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CA Offshore Wind Siting Concerns

Citing language from the CEC's Report, I would like to reiterate concerns especially in regard to ocean resources and /marine mammals, that travel, feed, migrate through these proposed areas and future proposals.

"The California Coastal Commission found that future offshore wind development in the Humboldt WEA has the potential to adversely affect marine resources through seafloor disturbance, turbine strikes, increased entanglement risk, marine species displacement, avoidance or attraction, increased ship strike risk, elevated levels of underwater sound, fish aggregation and the artificial reef effect, invasive species, weakened upwelling, and electromagnetic fields. The report also found that the fishing industry could potentially be impacted through exclusion and displacement from fishing grounds, increased costs and time at sea to reach new fishing grounds, loss of grounds from future fishing activity, and loss or disruption of harbor space and fishing infrastructure at ports. Finally, the report found that offshore wind development could adversely and disproportionately impact environmental justice communities with environmental impacts associated with infrastructure development, as well as California Native American tribes that could be affected by impacts to culturally important places, species, and traditional marine fishing practices."

The staff has indicated that these concerns will be addressed in future studies and planning for the potential siting of offshore wind projects. Ship travel related to these projects, and ports usage are also of concern, in terms of potential ship strikes and sound impacts on marine mammals especially.

Thank you,
Leslie Purcell