

## **Advocacy Comments on BOEM's Environmental Assessment for the Morro Bay Offshore Wind Energy Area**

On April 6, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a draft environmental assessment for the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area. On May 16, 2022, Advocacy filed a public comment letter on the assessment. In its letter, Advocacy stated that BOEM should conduct and include a small business impacts analysis in its final environmental assessment for the call area. The analysis will provide greater transparency to impacted small entities and ensure that they are considered throughout the leasing process.

Advocacy made the following additional comments:

- BOEM must account for the unique features that are important to the small businesses operating within the call area in its assessment of potential impacts.
- BOEM should consider early engagement opportunities and alternatives that would help to minimize impacts to small businesses.
- Advocacy did not agree that the impacts to commercial fisheries from wind leasing projects would be minor and/or temporary. Advocacy encouraged BOEM to consider the wide range of potential impacts an offshore wind project may have on a small fishery.
- BOEM should publish a RFA analysis for notice and comment.

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