

**DOCKETED**

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## **Wind farms should be limited in scope and outside 30 miles to protect the fisheries**

I am President of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization representing ~ 90 fishermen. We have several issues with wind farms including: 1. Radar - wind farms add artifacts to the radar making navigation dangerous at night and in the fog (of which we have a LOT ). 2. Noise - Studies in Europe have shown that the installation and operation noise of wind turbines alters the behavior of fish and can damage their hearing. 3. Traffic - ship traffic will be condensed in a smaller area making for busy corridors in our fishing areas. 4. Gear entanglement - Gear drifts with the currents into the cables. 5. Loss of Fishing area particularly for sable fish, swordfish, squid, albacore, and ground fish. - this is in addition to the 28 Marine protected Areas instituted in 2007 taking over 50% of our prime nearshore fishing areas on the Central Coast. We feel this new BOEM map for consideration will allow for too much expansion of offshore wind turbines. The original Morro Bay call area was 311 sq. miles the proposed map would add 237 sq. miles plus the discussion area of 90 sq. miles allowing now 638 sq. miles for wind turbines! Doubling the original call area! And also allowing wind turbines within 15 miles from shore! Per the wind industry, they can put in 100 turbines /per 100 sq. miles that means the potential for 600 turbines off our coast! We say NO. You must protect the fisheries from allowing this to happen. We have the Coastal Protection Act that protects Fishing as a primary use of the ocean. BOEM must insist that the call area is limited in size to not allow more than 100 turbines at the most! And must insist that they stay at least 30 miles off shore! BOEM must make it a REQUIREMENT to get a lease in the call area that the leasor develops a legally binding MOU with the affected commercial fishing community to mitigate all the above mentioned issues.