

Subject: Wave Energy Sites on Oregon Coast
From: Sharon Price <mvknotless@netzero.com>
Date: Fri, 30 Nov 2007 12:54:36 -0800
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Pacific Fisheries Management Council:

I am a concerned sport fisherman with 2 boats in Charleston Harbor. As a salmon fisherman it is extremely important to address the Electro Magnetic Field effect on Salmon. I would also point out it is very neglectful and probably a violation of the Endangered Species Act to allow any Wave Energy Sites on the Oregon Coast without prior testing of this issue.

How many endangered and threatened salmon will the test site be allowed to disrupt on the Umpqua River; 100, 1,000 or more? All of these salmon are critical and all are supposedly protected by law. Can FERC override all of these protective provisions by whim? This makes no sense at all!

I understand there is no monitoring of the number of salmon that will be deflected from their native salmon spawning grounds. How can this test location be allowed to proceed without the full protection of the endangered and threatened salmon? They have not installed cameras nor are there divers to monitor the disturbance they are causing!

Additionally, there is another potential problem. Do these Wave Energy machines produce sound waves? If they do, then my personal experience is that certain vibrations starting in your boat and transmitting into the water will repel fish. This may disrupt spawning migrations of endangered species. These Wave Energy machines are located right at the mouth of costal rivers.

When fishing off the Southern California Coast, many times we noticed that the sound vibrations coming from our bait tank motor would repel game fish yet it would attract predatory fish. We actually would have to turn the bait tank motor off so that the game fish would go on strike. Has this concern been addressed?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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[Received Monday, December 3]

Pacific Fisheries Management Council:

I am a commercial Salmon fisherman, home port is Charleston, Or. I read the November 21, 2007 letter from Council to FERC addressing Council concerns and recommendations for Wave Energy Park siting, and would like to thank the Council for their stance on this issue and the well considered recommendations to FERC.

Please allow me to address the following two issues that were discussed in the letter:

1. The placement of multiple Wave Energy Sites on the Oregon Coast is of great concern to me. The areas under consideration are, at times, very productive grounds for the commercial salmon fleet. There are years when ocean current and temperature dynamics create conditions that concentrate migrating Salmon in these areas and fishermen will spend the majority of a season fishing the same areas that are proposed for Wave Energy Sites. Displacement of the salmon fleet from these areas, the economic impact to the fleet and coastal communities, and the resulting increased fishing pressure on other areas due to the forced shift of effort, should be of prime concern to the Council.

Please include Commercial Salmon Fishing as a current use for the Reedsport OPT area, and any future sites under consideration as Wave Energy Parks. This should be included in the letter to FERC on page 3, in item 3) **Impacts to Fisheries and Species**, and in future communications.

2. On page 8 of the letter to FERC, under **Impacts to Species and Habitat** *b. Electromagnetic fields* :

EMF's DO affect Salmon. All salmon fishermen know this and understand the importance of monitoring and controlling the EMF around our vessels. We, as a fleet, spend thousands of dollars every year to minimize and/or take advantage of the EMF produced by the low voltages produced by the electrical systems on our vessels. Any unwanted electrical leakage in our vessels' systems has a strong negative impact on those vessels' ability to consistently catch fish. These vessel electrical charges and the resulting EMF's are measured in Milli-volts and Milli-amps. The Wave Energy Buoys will be operating at much higher voltage and amperage. All of the concerns about EMF's impacts on the species listed in this section of the FERC letter also apply to Salmon. In addition, I have a deep concern that any unnatural, new EMF created by Wave Energy Buoys will interrupt a Salmon's ability to home on it's natal stream and be detrimental in the fishes' ability to return home for spawning. Most of the proposed Buoy sites, including the OPT site, are adjacent to the mouths of highly productive coastal Salmon streams. The question of Wave Energy Buoy produced EMFs' affects on a Salmon's homing ability **must** be answered prior to siting and placement of buoys.

Please add these two concerns to the letter to FERC and include them in any future communications addressing Council concerns about Wave Energy Parks.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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