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U.S. Department of Energy
A floating offshore foundation and an offshore wind turbine near Povoa de Varzim, Portugal.

CATCHING ENERGY

Floating offshore wind generator proposals worry fishing industry

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

NEWPORT, Ore. — From her home overlooking Yaquina Bay on the Oregon coast, Kelley Retherford can watch as commercial fishing boats arrive at the nearby Port of Newport, delivering their catch to one of several seafood processors that line the waterfront.

Saltwater is in her family's blood, she said. Along with her husband, Mike, and their four adult children, they own and operate four fishing trawlers, harvesting everything from Pacific whitefish and hake to pink shrimp and Dungeness crab.

"It's a way of life," Retherford said. "We're not boats on the water. We're families on the water. We're families feeding families."

That way of life, however, may be disrupted by a growing interest in offshore wind generators to help achieve ambitious government-mandated zero-carbon energy goals.

Earlier this year, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, identified two "call" areas off the southern Oregon coast — one near Coos Bay and the other near Brookings — to assess potential wind energy leases in federal waters.

Auctions for leases have already been proposed in two areas off the California coast, as the Biden administration aims to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind generators by 2030.

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George Plaven/Capital Press

The Coast Pride, a fishing trawler owned and operated by Chris Retherford, is docked at the Port of Newport's commercial marina.

Farm input costs continue to rise, USDA report shows

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**
Capital Press

A USDA report released June 30 shows that farm input costs continue to rise, putting additional financial pressure on farmers and ranchers.

The study, called the Agricultural Prices report, looked at farm input costs in May 2022 compared to input costs one month prior and one year prior. USDA collected data for the

May Prices Paid Index by randomly contacting more than 8,500 farms nationwide with an average response rate of 75% to 80%.

The report found that farmers across America continue to face rising costs for feed, fertilizer, fuels and other inputs.

In May, the price of livestock feed increased 0.8% from April and 15% from May 2021. Although concentrates fell in price, that was more than

offset by higher prices for complete feeds, feed grains, supplements, hay and forages.

Fertilizer in May cost 6.2% more than it did the month prior, in April. Prices for potash and phosphate didn't change month-over-month, but prices rose for nitrogen and mixed fertilizer.

The rise in cost is even more stark



Getty Images

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Fertilizer prices were up compared to last year.

Irrigators, tribes object to extending Klamath Project interim operations plan



George Plaven/Capital Press

The headgates of the A Canal on the Klamath Project in Klamath Falls, Ore.

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — Farmers, ranchers and tribal members alike are urging the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation not to extend its interim operations plan for the Klamath Project, describing it as "unworkable and irrational."

The plan is a product of complex water management scenario in the Klamath Basin. It provides a formula for how much water will be allocated each year to irrigators, while balancing water needs for endangered fish in the Klamath River and

Upper Klamath Lake.

Brian Person, a senior adviser for the Bureau of Reclamation in Klamath Falls, Ore., said the current interim plan was formalized in March 2020 and was set to expire Sept. 30.

Instead, Reclamation plans to extend its interim operations plan in anticipation of removing four hydroelectric dams on the lower Klamath River, which is expected to open about 400 miles of fish spawning and rearing habitat.

"Dam removal is going to literally

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