

Outreach Summary Report Addendum

California Offshore Wind Energy Planning

Updated June 2021



Prepared by BOEM, through the Department of the Interior's Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution office, contracted with Kearns & West to develop this plan.



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1 Background	2
1.2 Impacts of COVID-19	4
2. Overview of Outreach Conducted from October 2018-December 2020.....	4
2.1 Outreach Activities	4
2.2 Call Areas	6
2.3 Multi-Agency Offshore Working Group (OWG) and the Additional Areas for Consideration	8
3. Outreach & Engagement Results.....	10
3.1 Tribal Governments.....	11
3.2 Coastal Communities.....	13
3.3 Fishing Communities	16
3.4 Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force.....	17



1. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the State of California (State) have continued to build on Tribal government and stakeholder outreach and engagement since the September 2018 update of the [Outreach Summary Report for California Offshore Wind \(OSW\) Energy Planning](#). This Addendum contains a summary of the tribal government and stakeholder engagement conducted between October 2018 and December 2020.

1.1 Background

From 2017-2018 BOEM and the State of California conducted extensive outreach to identify and collect relevant data and information on existing ocean resources and uses to inform a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for offshore wind leasing off California. In October 2018, BOEM published a Call for three areas off the California coast, two of which are offshore the Central Coast (the Morro Bay Call Area and the Diablo Canyon Call Area) and one offshore the North Coast (the Humboldt Call Area). Between October 2018 and December 2020, BOEM and the State continued to engage with and receive input from tribal governments, local, state, and federal agencies, stakeholders, and the public. During this timeframe, BOEM and the State focused outreach meetings exclusively on obtaining feedback on topics identified and discussed by the Central California Offshore Working Group, led by U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal.

Table 1: List of Outreach Activities and Meeting Participants

Participants	No. of Meetings
Tribal Governments	6
BOEM – California Intergovernmental Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force	1
Coastal Community	5
Fishing Community	2
TOTAL	14

The Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas were assessed as incompatible with wind energy development by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). On August 21, 2019, Congressman Salud Carbajal hosted a meeting with senior officials from DoD, BOEM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Sanctuaries), the California Energy Commission (CEC), and state and locally elected representatives to discuss a path toward finding a solution that accommodates a viable offshore wind industry on the Central Coast and meets the mission of DoD to test, train and operate.

At the August 21, 2019 meeting, Congressman Carbajal, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the State agreed to

participate in a series of meetings to identify solutions off the Central Coast. This ad-hoc Multi-Agency Offshore Working Group (Working Group) led by Congressman Carbajal’s office and comprised of DoD, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, Congressman Panetta’s office, and the State met multiple times following the August 21, 2019, meeting. This group proposed a suite of “Additional Areas for Consideration”.¹

In March 2020, BOEM and the State convened the third meeting of the BOEM California Intergovernmental Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force discussed several topics, including the status of BOEM’s leasing process, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)’s Strategic Plan and studies underway, comments received in response to BOEM’s Call for Information and Nominations in October 2018, the “Additional Areas for Consideration” discussed by the Offshore Working Group (OWG), and associated visual simulations. Other stakeholder engagement included meetings covering the Call Areas and the CEC’s Notice of Availability (NOA).

Key input from tribal government engagement meetings is summarized in Section 3.

1. A high-level overview of key input received from public and stakeholder engagement meetings is presented in Figure 1 below and explored in greater detail in Section 3 of this Addendum. Stakeholders that provided input included members of the local, state, and federal agencies on the Task Force and OWG; coastal communities; fishing representatives; environmental and renewable energy industry groups; and members of the public.

Figure 1: High-level overview of key input received from public and stakeholder engagement meetings.

- A variety of cross-sector stakeholders expressed interest in moving forward with the Humboldt and Morro Bay Call Areas for OSW development.
- Commercial fishermen were concerned about potential impacts to their current activities and long-term livelihood.
- The Department of Defense (DoD) was concerned with incompatible OSW development within military operational areas, and various stakeholders noted challenges related to DoD interests.
- Various stakeholders were concerned about environmental, visual, and noise impacts from OSW.
- Various stakeholders expressed concerns with maritime vessel traffic patterns and OSW.
- Elected officials and coastal communities were interested in both positive and negative economic impacts associated with development of OSW facilities.
- Various stakeholders expressed concern over unknown and potential increased wildlife, habitat, and visual impacts associated in particular with the Additional Areas for Consideration relative to the current Call Areas.

¹ Described in greater detail in Section 2.3 Multi-Agency Offshore Working Group and the Additional Areas for Consideration.

In response to stakeholder interest regarding visual impacts from potential renewable energy development, photographic simulations were prepared for the three Call Areas of Humboldt, Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon² and for the additional areas developed by the OWG.³ Key observation points (KOPs) were chosen to provide representative viewpoints for all three Call Areas and the additional areas developed by the OWG. All KOPs were located in coastal areas accessible by the public. A meteorological report detailing the weather and visibility conditions over a 10-year period was also prepared as part of these efforts. Photographic simulations were taken for the three Call Areas for morning, midday, afternoon, and nighttime. For the additional areas, a video of the simulation methodology and the results of the simulations was recorded for use in virtual outreach meetings and made available to the public for viewing any time on the BOEM website at <https://www.boem.gov/Julia-Pfeiffer-Burns-State-Park-Visualization-Video>. In addition, hard copies were provided during one of the coastal community meetings in Big Sur, CA.

1.2 Impacts of COVID-19

The State and BOEM have had to revise the approach to outreach consistent with the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local county orders to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Workshops and meetings were held remotely consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Opportunities were provided for the public to participate and observe all workshops (except for meetings with tribal governments) consistent with the direction in these Executive Orders.

2. Overview of Outreach Conducted from October 2018-December 2020

2.1 Outreach Activities

Between October 2018 and December 2020, the State and BOEM continued their usual public outreach approach and due to COVID-19 included online meetings, webinars, and briefings . These online meetings, webinars and in-person meetings—which involved local, state, and federal agencies, tribal governments, fishing community representatives, local coastal communities, academics and scientists, environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), renewable energy developers, and members of the public—are listed below in Table 2. Participation by sector (showing the percentage of participants from each sector) is summarized in Figure 2.

² Visual Simulations for the California Offshore Wind Energy Call Areas can be found here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/california-visual-simulation>

³ <https://www.boem.gov/Julia-Pfeiffer-Burns-State-Park-Visualization-Video>

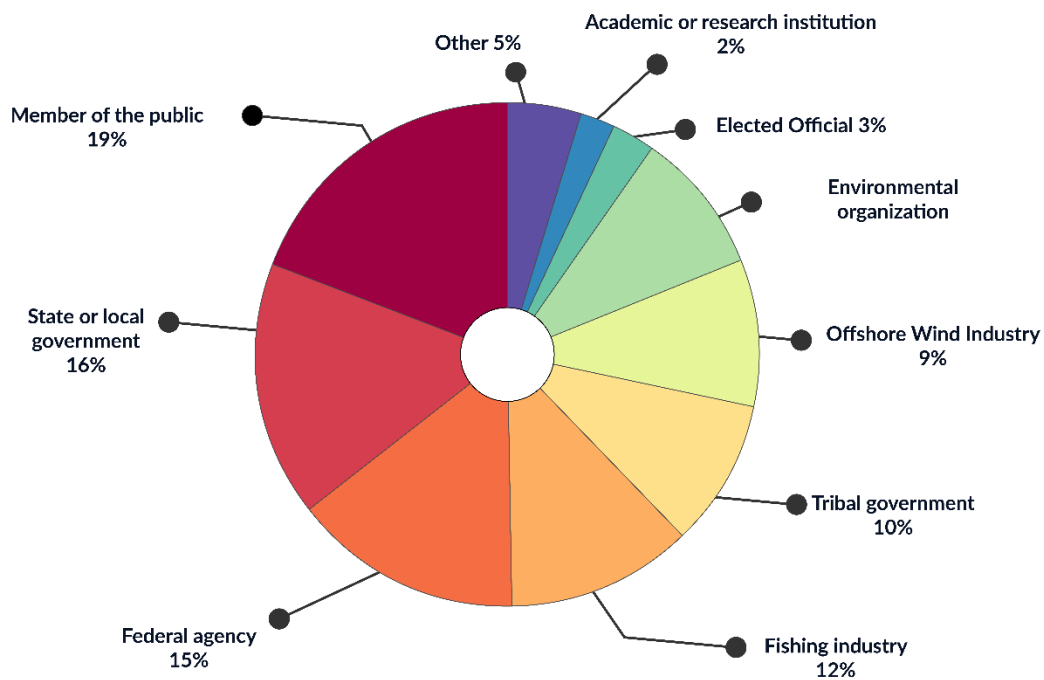
Table 2: List of outreach activities conducted from October 2018 to December 2020.

<p>BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 9, 2020
<p>California Tribes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Elders Council Section 106 Consultation Meeting – March 5, 2019 • Joint BOEM/Tribal Section 106 Consultation Webinar on Programmatic Agreement Development – May 14, 2019 • Wiyot Tribe Informational Meeting – February 4, 2020 • North Coast Offshore Wind Tribal Outreach Meeting – February 5, 2020 • All-Chumash Tribes Informational Online Meeting – June 15, 2020* • Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Elders Council Meeting – August 4, 2020
<p>Coastal Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Luis Obispo Public Meeting – December 13, 2018 • Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council – June 19, 2020* • Coastal Community and Statewide Public Workshop,⁴ July 1, 2020* • Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council Meeting – July 15, 2020* • State Agencies Update Meeting on Visualization Simulations – May 13, 2019
<p>Fishing Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC/OPC Fishing Meeting #1 – September 23, 2020* • CEC/OPC Fishing Meeting #2 – September 25, 2020* <p><i>*In response to the CEC Notice of Availability related to the Additional Areas for Consideration</i></p>

⁴ Coastal Community and Statewide Public Workshop Webpage can be found here: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2020-07/workshop-take-comment-additional-considerations-offshore-wind-energy-central>

Figure 2: BOEM CA Offshore Wind Energy Planning Outreach Participation by Sector
 Note: “other” category includes public call-in participants who did not note their affiliation

BOEM CA Offshore Wind Energy Planning Outreach
 Participation: October 2018—December 2020

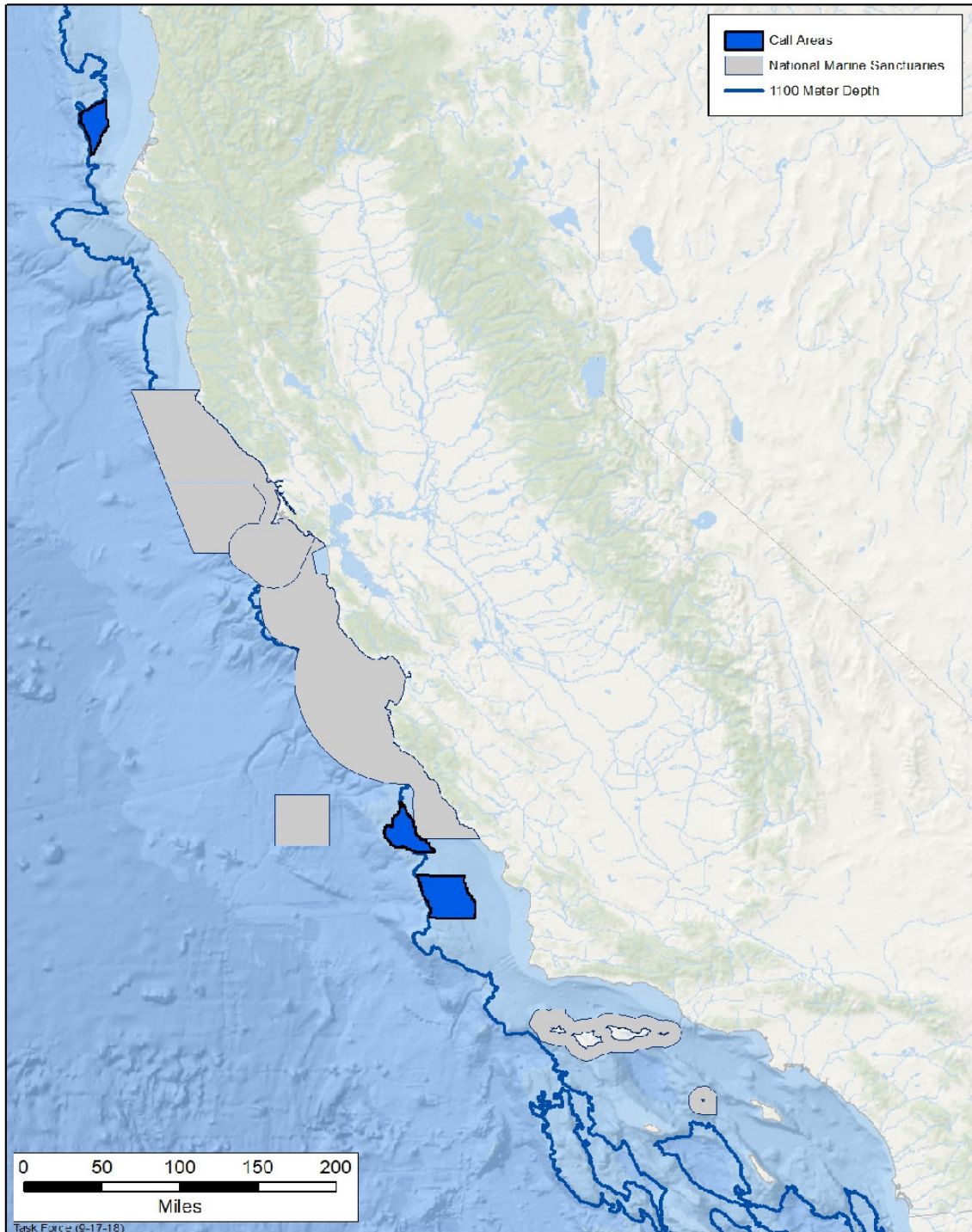


2.2 Call Areas

BOEM seeks to identify suitable areas for wind energy leasing consideration through collaborative, consultative, and analytical processes that engage stakeholders, multiple California Tribes, and state and federal government agencies. **Initial outreach efforts and stakeholder feedback guided BOEM to refine which areas offshore California appear the most suitable for OSW development. These areas were identified by BOEM as: Humboldt (located offshore northern California), Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon (both located offshore central California).**

Figure 3 below shows the Call Areas identified by BOEM in 2018. These Call Areas were also the primary focus of the outreach and engagement meetings conducted in late 2018 and much of 2019. BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations on the three Call Areas identified through BOEM’s outreach process on October 19, 2018 for a 100-day public comment period. BOEM received 118 public comments (www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2018-0045-0001/comment) and 14 nominations from interested developers (www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/nominations-0).

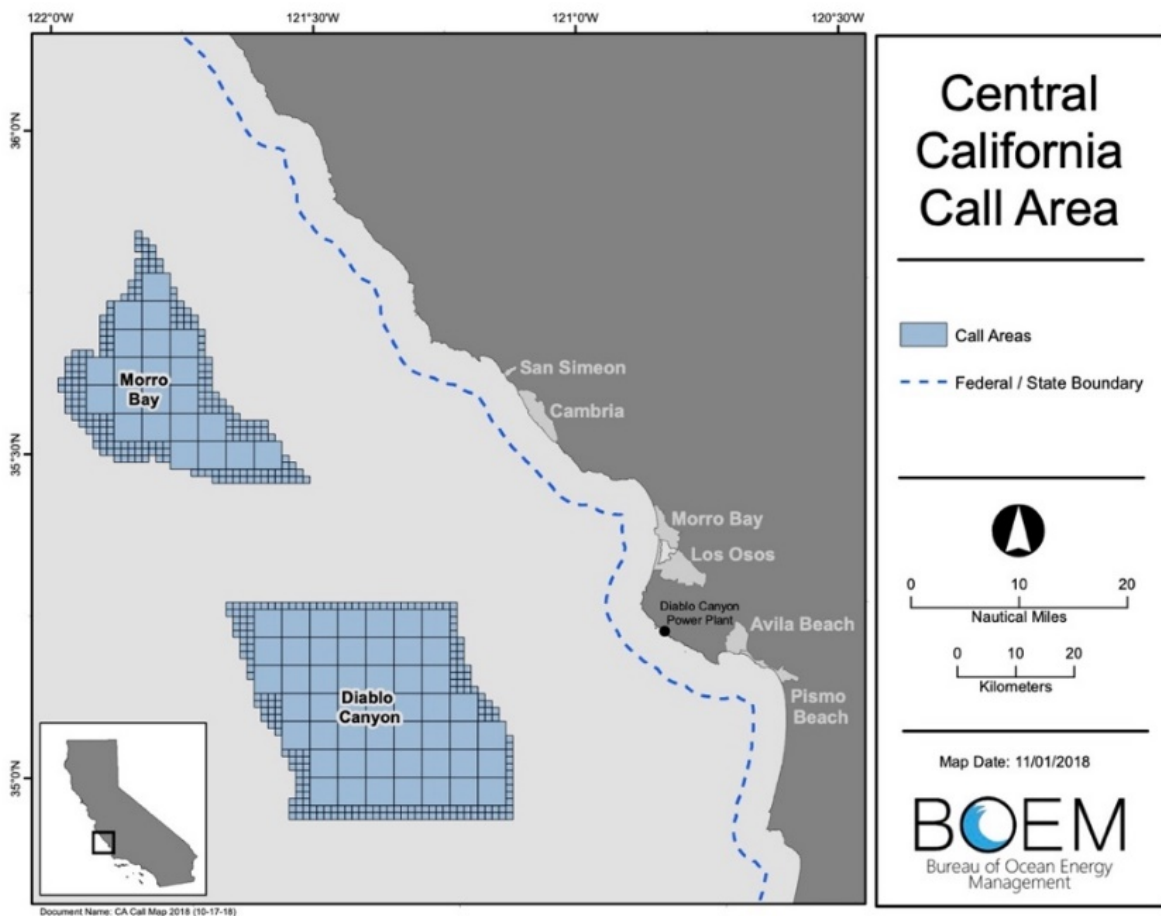
Figure 3: Map of the Call Areas for Wind Power Development



2.3 Multi-Agency Offshore Working Group (OWG) and the Additional Areas for Consideration

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) assessed that the two Call Areas offshore central California—Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas—were incompatible with wind energy development. The DoD noted that both call areas are located within Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)-designated offshore warning areas, established to warn aircraft of hazardous military activities being conducted in the area. The location of the Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas are shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 4: Map Of Central California Call Areas For Wind Power Development On The OCS Offshore California



On August 21, 2019, Congressman Salud Carbajal hosted a meeting with senior officials from the DoD, BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, CEC, and state and locally elected representatives to explore solutions that would both support the DoD’s mission to test, train and operate while at the same time accommodating a viable offshore wind industry on the Central Coast.

At the August 21, 2019 meeting, Congressman Carbajal, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, and representatives from BOEM, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the State agreed to participate in a series of meetings to identify solutions. The group led by Congressman Carbajal’s office and known as the Inter-Agency Offshore Working Group (Working Group) met multiple times following this initial meeting and identified potentially compatible areas, known as “Additional Areas for Consideration.” A brief description of these Additional Areas for Consideration is below; see Figure 5 for a map.

- The North area is approximately 149 square miles (starting at 15 miles from the coast) or 125 square miles (starting at 17 miles from the coast).
- The South area is approximately 90 square miles (starting at 15 miles from the coast) or 67 square miles (starting at 17 miles from the coast).

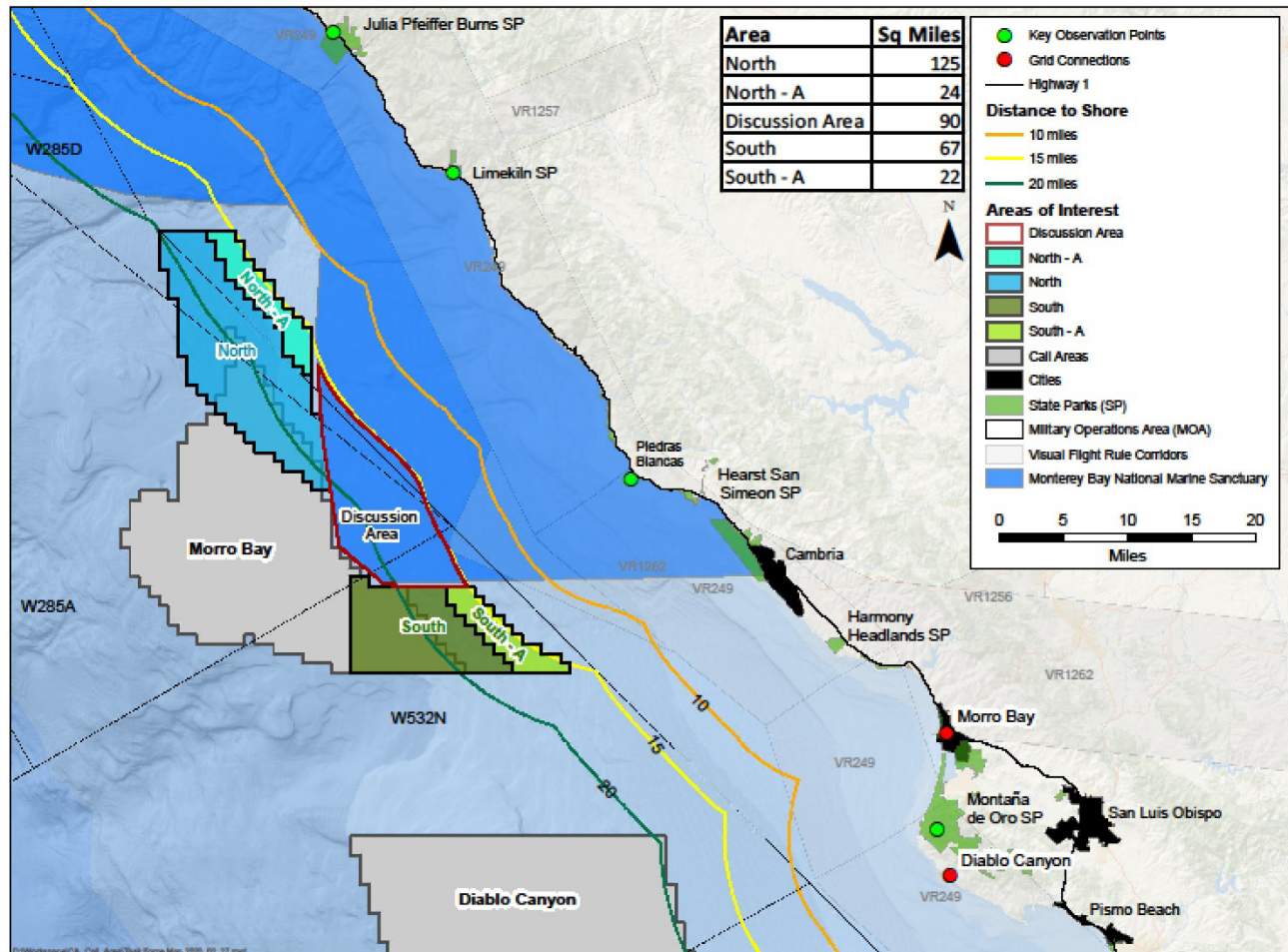
These Additional Areas for Consideration include North, North A, South, South A and an additional Discussion Area. The Discussion Area identified by the Working Group falls within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), and BOEM does not have authority to issue leases within a Sanctuary.

Beginning in 2020, BOEM and the CEC collaborated with OWG members to conduct outreach activities to collect input on these Additional Areas for Consideration. Outreach activities included the March 20, 2020 Task Force meeting, informational presentations to the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council and MBNMS Advisory Council, All-Chumash Tribes Informational Online Meeting, CEC/OPC Fishing Meetings, and the **Statewide Coastal Public Workshop Webinar in July 2020.**

On February 7, 2020 the CEC issued a [Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of California](#) (NOA), which announced the availability of a summary of next steps to consider offshore wind opportunities off the Central Coast of California. In May 2020, a notice went out to announce the pivot to remote-only, and on July 4, 2020, the CEC updated the NOA to reflect a new approach to public outreach consistent with the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health and local county orders to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. A 90-day public comment period followed the CEC’s NOA, resulting in further information gathering and an extended opportunity for stakeholder public engagement on the Additional Areas for Consideration identified by the Working Group. Comments on the Call Areas, along with other aspects of offshore wind beyond the additional areas, were also accepted.

Figure 5: Map of the Call Areas and the Additional Areas for Consideration identified by the Multi-Agency Offshore Working Group

Central California Areas of Interest



3. Outreach & Engagement Results

Stakeholder outreach and engagement activities conducted by the State and BOEM have prompted a variety of concerns, questions, and recommendations regarding developing OSW for California. **Concerns focused on potential negative impacts on existing ocean uses (e.g., commercial fishing, military operations, environmental and cultural resources, maritime vessel traffic, and coastal parks and tourism).** Questions encompassed requests for additional information about the mix of California’s energy portfolio, how floating OSW facilities support the State in reducing the effects of climate change, how BOEM’s OSW leasing and approval process works and is impacted by consideration of the Additional Areas for Consideration proposed by the OWG, and who makes decisions and has regulatory oversight of OSW facilities. Recommendations included both support for and opposition to leasing in the Additional areas.

This section summarizes key input received in outreach and engagement activities over the two-year period from October 2018 through December 2020 with California Tribal Governments, coastal communities, fishing communities, and local, state, and federal agencies via the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force and meetings held during this period

3.1 Tribal Governments

Engagement with Tribal governments between October 2018 and December 2020 occurred as bi-lateral meetings between BOEM and individual Tribes; as joint meetings among the CEC other State agencies, BOEM, and Tribes on the North Coast and Central Coast; and as a multi-Tribe Section 106 consultation webinar with BOEM. Input received during several Tribal meetings included expressions of key interests, concerns, and recommendations for OSW development in California. These topics as well as other key meeting outcomes are described in greater detail below.

Key Meeting Outcomes

- ***Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI)***: Representatives of the SYBCI Elders Council and Tribal Government raised questions about the possibility of additional BOEM Call Areas, coordination with the Department of Defense, protection of artifacts and cultural resources that are diminishing with time, and Section 106 contractors. Tribal representatives discussed the cultural importance of areas in and near the Central Coast Call Area, describing them as sacred sites.
- ***Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs)***: THPOs and other Tribal representatives from eight Tribes participated in a joint BOEM/Tribal Section 106 consultation webinar and subsequent discussions. Participating Tribes included: Blue Lake Rancheria; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; Elk Valley Rancheria; Federated Tribes of Graton Rancheria; Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians; Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians; and Yurok Tribe. THPOs and Tribal representatives raised questions about BOEM and lessee protocols for identifying and protecting historic properties and submerged Native American sites and artifacts, mitigation of cultural and religious impacts from OSW activities, the intersections between Section 106 and NEPA, and Section 106 consultants.
- ***Wiyot Tribe***: Wiyot Tribal representatives shared the importance of addressing climate change, transitioning to renewable energy and away from fossil fuels, and protecting water. Leaders raised the point that Wiyot lands “stretch as far as the eye can see, including the [Humboldt] Call Area” and expressed interest in a Wiyot-owned renewable energy facility and local transmission upgrades. Tribal representatives raised questions about the BOEM leasing process and timeline, the potential turbine capacity of the Humboldt Call Area, and any required permits from the Federal Aviation Administration. Wiyot support for OSW is contingent upon full environmental and cultural resources impact assessment and review. The Wiyot want to fully understand how OSW could affect the marine environment and all of the species that depend upon the proposed Humboldt Call Area, and for the project to mitigate for any impacts from OSW to the fullest extent possible.
- ***North Coast Tribes***: Representatives of eight Tribal governments on the North Coast raised questions on how many leases might fit in the Humboldt Call Area, the use of the Humboldt Port for OSW assembly, and the cost of associated transmission upgrades. North Coast meeting participants expressed interest in resilience benefits of OSW and transmission upgrades.

- **Chumash Tribes:** Representatives from six Chumash Tribes participated in an All-Chumash Tribes Informational Online Meeting: Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians; Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians; Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation; Northern Chumash Tribal Council; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians; and yak tit^yu tit^yu yak tilhini - Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region. Chumash Tribal representatives raised questions on the protection of sacred spaces in the ocean, the factors considered in identifying the Central Coast Call Areas, how many turbines could be expected in a Call Area, potential conflicts between OSW development on the Central Coast and the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and potential hazardous materials from OSW platforms. Chumash Tribal representatives raised specific concerns about what happens when the OSW electrical cable reaches the shore (i.e., possible trenching, new electrical substations, new transmission towers) and associated impacts to Chumash homelands and significant cultural resources. The existing infrastructure at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant was suggested as a solution for minimizing onshore impacts. Representatives expressed general unfamiliarity with floating OSW technologies and desire for additional educational opportunities and information about their operation, experiences in other locations, potential impacts, and decommissioning.

Key Interests, Concerns, and Recommendations

- Tribal representatives raised concerns about environmental and cultural resource impacts throughout the entire lifetime of OSW development from leasing to construction to decommissioning.
- Tribal representatives are interested in alternative renewable energy sources, including experimental turbines with no blades, solar (photovoltaic), and wave energy.
- Tribal representatives expressed the desire to be adequately informed of and involved in the BOEM leasing process. They requested early participation in the decision-making process to ensure meaningful engagement and impact.
- Tribal representatives recommended avoidance of tribal cultural resources.
- Tribal representatives are interested in understanding the long-term consequences of OSW projects, including how they could affect future generations of tribal members.
- Tribal representatives raised concerns about removing earth from the ocean floor, as it may disrupt or damage submerged cultural resources.
- Tribal representatives raised concerns about impacts and disruption to marine species from sonar surveys, particularly during migration periods.
- THPOs shared that paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the seabed in the Area of Potential Effect and associated data will be important to Tribes.
- THPOs recommended early historic property identification efforts with Tribes and that working relationships between BOEM lessees and Tribes be established upfront.
- SYBCI representatives requested more research on Morro Rock as a Tribal Cultural Landscape.
- Wiyot Tribal representatives expressed support for the unsolicited lease request submitted by the Redwood Coast Energy Authority in the Humboldt Call Area.
- Wiyot Tribal representatives want to fully understand how OSW could affect the marine environment and associated dependent species.
- Tribal representatives recommended that BOEM and partner agencies engage local expertise in delineating lease areas and in environmental reviews.
- Tribal representatives recommended that non-monetary factors such as community benefits be considered in BOEM lease auctions and inquired about the most effective way to provide that input.

- Tribal representatives flagged the role of non-federally recognized Tribes in BOEM and State processes and highlighted that most Chumash Tribes do not have federal recognition status.
- Chumash Tribal representatives expressed concern about onshore impacts of OSW projects such as cable trenching and any new transmission substations, towers, or lines, and associated impacts to Chumash homelands and significant cultural resources.
- Chumash Tribal representatives suggested that the existing industrial and transmission infrastructure at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant near Avila Beach, CA could be used to connect OSW to the electrical grid and minimize onshore impacts. The Diablo Canyon Power Plant is scheduled for decommissioning starting in 2024-2025.
- Chumash Tribal representatives recommended that additional educational opportunities be offered on floating OSW technologies, their operation, experiences in other locations, potential impacts, and decommissioning.

3.2 Coastal Communities

Frequent comments received in outreach meetings with coastal communities focused on: the potential impacts on existing ocean uses, the decision-making process and timeline, the Humboldt Call Area and additional area recommendations for leasing on the central coast, regulatory jurisdictions, and California’s regulatory portfolio. Each of these topics is described in greater detail below. The following section includes comments from public meetings, the CEC Workshop, and comments from the CEC’s [Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind Energy off the Central Coast of California](#).

Potential Impacts on Existing Ocean Uses

- **Noise Pollution and Vibration:** Stakeholders raised concerns regarding potential impacts from noise and vibration on wildlife and the environment, specifically from construction, operation, and maintenance of the wind turbines, support vessels, and other noise affecting fish and wildlife behavior.
- **Visual Impacts:** Environmental NGOs and local stakeholders raised concerns regarding the visual impacts of the turbines—both their presence on the horizon during the day and the light beams at night. Local stakeholders had questions about how turbine visibility might affect tourism. These concerns were concentrated along the Central Coast, specifically in and around the MBNMS, Highway 1, and Big Sur. Stakeholders raised concerns that the closer proximity of the Additional Areas for Consideration to the coastline will yield greater visual impacts than the original Call Areas, specifically around tourist hotspots like Hearst Castle and Key Observation Points (KOPs).
- **Fishing Industry Conflicts:** Stakeholders among the fishing community raised a variety of concerns. Some worried that the placement of the Additional Areas for Consideration coincided with regions high in biodiversity and commercial fishing activity. Here, some commercial fishermen were concerned over the potential reduction in available fishing grounds that development in the Additional Areas for Consideration would bring in addition to restrictions currently posed by existing Central Coast marine protected areas (MPAs). Others mentioned that the Additional Areas for Consideration require further analysis to understand the full impact, while still others maintained that the areas may pose a larger adverse impact on the fishing industry than BOEM’s proposed Call Areas.

- **Department of Defense:** The Department of Defense (DoD) conducts offshore testing, training, and operations within all or portions of the Call Areas. DoD continues to collaborate with State, Federal, and interested stakeholder to determine if any of the areas previously identified as incompatible in the Morro Bay Call Area may be identified as compatible after further analyses. The Diablo Canyon area is heavily utilized by multiple DoD components; based upon current and future expected use, wind development in that area would significantly affect military training, testing, and operations and pose a serious national security risk. The Humboldt Call Area on the north coast is currently designated as “Site-Specific Stipulations” by DoD, and projects in this area may require additional mitigation measures to be compatible with DoD missions.
- **Economic Impacts:** Coastal community members raised concerns about the potential economic impact to local communities, especially those reliant on fishing and tourism as a main source of income. At the same time, OSW industry and State agency representatives suggested that coastal communities may see a boost in job growth, specifically in the areas of construction, operations, and maintenance, over the next decade due to OSW projects.
- **Vessel Traffic Conflicts:** Stakeholders raised questions about the prospect of increased vessel traffic conflicts due to the closer proximity of Additional Areas for Consideration to commercial fishing activity. Some participants had concerns about the placement of buoys and associated navigational conflicts.

Decision-Making Process and Timeline

- **Leasing Timeline:** Stakeholders raised concerns that the Additional Areas for Consideration may warrant BOEM to issue a new Call for Information and Nominations in the Federal Register, which could impact the current BOEM leasing timeline for California. Some stakeholder expressed support for the existing Call Areas to avoid a new Call process.
- **Multiple Lease Winners:** Some OSW industry representatives recommended allowing multiple, separate winners of leases. These industry representatives posited that the Morro Bay Call Area can be converted into a multi-array pre-commercial project proposition of multiple leases to curb the negative effects of winners who may otherwise hold off on development.
- **Issues of Scale:** Multiple OSW industry and environmental NGO representatives recommended larger OSW farm areas to support a viable commercial-scale renewable energy source. These participants stated that current maps provided an “inadequate scale” for reaching California’s climate goals based on the sizes of proposed areas for OSW farms. Alternatively, other local stakeholders and commercial fishermen expressed that the proposed wind farms were too large and instead called for smaller size “pilot” projects.

BOEM Call Area Recommendations

- **Humboldt Call Area:** A range of industry representatives, environmental NGOs, and local stakeholders recommended moving forward with the existing Humboldt Call Area for leasing in 2021. Stakeholders expressed interest in learning more about progress made by BOEM and the State relating to the Humboldt Call Area, especially given the North Coast’s high wind energy potential, upcoming transmission and port upgrades, and lack of conflict with DoD operations
- **Morro Bay Call Area:** Many OSW industry and environmental NGO representatives recommended moving forward with the Morro Bay Call Area with auctioned leases being roughly 100 to 120 sq. miles in the Central Coast region.

Additional Areas for Consideration Recommendations

- **Additional Areas for Consideration:** Central Coast stakeholders from the commercial fishing and coastal communities raised concerns over the greater impacts that the Additional Areas for Consideration may pose relative to the original Morro Bay Call Area. Commercial fishermen cited conflicts with productive fishing grounds located within the Additional Areas for Consideration, while other coastal community members noted potential environmental impacts associated with greater marine mammal densities closer to the coast.
- **Additional Areas for Consideration North/North A:** The Department of Defense concluded that Area North and North A (Figure 5 above) could be compatible with military operations with a stipulation to incorporate long term protections. Stakeholders expressed concern that the Additional Areas for Consideration North and North A include regions high in biodiversity and commercial fishing activity. Stakeholders in the commercial fishing community were concerned that OSW development in the North and North A regions may limit access to Sablefish and other federally managed groundfish species and reduce commercial fishing activity. Some stakeholders raised the idea of community-benefit agreements with the fishing community to offset the reductions in commercial fishing activity. Some stakeholders noted that mitigations are a key consideration for local leaders and developers. Some fishing industry stakeholders expressed support for securing mitigation agreements and memorandums of understanding between fishing communities and OSW developers.
- **Additional Areas for Consideration Adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBSMS):** Multiple stakeholders, including the MBSMS Advisory Council, expressed concern about the sections of the Additional Areas for Consideration adjacent to the MBNMS. Specific concerns included setting a precedent for allowing offshore wind in other marine sanctuaries, potential impacts due to noise pollution and vibration that can travel into the Sanctuary, and artificial biome creation in and around the Additional Areas for Consideration, which might attract marine mammals. Lastly, some stakeholders raised concerns over potential impacts to seabirds attracted to the artificial biomes and migratory species around the MBNMS.

Regulatory Jurisdiction

- **Clarity on State Agency Roles in Leasing and Regulating OSW:** Stakeholders raised questions about the regulatory roles of different State agencies. One question concerned how the CEC, State Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and OPC will each play a role in the OSW process. Several stakeholders were interested in understanding who might regulate the industry and development of OSW directly, and whether a new oversight board might be appropriate in the absence of a regulatory authority.

California's Energy Portfolio

- **Climate Change Reduction:** Multiple stakeholder constituencies expressed general support for the role of OSW in reducing the impacts of climate change and reaching a carbon-free energy grid in California. A wide range of stakeholders emphasized that moving to OSW will help to mitigate the effects of climate change and bring relief to frontline communities bearing the greatest impact.

3.3 Fishing Communities

Frequent comments received in outreach meetings with fishing industry representatives focused on: the potential impacts on the commercial fishing industry, regulatory jurisdiction, incorporation of fishing data, and California's energy portfolio. Each of these topics is described in greater detail below. The following section includes comments from the CEC/OPC public meetings and responses to the CEC's Notice of Availability.

Potential Impacts on the Commercial Fishing Industry

- **Fishing Grounds and Economic Impacts:** Stakeholders raised concerns over the unknown and potentially negative impacts to habitats, marine biodiversity, and the fishing industry posed by OSW development in the Additional Areas for Consideration. They were also worried about potential adverse economic and lifestyle impacts from hardships due to loss of productive fishing grounds as cables, turbines, and other structures pose potential closures of otherwise productive fishing grounds. Fishing community representatives maintained that the development of OSW farms in the Additional Areas for Consideration could limit fishing areas to a <10-mile corridor due to the larger proposed wind farm size and proximal location to shore and MPAs. Fishing representatives recommended that developers engage directly with the fishing industry should they pursue opportunities in the Additional Areas for Consideration.
- **Noise Pollution and Vibration:** Stakeholders raised concerns over noise pollution and vibration from support vessels; construction, operation, and maintenance of the wind turbines; and other noise affecting fish and wildlife behavior.
- **Habitat and Wildlife Impacts:** Stakeholders raised concerns over the potential for fish and wildlife behavioral changes and detrimental impacts to ecosystems in and around the OSW project areas. Some stakeholders raised concerns over the impact of underwater cables on migratory marine mammals and potential damage to the ocean floor. Some commercial fisherman were concerned over the potential and unknown impacts of power cables, including electromagnetic field and electrical leak effects, on the commercial albacore and salmon populations. They were worried about the lack of information on the effects of cables on migratory fish species and any potential changes in behavior due to midwater cables creating artificial biomes, or the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) effect.
- **Navigation Conflicts:** Stakeholders raised navigational concerns associated with OSW development, including risks related to: increased vessel traffic, gear entanglement, potential collisions with turbines, radar dysfunction, ocean industrialization, and obstacles to fishermen due to cable and buoy placement.
- **Ports and Harbors:** Stakeholders raised concerns over vessel traffic and congestion at and around key ports and harbors on the Central Coast, specifically with the Santa Barbara Harbor and the Port of Morro Bay. Participants raised questions about the potential need for upgrades and expansions of these smaller coastal ports and harbors to accommodate these changes. Stakeholders also raised concerns over potential impacts on infrastructure, port and land-based storage, loading and unloading congestion, and associated negative impacts on local communities.

Regulatory Jurisdiction

- **Agency Role:** Stakeholders requested greater clarity around the role and jurisdiction of different governmental agencies on OSW development, construction, and operation; the protection of environmental resources; and the regulation of the OSW industry itself. Main concerns included regulating the environmental effects of OSW on local habitats and ecosystems and understanding how the California Coastal Commission and OPC will each play a role in the OSW process.

Incorporation of Fishing Data

- **Consult with Other Agencies:** Many commercial fishermen welcomed the opportunity to engage with BOEM and the State to identify a path forward to renewable energy off the California coast and would like to be included in the future planning and decision-making process. They also recommended that BOEM and the State incorporate existing fishing data into the decision-making process. They further recommended consulting with other key agencies, such as the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) for information on where fisheries exist.

California's Energy Portfolio

- **Clarification Around Renewable Energy Options:** Some stakeholders raised questions about the future outlook of OSW and its associated costs, and how renewable energy technology is changing and adapting to reduce its environmental impact. Some stakeholders asked about increasing the deployment of other offshore and on-land renewable energy alternatives like wave energy and solar/photovoltaic panels.
- **Support for OSW in General:** The prospect of OSW projects off the California Coast was broadly supported by a wide range of fishing industry meeting participants. Many acknowledged the importance of the State's efforts to bring California towards clean energy and transition away from fossil fuels. Some emphasized their support for and understanding of OSW renewable energy's positive role regarding the environment and in reducing the impacts of climate change. At the same time, they were eager to work with BOEM to find ways to reduce possible negative impacts on commercial fishing activity.

3.4 Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

Frequent comments received from the March 2020 Task Force meeting (and during a public input session following the meeting) focused on: the decision-making process and timeline, potential impacts on existing ocean uses, and specific recommendations for the North and Central Coast areas. Each of these topics is described in greater detail below.

Decision-Making Process & Timeline

- **Potential Impacts to BOEM's OSW Leasing Process:** Some Task Force Members raised concerns that the Additional Areas for Consideration determined by the Working Group may require BOEM to issue a new Call for Information and Nominations in the Federal Register, which could impact the current BOEM leasing timeline for California. During the public input session following the Task Force meeting, several members of the public and OSW industry representatives recommended focusing on the Call Areas.

Potential Impacts on Existing Ocean Uses

- **Visual Impacts:** Several task Force Members raised concerns about potential visual impacts at State Parks and KOPs caused by closer proximity to the shoreline of the Additional Areas for Consideration.
- **Habitat and Environmental Impacts:** Several Task Force Members raised concerns over proximity of the Additional Areas for Consideration to the MBNMS and associated potential impacts to protected ecosystems from fishing and other uses. During the public input session following the Task Force meeting, stakeholders shared more comments about the Additional Areas for Consideration. Some environmental NGO representatives expressed concerns over the potential impacts of turbines on seabirds. Other stakeholders raised concerns over the potential negative impacts to habitats and the commercial fishing industry. Still other fishing industry representatives recommended that OSW developers, BOEM, and the State engage more with the fishing industry regarding the Additional Areas for Consideration should they be pursued.

Recommendations for Call Areas

- **Humboldt Call Area:** Tribal and local governmental representatives on the Task Force expressed support for OSW in the North Coast region. They attributed their support to incoming transmission and port upgrades and the present lack of DoD conflict. This was seconded by some members of the public during the public input session that followed the Task Force meeting.
- **Morro Bay Call Area:** Multiple comments were made in support of OSW in the Morro Bay Call Area during the public input session following the Task Force meeting. Commercial fishing industry representatives noted that they have already worked with developers within the Morro Bay Call Area to identify sections with high energy potential and lesser impact to fisheries.

Recommendations for Additional Areas for Consideration

- **Additional Areas for Consideration:** During the public input session, OSW industry representatives emphasized that the Additional Areas for Consideration determined by the Working Group do not take full advantage of optimal wind resources offshore as determined by industry studies.

BOEM and the State will continue to build on the Tribal government and stakeholder outreach and engagement. A future Addendum will incorporate outreach and engagement conducted after December 2020.