

Submitter: Mike Okoniewski  
On Behalf Of: WCP  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB678

Oregon Legislators: Please vote no on SB 678:

West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCP) is composed of commercial fishermen and processors. Our present focus is on cooperative research with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC). Our members harvest, process, and market all major species of seafood on the west coast and Alaska. Our processors service over one thousand fishermen and our fishermen and processors employ over 4000 people. Our members have the five largest fish processing plants from San Francisco to the Canadian Border and sell and distribute fresh and frozen seafood from every major west coast fishery across the U.S. and worldwide. Our present focus is on collaborative research with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) to provide more accurate data for CPS stock assessment.

We incorporate by reference the remarks made by the Midwater Trawlers Association (MTC) and the West Coast Processors Association (WCPA).

We want to halt all Floating Offshore Wind (FOSW) until all economic and ecological function impacts have been studied and we know FOSW is not going to cause irreparable damage. FOSW will have effects on our marine ecosystems. What that means needs to be understood before we move forward

Our position on Floating Offshore Wind (FOSW) energy is that to go forward as presently planned by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is that it will terminate many of our Oregon fishermen's livelihoods when BOEM promotes FOSW leasing in some of the most productive fishing areas on the planet. These are fisheries managed with a conservation first mandate and are rated under the best governance and policies in the world. These provide sustainable, healthy protein with the lowest carbon footprint of any animal protein. These fisheries can feed hundreds of thousands worldwide and ensure US food security long into the future. If we do not industrialize our oceans with wind farms and mining operations.

There are several fallacies that are being foisted on the American public as the mad rush to take over our oceans with a nascent and unproven technology mis-labeled as a climate change red light. It is not and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Vineyard Windfarm verifies our statement.

1. The first fallacy is that BOEM has covered the interests of the fishing community. Our US based-non-import Fisheries in 2020 (NOAA Fisheries Economic Report) contributed \$88.6 billion to our economy and 555,000 jobs. This is the type of annual remuneration BOEM should be talking about for a span of the life cycle of a

turbine. Fishermen and processors are long term investors that span multiple generations and support the social functions, culture, and proud heritage of Oregon's Coastal communities. If we lose

2. California Current Ecosystem: One of the most productive on the planet. We cannot rely on BOEM environmental assumptions to underwrite these mammoth industrialized projects. We do not know what the impacts will be. It is that simple.

3. Jobs: One of the biggest fallacies is the benefit of huge job creation to deal with manufacture, assembly, and transport of these monster machines. Only a very few ports and communities will benefit from this. Perhaps none in Oregon. The ports in Seattle and Tacoma say they can provide for the full number of projects in all three western states and Alaska. The Port of Los Angeles stated they could handle all of California.

Many Oregon communities will lose their fishing jobs and get nothing back from FOSW except a higher power bill. Don't be fooled. Do the research. You are chasing a propaganda myth propagated by BOEM.

Thank you,

Mike Okoniewski, WCP  
Mokoniewski.consultant@pacificseafood.com