



GOLDEN STATE WIND



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Fisheries Communication Plan

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACSF	Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
AIS	Automatic identification system
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
COP	Construction and Operations Plan
CSFB	Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
CWPA	California Wetfish Producers Association
FCP	Fisheries Communications Plan
FL	Fisheries Liaison
FR	Fisheries Representative
G&G	Geotechnical and Geophysical
GSW	Golden State Wind LLC
Lease Area	Lease Area OCS-P 0564
LNM	Local Notice to Mariners
MBCFO	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service
OW	Ocean Winds
PCFFA	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen Association
PFMC	Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Project	Golden State Wind Project
PSLCFA	Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association
USCG	United States Coast Guard

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

Golden State Wind LLC (GSW) is a 50/50 partnership between Ocean Winds (OW) and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, managed by OW. GSW obtained rights to Lease Area OCS-P 0564 (Lease Area) in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) December 2022 Pacific Wind Lease Sale. The Lease Area is located on the Pacific Coast Outer Continental Shelf and is the central of three lease areas in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (Figure 1). The Lease Area is approximately 80,418 acres (325 square kilometers), 22 miles (19 nautical miles; 35 kilometers) offshore of California at the closest point, and 53 miles (46 nautical miles; 85 kilometers) offshore of Morro Bay, California. Water depths within the Lease Area range from approximately 3,120 feet (951 meters) to 4,540 feet (1,328 meters). The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area was designated by BOEM following a review of existing and targeted environmental studies as well as significant stakeholder engagement and input. A public copy of Lease OCS-P 0564 is available on BOEM's website (BOEM 2023).

Once constructed, the Golden State Wind Project (Project) will consist of wind turbine generators installed on floating platforms, mooring and anchoring systems connecting them to the seabed, inter-array cables, floating offshore substation(s), offshore export cables, cable landfall(s), onshore export cable(s), onshore substation(s), and onshore interconnection cable(s) to the point(s) of interconnection to the onshore electric grid (Figure 2). If approved by federal, state, and local agencies, activities would include construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the Project.

To support engineering design and permitting, site assessment activities to be conducted within the Lease Area include site characterization and survey activities including vessel-based surveys and deployment of metocean buoys. Site assessment activities outside of the Lease Area include survey activities along proposed offshore export cable routes and onshore facilities locations.

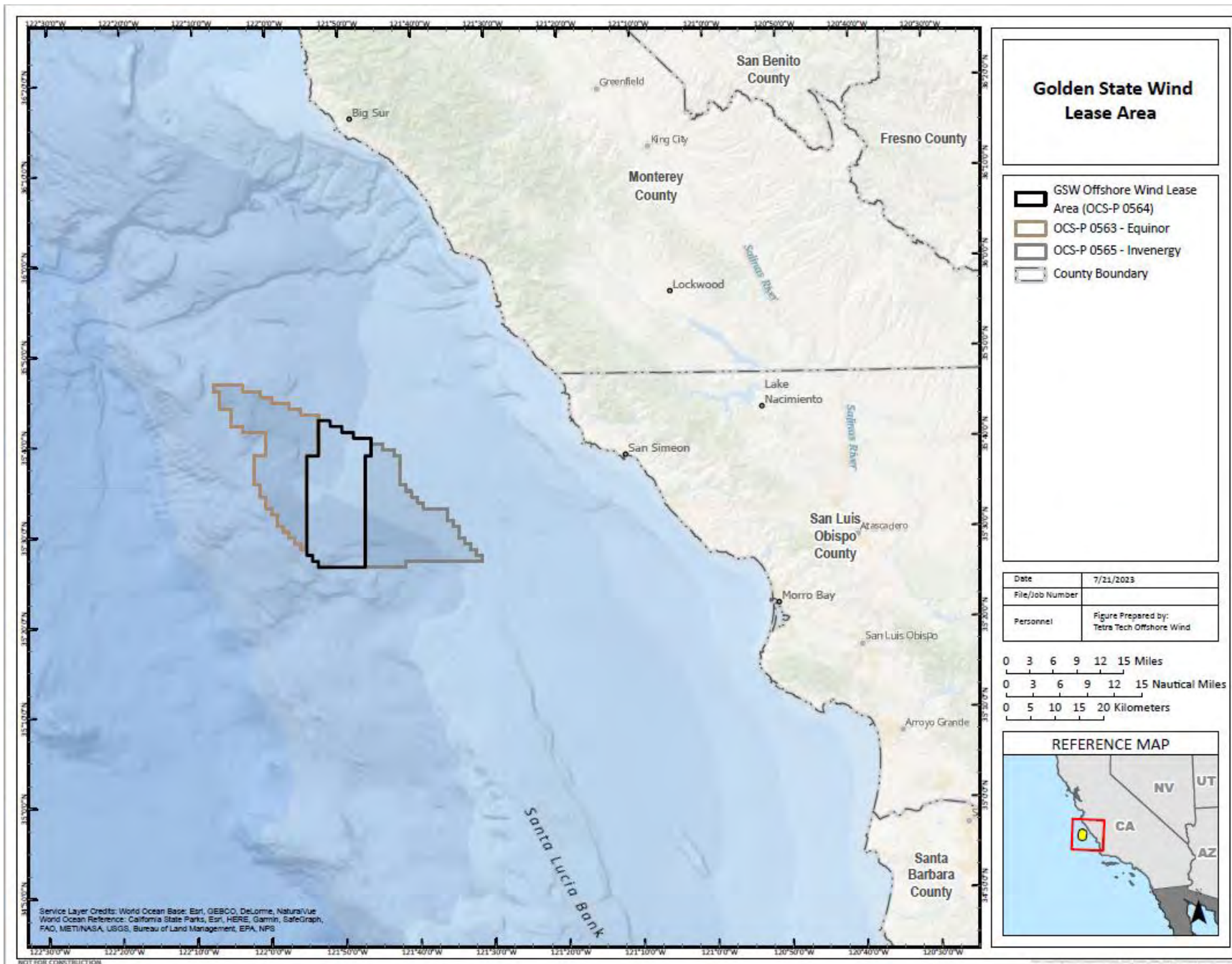


Figure 1. Golden State Wind Lease Area (OCS-P 0564) in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

GOLDEN STATE WIND PROJECT

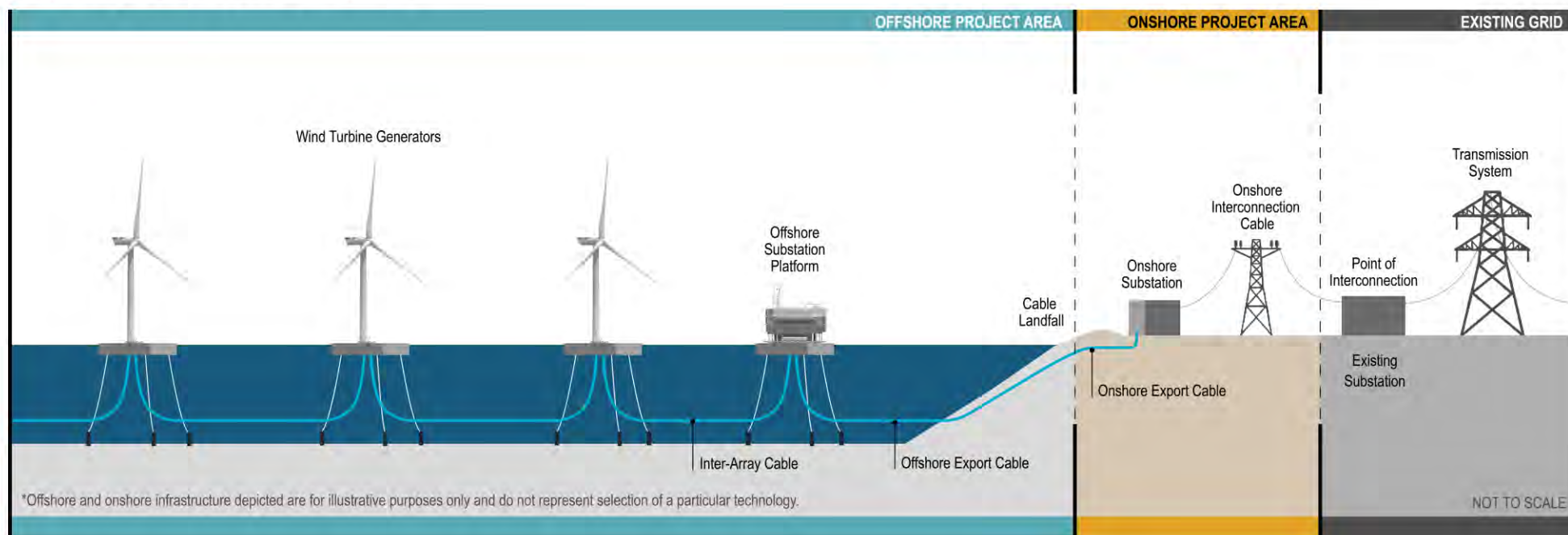


Figure 2. Project Schematic

1.2 Fisheries Communications Plan

GSW recognizes that fishing is an integral part of the cultural, historic, and economic fabric of coastal California. GSW believes that responsible development of offshore wind is contingent on early, transparent, and continuous collaboration with the fishing industry and that the success of the proposed Project depends on our ability to coexist alongside other oceans users whose use of the Project Area, or whose use of resources harvested from the Project Area, may be impacted by offshore wind development. For the purposes of this plan, the Project Area refers to the Lease Area and offshore export cable corridor(s). **GSW's Fisheries Communications Team**, including a dedicated Fisheries Liaison (FL) and other GSW staff, guided by this Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP), will engage, and build relationships with fishing community stakeholders with the intent of fostering productive collaboration.

This **FCP establishes the guiding principles that will drive GSW's outreach and engagement with the region's fishing community**. The FCP is a "living document," which will continue to evolve with regular feedback and guidance from the fishing community, fishing organizations, regulatory agencies, and individual fishermen. This FCP is consistent with the requirements included in Addendum C of the Lease and incorporates the relevant minimum components for Communications Plans as identified within the Draft BOEM guidelines for the Outer Continental Shelf (BOEM 2022, 2023). When these draft guidelines are finalized, updates to this FCP may be needed. This FCP also includes a description of the regulatory background, a list of principles and objectives, a discussion of the Fisheries Communications Team, stakeholder engagement strategies and timelines, and notifications regarding Project key phases.

Ongoing, two-way communication with the fishing community and its representatives is essential to building relationships among users of the Project Area. Continual engagement will help to inform Project planning activities and Project design while also facilitating authentic engagement to support understanding of other users' activities.

The process of gathering fisheries information to support this effort will be iterative and continuous. Communications strategies and methodologies may be refined as GSW coordinates with and receives feedback from commercial and recreational fishing communities, representative organizations, and regulatory bodies. It should be understood and expected that credible information received from different sources may be contradictory. It should also be understood that all information provided in confidence will be treated as Confidential Information. GSW will endeavor to apply the best available information to develop fair and complementary plans for shared use of the Project Area. Communications strategies and methodologies may be refined as GSW coordinates with and receives feedback from commercial and recreational fishing communities, representative organizations, and regulatory bodies.

Ultimately, the engagement conducted, feedback received, and strategies devised as described in this FCP will inform plans for future shared use of the Project Area.

1.3 Regulatory Background

The FCP is developed to be compliant with and provided in accordance with the terms of Lease OCS-P 0564, Addendum C, Stipulation 6.2. It includes a discussion of the strategy that GSW intends to use for communicating with commercial fishing communities, communications protocols, other outreach that will take place, and a process for filing complaints to seek the replacement of or compensation for lost gear. The FCP specifically targets both commercial and recreational fishing industries and stakeholders, as stipulated by Addendum C, Stipulation 3.1.1.

The FCP has also been informed by **BOEM's "Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFT Part 585"** (BOEM 2020). This includes identification of a FL who will be the primary point of contact at GSW for the fishing community, communication methods with the FL, coordination with Fisheries Representative(s) (FR), and proposed stakeholder identification and outreach methods. GSW is aware that BOEM is developing guidelines for elements of a fisheries communication plan. When these guidelines are released, GSW understands that updates to this FCP may be needed. GSW is also aware that BOEM is finalizing Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf (BOEM 2022). Once these guidelines are finalized, aspects of this FCP may need updating, including, but not limited to the claims process described in the following sections of this report.

GSW understands the burden that development of several offshore wind projects along similar timelines can put on stakeholders in terms of communication and meeting fatigue. GSW is committed to coordinating engagement activities with other regional lessees to decrease the communication and consultation burden on stakeholders, per Addendum C, Stipulation 3.1.4, and believes that engagement with commercial and recreational fishermen is an area where coordination with other regional lessees is possible to reduce the meeting burden on stakeholders.

Per Condition 7c of the California **Coastal Commission's** (CCC's) Consistency Determination on BOEM's lease sale, a working group, referred to as the 7C Fisheries Working Group, will be established by the CCC to develop a statewide strategy for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to fishing and fisheries that prioritizes fisheries productivity, viability, and long-term resilience (CCC 2022). GSW will participate in and engage with representatives of the 7C Fisheries Working Group and the process that CCC establishes for development of a statewide strategy. GSW anticipates that the statewide strategy developed by the 7C Fisheries Working Group could influence the contents of this FCP.

The California Offshore Wind Energy Fisheries Working Group was established in Senate Bill 286, which the California Legislature approved, and the Governor signed in October 2023.

As stated in Senate Bill 286, the California Offshore Wind Energy Fisheries Working Group will be composed of:

- Representatives of CCC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the California State Lands Commission, the Ocean Protection Council;

- Representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing industries;
- Representative of the offshore wind energy industry;
- Representatives of relevant federal agencies; and
- Representatives of California Native American Tribes with affected Tribal fisheries, and other stakeholders, as determined by the CCC.

The bill requires the CCC, in coordination with CDFW, to convene the working group “on or before January 1, 2025, for the purpose of developing a statewide strategy for ensuring that offshore wind energy projects avoid and minimize impacts to ocean fisheries to the maximum extent possible, avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fishing and fisheries in a manner that prioritizes fishery productivity, viability, and long-term resilience, and fairly and reasonably compensate persons engaged in the commercial and recreational fishing industries and tribal fisheries for economic impacts to ocean fisheries resulting from offshore wind energy projects.”¹ The statewide strategy must be completed on or before January 1, 2026, and the CCC must adopt the statewide strategy on or before May 1, 2026. Applicants seeking approval or concurrence from a state agency for an offshore wind energy project are required to comply with the terms, recommendations, and best practices established in the statewide strategy.

The FCP was initially prepared in August 2023 and was submitted to BOEM in November 2023, **prior to the start of GSW’s site** characterization activities and kickoff of the 7C Fisheries Working Group. The FCP will continue to be updated throughout the Project lifecycle based on engagement with commercial and recreational fisheries and participation in the 7C Fisheries Working Group/California Offshore Wind Energy Fisheries Working Group and the **“statewide strategy” that will be developed.**

2 FCP PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

GSW’s Principles of Engagement are to have clear, efficient, and timely two-way communication and information sharing that will benefit both GSW and stakeholders within the fishing community, allowing each to understand the plan for the changing needs of the other throughout Project development, implementation, and decommissioning. Sharing information on fishing locations, survey activities, planned infrastructure locations, construction work areas, safety zones, and other Project elements will help to reduce and/or prevent the potential for conflicts detrimental to fishing and the Project.

The GSW FCP has been developed based on Lease stipulations and BOEM guidelines. The objective is to define outreach and engagement strategies for fisheries interests that may be affected during the planning, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of the Project. These strategies will be enhanced with input received from the fishing community and updated as the Project progresses.

¹ California Senate Bill 286, available at: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB286/2023>.



Figure 3. BOEM Stakeholder Communication Approach

Development of the Project within the Lease Area and along the export cable route(s) will occur in several phases including surveys and assessments, design and siting, permitting, construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning. **The 'adaptive' nature of the FCP** will allow it to be updated over time as inputs are received and through different phases of Project development and implementation.

The Project will require the development and submission of a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to BOEM that will be subject to stakeholder comment, regulatory review, and approval. Additional opportunities for stakeholder input will occur prior to construction during federal, state, and local permitting efforts. Fisheries information used to inform the COP is based on the best available and most credible information from government sources, non-governmental researchers, fishermen and fishermen's associations, and direct observation from Project vessels engaged in offshore activities.

2.1 FCP Guiding Principles

GSW is dedicated to building long-lasting partnerships with the region's coastal communities and ocean users, based on a foundation of transparency, collaboration, and trust. GSW seeks to establish trust and accountability with our stakeholders including commercial and recreational fisheries through transparent and collaborative communications processes. We seek to actively listen **to hear all stakeholders' concerns and tailor solutions to local needs.**

The fundamental principle of the FCP is facilitation of an open, ongoing dialogue among users of our shared Outer Continental Shelf so that we may coexist in the responsible utilization of **our nation's offshore resources. This will be achieved by focusing the FCP around the following,** more defined set of principles:

- Facilitate timely, coordinated, efficient, accurate and transparent two-way communications to promote Project awareness and mariner safety.

- Seek out and utilize diverse expertise and knowledge of the commercial and recreational fishing communities.
- Acknowledge and respect the concerns, issues, and interests of the fishing community.
- Systematically categorize fisheries engagement via the following methods:
 - General updates: General Project announcements or updates to be shared in advance via email/listservs, port bulletins, website postings, Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), etc.
 - Daily communications: Communicating with fishermen and other ocean users in port or on the water via real time, via cellular phone, VHF radio, interactive applications, etc.
 - Emergency communications: Immediate action or information required to/from fishermen or other ocean users in the area.
 - Fishing condition changes: Comments from fishermen to the Fisheries Liaison relaying changes in fishing over the duration of the Project to be shared internally and externally with neighboring Fisheries Liaison Officers to keep all Leaseholders up to date.
- Capture and share these categorized communications internally to the fisheries communication team to meaningfully analyze and incorporate feedback.

2.2 FCP Objectives

The primary objective of this FCP is to detail GSW's plans for timely outreach, engagement, discussion, and collaboration with the fishing communities about Project activities while also building reliable and cooperative working relationships between GSW and fishing communities. These relationships will be critical to identifying, minimizing, and mitigating, to the extent possible, any potential challenges that come with shared use of the Project Area. To realize this overall objective, GSW has identified a sub-set of defined objectives, which include:

- Promote the safety of fishermen, offshore survey crews, and construction crews transiting, working, and fishing in the area.
- Seek out fishermen and fishermen organizations and their inputs to provide additional details, filling in any **of GSW's** data gaps regarding the historic, existing, and potential opportunities and/or impediments and constraints to fishing activities in the Project Area.
- Identify potential adverse impacts to fishermen and cooperatively make informed decisions on how to avoid impacts where possible and/or minimize and/or mitigate the extent of the effects.
- Provide a pathway to quickly and fairly resolve fisheries-related conflicts that may develop during the life of the Project.

- Build a productive working relationship with fishermen, fishermen organizations, and communities, built on honesty and mutual respect, to inform the responsible design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project.
- Demonstrate how input received from the fishing community via the FCP has informed the evolution of the Project as well as the FCP and feed that information back to BOEM and the fishing community via required regular reporting.
- Implement the following processes to avoid and minimize potential issues at sea:
 - Outreach
 - Communications and Planning
 - Fisheries Briefing
 - Filing a Claim
 - Claim Review

Please note that BOEM is currently finalizing guidelines for compensation and mitigation of impacts on fisheries by offshore wind development. Once these guidelines are released, GSW intends to update the claims process, as needed.

2.3 Fisheries Communications Team

GSW will establish a Fisheries Communications Team to assist in communicating and engaging with fishing community stakeholders. The FL is an individual who has experience working with local and regional fishing community stakeholders. The FR(s) will be representative(s) of the fishing industry who broadly represents the interests of fishing community stakeholders to GSW. GSW has identified a FL and is committed to working with representatives of fishing organizations and fishing community stakeholders to identify FR(s) that have the institutional knowledge and working relationships to accurately and authentically represent fishing community opinions and perspectives to GSW.

2.3.1 Fisheries Liaison

The FL is responsible for implementing and executing the FCP. The FL will obtain information **about fishing community stakeholder's interests**, concerns, and complaints via the FR(s) and will communicate that information to GSW management and leadership to help facilitate Project development and communication process improvements.

2.3.2 Fisheries Representative(s)

The FR(s) are **responsible for representing fishing community stakeholder's interests and concerns** to the FL and GSW. The FR must be vetted and accepted by **local fishermen's** organizations and fishing community stakeholders and must provide unbiased representation of their opinions and positions. The FR(s) must have extensive experience working within the fishing industry.

2.3.3 Fisheries Communications Team Contact Information

GSW's Fisheries Liaison is:

Rachel Mahler
Fisheries Liaison
rachel.mahler@oceanwinds.com
805-680-8138

Additional GSW staff that may participate in fisheries engagement include:

Lia Howard
Permitting Senior Manager
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650-313-0367

Scott Morgan
Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager
scott.morgan@oceanwinds.com
916-837-8494

Tim Brown
Marine Affairs Manager
timothy.brown@oceanwinds.com
503-298-7745

3 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND TIMELINES

3.1 General Engagement Strategies

The GSW Fisheries Communication Team will use an array of general outreach strategies designed to engage the fishing community. These strategies will offer various opportunities to access and/or receive timely updates on Project activities and stress the need for feedback from fishing communities. Feedback from the fishing community is strongly encouraged. The methods and opportunities to provide that feedback will be clearly identified and readily available.

General outreach strategies to be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Establish and maintain a dedicated webpage on the GSW website, specifically for the fishing community with the latest Project information, including relevant information on survey locations and timing, Project timeline, and other activities such as metocean

buoy deployment. This website will also include relevant contact information and opportunities to submit feedback.

- Produce communication materials in plain language, to help ensure materials are accessible to a broad audience.
- Establish and continuously update a Project-specific information line as well as a comprehensive email distribution list to provide regular Project updates and other important Project notices.
- Regularly distribute updated asset and operational awareness bulletins showing the development area, depicted on local nautical charts, with a description of the assets in the area, the activities taking place, anticipated timelines, and relevant contact information.
- Schedule and hold meetings, roundtables, open houses, and/or webinars to share Project information and solicit fishermen and fishing organization feedback on Project activities. These may be held in collaboration with other developers or industry events.
- Engage the communications networks of the federal management agencies (e.g., BOEM, the National Marine Fisheries Service [NOAA Fisheries], and others), the regional fisheries management councils (e.g., the Pacific Fisheries Management Council [PFMC], and others), state agencies (e.g., California Energy Commission, and others) and local commercial fishing organizations and provide links to the same.
- Publish announcements and share Project updates with print and online industry publications and local news outlets.
- Distribute phone numbers for communications with the FL and support personnel to address any real-time operational conflicts and/or safety issues.
- Establish specific methods for communicating with fishermen while they are at sea, which may include, but not be limited to, VHF radio transmission, cellular phone, satellite telephone, and/or automatic identification system (AIS). GSW is also exploring the idea of using interactive applications or other methods to streamline communications between developers and fishermen.
- Work with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to issue LNMs ahead of any offshore activities, as required, and to provide notification about this FCP.

3.2 Commercial Fisheries Engagement Strategies

In all cases, early identification of the commercial fisheries in the Project Area and engagement with specific users is paramount to the success of this FCP. GSW will engage with existing commercial fishermen's organizations, local leaders that represent various gear types used in the area, and individual fishermen. Additional engagement strategies used by the FL specific to commercial fishermen of the Lease Area include:

- Engage fixed gear fishermen to establish a set of guiding principles for:
 - The identification and/or temporary relocation of fixed gear if/when needed; and

- The process for filing a claims form associated with lost or damaged gear (Attachment D).
- Schedule meetings with local fishermen (e.g., port meetings, webinars, etc.) when offshore activity plans and dates are confirmed to discuss the activity and identify any potential conflicts.
- Attendance at Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings.
- **Establish and support regular “port hours”**, which will be coordinated with other developers, with an open-door policy in local ports to encourage regular local engagement to help identify and characterize important local details regarding fisheries operations and practices.
- Participate in commercial fishing conferences, trade shows, fisheries management meetings, and other events to provide additional points of engagement.
- Listen to fishermen’s plans for their future usage of the Lease Area.
- Notify fishermen of engagement opportunities as well as upcoming Project activities.
- Proactively seek additional ways to communicate most effectively with specific fisheries—direct contact, port visits, various social media outlets, email, website, fish buyers, restaurants, phone app, local universities, WhatsApp, etc. Different groups of fishermen require different modes of communication.
- Develop and maintain an active list of seafood processors, markets, buyers, fishmongers, and community supported fisheries along with which fishermen/company they buy from and keep them informed with pertinent Project updates.

3.3 Recreational Fisheries Engagement Strategies

Recreational fishermen that may be impacted by operations in the Lease Area are also represented by national organizations (e.g., American Sportfishing Association), local organizations (e.g., American Sportfishing Association), fishing clubs, sportfishing landings, and individual sportfishing charter businesses. Additional engagement strategies used by the FL specific to recreational fishermen of the Lease area include:

- Engage the local Sportfish Landings in port representing the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel fleet of party and charter boats; schedule meetings to share information and obtain feedback.
- Identify and engage local offshore fishing clubs, attend meetings, deliver educational presentations, and solicit feedback.
- Identify offshore fishing tournaments and dates; engage with tournament organizers, share operational plans, and contact information; identify and monitor VHF channel used by tournament.
- Participate in recreational fishing trade shows and have a presence during fishing tournaments.

- Proactively seek additional ways to communicate most effectively with specific fisheries. Different groups of fishermen and different ports require different modes of communication.

3.4 Meeting Strategies

GSW's communications and engagement approach relies heavily on both virtual and in-person meetings. Meetings allow direct engagement and provide opportunities for collaboration, information sharing, and ongoing, meaningful, two-way communication.

In addition to the meetings required under Lease OCS-P 0564, GSW intends to host multiple, regular meetings with a wide variety of fishing community stakeholders throughout the Project lifecycle. Meetings hosted by or participated in by GSW will be tracked in a consolidated internal Meeting Tracker and will be reported every **six months in the Project's** semi-annual report, which will be submitted to BOEM and **made public on BOEM's website**. The identities of individuals participating in meetings will be treated confidentially.

3.5 Coordination with Other Lessees

Wherever possible, GSW will strive to work with other lessees to avoid duplicative outreach and engagement by coordinating communications and events, as required by Lease OCS-P 0564 Stipulation 3.14.

3.6 Coordination with Disinterested or Unresponsive Stakeholders

GSW will strive to engage and solicit feedback from all fishing community stakeholders potentially affected by the Project. Notwithstanding, it is expected that some fishing community stakeholders will either be uninterested in participating, or unresponsive to solicitations for feedback.

Should a fishing community stakeholder indicate they do not wish to participate in or provide feedback for the Project, GSW will request that the stakeholder express their preference in writing for record-keeping and documentation purposes.

Should a fishing community stakeholder be unresponsive to attempts to solicit their feedback or engage them in the Project, GSW will continue to communicate and invite the stakeholder to meetings as planned, until such a time when a request is received to be removed from communications.

3.7 Notification Regarding Project Key Phases

GSW acknowledges the Project will take place in several overlapping phases—including surveying, permitting, design and siting, construction, operations and maintenance, and eventually decommissioning—and that ongoing engagement and communication will be critical throughout. The FL and Fisheries Communication Team will coordinate with BOEM and interested parties to hold the FCP review meeting as required by Lease OCS-P 0564 Stipulation 6.2. GSW will also update the FCP as necessary throughout the Project lifecycle to ensure the

strategies discussed herein continue to best meet the needs of fishing community stakeholders.

3.7.1 Surveys and Assessments

GSW's FL will coordinate primarily with appropriate fishing community representatives prior to and during Project surveys which will include geological and geotechnical (G&G), and benthic surveys. Specifically, the FL will keep relevant officials and affected fishermen and organizations up to date on Project surveying activities by submitting LNMs to the USCG and distributing information on surveys via other avenues.

The FL will establish Project communication channels and the Project's digital presence, as well as begin providing regular Project updates, during surveying. The FL may also engage in initial introductory activities more broadly, including initial key stakeholder meetings, interviews, and introductory webinars, to help establish working relationships with fishing community stakeholders, and to help collect baseline data regarding fishing community needs, interests, concerns, and expectations.

GSW will continue to conduct surveys during permitting, design and siting, construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project, and the FL will continue to keep relevant officials and affected fishermen up to date on Project surveying activities throughout all phases.

3.7.2 Design and Siting

GSW's FL will solicit public feedback during the design and siting process, much of which will occur in coordination with Project permitting. The FL will continue to host regular port meetings and port hours sessions, as well as continue to provide Project updates, and regularly coordinate with key stakeholders and key external communication channels.

In support of Project design and siting, the FL will host meetings to solicit specific feedback regarding elements of Project design and development and its potential impacts from jurisdictional and fishing community stakeholders. The FL will advise GSW of needs, concerns, interests, and expectations expressed at the meetings and port hours sessions and will make **recommendations as to how to implement fishing community stakeholder's requests, insofar as possible.**

3.7.3 Permitting

GSW's FL will continue to coordinate with appropriate jurisdictional representatives and fishing community stakeholders during Project permitting. The FL will begin attending key stakeholder meetings and events and regularly coordinating with identified key stakeholders and key external communication channels during this time.

As GSW advances Project permitting, the FL will continue hosting regular port meetings and port hours sessions.

3.7.4 Construction

GSW will solicit continuous feedback about the Project during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning.

Throughout pre-construction and construction phases of the Project, the FL will continue to host meetings to solicit feedback about impacts to fishing community stakeholders associated with the Project. The FL will also continue to maintain Project communication channels and to host regular meetings and port hours through the construction phase to help ensure feedback is received and improvements are made on an ongoing basis.

Construction will be the most visible portion of the Project as construction vessels are present in the Lease Area and along the offshore export cable routes. Temporary exclusion zones are likely to be implemented around active construction zones for the safety of mariners and construction vessels. Proactive and ongoing communications will be important during this phase to ensure stakeholders are informed throughout the process, with an increased effort at the onset of construction. The Project website and communication materials will be updated, and the FL will also keep relevant jurisdictional officials and affected fishermen up to date on Project construction activities via LNMs.

3.7.5 Operations and Maintenance

GSW recognizes operations will be the longest phase of the Project. The FCP will be updated as needed throughout the operations and maintenance phase. Occasional surveys and scheduled maintenance in the Lease Area and along the offshore export cable routes will be expected, and unscheduled maintenance may also be required. GSW will continue to inform **fishermen and fishermen's associations** of offshore activities during this phase through LNMs and updates on the Project website and will engage in ongoing communication with stakeholders throughout the Project lifespan.

3.7.6 Decommissioning

The final phase of the Project is decommissioning. Similar to during construction, GSW will engage in proactive and ongoing communications prior to and during Project decommissioning to inform affected stakeholders of the presence of decommissioning vessels and exclusion zones, and any other potential impacts.

4 FUTURE UPDATES

As previously stated, the FCP will evolve over the life of the Project. This evolution will be based on shared experiences of GSW and the fishing communities and requires the continued engagement and dedication of all to be effective.

We invite members of the fishing industry and interested stakeholders to contact GSW with questions or concerns at any stage of Project development.

5 LITERATURE CITED

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). 2020. Guidelines for Providing Information on Fisheries Social and Economic Conditions for Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585. Accessed on August 16, 2023. <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/Social%20%26amp%3B%20Econ%20Fishing%20Guidelines.pdf>.
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Appendix A: Fisheries Liaison Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Fisheries Liaison (FL) include but are not limited to:

- Serve as **Golden State Wind LLC's (GSW's)** public outreach representative and principal contact to the fishing community stakeholders in coordination with GSW Staff and the Fisheries Communications Team.
- Investigate and provide follow-up for complaints or concerns regarding issues experienced by fishing community stakeholders, including those regarding gear conflicts/interactions with GSW operational vessels.
- Effectively implement the Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP), with support from **GSW's Fisheries Communications Team**.
- Produce and distribute timely and accurate communications to fishing community stakeholders regarding all relevant Project activities.
- Develop effective messaging to support the production of accessible, plain language communication materials.
- Organize meetings with fishing community stakeholders and the public to solicit information about needs, interests, concerns, and expectations, and communicate information to GSW management.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive stakeholder database of fishing community stakeholders operating within the Project Area throughout the Project lifecycle.
- Record Project information and communications, including presentations and individual conversations, in a tracking log, maintaining confidentiality as necessary.
- Share, present, discuss, refine, and update this FCP in coordination with fishing community stakeholders, appropriate agencies, and government entities.
- Participate in meetings hosted by fishing community stakeholders, agencies and government entities, policy makers, contractors, and other developers to foster positive working relationships.
- Develop, recommend, and/or comment on potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for use during Project site survey activities, design, construction, and operation.
- Meet with fishing community stakeholders in person or via digital means at times convenient for them, including outside of regular business hours and on weekends.

Appendix B: Fisheries Representative Roles and Responsibilities

The typical roles and responsibilities of the Fishing Representative (FR) include but are not limited to:

- Serve as main point of contact for fishing community stakeholders, ports, areas, or gear types, and represent their views to the Fisheries Liaison (FL) and Golden State Wind LLC (GSW) accurately and without bias.
- Liaise with the FL, other members of the Fisheries Communications Team, and GSW to ensure the objectives of the Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) are achieved.
- Share information from fishing community stakeholders with GSW, and vice versa, in a timely and inclusive manner.
- Provide the Project with expert guidance on fishing activity in the area, including regarding potential sensitivities, and promote responsible mitigation, minimization, and avoidance measures.
- Monitor fishing activities and fleet movements in the Project Area in real time and keep the Fisheries Communications Team informed of same.
- Advise fishing community stakeholders of construction, development, and operation activities and any associated safety measures.
- In coordination with the FL, assist in organizing meetings with fishing community stakeholders to solicit information about their needs, interests, concerns, and expectations regarding the Project.
- Participate in negotiations regarding appropriate and responsible mitigation, minimization, and avoidance measures during construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Communicate complaints or concerns regarding issues identified by fishing community stakeholders, including those regarding gear conflicts/interactions with GSW operational vessels, to the Fisheries Communications Team, and assist in follow-up as necessary.
- Meet with the FL and Fisheries Communications Team in person or via digital means on a regular basis.

Appendix C: Fishing Gear Damage or Loss Claim Process

Fishing Gear Damage or Loss Claim Process

Golden State Wind LLC (GSW) recognizes that fishing interests and the Project will share common space in the offshore waters of California, and both fishing interests and the Project will harvest a resource to benefit of the citizens of the United States. GSW also recognizes shared use of the Project area may result in interaction between GSW and commercial fishing gear.

GSW believes that with proper planning, outreach, regular communication, and training, fishing gear loss and/or damage from interactions can be avoided or minimized. The following outlines **GSW's approach to managing unintentional interactions, as well as GSW's claim process** should an unintentional interaction occur:

Outreach

The Fisheries Liaison (FL) will serve as the primary point of contact for issues related to fishing community stakeholders and unintentional interactions. The FL conducts extensive outreach according to GSW's Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) and interacts with commercial and recreational fishermen and fishermen's organizations, management authorities, and support services to identify fishing community stakeholders that operate in areas where project activities are planned.

Communications and Planning

GSW, through the FL, will provide Mariner Updates and Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs) to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to share operational updates, names of active vessels, activities being conducted and the specific areas of operations. This information will be posted on GSW's **website once it is available**.

If gear is located within the work area, GSW will attempt to identify and contact the owner. Each offshore vessel contracted by GSW will also communicate early and often with fishing vessels operating in the area of survey activities, while following the **USCG "Rules of the Road."**

Fisheries Briefing

GSW's **contractors, including survey vessel Masters, bridge officers, survey crew, Protected Species Observers (PSOs), and their support staff** are briefed on local fisheries, their respective season and gear methods, how to identify and avoid fishing gear, and the importance of coordinating with local and regional fishing community stakeholders.

Onboard personnel observe and record fishing activities and the location of fixed fishing gear for future reference and avoidance. Fishing vessel sightings and gear information are communicated to the FL for follow up, as necessary.

Should an unintentional interaction occur, **GSW's contractors are briefed in how to respond** to the event safely and responsibly, document the interaction, and report it to the FL. The FL will then follow up with the vessel operator and gather feedback to improve communications on vessel activities going forward.

Filing a Claim

If you experienced gear loss or damage that you believe was caused by or the result of **GSW's activities**, please follow the instructions below to submit a claim:

1. As soon as it is safe to do so, report the incident via phone or email to the FL and GSW:

Rachel Mahler
Fisheries Liaison
rachel.mahler@oceanwinds.com
805-680-8138

2. Within 30 days of the incident, submit a complete, legible, executed Claim Form to the above listed FL.

Claim Review

All Claim Forms will be reviewed by the FL and GSW. Within 30 days of receipt of a complete Claim Form, the Applicant will receive a written response, which may include a request for additional information. If the claim is confirmed, payment will be arranged with the Applicant. If a claim is denied, a written explanation will be provided to the Applicant.

Gear interaction prevention methods should be followed by all parties. GSW reserves the right to deny a claim should an applicant file multiple claims for gear loss in the same area. Any payment in connection with a filed claim will be considered a full release. GSW reserves the right to request additional information to support the review of the claim.

Please note that BOEM is reviewing guidelines for mitigating impacts on fisheries by offshore wind development and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) is establishing the 7C Fisheries Working Group to develop a statewide strategy for avoidance, minimization, and **mitigation of impacts to fishing and fisheries. This strategy will include but isn't limited to** protocols for communication and a framework for compensatory mitigation. GSW intends to update the claims process once these guidelines are finalized.

[CLAIM FORM APPEARS IN NEXT APPENDIX]

Appendix D: Fishing Gear Damage or Loss Claim Form



Gear Loss Claim Form (1 of 2)

Name:	Business Name:	
Address:	Phone Number:	
Homeport:	Email:	
Vessel Name:	Vessel Documentation #:	
State Permit(s) #:	Federal License #:	
Gear Type:	Date of Incident:	Beaufort:
Time Gear was Set and Time Gear Haul Began:		

Specific Gear Location(s) (Lat/Long or Loran):
Gear Description (Distinct markings, flags, buoys, anchors, buoy lines, groundlines, hooks, gangions, floats, pots, traps etc.):

Description of Incident Causing Damage/Loss:	
Was any of the gear retrieved? If so, which parts of the gear was able to be retrieved and in what condition? (Attach photos):	
Quantity of lost tubs of gear, pots (rigid or slinky), buoys, anchors, floats, bites, hooks, lures, lights, gillnet etc. were lost or damaged:	
Was another vessel(s) observed in the area? If so, list the vessel name(s):	
Describe Normal Gear Configuration and Fishing Activity:	
Total Claim Amount	\$

Gear Loss Claim Form (2 of 2)

Additional Information Required to Process Claim Form

- ☐ Copy of valid Fishing Permit
- ☐ Proof of landing history through fish tickets and/or logbooks, sales slip, or similar type of documentation that the vessel was fishing in the area for period of gear loss/damage., sales slip, or similar type of documentation that the vessel was fishing in the area for period of gear loss/damage.
- ☐ Proof of ownership of the vessel capable of fishing area of loss, including photos.
- ☐ Sales slip or gear invoice for replacement or repair gear (must be substantively like gear that was lost/damaged).
- ☐ Location of gear loss/damage, either as GPS coordinates and/or photo of chart plotter.
- ☐ Completed [Form W-9](#).

I, _____, as the Applicant hereunder authorize Golden State Wind to make whatever reasonable inquiries and investigations it deems necessary to verify my application and request for reimbursement. Applicant understands that submitting this Application does not guarantee payment. Applicant further agrees that if this claim is accepted and paid in its entirety, that acceptance of such payment constitutes full, final and complete payment for this particular claim and that neither Golden State Wind, nor any of its affiliates shall have any further outstanding or ongoing obligation with respect to this particular claim and Applicant 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 Golden State Wind, or any of its affiliates, based upon this particular claim. If a claim is denied in part, Applicant may **accept payment for the undisputed part without waiving Applicant's right to appeal the disputed part of the claim.** Applicant recognizes that submission of this Application does **not affect Applicant's rights concerning matters** other than those specifically identified in this particular Application.

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

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please return this form and all required information, including a completed W-9 form, by one of the following methods:

- Deliver an electronic copy via email to the FL, Rachel Mahler at rachel.mahler@oceanwinds.com, with a copy to Golden State Wind Staff: Lia Howard, Permitting Senior Manager, at lia.howard@oceanwinds.com
- Mail a copy to Golden State Wind, 3 Center Plaza, Suite 205, Boston, MA 02108.

Please note that payment cannot be processed without a signature and W-9 form.

Appendix E: FCP Outreach Summary

Golden State Wind LLC (GSW) began circulating the draft Fisheries Communications Plan (FCP) to stakeholders the week of August 23, 2023. Since the draft FCP was circulated, GSW has gathered feedback on the draft FCP through meetings, emails, and individual calls and communication with stakeholders. This engagement has been both coordinated with the two **other Morro Bay Leaseholders and completed individually by GSW's** Fisheries Liaison (FL). GSW collaborated with the other Morro Bay Leaseholders to hold an in-person meeting on September 12, 2023, **in Morro Bay where the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization** (MBCFO), the Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman Association (PSLCFA), and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) were invited to participate to review and provide feedback on the draft FCP. GSW submitted a Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) request to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on September 19, 2023, and the LNM was posted on October 11, 2023, notifying of the availability of the draft FCP for public comment. GSW has also joined larger meetings hosted Vineyard Offshore and RWE on October 10, 2023, and by Invenergy California Offshore LLC (known as Even Keel Wind) on October 23, 2023, to listen to concerns raised and incorporate relevant feedback into the GSW FCP. Table E-1 summarizes the outreach conducted by GSW to fisheries stakeholders to gather feedback on the draft FCP.

Table E-1. Outreach Summary

Date	Stakeholders(s)	Participant(s)	Topic
9/11/2023	Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC)	PFMC Marine Planning Committee, Representatives from the Morro Bay Leaseholders	FCP feedback
9/12/2023	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization (MBCFO), Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association (PSLCFA)	GSW, Equinor, CM Public Affairs, BOEM	In-person meeting for FCP feedback from local port associations
9/12/2023	California Coastal Commission (CCC)	CCC and GSW	FCP Feedback
9/15/2023	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	CDFW and GSW	FCP Feedback
9/20/2023	Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF)	ACSF and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	California Fishermen Resiliency Association (CFRA)	CFRA and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA)	CWPA and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee	Cable Fisheries Liaison and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP

Date	Stakeholders(s)	Participant(s)	Topic
9/20/2023	Central Coast Women for Fisheries	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	MBCFO	MBCFO President and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen Association (PCFFA)	PCFFA President and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	San Diego Fisheries Working Group	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	Western Fishboat Owners Association	WFOA rep and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	Sportfishing Association of California (SAC)	SAC North President	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/20/2023	MBCFO	MBCFO director and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/22/2023	Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB)	CFSB President and GSW FLO	Addressing the challenges ahead, FCP feedback
9/26/2023	American Albacore Fishing Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/27/2023	Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association (WDCFA), Pacific Seafood/Ocean Gold Seafood/West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group, West Coast Seafood Processors Association	WDCFA, Pacific Seafood, Ocean Gold, WCSPA reps and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
9/27/2023	Virg's Landing, Pacific Charters Sportfishing, Morro Bay Landing	Virg's Landing, Pacific Charters Sportfishing, Morro Bay Landing reps and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/6/2023	Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP

Date	Stakeholders(s)	Participant(s)	Topic
10/6/2023	California Commercial Crab Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/6/2023	Golden Gate Fishermen's Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/6/2023	Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/6/2023	American Sportfishing Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/9/2023	MBCFO and PSLCFA	GSW, Invenergy, Equinor, MBFCO, PSLCFA and legal counsel	Discussion of the MBC, Points of agreement and concern. Survey mitigation methods and expectations
10/11/2023	ACSF	ACSF President and GSW FLO	Intros, FCP feedback, chat about West Coast Fisheries in general
10/11/2023	MBCFO	MBCFO Board member and GSW FLO	Followed up with concerns about Survey activity, no mitigation in place before it starts, losing fishing grounds
10/12/2023	MBCFO and PSLCFA	MBFCO, PSLCFA and their Legal Counsel	Follow up from Monday's meeting with a link to BOEM's EA of the Morro Bay Lease Area
10/17/2023	Joint Oil/Fisheries Liaison Office	JOFLO and GSW FLO	JOFLO agreement/history
10/18/2023	CWPA	CWPA GSW FLO	Receive FCP feedback
10/18/2023	CFSB	CFSB President and GSW FLO	Receive FCP feedback
10/18/2023	Pacific Seafood, Ocean Gold, West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group	Pacific Seafood President and GSW FLO	Setup a call for 10/19 to receive FCP feedback
10/18/2023	PCFFA	PCFFA President and GSW FLO	Intros, follow up from emails, FCP feedback
10/18/2023	RODA	RODA West Coast and GSW FLO	Setup a time for a call tomorrow
10/19/2023	Pacific Charters and Whale Watching (Morro Bay), Patriot Sportfishing, Morro Bay Sportfishing	Pacific Charters, Morro Bay, Patriot Sportfishing reps and GSW FLO	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP

Date	Stakeholders(s)	Participant(s)	Topic
10/19/2023	Pacific Seafood	Pacific Seafood President and GSW FLO	FCP feedback, Gear Loss form feedback
10/19/2023	West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), Giovanni's Fish Market and Galley	WCSPA, Giovanni's Fish Market and Galley	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/19/2023	Monterey Fishermen's Marketing Association and Moss Landing Marketing Association	N/A	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/20/2023	RODA	RODA West Coast Director and GSW FLO	Phone follow up for Intros and FCP feedback
10/23/2023	California Fishermen's Resiliency Association	CFRA President	FCP feedback
10/24/2023	Bodega Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association	Bodega Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association President	Fisheries Liaison Introduction, requesting feedback of the FCP
10/24/2023	Monterey Fishermen's Marketing Association	Monterey Fishermen's Marketing Association President	Intros, FCP Feedback follow up via phone
10/24/2023	Moss Landing Marketing Association	Moss Landing Marketing Association board member	Intros, FCP Feedback follow up via phone

To date, GSW has responded to and/or incorporated feedback on the FCP from the organizations listed above, as applicable. The FCP is a living document and GSW will continue to update the FCP as feedback is received.