

Equinor Wind US California Fisheries Communications Plan

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1 Introduction

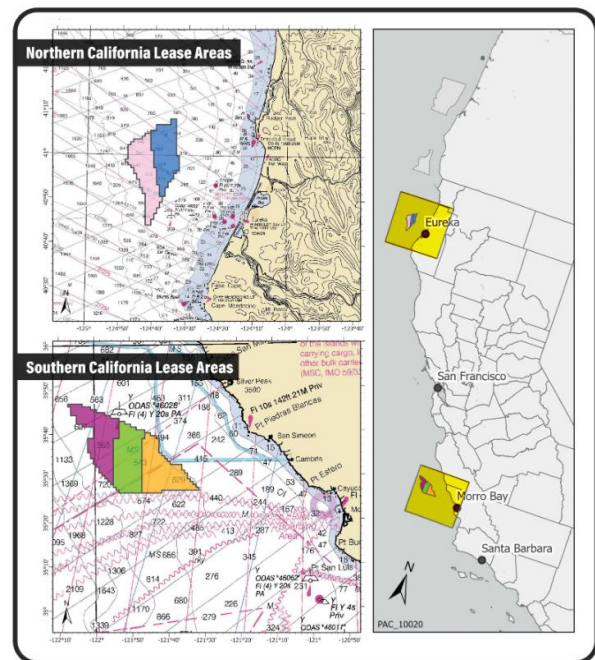
This Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) has been developed to present the proposed approach for Equinor Wind US, LLC (Equinor) to liaise and consult with the California-based fishing industry in relation to the development of such offshore wind energy areas and their associated cable routes and landfall sites. Early, often, and ongoing outreach with potentially affected fisheries stakeholders is essential to address fishing industry concerns such as gear, fishing ground impacts, and/or potential litigation.

1.1 Background

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held an offshore wind energy lease sale December 6-7, 2022 for areas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off central and northern California. The online auction was held in a series of rounds and allowed qualified offshore wind developers to bid five lease areas – the first ever offered along the Pacific coastline. Equinor Wind US is the winner of California lease OCS-P0563 and executed the lease with an effective date of June 1, 2023. As of 2023, Equinor Wind US has met with fisheries stakeholder groups to initiate and begin consultations with OCS-P0563 project planning.

 Provisional Winners of the California Lease Areas, \$757,100,000 in High Bids		
OCS-P0561	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	\$157,700,000
OCS-P0562	California North Floating LLC	\$173,800,000
OCS-P0563	Equinor Wind US LLC	\$130,000,000
OCS-P0564	Central California Offshore Wind LLC	\$150,300,000
OCS-P0565	Invenergy California Offshore LLC	\$145,300,000

BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



1.2 Regulatory Framework

California lease OCS-P0563 is in the early-stage of development which includes site characterization surveys, stakeholder engagement and securing the necessary permits and licenses required to construct and operate utility scale offshore wind farm(s).

The first step in the development process is to develop and submit to BOEM a Site Assessment Plan (SAP). BOEM requires the SAP to describe the initial activities necessary to characterize a lease site. This includes for example, wind resource measurements using meteorological masts or buoys, and/or meteorological and oceanographic

(metocean) data collection, as well as any requirements for testing new technology that makes contact with the seabed.

The next phase is the development of the Construction and Operations Plan (COP). The COP describes all the activities necessary for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of proposed offshore wind farm(s) and transmission cables within and from the lease. As part of the COP approval process, amongst other items, BOEM must ensure that any activities approved are safe, minimize impacts to natural resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), are undertaken in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and are compliant with all applicable laws and regulations (30 CFR § 585.102). The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for any major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The COP, and associated regulatory filings, provide the environmental, social and technical information needed for BOEM to undertake its NEPA review.

While the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) is the law which provides BOEM the jurisdictional authority for the regulation of the development of a renewable energy facility within the lease areas on the OCS, several other Federal, State, and local agencies will also have regulatory authority over aspects of the wind farm project(s). The primary State approvals will be required for the portion of the facilities located within the State boundary (i.e., within 3 nautical miles offshore), which are associated with the relevant points of interconnection (e.g., export cable, onshore substation and interconnection cable). Additional State or local jurisdictional authorities may be relevant based on the proposed activities.

1.3 OCS- P 0563 Lease Area

On November 12, 2021, BOEM [announced](#) the designation of the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA). The Morro Bay WEA is located approximately 20 miles offshore the central California coastline and comprises approximately 240,898 acres (376 square miles).

PACW-1 Final Lease Areas

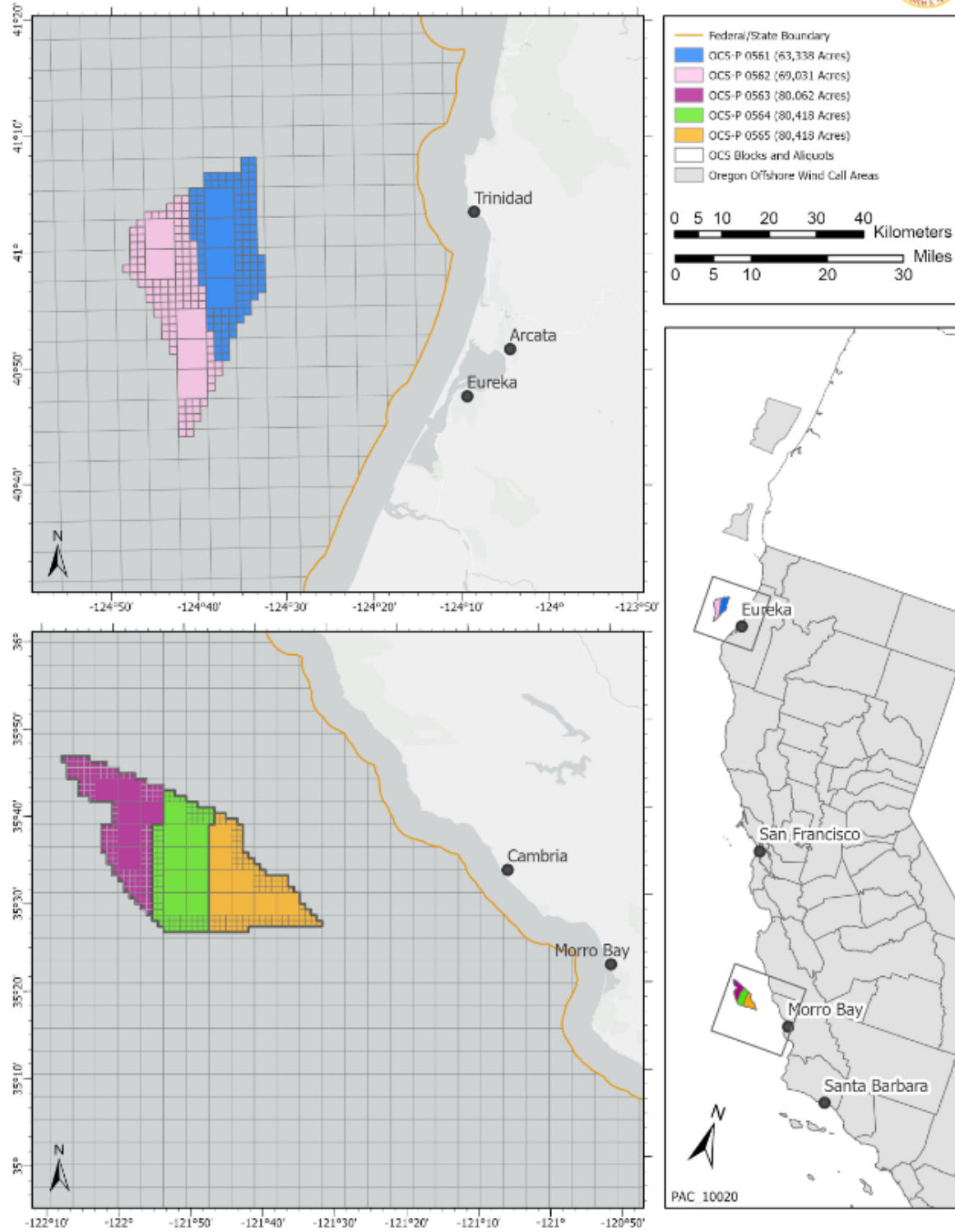


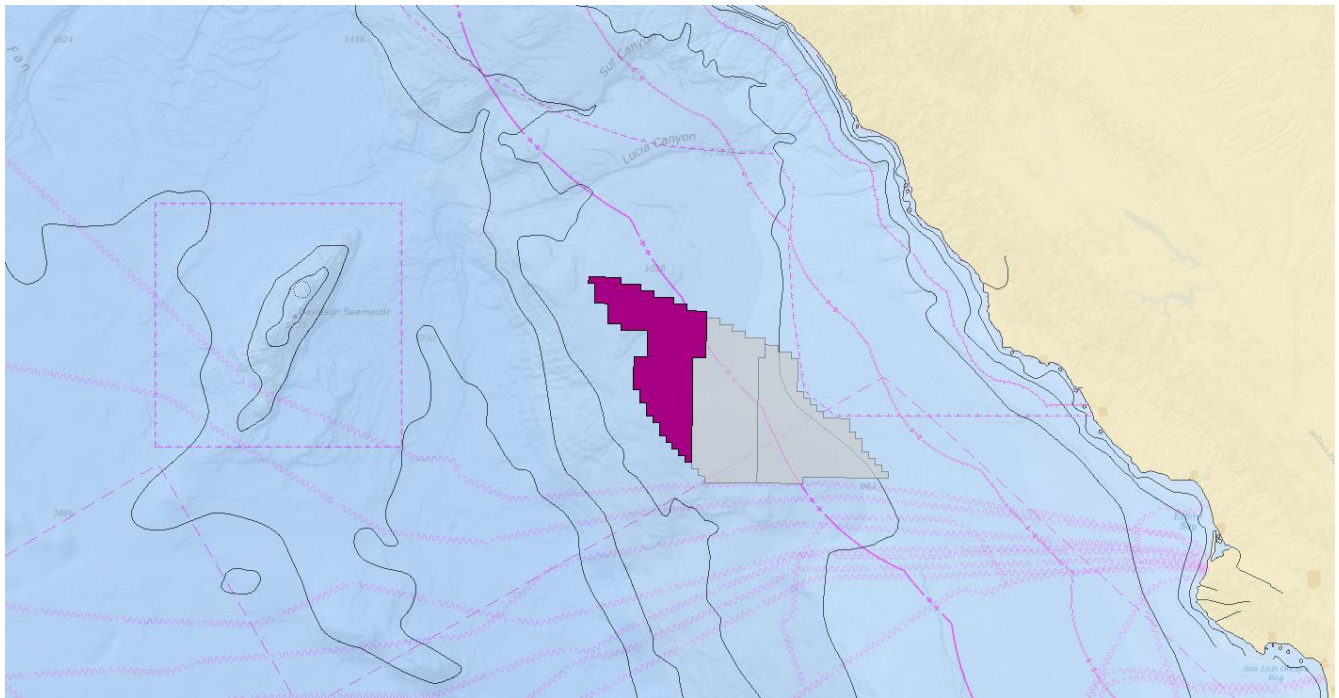
TABLE 1 BOEM CA OCS-P0563 LEASE AREA KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Project Information	Detail
Size	
Capacity	
Distance from shore	miles
Water depth range	

TABLE 2 BOEM CA OCS-P0563 LEASE AREA COORDINATES

Point	Latitude WGS84 (degrees minutes)	Longitude WGS84 (degrees minutes)	LORAN9960X	LORAN9960X
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

FIGURE: BOEM CA OCS-P0563 LEASE AREA



2. Principles of Offshore Development

Each offshore wind project will consist of floating wind turbine generators, anchor arrays and associated catenary from the turbine tower ballast to the sea floor, inter-array cables, offshore export cables, and an offshore substation or converter station in the offshore environment; all facilities of relevance to the fishing stakeholders. Siting of these facilities are being assessed during the design phase and in consultation with relevant stakeholder and interested parties, including, but not limited to commercial and recreational fishing interests. Equinor's approach and philosophy to project development is premised on the belief that the fishing industry and offshore wind energy development can coexist. Equinor believes that offshore wind development can be achieved by carefully evaluating and understanding existing uses of the project areas, avoiding or minimizing impacts where feasible, or reducing impacts through effective mitigation.

Equinor has developed a Fisheries Mitigation Plan (FMP) and continues to update it, which outlines Equinor's underlying approach and philosophy towards fisheries mitigation. Equinor believes that wind farm projects can be developed in a manner that minimizes disruption to the natural environment, natural resources, and existing uses of the project areas, and can provide habitat for numerous species of fish and invertebrates.

Equinor sets out with the objective to work with the fishing industry operating in and around the wind farms and their associated facilities. Successful fisheries impact avoidance, minimization and mitigation will require open and regular communication between Equinor and the fishing industry, starting prior to the survey phase, leading up to permitting and construction, through construction, operation, and decommissioning of the projects, and includes the following principles:

- A commitment to continuing consultation and liaison with the aim of assisting the fishing community to safely continue and resume their fishing activities within the operational site and along the export cable corridor including, but not limited to: Commercial/recreational fisheries groups, technical interest groups, state Fisheries Technical Working Groups (F-TWGs) and State, Inter-State and Federal regulatory agencies;
- Fisheries outreach will be as inclusive as possible, to include engagement with fisheries stakeholders through Fishing Industry Representatives (FIR), a designated F-TWG, Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), regional Fishermen's Marketing Associations and related fishermen's organizations, as well as seeking out and engaging with organizations or individual fishers not represented in these groups. Equinor notes that this approach has proven effective and well-received toward projects throughout development;
- Equinor's approach to fisheries mitigation is founded upon a mitigation hierarchy. Specifically, this approach seeks to 1) anticipate impacts on fisheries resources and fishers; 2) avoid impacts where feasible; 3) minimize impacts where avoidance is not possible; and 4) take steps to offset any significant residual adverse impacts that are predicted to remain.

Mitigation measures will be identified and developed with relevant fisheries stakeholders through an iterative process of project design, including site selection, cable routing, timing of works, and consideration of construction and operations methods. Steps that Equinor Wind US has already taken to minimize and mitigate potential impacts for its east coast projects, Empire Wind and Beacon Wind, respectively, can be found at the following links:

(<https://www.empirewind.com/>) and (<https://www.beaconwind.com/>). Some of these measures consist of:

- Modifying in advance the survey schedules and locations in survey planning, and in real-time by adaptive management of survey locations to avoid areas with active and/or seasonal fishing;

- Early spatial planning incorporating data and feedback, and real-time adaptive management during survey data acquisition to avoid high use, high value, and high-sensitivity fisheries areas in planning the export cable routes;
- Arranging fishermen as Offshore Fishing Liaison Representatives on survey vessels whenever safe and advisable, in order to communicate with survey staff and fishermen and avoid conflict;
- Chartering local fishing vessels as scout boats during surveys to identify fishing gear and activity, communicate with survey staff and fishermen in order to avoid conflict;
- Sending regular updates to fishermen regarding survey activities, opportunities for engagement working on the projects, and the location of installations such as our research buoys, which have attracted and benefitted recreational fishermen;
- Establishing a fisheries communications and outreach strategy to effectively engage with and solicit input from a wide range of regional fishers and stakeholders;
- Applying available data and consultative fisheries feedback in early spatial planning for the project area, including setting “Layout Rules” for the wind farm layouts that aim to minimize impacts on fishing and facilitate continued safe access to traditional fishing grounds to the extent feasible, and establishing preferred layouts for the Project through engagement with Fishermen’s organizations including Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and non-RODA entities and individual fishers;
- A commitment to share the location of proposed wind turbine and cable locations in a format appropriate to the fishing industry to use in chart plotters, and/or the provision of charts with key facility locations appropriately called out; and
- Provide locations of all submarine export cables, inter-array cables, wind turbines, and offshore substations to NOAA and facilitate appropriate updates to NOAA nautical charts.

To ensure close coordination, prior to surveying the Project lease area and cable routes, FLOs will gather information from fishing contacts through dock visits, phone calls, meetings and other means in the home ports of vessels that fish in the Project area, including mobile and fixed-gear fishers. FLOs will seek to obtain operational area and gear locations and provide to survey vessels. During survey of a previous, unrelated project in 2018, survey operations confirmed, as was expected, concentrations of lobster gear in the survey area. To avoid disruption of fishing activity and potential gear snags by survey equipment, Equinor postponed the survey of that area until 2019. In other cases, Equinor has chartered a commercial fishing vessel as a scout boat, identified gear locations and worked closely with fishermen who agreed to move gear temporarily. Between 2018-2020 Equinor conducted over 350 survey days on that project without impacting active fishing gear and received no claims from fishermen. Equinor continues to work with fishermen through FLOs and scout boats to avoid conflicts.

As stated, the FMPs will be updated based on feedback from stakeholder consultation according to Project phase throughout development of the Project. It is Equinor’s goal to implement consistent approaches for fisheries communication and fisheries mitigation, while considering local and regional differences and requirements, across its offshore wind assets.

3. Fisheries Communications

3.1 Fisheries Liaison Strategy

Transparency forms the basis of Equinor’s fisheries liaison philosophy. Regular, open consultation is key to keeping all interested parties well informed, contributes to the discussions and work towards a joint objective of coexistence. The FCP will be an evolving plan throughout the project development process. The identification of potential impacts on the fishing industry may change as the wind farm(s) design and installation methodology change or become more detailed during the various phases of development and design maturation. The FCP is designed to describe the liaison and

coordination of activities appropriate to the life cycle of the wind farm, through the permitting phase, survey, construction, operation and decommissioning phases, as requirements and potential impacts may vary in each of these phases.

Liaison activities will be primarily based on BOEM best practice guidance and feedback from the fishing industry through consultation. It will also draw on consultation from fisheries bodies, regulators, ports and harbours and legislation, as well as previous experiences of the Equinor team with fisheries liaison work in the offshore wind and oil & gas industry. The best practice guidance will include but not be limited to adoption of key principles that have proven effective from the following, with updates specific to Pacific coast fisheries, Pacific Fisheries Management Council determinations, advice from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and other relevant agencies in California and the Pacific coastal regions:

- Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries for Renewable Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, BOEM March 2023
- Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, BOEM 2014-654;
- Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison - Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW), UK;
- Fishing and Submarine Cables Working Together – published by the International Cable Protection Committee;
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) 2014 – Offshore Wind Best Management Practices Workshop;
- Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZMP) 2015 – Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia’s Offshore Wind Energy Area;
- Lipsky et al. 2016 – Addressing Interactions between Fisheries and Offshore Wind Development: The Block Island Wind Farm; and
- Moura et al. 2015 – Options for Cooperation between Commercial Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy Industries: A Review of Relevant Tools and Best Practices.

Equinor is committed to communicate with California fisheries stakeholders on all relevant aspects of the wind farm Project:

- Communicate with vessels actively fishing in areas in or adjacent to each project area during site assessment activities.
- Implement this communications protocol during construction and decommissioning activities to ensure proper notification to vessels and resource managers through periodic Project status updates to a dedicated Project website; updates and presentation and fisheries councils and commissions and other meetings as scheduled; telephone calls and emails directly to fishermen who provide contact information; contact through OFLR-to-fishing vessels by radio; issuance of Local Notices to Mariners.

3.2 Fishing Industry Contacts & Affected Parties

Effective dialogue and consultation have been initiated and will continue to be facilitated further developed with the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive contact database for local and regional fisheries associations, societies, groups, individual fishermen and the various industry organizations which serve as one of the most effective bases for distributing communication materials to the fisheries communities. Members of the commercial and recreational fishing communities are identified through various channels and include, but are not limited to:

- Contacting fishing industry leaders, organizations and associations;
- Establishing an electronic mailing list-serve to include fisheries stakeholders such as Federal and State agencies, academia, fishing organizations, independent fishermen and concerned citizens;
- Project presentations provided by the Fisheries Liaison Officer to fishing organizations;
- Project specific social media pages;
- Attending Fishery Management Council and Commission meetings;
- Attending meetings related to offshore wind and fisheries interactions;
- Manning information booths at commercial and recreational fishing forums; tradeshow and expos
- Acting on recommendations from state and federal fisheries staff;
- Utilizing online Fisheries Management Council Advisory Panel lists;
- Accessing and incorporating online public comments and associated documents;
- Facilitating “word of mouth” sharing and contact with and from the fishing community;
- Utilizing Automatic Identification System (AIS) monitoring including ship identification;
- Identification of fishing vessels offshore by the OFLR during surveys;
- Available online National Marine Fisheries Service and California Division of Fish and Wildlife permit holder lists;
- Port/Dock visits;
- Engagement with RODA and other fishing organizations

The contact database will be maintained and regularly updated by the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) in conjunction with the Project’s team members. It should be noted that the fishing industry contact ‘database’ will be used solely for the purposes of the Project’s fisheries liaison activities and will not be made available to any individual or group, outside of the Projects’ specific requirements. It is acknowledged and appreciated that some fisheries information can be commercially sensitive and considered confidential. In these circumstances Equinor will work with the individual fishing organization/fisherman to establish confidentiality agreements for the purpose of sharing information to meet the objective of compatible use of the offshore environment.

3.3 Marine Affairs Manager and Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

Equinor Wind US has a full time FLO with the appropriate level of knowledge and first-hand experience in the fishing industry to aid in communication with, and the dissemination and gathering of information between the Project and the fishing industry.

The Marine Affairs Manager (MAM) supports the project with fisheries management, maritime law, waterway management, search and rescue and port state control issues and will serve as a primary point of contact between the Project and the maritime transportation sector. The MAM also supports FLO with fisheries issues and engagements.

The FLO supports the Project in the identification of potential impacts, potential mitigation measures, and with data gathering to inform the environmental and social impact assessments related to commercial and recreational fishing. The FLO will act on the Project’s behalf throughout all development stages, including during surveys as well as the operational and decommissioning phases. The primary roles and responsibilities of the Marine Affairs Manager and FLO are:

- To serve as the primary point of contact between the Project and the commercial and recreational fishing fleets and community;
- To log all interactions between the Project team and fisheries representatives accurately and in a way that can be shared by the Project team;

- To maintain a fisheries stakeholder database and contacts list for all identified fisheries operating within the vicinity of the offshore wind lease area and export cable route throughout all stages the project, covering the following details:
 - Vessel names, owners, registrations and base ports;
 - Vessel radio call sign;
 - Dominant method(s) of fishing and any new technology developing within the fisheries;
 - Static gear surface marker details where applicable;
 - Target species as well as key by-catch species;
 - Fishing grounds relevant to the project;
 - Fishing periods and operating practices of each key fishery; and
 - Feedback, comments and concerns voiced within consultations.
- To arrange meetings with the fishing industry throughout all stages of project development, with frequency, timings and method of communication appropriate to the level of activity at the time;
- To consult the relevant Fishing Industry Representatives;
- To maintain regular liaison with relevant fishermen's associations, individual captains and vessel owners, and any relevant fisheries regulatory bodies as appropriate;
- To disseminate Project related activities which could potentially interact with fisheries stakeholders. This will include:
 - A description of the survey activity or other works to be undertaken;
 - The location and timing of survey activities;
 - The coordinates of partially and/or fully installed infrastructure;
 - A forecast of the schedule of works where available;
 - Details of the vessels involved in the works including the vessels contact details;
 - Survey and installation vessels transit routes to and from site;
 - The locations and timings of safety exclusion zones that may be required during survey, installation or maintenance activities;
 - Health & Safety standards and International Regulations for Preventing Collisions (COLREGS) obligations;
 - Contractor obligations towards fisheries stakeholders; and
 - Conflict avoidance response procedures and reporting procedures.

- Be available to receive and relay back to the Project all relevant concerns from the fisheries stakeholders in respect of the various activities associated with the Project;
- To keep fisheries stakeholders updated of any relevant changes in Project design or scheduling;
- To assess and advise the Project on the need for, and subsequently support the Project in organizing guard vessels and Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives;
- Project and monitor fishing activity within the wind farm site and export cable route during all phases of the project, including during survey activities, to minimize disruption to fishing activities;
- Support the Project in making wind farm survey, installation and operations and maintenance contractors aware of relevant fishing activities, including any relevant fishermen's sensitivities, and procedures for communicating with fishing vessels at sea; and
- Advising and supporting the Project on the procurement of Offshore Fishing Liaison Representatives (OFLRs) and scout vessels to be present offshore during survey activity;

A Project FLO will be hired or contracted with at a later date. The Project FLO will provide local support to the MAM and the FLO as needed. The Project FLO will be located near the project area to provide a more rapid response when in-person support is needed.

Marine Affairs Manager, Edward "E.J." Marohn

Email: ejma@equinor.com

EJ Marohn is a retired United States Coast Guard Captain with 27 years of service on the Atlantic Coast, Pacific Coast, and the Great Lakes. Over the course of eleven at-sea and shore assignments, he gained extensive

experience in domestic and international fisheries management, maritime law enforcement, waterways management, search and rescue, and port state control. He has served as the Coast Guard representative on the New England Fishery Management Council and the Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Coast Guard liaison to NOAA Fisheries, and a member of the US delegation to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. He is a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy and has a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

Fisheries Liaison Officer, Elizabeth Marchetti

Email: emarc@equinor.com

Elizabeth Marchetti joined Equinor in 2019 with extensive fisheries experience along the Atlantic seaboard. She is a former Rhode Island commercial lobster fisherman, Point Judith, R.I. NOAA Port Agent and field scientist, in major northeast commercial fisheries from ports of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine. Elizabeth was the fisheries liaison for the Block Island Wind Farm from 2015-2019. Elizabeth has also supported the Empire Wind project by serving as an OFLR during geophysical, geotechnical and benthic survey activities in the Empire Wind lease area during summer 2018. She holds a B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island. Elizabeth is Equinor's Fisheries Liaison Officer and serves as the primary contact with the Projects' Management Team on fisheries matters. Elizabeth is always happy to share her seafood recipes.

Project Fisheries Liaison Officer, TBD

This position is actively being filled.

3.4 Fishing Industry Representatives (FIRs)

Fishing Industry Representatives (FIRs) may serve as the main point of contact within a fishing industry organization. These representatives should represent the views of the fishermen within his or her remit. The FIRs should have the backing and support of the fisheries stakeholders they represent. FIRs should be able and willing to disseminate information from the FLO or the Project to the fishing community and vice versa on a timely and all-inclusive basis. The FIR is normally an individual who has worked extensively within or currently represents the industry in that particular sector, port or region. The primary responsibilities of the FIR are:

- To be the main focal point for liaison with fisheries stakeholders under their representation;
- To liaise and cooperate with the FLO to ensure the objectives of the FCP and FMP and underlying principles are achievable;
- To feed back to the FLO any fishermen's concerns, data, or requests for meetings; and
- To assist in the distribution of notices and relevant project information to fisheries stakeholders and to follow up that all relevant parties received such notices.

As fishing industry representation evolves, the Project and industry representatives will continue to work through groups such as fishing organizations, RODA and established, formal or informal fisheries working groups.

3.5 Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives (OFLRs)

Where required and appropriate, Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives (OFLRs) will be present on vessels that are working on behalf of the Project for wind farm related activities, for example, on board survey vessels and installation vessels. The main role of the OFLR is to ensure clear, real-time communications with fishing vessels operating in or near the Project area. This may be for the purpose of disseminating information, responding to queries from fishing vessels, acting as a conduit for information offshore between the FLO, FIR, and fisheries stakeholders within or near the site. OFLRs also observe and record set fishing gear locations such as pots or longline gear and instruct survey vessels to avoid it and prevent fishing interactions or conflicts.

3.6 Scout/Safety Vessels

At times, Equinor may implement the use of scout/safety vessels (such as when accommodating an onboard FLO is not feasible, or in an abundance of precaution due to anticipated presence of fishing activity) to avoid contact and/or conflict with active mobile fishing and static fishing gear. The scout vessel operates in advance of and/or during the planned Project activities, with the goal of avoiding or mitigating fishing gear interactions or conflicts. General instructions for scout/safety vessel services may be modified by mutual agreement according to the specific offshore operations.

3.7 Communication Channels

Notices and information for fishermen may be distributed via the following mechanisms:

- Via the Fisheries Liaison Officer and Fishing Industry Representatives;
- Fishermen's associations;
- Directly from the FLO to individual fishermen not represented by an FIR, but identified on the FLO's database;
- USCG Notice to Mariners;
- Electronic email distribution to commercial fishing permit holders (NOAA or state agencies);
- Equinor's Project website page, including AIS details on active Project vessels;
- Through fisheries-specific websites such as fisheries working groups, organizations and RODA;
- Local harbor masters;

- Survey flyers;
- Presentations and networking at fishing conferences and exhibitions; and
- Fishing news publications

Topics included in fisheries communications include, but are not limited to the following:

- Information on the proposed nature of activities, including scope, timing and vessels being utilized;
- Details of the main Project contacts, including the Fisheries Liaison Officer as the primary point of contact;
- Codes of conduct for vessels undertaking Project related activities within the wind farm area and ports;
- Safe operations procedures;
- Emergency response procedures;
- Fishing gear interaction and conflict procedures; and
- Gear claims procedures.

3.8 Communication with Federal and State Agencies and Working Groups

Equinor will communicate regularly with federal, state and local agencies with jurisdiction during project development and the permitting process, as outlined in Equinor's Agency Communication Plan. For example, specific to fisheries related interests, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) will be assembling a California Offshore Wind and Fisheries Working Group, as described in Condition 7c of the CCC's concurrence with BOEM's lease sales. As contemplated by CCC, the Group will be comprised of fisheries representatives, representatives from the 5 lessees, California Native American Tribes, and fisheries coalitions, organizations, and alliances. Equinor intends to participate in the Group and represent our lease area.

4. Offshore Survey Communication Protocols

Equinor Wind US is following steps to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts on the fishing community at all stages of project development, including during offshore survey activities. As such, a survey coexistence and communications strategy is in place, currently valid for the Project's planned surveys. Personnel associated with vessels contracted to perform project work will be trained on these protocols prior to mobilization and will be observed and advised throughout contract activities to demobilization.

4.1 Scheduling Outreach

Prior to the onset of site surveys and installation activities, a survey specific fisheries communications and emergency response plan identifying points of contact in emergency situations and incident reporting procedures will be drafted for use in communicating with the identified fisheries stakeholders.

Survey flyers developed for the Project will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders in advance of survey activities and updates will also be available online which will include primary points of contact and a description of the activities to be conducted.

4.2 Guidelines for Survey Interaction with Fishing Activity – Avoidance and Contact

A survey vessel may sometimes be the first direct point of contact between Project representatives and fishermen in the offshore environment. The Project is committed to avoiding and minimizing impacts, and to coexist with the fishing industry at all stages of project development, including during offshore survey activities. Early engagement, effective channels of information and communication and positive working relations with fishermen are considered crucial for successful Project implementation.

The Central California Coast region supports a variety of fisheries that can be expected to involve in any OSW development in the Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Call Areas, which include sablefish ("black cod") pot and longline,

Dungeness crab (pot/trap), pelagic sardine seine, market squid seine and pelagic trawl, and chinook and coho salmon trolling among the most active. Guidelines to reduce the risks of negative interactions with the fishing industry during the Project's survey activities may include the following:

- Offshore Fishery Liaison Representative (OFLR)- Where accommodations allow, the survey vessel may carry an onboard OFLR to support communication between the survey vessel master and fishermen. In cooperation with vessel officers, the OFLR will use available information including area fishing knowledge and experience, active watch, reasonable access to vessel communications, radar, AIS, and other available resources to seek out fishing vessels, gear and activities in survey areas and advise survey personnel about them.
- Active watch - Survey personnel as well as the OFLR will maintain an active AIS, visual and radar watch for fishing gear and fishing activities in the area and keep vessel officers informed if fishing is detected nearby, or in areas that could impact the survey.
- The OFLR will be available to communicate with local fishermen over the radio, advise on customary radio frequencies used, etc.
- The OFLR will monitor radar and AIS as available related to fishing in and around the lease area that can be used in planning areas for the survey vessel to be aware of and minimize interaction and conflict with fishing gear.
- If fishing gear and/or active fishing is detected in areas or positions where contact with survey gear, hindrance of fishing, or hindrance of planned survey activities appears likely, the survey vessel will take reasonable measures to avoid interference with fishing. If it is feasible to move to a different part of the survey area without substantial negative impacts, that course of action is preferred.
- Record and report all sightings and coordinates of fishing gear and vessels to the precision available, as well as relevant radio contacts for future reference.
- The Project will issue brief survey flyers with details of survey activity, schedules and key contacts in advance of surveys to provide advanced warning to fishermen, but to also encourage feedback on areas the survey vessel should avoid at specific times, or to be aware of particular fishing activity.
- The FLO will provide updates via email on the survey schedules as these necessarily develop or are altered over time.

4.3 Fishing Gear Entanglement

This procedure is designed as a base action plan for the Project's survey vessels and survey crew to safely untangle a snagged tow during survey operations, should an unforeseen incident occur. As every situation and survey setup is different, this procedure will be modified to best suit the vessel setup and site conditions. The Project has a developed gear claim form devised in collaboration with fishing industry representatives and developers to support consistency in reporting but does not dictate that the claim review procedure will be consistent or identical among developers or across fisheries. The Project continues to consult with the regulatory authorities and fisheries stakeholders for the further development and use of the Gear Loss Prevention and Claim Procedure.

Typical equipment at risk of entanglement associated with the Projects' activities include:

- Side scan sonar and/or piggyback array;
- Magnetometer and/or magnetometer array;
- Sparker sled;

- Passive Acoustic Monitor (PAM) array;
- Moonpool-deployed equipment;
- Ship's propulsion system;
- Hydrophone streamer

4.3.1. Roles and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators

Role	Responsibility	Role	Responsibility
Vessel Captain	Maintain safe navigation	Winch operator	Report signs of entanglement
Vessel 2 nd Captain	Assist Captain	Navigator	Assist as required record
Vessel Deckhand	Assist on deck	Surveyor	Inform bridge

4.3.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE requirements are the same for each stage of the operations. Each person must be wearing appropriate PPE as per the vessel specific risk assessment before going onto the work deck areas. This may include, but are not limited to the following PPE and equipment:

- Safety boots;
- Coveralls
- Auto inflate lifejacket or personal survivor suits;
- Safety glasses;
- Gloves;
- Safety harness with fall prevention lanyard;
- Standard boat hook;
- Boat hook outfitted with blunt edge knife attached;
- Large bolt cutter;
- Marker buoy

4.3.3 Toolbox Talk

After the crew is made aware of an entanglement and action has been taken to make the vessel and equipment safe, a toolbox talk will be required to discuss how to untangle the equipment and how the identified hazards will be controlled. At this point everyone involved in the task shall be reminded of the below:

Stop for Safety

- Everybody has the obligation to stop any task or operation if they feel that it is unsafe to continue.

- Personal safety is more important than the equipment.
- The Survey Party Chief (PC) is in control of the operation.
- The Captain has the ultimate responsibility for personnel and vessel safety.

4.3.3 Entanglement Procedure

The following steps outline actions to be taken in order, and the personnel designated to perform each task. This may be modified in real-time by an onboard competent person if necessary due to the particular circumstances of the entanglement, site conditions, or any other unforeseen reason. All personnel will wear appropriate PPE as outlined in Section 4.2.3.

1. Winch operator has identified an entanglement with fishing gear and alerted the entire survey crew.
2. Navigator immediately radios the bridge to alert the Officer on Watch (OOW) of the entanglement, survey crew stops online recording, and designated Surveyor powers off the towed survey equipment power supply.
3. OOW brings the vessel to a stop immediately upon receiving knowledge of the entanglement, simultaneously, the winch operator begins hauling in on winches until both tow fish are a safe height from the seabed.
4. Designated Survey crew and Vessel Deckhand recovers survey equipment to a safe location alongside the vessel (not to deck).
5. Designated Survey crew recover towed survey equipment to deck. Vessel Deckhand acquires tools designated for entanglements.
6. Recover non-tangled towed survey equipment to deck.
7. Vessel 2nd Captain on deck for communications with Vessel Master, and designated Surveyor(s) remove the tangled gear.
8. Navigator documents position, fishing gear type, buoy colors, and any other pertinent information.
9. OFLR reports fishing gear type, buoy colors, and any other pertinent information to the Fisheries Manager for follow up with the fishing industry to identify and alert the gear owner, arrange delivery or assist in filing a gear loss claim form.

