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Wind farms should stay outside 30 miles and limited in scope

Thank you for allowing me to comment at this SAC council meeting.

I am Sheri Hafer, wife of commercial fisherman Tom Hafer. He has been fishing for 46 years. We have been married for 34 of those years. He fishes out of Morro Bay on a 42' vessel the Kathryn H named after our daughter. He fishes with traps for spot prawns and near shore rockfish from Morro Bay to Big Sur and so we will be directly affected by a wind farm off of Morro Bay.

Tom is the President of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization and has been for the last 7 years. We have been very involved with the planning process regarding Offshore Wind Farm leases off the Central Coast for the last 4 years. We have sent in our comments to the Federal Register on the 2 sites listed as call areas. We have told them that the Diablo call area was a very important commercial fishing area and that we would only agree to the proposed area off Morro Bay outside of Piedras Blancas.

We also worked with Alla Weinstein of Castle wind to come up with a fair mitigation agreement for the affected commercial fishing community within the Morro Bay call area. The commercial fishermen are the primary stakeholders affected. They have many potential impacts including: gear entanglement, potential collisions, radar dysfunction, displacement of fish, obstacles to fishermen navigation, and loss of fishing area. This mitigation agreement with the fishermen was the first of it's kind and should be a prerequisite insisted upon before any wind farm lease is implemented.

Although we were able to negotiate this mitigation agreement with a potential wind leaser, it doesn't mean we don't have significant concerns regarding the affect of wind turbines on marine life. The stance we are taking, since we realize that this is likely a train we cannot stop, is that these turbines should stay outside 30 miles and be limited in scope. If we are not careful, we will see our ocean industrialized with as many as 500 turbines off our coast and within 3 miles off our shores as the CADEMO project off of Vandenberg is planning. This is what happened in Europe. The Sanctuary policy could prevent this.

One of the most significant impacts that wind farms can have is Noise Pollution. Sound is important in the marine ecosystem for communication, feeding, and predatory avoidance. Studies show that marine species make shifts in their behavior to sound - Mammals do at 50-100 dB, fish do at 10 - 120dB, and birds do at 40 - 130dB. Studies reveal that wind turbine operational noise is 80-120dB and that constructional noise is 30-260dB! Construction noise includes shipping, geophysical survey, drilling, dredging, and trenching. Construction can take months to years to complete.

A biological risk assessment of Wind Farms on Fish was done in Europe by Kikuchi in 2009. It found that and I quote - "Hearing specialist fish possess a zone of audibility within a 50 miles radius of wind farm construction noise and there is a possibility that masking, which is when loud sounds drown out soft sounds, occurs within their zone of audibility. Physical effects such as internal and external ear injuries or deafness are

possible within close proximity to the construction site. Operational noise of wind turbines will be detectable up to a distance of 2.5 miles for certain fish. Within this zone, behavioral and or physiological stress effects are also possible due to operational wind farm noise. " Unquote. This study comments: We must defend an environmental principle -"Processes that solve one environmental problem but cause another should be avoided".

The potential significant effect of noise pollution from wind farms on marine life seems to be in direct conflict with the purpose of a sanctuary to limit human activity, prevent pollution, and to secure habitat for endangered species. It should be your policy to take the precautionary approach to protect marine life and deny wind farms in the sanctuary. In fact, you should not allow them within at least 2.5 miles of the border of the sanctuary if you want to take the minimum precautions and 50 miles if you want to take maximal precautions in protecting the sanctuary from potential harmful effects of noise according to the current and available science.

We sent a copy of this study to Bill Douros to review. Thank you for your time.