

Diverse Working Group Delivers Recommendations to the Governor to Inform State's Offshore Wind Roadmap

OREGON COAST - This week, an informal working group representing a diverse set of voices delivered [recommendations](#) to Governor Tina Kotek's office to help inform the state's development of an offshore wind roadmap, which aims to more deeply engage Oregonians in evaluating the potential impacts and benefits of harnessing this renewable energy resource. The document was authored by representatives spanning the fishing industry, labor organizations, environmental and climate groups, science and education groups, and renewable energy groups, with input from state agencies and Tribes.

In March, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 4080](#), which established strong labor standards for any Oregon offshore wind development and directed the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to create a roadmap that would consider all benefits and ramifications of offshore wind energy development.

The recommendations released this week are intended to help inform the development of that roadmap.

The informal workgroup was co-convened by Heather Mann (Midwater Trawlers Cooperative), Nicole Hughes (Renewable Northwest), and Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro (BlueGreen Alliance), and was facilitated by Oregon Consensus. The co-conveners delivered the roadmap, titled "[Oregon Floating Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap with Exit Ramps: Consideration](#)," to the Oregon Governor's office and DLCD on April 24.

"This was a unique opportunity for diverse interests to come together and not only learn from one another, but to collaborate in an authentic way," said Mann, Executive Director of Midwater Trawlers Cooperative. "This approach embodies the 'Oregon way' and for the first time in the offshore wind space I and other fishermen have confidence that our interests and concerns are understood and heard - this would not have been possible without the cooperation of the informal work group."

"The climate crisis forces us to examine not just the importance of harnessing the power of the wind, but also examine how we avoid replicating historical harms from large energy projects," said Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro, Oregon Policy Manager with BlueGreen Alliance, "This is not an easy topic, but I'm proud of working with fisherman, labor, environmental and energy community and look forward to the official roadmap process, for the benefit of current and future Oregonians."

Initially created in Summer 2023 to bring together a broad set of stakeholders with diverse and differing viewpoints on offshore wind, the informal working group focused on building relationships, sharing knowledge, identifying common ground, and creating processes for communities and impacted stakeholders to have more meaningful input on decisions around

offshore wind. They were inspired by the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap, which engaged a broad set of stakeholders to tackle some of the most pressing issues on offshore wind.

The Oregon group's seven objectives outlined in the document include (in no particular order):

- achieving clean energy mandates;
- protecting the environment, ocean ecosystem, and conserving birds, fish, and wildlife;
- protecting cultural/archaeological resources, Tribal subsistence, culturally significant viewsheds, and other resources important for Tribes;
- supporting coastal communities and towns;
- protecting existing seafood providers (processors and harvesters); and
- Creating economic opportunity and fostering a domestic supply chain; and developing Oregon's offshore wind energy workforce.

"I feel deep gratitude for the time and commitment each and every member of the informal workgroup put forth to develop the Roadmap with Exit Ramps Considerations document" said Nicole Hughes, Executive Director, Renewable Northwest. "I am confident that the up-front work this group completed will ensure better outcomes for the OSW Roadmap."

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Organizations and individuals involved in the Informal Workgroup:

- West Coast Seafood Processors Association
- Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
- Fishermen
- Oceana
- Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Renewable Northwest
- Rogue Climate
- Climate Solutions
- IBEW 932 Electrical Workers
- Blue Green Alliance
- Labor Education and Research Center, University of Oregon
- Ironworkers 29
- Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council
- Port of Coos Bay
- Willamette Technical Fabricators
- Shrimp Processors Marketing Cooperative
- Schwabe

- Port of Brookings
- Oregon Fisherman's Cable Committee
- Oregon AFL-CIO
- Pacific Marine Energy Center, Oregon State University
- Worley Consulting