

Jim Burke, President  
Board of Commissioners  
Port of Newport  
600 SE Bay Blvd  
Newport, OR 97365

April 19, 2022

The Port of Newport's Commercial Fishing User's Group Committee recommends that the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners consider taking a position to prioritize existing ocean users and stakeholders over offshore wind developers as the Oregon process to install 3 GW of offshore wind energy unfolds.

While offshore wind energy development may help mitigate some of the impacts from climate change, the siting of offshore wind installations is of critical importance and current ocean users and stakeholders must have an authentic seat at the table. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) accepts negative impacts to current users as part of the trade-off to secure offshore renewable energy. The decision document for the Vineyard Wind project is a prime example of BOEM's acceptance of significant negative impacts to fishermen- it is clearly articulated in the document, but the project was still approved.

The current Oregon call areas – 2,100 square miles of ocean off Southern Oregon, contain fishing grounds for a variety of species. Millions of pounds of fish have been harvested out of that area and subsequently delivered into Newport supporting thousands of jobs. It is critical to retain access to the most productive fishing grounds off our state – anything less will result in a cascade of negative impacts to harvesters, processors, suppliers, ports, and coastal communities. We also have concerns around the uncertainty of impacts to our natural resources, not just to our livelihoods.

This is different than the offshore wave test site, where that area was identified through a collaborative process and where the area footprint is small compared with areas for offshore wind installations. We are not asking the Port of Newport to limit your activities related to staging equipment for the PacWave installation.

The Port of Port Orford passed a resolution asking for offshore wind to be placed outside of certain areas to protect their local fishermen. It seems something to protect fishermen hailing from the Port of Newport or delivering fish into Newport is appropriate now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed by all active members of the Port of Newport's Commercial Fishing User's Group Committee: Heather Mann, Ted Gibson, Gary Ripka, Cari Brandberg, Bob Eder, Jim Seavers, Clint Funderburg, Gene Law, Mike Pettis, Mark Newell, and Bob Aue