



Even Keel Wind
An Invenergy Project

Fisheries Communications Plan

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Invenergy

Prepared For:

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Record of Revision

Revision Date	Revision Description
October 27, 2023	First draft submitted to BOEM includes initial comments from engagement with fishermen and West Coast fishing association representatives.
December 20, 2023	Edits made throughout to address comments provided by BOEM.
October 17, 2024	Edits made to Section 4 to include the Director of Marine Affairs
August 28, 2025	Edits made to update staff roles and nomenclature, staff contact information, LNM website, and Project information website address updates. Updated Section 1.3: "Principles and Objectives" and 2.3: "Fisheries Management and Data" to update or remove web links that were broken or redundant. Updated Section 4.1 through 4.5 to clarify reduced engagement activities.

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CPFV	Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EKW	Even Keel Wind
FCP	Fisheries Communications Plan
FCT	Fisheries Communications Team
FL	Fisheries Liaison
FR	Fisheries Representative
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries	National Marine Fisheries Service
OFLR	Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representatives
OCS-P	Outer Continental Shelf-Pacific
PFMC	Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Project	Even Keel Wind, Lease Area OCS-P 0565
VHF	Very High Frequency
WEA	Wind Energy Area

1 Introduction

This Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) provides the strategies and procedures to guide communication with commercial and recreational fishing communities that could be affected by the development of the Even Keel Wind (EKW) Project (Project). This FCP will evolve with continuous feedback and guidance from commercial and recreational fishermen (i.e., men or women who fish), fishing organizations, related industries, regulatory agencies, and Native American Tribes and Tribal Nations (Tribes). The FCP will be periodically updated, refined, and made available on the EKW Project webpage ([Even Keel Wind](#)). The principles of this FCP will facilitate robust engagement with fisheries stakeholders to help EKW:

- Reduce user conflict
- Inform Project design
- Build a better understanding between the Project and fisheries interests
- Improve public understanding of the Project
- Contribute to the creation of standards for the offshore wind industry



This FCP complies with the terms of Lease OCS-P 0565 (Addendum C, Section 3.1.2.1) between Invenergy California Offshore LLC (Invenergy; company number 15122) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Development of Lease OCS-P 0565 will follow the requirements of offshore renewable energy and alternate use regulations at 30 CFR Part 585 as well as other applicable statutes and regulations.

The project sponsors will conduct fisheries communication described in this FCP via a Fishery Communications Team, whose roles are further described in Sections 4.1. Table 1 provides the points of contact for the Fisheries Communication Team. The Fisheries Communication Team is made up of experienced individuals who understand offshore wind and have existing relationships with the fishing communities. This will enable the project sponsors to build mutually respectful lines of communication with the fishing communities.

Table 1. Project Primary Points of Contact for the EKW Fisheries Communication Team

Role	Organization	Contact Name	Contact Information
Director, Marine Affairs / Fisheries Liaison	Invenergy	EJ Marohn	EMarohn@invenergy.com
Senior Manager, Environmental Compliance & Strategy	Invenergy	Kristen Hislop	khislop@invenergy.com
Fisheries Representative(s)	To be identified based on need	TBD	TBD
Offshore Fisheries Liaison Representative	To be identified based on need	TBD	TBD

1.1 Overview of Project Sponsor

Invenergy, a global renewable energy developer and the EKW Project sponsor, is a leading, privately held developer and operator of sustainable energy solutions. Invenergy has successfully developed more than 200 projects, including wind, solar, transmission infrastructure, green hydrogen, natural gas power generation, and advanced energy storage. Invenergy and its affiliates have successfully developed more than 31 gigawatts of energy by projects that are in operation, construction, or are contracted. These projects align with the goals set forth by the state of California’s renewable energy policy, which requires 60 percent of the state’s energy to come from renewable sources by 2030. California is expected to reach its goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2045.¹ Invenergy’s EKW Project operates under the supervision and regulatory authority of BOEM as the lead federal agency and California State Lands Commission as the lead state agency.

1.2 Overview of Project

In December 2022, BOEM provisionally awarded Invenergy the 80,000-acre Lease Area OCS-P 0565 in federal waters approximately 20 nautical miles / 23 miles offshore San Luis Obispo County, California (at its closest point), with a depth range between 900 m and 1300 m (2,953 ft and 4,265 ft) and includes both soft and hard substrates. A final lease, with an estimated installation capacity of 2,000 MW, was executed for the EKW Project on June 1, 2023.

The Project is anticipated to consist of offshore wind turbine generators and export cables interconnecting to an onshore substation that will deliver power to the regional electrical grid (collectively, these components represent the “Project area”). The Project is anticipated to provide power to up to 800,000 homes.

¹ [SB 100 Joint Agency Report \(ca.gov\)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sb100): <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sb100>

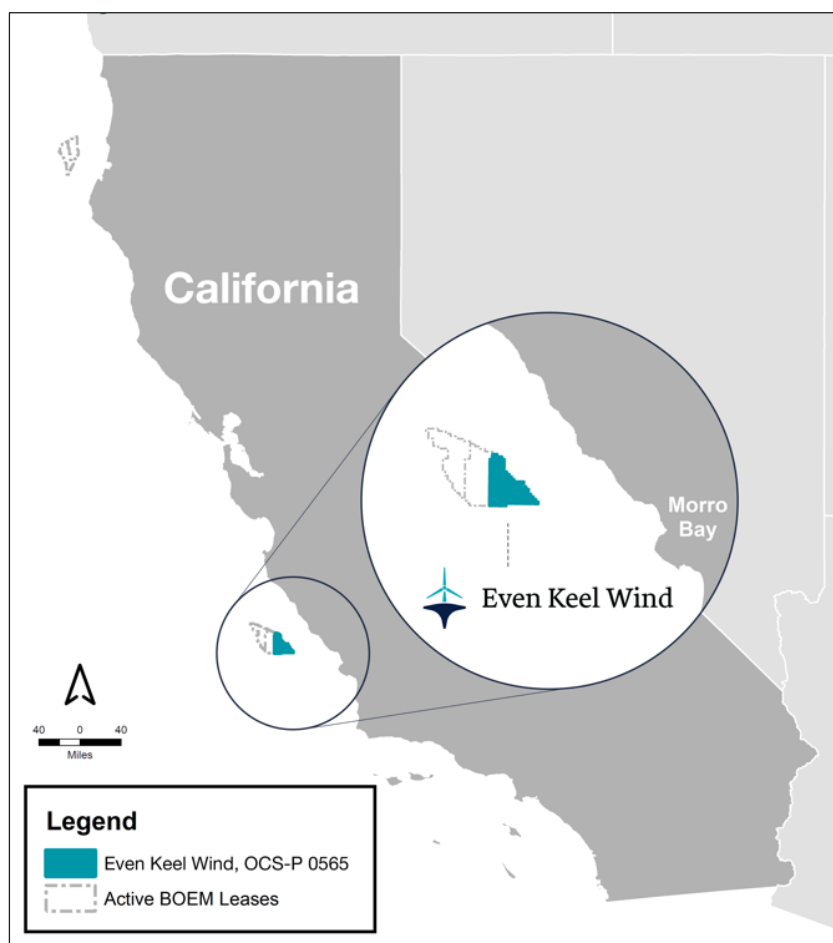


Figure 1. Invenergy's Project Lease Area OCS-P 0565

1.3 Principles and Objectives

The principle guiding the FCP is that the fishing industry and offshore wind energy development can coexist and thrive. EKW's strategy is to thoroughly evaluate existing uses in the Lease Area, adjacent waters, and cable routes; avoid and minimize impacts where feasible; and reduce impacts through mitigation. Timely communication and information sharing are essential to identify and avoid potential conflicts among users in the Lease Area. By sharing information on fishing activities, planned infrastructure locations, cable routes, vessel movements, and safety zones, fisheries stakeholders and EKW can work together to identify, mitigate, and prevent potential conflicts.

This FCP is developed in accordance with BOEM guidelines, as well as best practices guidance from other resources, such as:

- United States Department of the Interior, BOEM. 2025. [Guidelines for Providing Information for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and For-Hire Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585](#).

- Ecology and Environment, Inc. 2014. [Fishing-BMP-Final-Report-July-2014.pdf](#). U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewal Energy Programs, Herndon, VA. OCS Study BOEM 2014-654.
- The Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW). 2014. FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison.
- NMFS Office of Science and Technology.

Active engagement with the fishing industry will help the Project reduce and avoid stakeholder conflict, create a positive narrative, and strive to serve as an “industry standard” for future offshore wind farm developments.

1.4 Fisheries Communications Plan Guiding Principles

This FCP is intended to create and promote a straightforward, professional, open, and ongoing dialogue among fishermen and related industries in and around the Project area. The goal is to promote compatible shared use through responsible development of the offshore resources. Consistent with BOEM expectations for all leaseholders, the FCP achieves accountability and transparency through continual engagement, reporting, feedback, and refinement.

To achieve this goal, the FCP will focus on a set of core principles:

- **Transparency and Accountability.** Facilitate open, efficient, timely, and transparent communications to promote awareness and safety.
- **Diverse Experiences.** Seek out and apply the diverse expertise and knowledge of the commercial and recreational fishing communities in the shared Project area.
- **Respectful Communication.** Acknowledge and respect the concerns and interests of fishing interests and their supporting businesses.

1.5 Fisheries Communications Plan Objectives

This FCP defines outreach and engagement strategies necessary to inform commercial and recreational fishermen about Project activities in a timely manner and build reliable and cooperative working relationships between EKW and fishing communities. These relationships are the foundation for identifying and addressing the challenges that arise with coexistence in the shared ocean space. To work toward effective shared use, EKW has identified the following objectives for the FCP:

- Promote the safety of fishermen, offshore survey crews, and construction crews transiting and working in the Project area.
- Proactively solicit fishery stakeholder concerns and strive for open, transparent communication to avoid conflicts before they develop, and quickly, fairly, and equitably resolve fisheries-related conflicts that may develop during the life of the Project.

- Identify potential adverse impacts to fishermen and related industries; understand, as fully as possible, historic, current, and potential commercial and recreational fisheries in the affected area; and make informed decisions on how to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate effects.
- Identify potential opportunities to enhance the safe and productive shared use of the Project area.
- Create an authentic and professional coexistence of fishing and wind energy in which both will prosper on a long-term basis.
- Establish a single point of contact to serve as a facilitator between EKW and fisheries stakeholders.

2 Fishing Activities Within the Project Area

2.1 Commercial Fishing

The commercial fishing industries in and around the Project area consist of both mobile and fixed fishing gear operations. Vessels that work in the Project area typically travel along the West Coast to fishing ports between Alaska and the Mexico border. Mobile fishing gear operations include trawl and seine. Fixed or static gear operations include hook and line, trap, and drift gillnet. Fishing gear types that are most economically significant for the Project area include trawl, seine, hook and line, gillnet, trap, harpoon, hand, and other non-specified gear types, though the primary gear are trawl and seine. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Marine Fisheries Data Explorer, of these gear types, Morro Bay seine fisheries have captured the most pounds of seafood over the last ten years (2012-2022; 15,909,165 pounds) whereas trap style fisheries generate the most revenue (\$35,845,292). Trawl fisheries harvested 4,730,298 pounds of seafood for a revenue of \$5,401,132. Some of the historically significant fisheries to Morro Bay fishermen are Dungeness crab, sablefish, market squid, Pacific hagfish, thornyhead, pink ocean shrimp, lingcod, California halibut, white seabass, spot prawn, rockfish, swordfish, and tuna.



The Project area is used for transit by commercial fishing vessels. Automatic Identification System² data indicate some commercial fishing vessels (greater than 65 feet long) move through the Project area in a northeasterly or southeasterly direction to and from offshore fishing grounds. Initial feedback from Morro Bay fishermen indicates that most vessels actively fishing within the Morro Bay WEA are less than 65 feet long. Fishermen who fish within the Project area often travel to fish from ports outside of Central California and may originate from anywhere on the West Coast.

² Automatic Identification Systems are only required on commercial vessels greater than 65 feet in length and must be actively transmitting within 12 nautical miles from shore. Vessel Monitoring Systems are required by vessels participating in some federally managed fisheries.

2.2 Recreational Fishing

The primary method of recreational harvest in and around the Project area is hook and line with some use of fixed gear methods, including traps. Two groups of recreational fishermen who use hook and line are “sport” fishermen, typically piloting privately owned and operated vessels, and professional captains-for-hire, who guide commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) that generally organize one- to two-day fishing trips for the public, who pay for the service and hold recreation fishing licenses. The CPFVs can take up to six people, while the larger vessels (commonly referred to as “party boats”) can accommodate up to 49 people. All CPFV captains who lead these chartered fishing boats for recreational fishing trips must be licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard. Private recreational vessels fish in and around the Project area within hard bottom outcroppings where such structures result in greater abundance of desirable fish species.

2.3 Fisheries Management and Data Collection Sources

The management of commercial fisheries in California involves a comprehensive approach to sustainably utilize and protect marine resources. This includes regulations on fishing seasons, quotas, gear types, and catch limits. The CDFW oversees these regulations, working in collaboration with federal agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) in state waters, out to three (3) nautical miles offshore. Fishing activities that occur in federal waters from three (3) to 200 nautical miles offshore are managed by NOAA fisheries. The OCS-P 0565 Lease Area primarily occurs in Federal waters; however, Project infrastructure, including cable routes, and cable landfall extend into waters regulated by the state of California.

Commercial and recreational fisheries operating in and around the Project area are subject to regulations and reporting protocols that result in numerous data sets. These regulatory programs and data collection often involve interjurisdictional management between NOAA Fisheries and regional fisheries management councils (e.g., Pacific Fisheries Management Council [PFMC], CDFW). In addition, many of the fishing vessels operating in and around the Project area are subject to tracking via a Vessel Monitoring System, which creates a spatial data record of vessel activities in the form of a GPS location and time, which is then relayed through a communication service provider to NOAA fisheries. Other vessels have permits for regulated species that require effort and landings to be reported via Vessel Trip Reporting. The project will use these fisheries-dependent data to assess the historical fishing activity inside the Project area and will also use the information to help direct Project engagement needs.

Several sources will be used to characterize fishing activity in and around the Project area, including, but not limited to:

- CDFW, Marine Fisheries Data Explorer ([Marine Fisheries Data Explorer](#))
- NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region ([Vessel Monitoring System on the West Coast | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA Fisheries Fisheries Stats ([Office of Science and Technology | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA Fisheries Essential Fish Habitat Mapper ([Essential Fish Habitat Mapper | NOAA Fisheries](#))

- NOAA Fisheries Fishery Independent Survey Data ([Fishery-Independent Survey System | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA Fisheries Species Information System ([Species Information System | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA data (fish stock assessments, population and ecosystems monitoring and analysis division, fishery monitoring, and research)
- NOAA Fishing Gear: Purse Seines ([Fishing Gear: Purse Seines | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA Fishing Gear: Bottom Trawls ([Fishing Gear: Bottom Trawls | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- NOAA California Market Squid ([California Market Squid | NOAA Fisheries](#))
- PFMC Fishery Management Plans ([Fishery management plans - Pacific Fishery Management Council](#))
- PFMC Amendments ([Fishery management plan and amendments - Pacific Fishery Management Council](#))



3 Offshore Surveys and Data Collection

EKW will use fisheries data from the aforementioned sources to inform site characterization and development of the Constructions and Operations Plan (COP). Additional data will be gathered through fisheries stakeholder engagement and field surveys. Information on fishing locations, catch, and gear usage will be obtained through community engagement among the Fisheries Liaison (FL), Fisheries Representatives (FRs), and commercial and recreational fishing communities. These engagement activities are described further in Section 4.3 and Section 4.4.

Offshore surveys for benthic, geophysical, and geotechnical resources will be conducted in accordance with lease and permitting requirements. EKW will provide a survey schedule on the Project website and via established and preferred communication strategies in advance of survey activities to ensure ocean users understand survey locations and methods. Survey schedules, locations, and methods will also be relayed through the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners. These notices will include survey vessel names and marine very high frequency (VHF) channels so that fishermen are able to communicate directly with the offshore fisheries liaison representative (OFLR) (if needed) or the FL during survey activities.

4 Fisheries Communication Strategies

4.1 Fisheries Communication Team

The Senior Manager of Environmental Compliance & Strategy and Director of Marine Affairs will serve as the project points of contact throughout the engagement process. The project will conduct fisheries communication described in this FCP via an established FL and FRs, whose roles are further described in Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. The Director of Marine Affairs supervises and directs the FL and FR activities. The FL's primary role is to provide two-way communication to and from the fishing community directly to the project sponsors regarding issues and concerns raised, whereas the FRs serve as additional points of contact to the fishing communities. The FL and FRs will work together to review, evaluate, and improve the effectiveness of fisheries related outreach and communication. The Senior Manager of Environmental Compliance & Strategy will serve as the project point of contact with the BOEM Project Coordinator, who will serve as the primary point of contact for other federal, state, and local government agencies, developers, and other stakeholders. Additionally, BOEM will perform project review, internal and external coordination, and stakeholder outreach for renewable energy projects on the outer continental shelf.

4.1.1 FISHERIES LIAISON (FL) – ONSHORE COORDINATION

BOEM requires an individual be retained by the lessee to serve as its primary point of contact with commercial and recreational fisheries. In the absence of a dedicated FL, the Director of Marine Affairs will perform all the FL responsibilities. As the project expands, and depending on the level of activity, one or more FLs may be brought on board to assist with these duties. The FL communicates issues and concerns raised by the fishing community directly to the project sponsors. The FL is responsible for overall implementation of the FCP and communicating project plans and activities that might affect the fishing industry during the project development, construction, and operations. The FL will have a direct line of communication to the project sponsor's senior management to make recommendations for coordination improvement, to address complaints and concerns, and to share other input received from fishing stakeholders. The FL will be responsible for the following:

- Serve as the primary point of contact with FRs
- Communicate across fishery communities and regions inside and outside the FR network to educate and timely disseminate information about the project and receive input.
- Validate fisheries information through cross-referencing among the best available data sources.
- Develop relationships and direct communication with individuals representing fishing regions, industries, and interests to the project area.
- Convey current fishing industry concerns and feedback to the project development team so they can identify and work toward solutions, as needed.
- Organize meetings, as necessary, to garner fishers' views of project effects on their industry and navigational rights.

- Develop a stakeholders' list in consultation with the FR that includes relevant fishery community individuals, officials, and organizations for communication efforts.
- Serve as the primary point of contact and coordinate resolution of issues regarding gear conflicts that may arise. Appendix A provides the procedure established to facilitate the filing of a claim for potential gear damage or loss.

4.1.2 FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVE (FR)

Designated FRs will serve as additional points of contact when and where necessary within the fishing community. A FR represents a particular fishery, organization, gear type, port, region, state, or sector(s), and is responsible for communicating concerns, issues, and other input to the FL. A FR is typically an individual who has worked extensively within the industry they represent but is not necessarily an active fisher. In addition, FRs are:

- Available during project planning and construction phases.
- Able to provide the project sponsors with guidance, through the FL, on fishing activity in the area and an understanding of particular fishing sensitivities, etc.
- Knowledgeable about different fishing sectors, seasons, key species, fishing patterns, and gear types and have fishing experience in the region.

FRs will not work for or on behalf of project sponsors; however, they will represent their respective fishing communities as defined points of contact. The project sponsors may compensate FRs for their time and expenses. The FL will solicit the FRs through an equitable process and will ensure these individuals or organizations adequately and fairly represent their respective industry, gear type, port, or region and have the support of the fishing stakeholders they speak for.

When designated, contact information for FRs can be found in Table 1: Project Primary Points of Contact

4.1.3 OFFSHORE FISHERIES LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES (OFLR)– OFFSHORE CAMPAIGNS

The project will employ OFLRs on vessels involved in project-related offshore activities as appropriate. Typically, an OFLR will be available offshore if there is a Protected Species Observer onboard a vessel. The OFLR will coordinate with the FL and any offshore vessel crew to provide general information about potential fishing vessels and equipment types in the area based on experience and consultations with fishing stakeholders prior to offshore activities. As needed, the OFLR will be called on to perform the following:

- Establish and maintain professional, respectful, and friendly communication directly with fishing vessels in the project area
- Contact any fishing vessels working or transiting in the area while offshore activity is occurring
- Document the communications with fishing vessels

- Document fishing and transit activity in the project area, fixed gear sightings, and fisheries interactions

When designated, contact information for OFLRs can be found in Table 1: Project Primary Points of Contact.

4.2 General Strategies

In early 2025, federal actions created challenges with respect to regulatory and policy certainty for offshore wind. Given these challenges, the project is limiting its development activities. As a result, Invenenergy is limiting its fishery engagement activities. In the meantime, Invenenergy remains available to share information and maintain open lines of communication as part of its commitment to transparent and responsible development.

Once development activity resumes, more robust engagement will recommence and will be guided by the general outreach strategies outlined below and in Sections 4.3 and 4.4.

The Fisheries Communication Team will use outreach strategies designed to effectively engage fishing stakeholders. These strategies will offer opportunities to access or receive timely updates on project activities and encourage feedback from fishing communities regarding fishing activities (e.g., peak fishing seasons) and, to the extent practicable, means avoiding interaction offshore between survey vessels and fishers.

During active development, general outreach strategies may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Establish and maintain a dedicated tab/page on the project website (available at [Mariners](#)) specifically for fishing stakeholders and the marine community. The page will include the latest version of the FCP and all Mariner Updates. The page will also provide relevant contact information to submit feedback and include an RSS feed link so that interested parties can subscribe to periodic updates and newsletters about development activities.
- Establish a comprehensive fishing stakeholder email and text distribution list to provide regular project updates and other important notices. This contact list will be updated throughout the project timeline.
- Regularly distribute bulletins showing the project area (depicted on local nautical charts) with a description of vessels and operations in the area, the activities taking place, the timelines, and the relevant contact information.
- Schedule and hold regular “town hall” type (open to the public) meetings and webinars regarding project activities designed to educate fishing stakeholders, share project information, and solicit feedback.
- Attend Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings to be readily available to answer questions for those in attendance.
- Participate in existing offshore wind meetings where federal (e.g., BOEM, NMFS) and state (e.g., California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife) agencies participate.

- Publish announcements and share project updates with print and online industry publications and local news outlets.
- Establish specific methods for communicating with fishers while they are at sea.
- Issue Mariner Updates and request USCG Local Notice(s) to Mariners ahead of any offshore activities, as required.
- Use BOEM Progress Reports, submitted every six months as required by the project lease, to document engagement with fishing interests, potential adverse effects stemming from the project to the interests of fishing community, and how, if at all, the design or implementation of the project has been informed by or altered to address these potential effects (including by investing in, or directing benefits to fishing interests).

Note: EKW submits a Semi-Annual Progress Report to BOEM providing details of all stakeholder engagement during 6-month reporting periods. The Semi-Annual Progress Reports are available on BOEM's website at: [Invenergy California Offshore LLC \(OCS-P 0565\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#)

4.3 Commercial Fisheries Engagement Strategies

Fisheries stakeholder categories were determined by querying CDFW Marine Fisheries Data Explorer website (2022). The FCT outreach efforts will continue to validate these data through conversations with willing participants about whether they fish in and around the lease area. Fisheries that have been historically significant in Morro Bay include Dungeness crab, sablefish, market squid, Pacific hagfish, thornyhead, pink shrimp, lingcod, California halibut, white seabass, spot prawn, rockfish, swordfish, and tuna. Gear types used in Morro Bay include trawl, seine, hook and line, gillnet, trap, harpoon, hand, and other non-specified gear types, though the primary gear are trawl and seine. Of the two, seine fisheries have captured the highest volume of seafood in the last ten years in Morro Bay, and trap-stye fisheries have generated the most revenue. Over the last 10 years, Morro Bay and Port San Luis commercial fisherman have harvested approximately 41 million pounds of seafood, for a value of approximately \$77 million. (CDFW. 2022. Marine Fisheries Data Explorer. Available at: [Marine Fisheries Data Explorer](#). Accessed August 2023.) Some fishermen that fish in the WEA may land their catch in alternate ports. To capture this wider group of fishermen, the FCT has identified multiple fishery associations to contact using their existing communication networks, which will further inform the FCP. Commercial Fishing Associations include:

- Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
- Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
- California Association of Harbormasters and Port Captains
- California Fishermen's Resiliency Association
- California Wetfish Producers Association
- Carmel River Steelhead Association
- Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee

- Central Coast Women for Fisheries, Inc.
- City of Monterey Harbor
- City of Morro Bay
- City of Morro Bay Harbor
- Coastal Troller's Association
- Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
- Fishermen's Alliance
- Fishermen's Association of Moss Landing
- Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
- Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association Institute for Fisheries Resources
- Joint Oil/Fisheries Liaison Office of South/Central California
- Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust
- Monterey Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
- Morro Bay Community Quota Fund
- Moss Landing Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Moss Landing Harbor District
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
- Pillar Point Commercial Fishermen
- Pillar Pt. Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District
- Port San Luis Commercial Fishermans Association
- Port San Luis Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Port San Luis Harbor District
- Recreational Fishermen of America
- Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)
- San Diego Fishermen's Working Group
- San Francisco Community Fishing Association
- Santa Cruz Fishermen's Marketing Association
- Santa Cruz Port District
- Southern California Trawlers' Association
- Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

- West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
- Western Fishboat Owners Association

The FCT is responsible for engaging with fishery advocacy organizations (e.g., Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Organization, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations), regional fishery councils (e.g., PFMC), and individual fishermen. The FCT will use, but is not limited to, the following strategies to engage with commercial fisheries:

- Work with fishermen to establish a set of guiding principles, such as:
 - Establish a method to identify the location of fixed gear for the purpose of routing offshore wind-related activities around or temporary relocation of such gear.
 - Develop a process for filing claims associated with gear loss or damage sustained while fishing near Project infrastructure.
 - Compile agreed upon mitigation measures to reduce Project impacts on fishermen.
 - In initial outreach meetings, fishing stakeholders provided the following additional suggestions for consideration:
 - Model mitigation and communication plans on successful agreements between fishing stakeholders and submarine fiber optic cable committees.
 - Create a system for stakeholders' comments and concerns to reach the Project's decision makers when additional leadership and oversight is required.
 - Update Project website frequently with the intent that it will be the main source of Project information for fishermen.
 - Collect on-the-water observations from stakeholders that could improve the process and inform adaptive monitoring.
- Schedule meetings with local fishermen (e.g., port meetings, webinars), in consideration of stakeholder preferences for locations and times, ahead of each key Project milestone to discuss the activity and identify potential conflicts.
- Establish regular "port hours" in stakeholder ports, coordinated with other leaseholders as practicable, to encourage consistent, local engagement to identify and characterize important details regarding local fishermen operations.
- Engage local fishermen to serve as OFLRs (Section 4.1.4) on vessels working in the Project area, and secure local vessels to function as scout boats during Project-related offshore activities.
- Participate as a vendor in commercial fishing conferences and trade shows to provide an additional point of engagement.

4.4 Recreational Fisheries Engagement Strategies

Recreational fishermen who may be affected by Project activities are represented by the following organizations:

- Recreational Fishing Alliance
- American Sportfishing Association
- San Diego Anglers Club
- Avalon Tuna Club
- Balboa Angling Club
- Dana Point Kayak Fishing Mafia
- Dana Wharf Lady Anglers
- Recreational Fishermen of America
- Fishermen In Business (Christian Anglers Club)
- High Desert Salt Water Anglers
- Dana Angling Club
- Glendora Rod & Reel Club
- Inland Salt Water Anglers Club
- Mission Bay Marlin Club
- The Marlin Club

Through these organizations, the FCT will:

- Solicit feedback and meet with professional associations representing CPFVs.
- Engage local offshore fishing clubs to attend their meetings, deliver educational presentations, and solicit feedback.
- As needed, identify offshore fishing tournaments and dates, engage with tournament organizers, share operational plans and contact information, and identify and monitor the VHF channel used by the tournament.
- Attend regional sportfishing conferences and trade shows to provide an additional point of engagement and educate the recreational fishing community.

4.5 Coastal Resources Management

EKW will engage with coastal resources management bodies as appropriate (e.g., PFMC, CDFW, California Coastal Commission).

4.6 Planning for Subsequent Project Stages

As the development of the project progresses, the FCP will be updated in accordance with the project phases identified below. These updates will reflect the shared experiences of project sponsors and the Fisheries Communication Team, and ongoing engagement with the fishing community, regulatory agencies, and Tribes. The project sponsors will make an updated and refined version of the FCP available to the fishing community and public via the Even Keel Wind webpage (<https://evenkeelwind.invenenergy.com/mariners>). The project website will provide an avenue for receiving and addressing public comments.

- **Surveys and Data Collection** – In addition to analyzing existing fisheries data, this phase of activity will include data collection and survey campaigns which may include but are not limited to benthic, geophysical, and geotechnical, and surveys. The Fisheries Communication Team will notify applicable ocean users of the timing and scope of planned activities two weeks in advance of any field survey operations.
- **Design and COP Preparation** - The project sponsors will use survey data and fisheries inputs resulting from engagement undertaken by the Fisheries Communication Team to inform the project design and layout (e.g., wind turbine generators, offshore substation foundations, inter-array cable, and export cable routes) and reduce conflicts. The FCP will be adjusted as needed to reflect continued engagement with agencies during the project's design and COP preparation phases.
- **Construction and Installation** – The Fisheries Communication Team will be apprised of any construction-related surveys. Ahead of construction and installation activities, the Fisheries Communication Team will facilitate ongoing communication and engagement with the fishing community and adjust activity timing and scope as appropriate to reduce conflicts with installation activities, as well as with the development and execution of pre-construction and post-construction fishery and benthic monitoring plans.
- **Decommissioning** – Prior to the decommissioning, the FCP will be updated to address this final phase of the project. As part of planning for project decommissioning, the Fisheries Communication Team will facilitate ongoing communication and engagement with the fishing community and adjust activity timing and scope as appropriate to reduce conflicts.

The FCP will evolve based on project activities being executed. This evolution will be based on feedback and guidance from fishers, fishing organizations, agencies, and Tribes and the shared experiences of the project sponsors and stakeholders involved in the project and will require the continued engagement and dedication of all parties to be effective.

5 Coordination of Engagement Across Lease

EKW and other Morro Bay leaseholders are engaging with one another with the shared goal of consolidating communications with resource-limited agencies and stakeholders and obtaining feedback from these parties concerning strategies for communications and information sharing throughout the development and permitting processes. EKW pledges to adhere to the following principles during collaborations with adjacent leaseholders:

- To work together to identify innovative avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures based on lessons learned in the industry both domestically and globally.
- To seek opportunities to meet as a group on select topics to reduce the need for individual meetings with fisheries stakeholders.
- To seek to meet jointly in other forums and/or request joint Morro Bay WEA presentations/agenda items at various working group and stakeholder meetings to reduce the need for Project-specific presentations.
- To work together to coordinate port hours so that FRs, fishermen have consolidated times to discuss issues with Morro Bay WEA leaseholders.
- Endeavor to coordinate with other leaseholders to share a single platform for gear loss forms among the three Morro Bay WEAs to streamline the form submittal process for fishermen.

6 Gear Interactions and Loss

Invenergy and its contractors are dedicated to preventing interactions with fishing gear and will take all possible measures to minimize fisheries impacts and prevent gear loss throughout survey activities.

A standardized and accessible compensation procedure for gear loss will be implemented, with a timely evaluation and payment based on replacement costs at the time of reimbursement. Fisheries participants will receive advanced notice of project activities through multiple communication channels, and survey vessels will maintain detailed records of any gear interactions. If gear loss occurs, a Gear Loss Claim should be generated and submitted as outlined in Appendix A. Claims will be reviewed by a designated committee, with a response issued within 30 days. If gear loss claim is denied, a written justification will accompany the claim denial. These measures aim to ensure accountability while fostering collaboration between offshore wind developers and the fishing community. Any fishing gear interactions with facilities and/or survey activities will be catalogued and provided to BOEM in an annual report.

Appendix A Gear Loss Claim Form: Even Keel Wind

I. Filing a Claim

Invenergy and its contractors will make every viable attempt to avoid damaging fishing gear during development activities (survey, construction, operation). In the event that a party (“Applicant”) experiences gear loss or damage that they believe can reasonably be attributed to Invenergy’s activities, the Applicant should complete this claim form and submit it with the required documentation outlined below.

II. Requirements for Filing a Claim

1. Notify the Fishery Liaison of the incident as soon as safe and practical via email/cell/text/email at (Emarohn@invenenergy.com / 339-933-6492)
2. Complete the attached “Gear Loss Claim Form” in full.
3. Include the following attachments with the claim form:
 - (1) Copy/proof of a valid fishing permit
 - (2) A vessel trip report (VTR) for the trip in which the gear loss/damage occurred, or sales slip for fish landings for period of gear loss/damage showing that the vessel was fishing in the area at the time of the incident
 - (3) Proof of vessel ownership
 - (4) Photos of vessel/damaged gear
 - (5) Copy of receipt for original purchase of fishing gear that was lost/damaged.
 - (6) Sales slip or gear invoice for replacement or repair gear (must be identical to gear that was lost/damaged)
 - (7) Location of gear loss/damage – either GPS coordinates and/or photo of chart plotter.
 - (8) Completed W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>)
4. Submit the completed claim form and the required attachments within 30 days of incident through one of the following methods:
 - Email to: Director, Marine Affairs, EJ Marohn, at emarohn@invenenergy.com
 - Mail to: Address TBD

III. Claim Review Process

1. Claims will be reviewed by Even Keel Wind Fisheries Liaison and an Even Keel Wind Representative.
2. Applicants will be notified of the result of the review, in writing, within 30 days of receiving the completed claim form and required attachments.

- o If the claim is found to be valid, payment will be remitted to the Applicant within 10 business days of approval by Invenergy.
 - o If the claim is denied, a written explanation will be provided to the Applicant.
3. Applicants who wish to contest the decision may file a written notice of appeal with Even Keel Wind. The appeal will be deferred to a third party for review. The decision of the third party is final and not subject to any further right of appeal. Invenergy California Offshore LLC will not be held liable for gear loss or damages that could have reasonably been prevented by Applicant. If Applicant accepts payment from Invenergy California Offshore LLC as a result of a claim, Invenergy California Offshore LLC will be deemed fully released from the respective claim. Invenergy California Offshore LLC reserves the right to request additional information to support review of a claim; the review process will be extended by 15 days upon receiving any additional information.

Gear Loss Claim Form (Page 1 of 3)

Applicant Name	Date Submitted
Phone	Email
Business Name	Address
Vessel Name	Home Port
Vessel Documentation Number	Federal Fishing Permit
State Landing Permit	Gear Type
Date and Time of Incident	Weather Conditions (Optional)
Claim Amount	Location of Gear Loss (Lat/Long OR Loran)
Description of Loss or Damage Sustained	Description of Incident Causing Damage/Loss

Gear Loss Claim Form (Page 2 of 3)

Description of Incident Causing Damage/Loss (continued):	Gear Description (e.g., Markings/polyballs, highflyers, etc.)
Offshore Wind Vessel(s) in the Area	Last Time Gear was Set and Hauled:
Was any of the Gear Retrieved?	How Many Gillnets, Pots, Highflyers, Trawl, Doors, Ground Cables, Scissor Leggs, etc. are Lost/Damaged?
<p>Attachments to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoice for Replacement Gear or Gear Repair (if applicable) - Photo of chart plotter/tracks (if applicable) - Photos of gear damage (if applicable) - Proof of vessel ownership - Proof of fishing permit - Completed W-9 form (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf) 	

Gear Loss Claim Form (Page 3 of 3)

I, _____, as Applicant hereunder, hereby understand that submitting this Gear Loss Claim Form does not guarantee payment. I further acknowledge and agree that (i) if this claim is accepted and paid by Invenergy California Offshore LLC ("Invenergy"), my acceptance of such payment constitutes full, final, non-appealable and complete payment for the claim and that neither Invenergy nor any of its affiliates, and its and its affiliates' contractors, agents or employees shall have any further outstanding or ongoing liability or obligation with respect to this claim or the loss of or damage to the gear described above, and (ii) I hereby release and discharge Invenergy and its affiliates, contractors, agents and employees from all liability related to the claim as of the date of acceptance of the payment. I further acknowledge and agree that I shall not, directly or indirectly, assert any claim, or commence, join in, prosecute, participate in, or fund any part of, any suit or other proceeding of any kind against Invenergy or any of its affiliates, based upon this claim. Additionally, I understand that any payment is the result of a compromise of a disputed claim, and that neither this release nor any payment shall be considered an admission of liability by Invenergy with respect to the disputed claim.

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge the information in this Application is true and correct.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Submit this completed claim form and the required attachments within 30 days of incident through one of the following methods:

Email to: Director, Marine Affairs, EJ Marohn, at emarohn@invenenergy.com

Mail to: Address TBD