

**DOCKETED**

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## **Calif offshore wind is proposing taking too much area from fishing**

I am a commercial fishermen out of Morro Bay. I have been fishing over 45 years now. I am the President of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization. We are worried about the direction BOEM is heading. They originally had an area ~120sq. Miles 30 miles off our coast with a proposed 100 wind turbines. Now they are proposing a ~700 sq. Mile area 15 miles off shore with a potential 500 wind turbines. Between the Marine Protected Areas, Rock Cod Conservation Area, and Essential Fishery Habitat protections restricting fishing and these wind farms we will only have narrow 10 mile wide corridors to fish in. And there are no studies proving that these large wind farms won't affect our fisheries. They are noisy and produce electro magnetic current. They could possibly cause a "dead zone" where fish/mammals/ birds avoid them. The reason the area off of Morro Bay has expanded so much is because BOEM is being told by Department of Defense that they will not be able to utilize the call area off the Diablo power plant. All we know is that fishing is protected by the California Coastal Act and Federal Zone Management Act as the "Highest Priority Use" and if these wind farm companies (most of which are based in Europe), have it their way, we will be overrun by wind farms off our coast and commercial fishing will become non existent.

I have been to England and Scotland and have seen their offshore wind farms. They go on for as far as the eye can see. Is that what Californians want?? We understand that California is eager to diminish its carbon footprint but it can't be at the cost of the commercial fishing industry and our ocean resources. We want to have your support in setting some rules going forward. 1. We want projects limited in scope. They should stick with 120 sq. Miles or less. 2. They need to stay outside 30 miles off shore. 3. They need to be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the commercial fishermen before being issued a lease.

Thanks for your consideration,

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