Barry	IWP	Press
Claire	Behrens	AFRY Management Consulting	Business/Industry
Ari	Benkler	The Renewables Consulting Group	Business/Industry
Bense-Kang	Bense-Kang	Surfrider Foundation	Non-governmental organization
Nathan	Berg	USFWS	Government
William	Bertain	William G. Bertain	
Lori	Biondini	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Nathan	Bomysoad	TRMC	Government
Douglas	Boren	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Government
Tracy	Borneman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Government
Tammer	Botros	BP	Business/Industry
Marian	Brady	Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group	Community-Based Organization
Jenny	Briot		Business/Industry
Cole	Caldwell	USFWS	Government
Adam	Canter	Wiyot Natural Resources Department	Tribal/Indigenous
Emily	Capello		Other
Nicole	Capps	NOAA	Government
Jena	Carter		Non-governmental organization
Susan	Chambers	West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Business/Industry
Davin	Chan	CSL	Business/Industry

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Category</b>
Daniel	Chandler	NOT APPLICABLE	Community-Based Organization
Cathy	Chandler-Klein	350humboldt	Community-Based Organization
Grace	Chang	Integral Consulting Inc.	Business/Industry
Aideen	Chapman	American Clean Power Association	Non-governmental organization
Steve	Chung	DoD	Other
Andy	Colonna	IFR c	Business/Industry
Mike	Conroy	PCFFA	Other
Meghan	Cornelison	BOEM	Government
Amanda	Cousart		Government
mike	cullen	AOW	Business/Industry
Greg	Dale	Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District	Government
Mark	Danielson	California Energy Commission	Government
Doug	Davy	Jacobs	Business/Industry
Bill	Douros	NOAA Sanctuaries	Government
Richard	Engel	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Pamela	Flick	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Peter H	Flournoy	INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICES OF SAN DIEGO	Other
William	Foster	NOAA Fisheries	Government
Jana	Ganion	Blue Lake Rancheria	Tribal/Indigenous
Lisa	Gentry	BOEM	Government
Dakota	Gonzalez	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	Tribal/Indigenous
Lisa	Gover		
Robin	Gray-Stewart	Sierra Club	
Kerry	Griffin	Pacific Fishery Management Council	
Kerry	Griffin	PFMC	Government
Caroline	Griffith	Northcoast Environmental Center	Community-Based Organization
David	Grover	Trinidad City Council	Government
Jocelyn	Gwynn	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Eli	Harland		Government



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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Category</b>
Hideki	Hayashi		Business/Industry
Vivian	Helliwell	Institute for Fisheries Resources	Community-Based Organization
Edgar	Hildebrandt Rojo	UC Berkeley	Academia
Linda	Hillman	Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board	Government
Kristen	Hislop		Non-governmental organization
Travis	Hunter	Fishermen's Marketing Association	Business/Industry
Harrison	Ibach	Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association	Community-Based Organization
Jeff	Jahn	NOAA Fisheries	Government
William	Jasper	Makah Fisheries Management	Tribal/Indigenous
Keifer	Jennings	Ocean Winds	Business/Industry
Andy	Johnson		Non-governmental organization
Steven	Johnson	SUT-US	Other
Jennifer	Kalt	Humboldt Baykeeper	Community-Based Organization
Isabel	Kaubisch	EnBW	Business/Industry
Kate	Kelly	Defenders of Wildlife	Non-governmental organization
Delia	Kelly		Government
Erin	Kester	Avangrid Renewables, LLC	Business/Industry
Nancy	Kirshner Rodriguez	Business Network for Offshore Wind	Non-governmental organization
Nancy	Kirshner-Rodriguez	Business Network for Offshore Wind	Non-governmental organization
Christoph	Knop	EnBW AG	Business/Industry
Sharon	Kramer	H.T. Harvey & Associates	Other
Jennifer	Kraus	Tetra Tech, Inc.	Business/Industry
Andrew	Krieger	Advisian	Business/Industry
Emily	Kuhn	RCG	Business/Industry
Jim	Lanard	Magellan Wind	Business/Industry
Lena	Lee		Government
Chris	Lindsey	SLR International Corporation	Business/Industry

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Category</b>
Gerry	Madigan		
Gerard	Madigan	DoD	Government
Heather	Mann	midwater trawlers cooperative	Non-governmental organization
Matthew	Marshall	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Jennifer	Mattox		Government
KJ	May	OHD	Government
Chris	Mazur	DOD - TRMC	Government
Aoife	Mc Govern		Business/Industry
Margarita	McInnis	California State Lands Commission	Government
Arlene	Merems	ODFW	Government
Caroline	Mueller	Avangrid Renewables	Business/Industry
Mical	Nobel	Avangrid Renewables	Business/Industry
Kris	Ohleth		
Mike	Okoniewski	Pacific Seafood	Business/Industry
Mike	Olsen	Aker Offshore Wind	Business/Industry
Brian	Owens	CDFW no	Government
Anmol	Parande	UC Berkeley	Academia
Jason	Pearce	Carpenters Local 751	Other
Kimberly	Peterson		
Shane	Phillips	Moffatt & Nichol	Business/Industry
Carrie	Pomeroy	UC Santa Cruz	Academia
Jeremy	Potter		Government
Ted	Romo		Other
Mary	Sanger	350 Humboldt	Community-Based Organization
Steve	Scheiblaue		Non-governmental organization
Katie	Segal		Academia
Mark	Severy	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Other
Mike	Shaver	Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Tribal/Indigenous
Kelsey	Shebey		Other
Jason	Shi	BSEE	Government
Lori	Steele	West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Business/Industry
Nancy	Stephenson	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Brian	Stone	Crescent City Harbor	Government

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization/Agency</b>	<b>Category</b>
Vida	Strong	Aspen Environmental Group	Business/Industry
Necy	Sumait	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)	Government
Russell	Svec	Makah Tribe	Tribal/Indigenous
Lori	Taketa	Redwood Coast Energy Authority	Government
Nico	Turpin-Invernon		Business/Industry
Ross	Tyler	RWE	Business/Industry
Bill	Varney	CCA California	Community-Based Organization
Eileen	Verbeck	City of Arcata	Government
Jenny	Vick	HDR	Business/Industry
Neesh	Wells	Humboldt Area Foundation	Community-Based Organization
Brita	Woeck		Business/Industry
Sheri	Woo	RCEA	Government
Holly	Wyer	California Coastal Commission	Government
Vince		Commercial Fisherman, Dungeness crab taskforce (DCTF)	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, for both sessions, are listed below. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

### **Public Clarifying Questions and Oral Responses**

- *Question:* Could the results of the WEA environmental assessments result in a larger or smaller leased area?
  - *Response:* They could be a smaller subset of that wind energy area that's identified, but they would not, at this point, be larger than the wind energy area that BOEM is evaluating.
  
- *Question:* Why doesn't BOEM consider environmental and human uses or fisheries during the call area phase to help identify areas to avoid for wind energy development early in the process?
  - *Response:* We do consider other uses of the WEA like the ones identified in the question throughout the process. We will get finer detail as we go through the process.
  
- *Question:* How will the lease areas be chosen if the site assessment has not been completed?
  - *Response:* It is a long process, and we are considering the information that we acquire more throughout the process and get into finer detail. BOEM is at the stage of identifying areas for potential leasing, and that means that we continue our evaluation. And if we do lease, we have lessees that assist by gathering more detailed and more fine scale data for further analysis and evaluation.
  
- *Question:* When identifying areas right from the start, what other uses of the area are considered, if at all, apart from the capacity to generate electricity in the depth of water?
  - *Response:* BOEM underwent an extensive stakeholder outreach effort in order to identify areas that appear to be the most suitable for offshore wind energy development. We looked first at technical criteria such as how deep the water is. You can only go so deep with technology, down to about 1300 meters or so. And then we also looked into the wind resource potential. We looked at proximity to transmission substations and interconnection points, and we also looked at a lot of environmental data. We looked at proximity to shore, as we knew that viewshed is a large concern for California. We know from conversations with the fishermen that there's typically more fishing activity the closer you are to shore. So, the farther we could go offshore, the better for fishermen, overall. We also looked at vessel traffic from the maritime transportation industry, which has quite a lot of traffic offshore that a lot of people don't see. And then we also looked at military activities. We looked at a lot of things offshore--human uses, environmental concerns, and then also migratory sea birds and their patterns. We did not pick areas in a vacuum. We did a lot of work up front with a lot of conversations with people, and we used a lot of the data and information gathered through the offshore wind energy gateway to make those decisions. These are

science-based decisions, and with a lot of input from the public. A lot of that information you'll also see in the area identification memo that's published online at the [boem.gov/HumboldtEA](http://boem.gov/HumboldtEA) website.

- *Question:* Environmental and technical review takes place before plans and designs are submitted. This seems counterintuitive. How can a complete environmental and technical review of a project be performed before there is a project design and review?
  - *Response:* At the end of the site assessment and surveys, a developer will submit a construction and operations plan. BOEM will review that construction operation plan, and it could potentially take a year to determine whether the construction operations plan is complete and sufficient. In our regulations, we have a lot of detailed information that is required. Developers do a lot of site assessment survey work. If that is not complete or there are gaps, BOEM will make the developer go back in and redo those surveys. Mr. Yarde's group does a review to make sure that it has all the environmental information that BOEM is looking for. After it is approved and the construction and operations plan is complete, BOEM can begin our environmental review. Then we conduct our environmental review of that plan. It is important to reiterate that there is a point where BOEM has to review the plan to make sure it has all the information we need, both from a technical perspective which includes engineering, and environmental perspectives.
  
- *Question:* Wouldn't it be better to understand avian impacts now, before we get too far down the road? As I'm sure you may know, there are strict ramifications to commercial fishermen, including fishery closures, if a small number of a certain albatross, for instance, are taken. Why not consider that upfront versus later?
  - Response:* I want to say again that we've been engaged in the process of acquiring data for at least five years. This is a milestone in a larger process where, through the area Identification Memorandum, we basically have said that we have identified an area in Humboldt County that we think warrants further evaluation. We have been evaluating, and we have considered a lot of information. As time goes on, we acquire more information, and we get more input. And over time, we do further analysis at a finer scale. Ultimately, this environmental assessment is going to help refine and contribute to that further evaluation. The scope is about lease issuance and the things that happen immediately after lease issuance and site assessment characterization. These surveys gather a lot of information--oceanographic, climatological, and sea floor data. We are just getting more information about a site, so we are still in the evaluation phase. We will finish an EA, and if we issue a lease and do that site assessment and site characterization, the work will be done by the lessee at that point, bringing in more information. Ultimately, we will then move on to another round of further evaluation, where we will at that time have the benefit of a plan that includes information about a specific project, which we don't have now. So, this is a long answer, but we had so many questions about it I wanted to try to help everybody understand that my perspective on how this works is we are in a very long process where we evaluate and get finer information through time. Ultimately it will lead up to an evaluation of an actual project,

a construction and operation plan where we have more information. I do not mean to imply that we're not considering birds at this stage. But it is important to understand the interface with birds stemming from site surveys, as well we will consider now. It is very different from thinking about the interface of birds with a potential project-- construction and operations of a project—which is something we will evaluate later when we have information about the project, so just a different scale of analysis and a different specificity of information we'll have at different times.

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

The following comments were received during the August 24 meeting at the 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. session. These are intended for reference and are not intended to be verbatim.

1. *Comment:* The tribes have been the stewards of this area since time immemorial and are really concerned about the climate emergency. We want to do our part to help mitigate all these impacts that we're seeing from greenhouse gas and carbon pollution in the atmosphere. I think that it's going to be really important when looking at the environmental impacts of this project to factor in later on the companies that end up bidding for these leases. I think it would be really good to have caveats that help ensure that this is a national if not West Coast company, and also to factor in on what's actually going on offshore. I don't we have a real handle on what's going on 30 miles off the coast, and it's going to be really good that monitoring take into account all the marine activity, the biological activity, and the ecological systems and functions that are happening out in the call area, which is an important area for fishermen. And as the tribe wants to be involved as a community, we work to make this the best project that it can be with the least amount of impacts to biological systems, fishermen, the tribes' cultural resources, and any resources that that could be 30 miles offshore.
2. *Comment:* I'm a commercial fisherman from Fort Bragg California. I fished here off the coast of California with trawl gear for roughly 30 years. One thing I'd quickly like to point out is there's actually a fairly large reef area on the inside edge of your lease. I was wondering if you have checked in any potential impact to that large reef area. I was going to give you guys some grief on running cables and setting anchors and things like that. There also has been very little outreach to the tribal sector that I know of, which is troublesome. The other thing I'd like to comment on is potential impact to humpback whales and blue whales. I know the Dungeness crab fisheries has been under heavy scrutiny, with vertical lines in the water. I think that's something else that needs to be looked at. Also, the VMS data that you showed on the overlay; that reflects data that has been collected fairly recently. I'd like to point out that historically, there was a lot more trawl activity in that lease area, when the export market for hard heads or what they call thorny heads was a lot stronger market. Currently, that market for the last 10 years has not been that that good, but that doesn't mean it couldn't come back again. You hate to give up a lot of ground that you've historically fished on and actually made a lot of money there. I wanted to point that out too. I think you need to go back a little bit further when you're collecting your data.
3. *Comment:* I understand the sense of urgency is a little more prevalent than we thought. I'm just glad it seems like we're going to get a lot more stakeholder involvement and public participation. That's been needed in some of the projects that went along this process but didn't quite make it. So, I'm looking forward so that when we need to take a step back, we continue this educational process that we're all doing. That's about all I wanted to say right now. Basically, thank you for being here.
4. *Comment:* We as humanity and this community need this project. The planet needs this project, and it will be up to BOEM, and other leaders in the federal government and the state government, whether this project is done well with the lease area chosen based on the least impacts to the environment and to the people who rely on the ocean and the marine

environment. If not, it has the potential to divide the community into factions fighting for their interests as we have seen so many times in the past. I'm hoping that this process will be done as thoroughly as possible to avoid those types of divisions in our community.

5. *Comment:* What's the process for economic analysis on the fishing side? Does it include the processors, important industries, local government markets, and the entire community? Because these fishing communities are linked pretty closely and tightly with a lot of what happens on the water. The industry is more far reaching than what goes on in the water.
6. *Comment:* I wholeheartedly agree with the comments offered about moving forward in such a way that the divisions within the community are not inflamed. And that we can find ways of working together to address the urgency of the climate crisis.
7. *Comment:* How much information do you have on the behavior of electricity in the ocean from cables? And what happens if those cables or their installation are breached to the fish and biology in the ocean and to the marine mammals? And will areas that have cables running through them become closed to fishing, and would they be included in the closed areas that are being called for by the 30x30 movement to close 30% of the ocean and land for preservation? I understand from maps I've seen that there will be a substation that will be permanently anchored or placed, not floating, close to shore. And I'm interested in its effects on fishing areas. I agree with the people who want a full economic analysis to see what other sectors might be affected besides just the fishing itself. And I'm interested in how the leases are sited compared to the transmission capacity once it reaches shore. I know that the transmission capacity from Humboldt is very limited and would require huge construction of transmission cables. And then, if you're going to run a cable under the ocean far away from that transmission, how well does that hold up? Can there be a bond for cleanup for when these things wash ashore? We've had huge weather buoys, which are anchored offshore and supposed to stay there, come ashore because the ocean is very unforgiving here and moves things around quite a bit.
8. *Comment:* I've got a question, both in the context of environmental assessment and scoping, but looking more broadly towards the rest of the process. How is BOEM and to what extent is BOEM thinking about the need for more transmission capacity? Is that something that's part of the pre-construction scoping process so that there may be some clarity for developers about whether that's something coming down the pipeline or would that be something that gets assessed at the construction operations plan stage—the second NEPA process. I'm looking for any kind of clarity you might be able to offer in terms of prospects for more comprehensive transmission capacity in Humboldt County.
9. *Comment:* Is there any chance that BOEM would consider slightly revising their process so that they would have more information before they announce to the public and to developers the outlines of their prospective areas that would eventually be up for lease. None of the information that you've gathered in those three areas really tells you very much about other ocean users, and there's supposed to be information about existing uses in the ocean and how things can be worked out. I know you've done that a lot with the military. I don't know if you've done it with respect to cable areas and cable routes. I don't know if you've done it with respect to shipping routes, but it's pretty clear that the information you've had off the coast of California

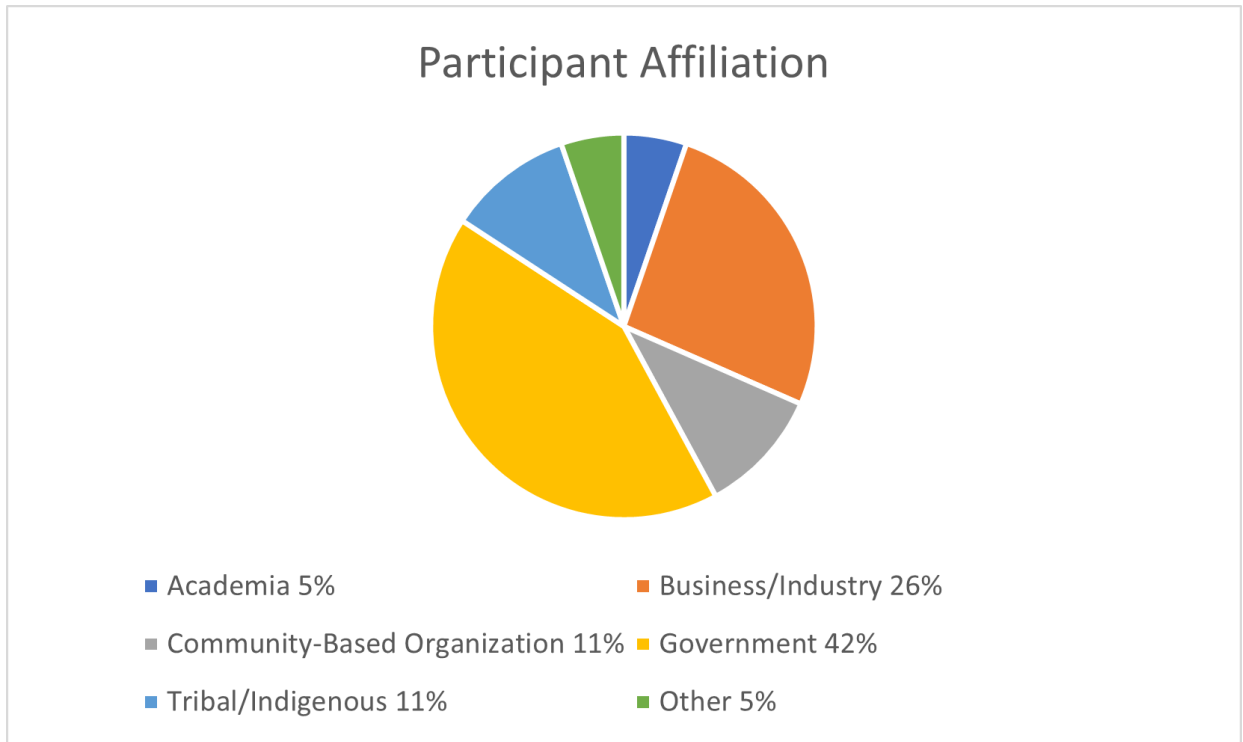


has basically been either quite old or quite inaccurate when it comes to commercial and sport fishing.

10. *Question:* I'm a little bit surprised at how long the schedules are before you can get first wind production. I'm seeing things such as the fires in California and Oregon, that have been on the news. I see flooding on the east coast. I see that the environment isn't being quite friendly towards us at the moment. I also read stories of California being short of energy, electricity, and the like. What are the ways of bringing forward your process in order that we can provide better energy for California that, in turn, would help alleviate or ease the problems with the environmental change we're seeing at the moment?
11. *Comment:* I'd like to call to the attention of the scoping session the migration patterns of the Pacific black brant and the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge out on the Aleutian Islands. They start the migration around October and wait until the winds that are favorable from the north to hitch a ride across 5,000 miles of open water, reaching their final destination down in Baja, Mexico. Some of these brant have been known to make this trip within 64 hours, but the majority of these brant take a slower trip. The big question is, what distance and what time of day are these brant cruising along our coastline, here in California? But suddenly an ordinary migration, which takes place over a period of six to seven months, takes about two days. I would ask your project to protect a small declining population over the proposed lifespan of your offshore project, which is 30 years to my understanding. Humboldt bay is a major stopping point for up to 40,000 migrating brant, that join here by instinct, and need to be considered as a viable species of concern. If brant are in the kill zone of this project, over a project lifetime of 30 years, brant population will be put in jeopardy. A comprehensive study needs to be completed. And it's just not even started yet because of COVID. It needs to be done over a period of no less than five years, five migration cycles, with northerly and southernly migrations studied. Probably close to 500 California-found migrating birds need to be captured and GPS tagged and monitored over this process This is a kind of a bird that's going to be a burden to you, but it's a very important bird. It's small, weighs about five pounds, and it needs to have our protection here in North Coast.
12. *Comment:* My concern is the lack of data on Albacore fishing. BOEM needs to get the Albacore data, and there are a couple of projects in the works now that gathering anecdotal information about fishing from old time Albacore fishermen. There was one kicked off at Humboldt and now Morro Bay. We've got another one going on to do that. I urge you to check all that out.

## E. Poll Results from Both Meetings

### Meeting 1.



### Meeting 2.

