



**Fishermen
Involved in
Natural
Energy**

Agenda Item G.1.c
Public Comment
April 2016
225 W Olive Street, Room 110
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-4108
541-265-4176 (fax)

Bob Jacobson, Chair

December 28th, 2015

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Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road
VAM-OREP
Sterling, Virginia 20166

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PFMC

Dear Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,

Thank you for taking time to seek feedback regarding your agency's policies and procedures. The Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy committee (FINE), is a stake-holder group made up of various sectors of the commercial and recreational fishing industry out of Lincoln County Oregon. We work directly with our county board of commissioners and many other partners to provide feedback on proposed ocean energy projects and other ocean use activities. FINE has a reputation for being approachable problem solvers, we are genuinely interested in working with organizations, researchers, agencies, and the ocean energy industry to solve problems and collaborate. We welcome this opportunity to inform your agency on how to build better structures for collaboration and engagement with the fishing industry in the future. With regard to past performance, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our previous feedback provided to BOEM, which is that FINE remains unsupportive of BOEM's past and present endeavors in leasing the OCS waters off of Oregon due to lack of a clear, transparent and well thought out process. We have provided comments to BOEM in the past urging them to invest in a process of marine spatial planning similar to what the state of Oregon has done. FINE would be a helpful partner in assisting you to secure funds for this type of activity as well as participating in the actual project.

To successfully engage us, and other traditional ocean users, in your permitting process, you need to better understand how we operate. Oregon's fisheries are among the cleanest and most productive in the world, as such, we take a great deal of pride in how we operate. Our industry thrives in part because of its adaptability, which is due largely to its diversity. Oregon's fisheries operate across several ports, commissions, fishery and gear types, and socio-economic statuses. In a way, you could say that we operate like an ecosystem. We are aware that this diversity and our culture as a whole can make it difficult to access important information, but both have served us well in creating and maintaining a strong economic and cultural center.

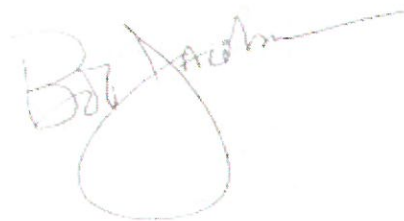
In your email request for feedback, you stated that "the agency has made substantial progress in moving forward with planning and leasing for renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf." We do not see that progress. We have previously stated concerns about the

*A collaborative committee advising the
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
on the development of wave energy*

fishing industry having significant financial and cultural loss due to the leasing of certain areas in the Outer Continental Shelf, yet we see no process being developed to legitimately address these issues. We do not consider this progress and whatever progress you are referring to has been done at a cost to Oregon's Fishing industry.

In the spirit of open and direct communication, we'd like to address the specific points of "progress" noted in your email. Unfortunately, the process by which BOEM has chosen to lease our outer continental shelf has been flawed from the very beginning. BOEM's continued lack of sufficient engagement with the Oregon's fishing industry has circumscribed our ability to effectively give specific feedback. As such, we can only reiterate the extreme disenfranchisement that BOEM has perpetuated with our communities. We were truly appreciative of the three BOEM representatives that attended our May 2014 FINE meeting in Newport, Oregon. We had hoped that this was to be the beginning of a more open, transparent, and communicative interaction with BOEM. Unfortunately, that meeting came and went and the feedback and concerns that were expressed at that meeting have not been translated into any actionable items on BOEM's end. We would like to see not only increased presence from BOEM at meetings with the fishing industry but also increased follow through and more heavy lifting when it comes to sorting out the issues we have described. We are of course, ready and willing to engage with BOEM if you step forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Jacobson". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Jacobson, Chair, Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE) committee

CC: Interested Parties