

Offshore wind proposals worry fishing industry

Leases possible off Coos Bay and Brookings

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

NEWPORT — From her home overlooking Yaquina Bay, 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 whiting to pink shrimp to 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 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.

The push to harness wind energy in the Pacific Ocean has raised concerns within Oregon's \$1.2 billion commercial fishing industry, with families such as the Retherfords worried it will limit access to highly productive fisheries and impact the marine ecosystem.

"There's got to be better options," Retherford said. "I will fight to protect my family, our community, our fisheries and our livelihoods."

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George Plaven/Capital Press
A commercial fishing boat in Yaquina Bay.



An offshore wind turbine off the coast of Portugal.

U.S. Department of Energy

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Kelley Retherford | owner and operator of four fishing trawlers, harvesting everything from Pacific whiting to pink shrimp to Dungeness crab

Vacation rental critics turn to voters

A county referendum would phase out rentals

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Astorian

A referendum is in the works to repeal a new Clatsop County ordinance that made vacation rentals a recognized use in zones throughout unincorporated areas.

The county received a prospective petition on July 1, just over a week after county commissioners unanimously approved changes to the development code and formally allowed vacation rentals in commercial and residential zones.

If the referendum qualifies for the ballot and is approved by voters, vacation rentals of 30 or fewer days would be banned in the county's unincorporated areas excluding Arch Cape, where vacation rentals have been permitted for almost 20 years.

Vacation rentals would start to be eliminated next year as owners would be unable to renew their permits. More than 170 vacation rentals exist in unincorporated areas, including some that have operated for decades.

The county has estimated that phasing out vacation rentals would lead to the loss of more than \$500,000 in annual lodging tax revenue.

Although the referendum would apply only to unincorporated areas, all county voters could vote on the ballot measure.

The petitioners — Charles Dice and Jeff Davis, of Cove Beach, and Clare Hasler-Lewis, of Surf Pines — have until Aug. 10 to turn in signatures from 4% — or 742 — of county voters to get the referendum on the November ballot. If they want the referendum on the May ballot, the petitioners have until Sept. 20 to turn in signatures, according to the county.

"We are property owners and renters, housing advocates, business owners and retirees from towns and rural areas around Clatsop County," Dice wrote in a statement for the group North Coast Neighbors United. "We are Republicans, Democrats, independents and everything in between. Above all, we are your neighbors, united in our commitment to protecting our North Coast residential neighborhoods — because neighborhoods are for families, not vacation rental businesses."

When county commissioners passed the ordinance in June, they directed county staff to create a plan for capping the number of vacation rentals allowed in certain areas. The plan is expected to arrive within the next few weeks.

So while the part of the regulation involving the development code — zoning for rentals — is finished, the part involving the county code — regulating rentals with caps — is not, County Manager Don Bohn said at a work session on Wednesday.

"In some regards, (the petition) seems a little bit premature because we haven't

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Former department store worker finds creative outlets

Piippo expresses her artistic interests

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

Janet Piippo has always found ways to express her creative and artistic interests, whether it be through work or hobbies.

Piippo spent over 40 years working at J.C. Penney Co. down-



town. She was hired as a window decorator and over time became a permanent fixture at the Commercial Street department store, taking on roles as a merchandiser and display advertiser.

The store closed in 2017 after over 100 years in operation.

"Penney's was a wonderful place to work," Piippo said.

She said the job gave her the

ability to be artistic, an alternative to art school, which is what she wanted to pursue after high school.

Piippo said she did not pursue that path because her father did not think she needed to go to college. But over the years, she managed to find different outlets.

She taught herself how to oil paint and even started to sell her artwork. But because her work at J.C. Penney required so much creativity, she said she eventually reached burnout and stopped painting.

Over the past year, she found a new pursuit: photography.

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Janet Piippo worked at J.C. Penney Co. for four decades.



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