

## Stakeholder Benefits and Concerns

Webinar: Exploring the Feasibility of Offshore Wind Energy for the CA North Coast

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# Introduction

- Not here in support for or opposition to a project
- Summarize views captured in interviews/observations primarily between 2018-2019
- Research can stimulate a discussion or dialogue
- Not meant to stand in for hearing views and perspectives directly from community members



# Outline

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
  - Benefits
  - Concerns
  - Community Benefits Agreements
  - Perceptions of Development Process
- Conclusion

# Introduction

- Importance of human dimensions for renewable energy projects
  - Local government and community support crucial for project success
  - Lack of support can lead to delays, increase cost
  - Essential for pursuing development from a framework of justice and equity
- Perceptions matter
  - “Research on perceptions can inform courses of action to improve conservation and governance at scales ranging from individual initiatives to national and international policies.” - Bennett (2016)

# Research Questions

1. How do stakeholders perceive potential offshore wind energy development off the coast of Humboldt County?
  - a. What do stakeholders view as the potential benefits and concerns related to the project?
  - b. What are stakeholders' perceptions of potential community benefits packages/agreements?
2. How do stakeholders perceive the development process of offshore wind energy in Humboldt County as it has proceeded so far?



# Methods

- Literature Review
  - US and European cases
- Participant Observation
  - 14 public meetings and two industry conferences
- Document Review/Analysis
- Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders
  - 41 interviews: 2018 & 2019
  - Consider timing and context, perceptions can change
- Tribal Engagement
  - CA Energy Commission tribal outreach meeting 2/5/20
  - North Coast Tribal Chairperson's Association presentation 2/24/20
- Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA)
  - QDA software: 28 thematic codes



CA State Senate Joint Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture Offshore Wind Discussion in Eureka May 2019; Photo: Ryan Burns, LOCO



Photo: Rob Dumouchel

# Methods

Table 1. Number of interviews by category

<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interviewees (2018)</b>	<b>Interviewees (2019-2020)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Government (GOV)	Elected officials and staff	4	4	8
Energy Industry (EI)	Developers, consultants	5	0	5
Environment (ENV)	Local and state environmental non-profits	9	2	11
Fishing (FSH)	Commercial fishermen, retired fishermen, processor	7	6	13
Trade/Business (TD)	Local labor union/association leaders, business group leader	1	3	4
Total		26	15	41

# Results

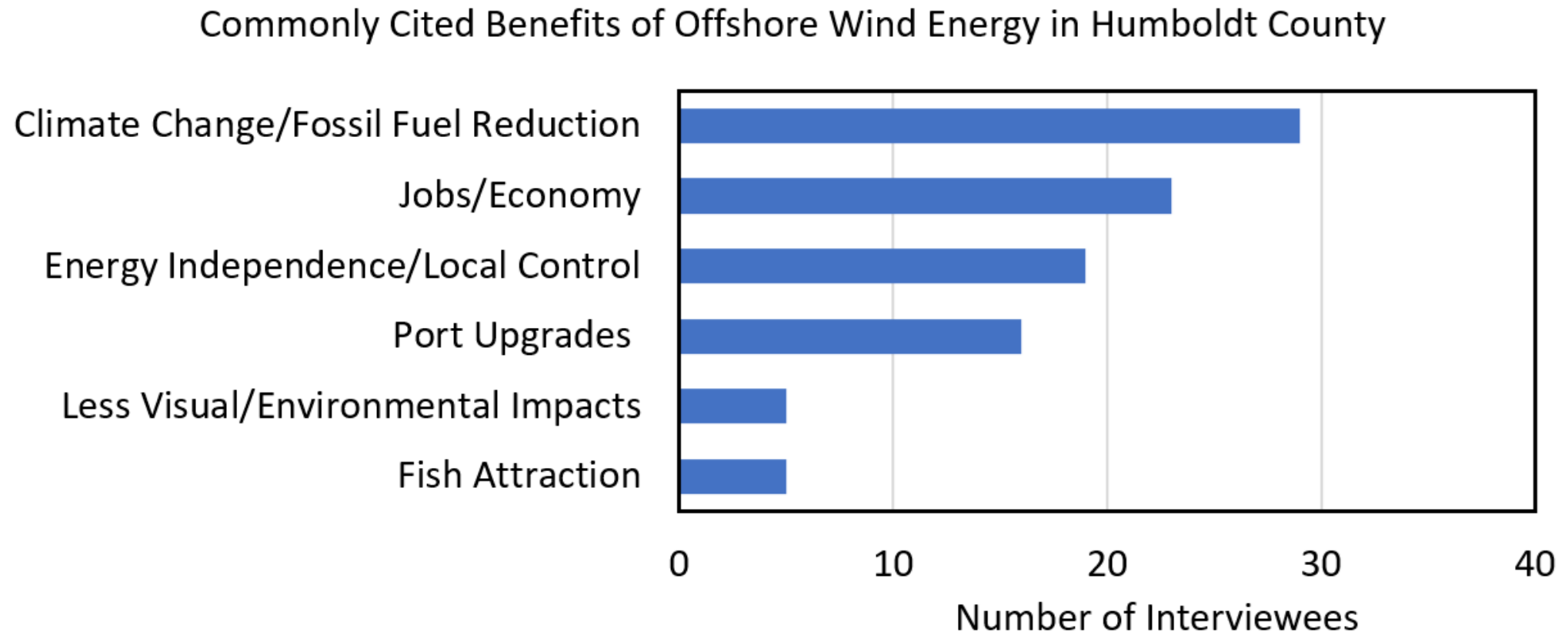
## Literature Review:

- Review of 65+ sources
- Gleaned 11 key lessons from the review including:
  - Effective stakeholder and public engagement early and often throughout the process is crucial.
    - Regular, effective, honest communication
    - Trust in the process and implementing entities key
    - Preference for more local involvement/control
  - Fishermen can experience a range of concerns from offshore wind developments
  - Native American Tribes have unique legal, political, cultural, and historical connections to ocean and coastal spaces for offshore wind
    - Meaningful, collaborative consultation and engagement is essential



# Results

## Perceived Benefits:



# Results

## Perceived Benefits: Emissions Reduction and Climate Change

### Commonly Cited Benefits of Offshore Wind Energy in Humboldt County

Climate Change/Fossil Fuel Reduction

Jobs/Economy



- “Greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change are probably the most scary thing that we have facing the North Coast” (ENV interview, 2019)
- “In partnership with local partners, the Tribe is in support of clean energy projects that will reduce or eliminate potential threats to culturally important species from nonrenewable energy sources (e.g. fossil fuels).”
  - Letter from the Wiyot Tribe (2019) to BOEM in support of RCEA Offshore Wind

# Results

## Perceived Benefits: Jobs/Economy/Port

- “If you get that then...the other things [like port upgrades] will follow” (GOV, 2019)

Climate Change/Fossil Fuel Reduction

Jobs/Economy

Energy Independence/Local Control

Port Upgrades



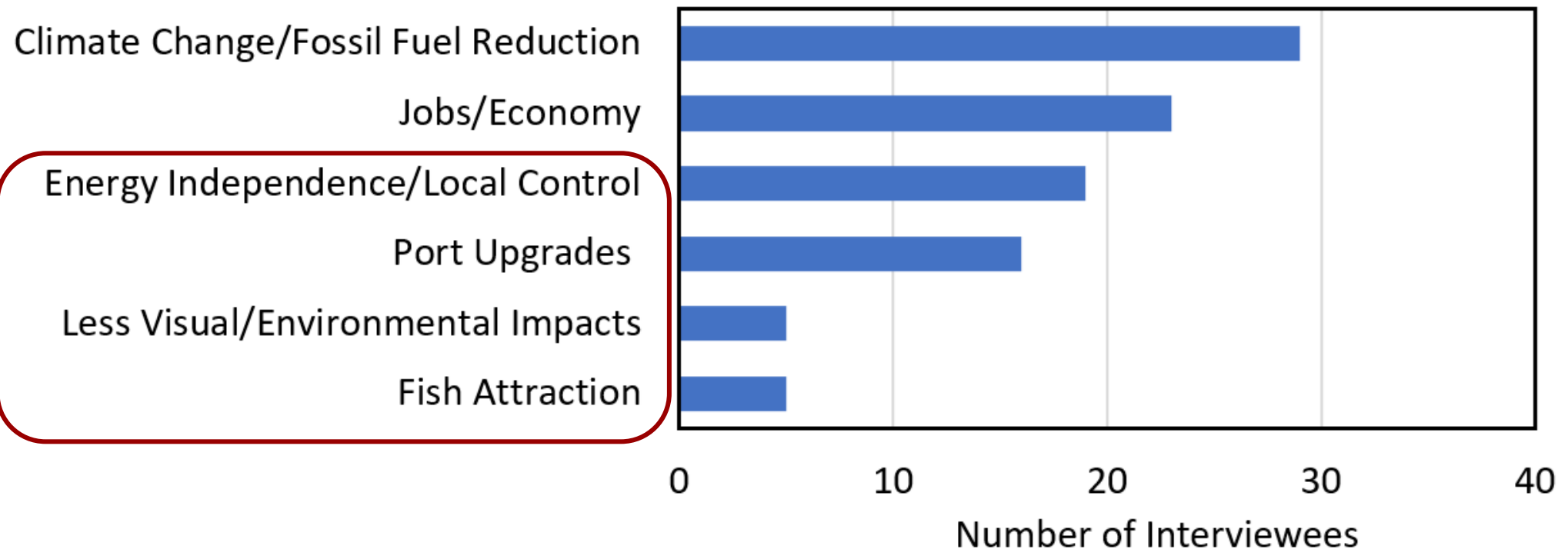
- “The resource potential is quite large and the economic benefits for Humboldt County would also be significant. We could sustain our county with a sustainable resource production.” (GOV, 2019)
- “We’re pro because we want to work on it” (TD, 2018)
- “More long-term, well-paying, and healthier jobs can be created through zero-carbon energy than in fossil fuel extraction” (Blue Lake Rancheria, 2018)



# Results

## Perceived Benefits: Other

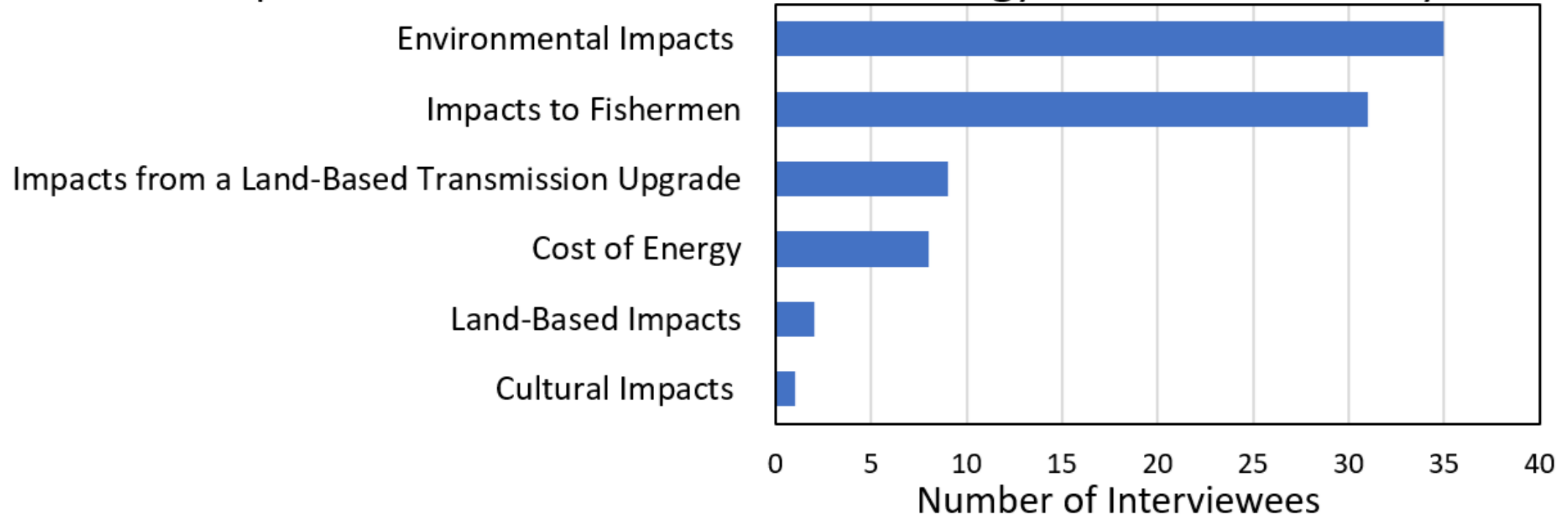
Commonly Cited Benefits of Offshore Wind Energy in Humboldt County



# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns:

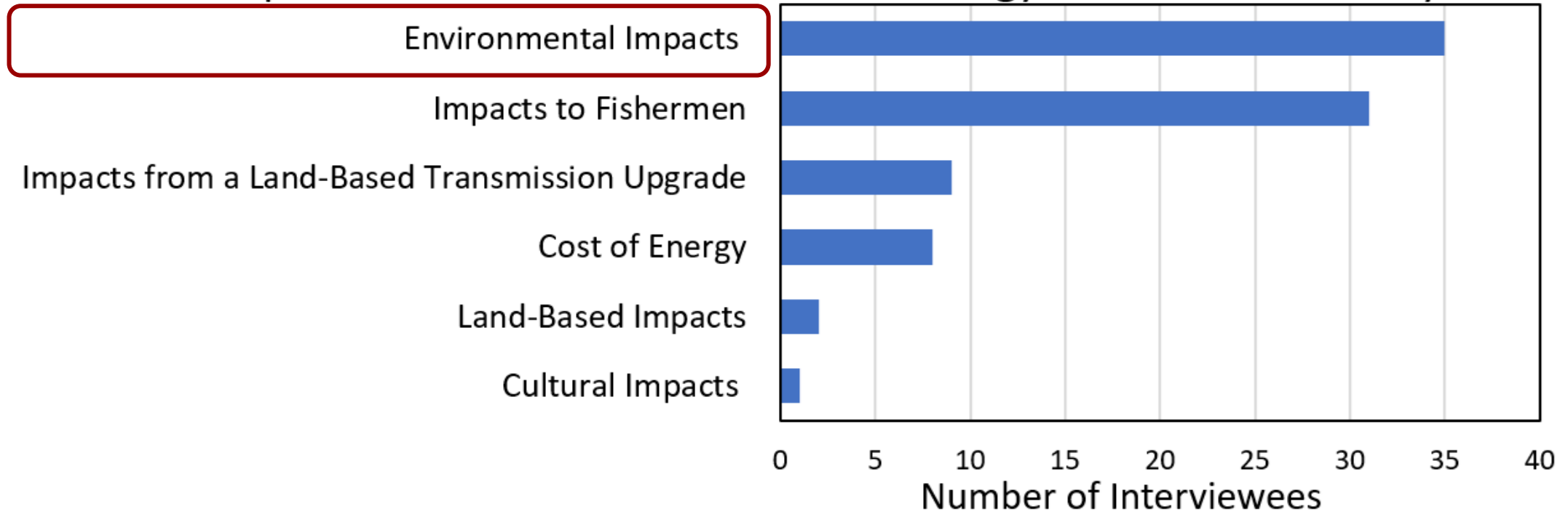
### Top Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy In Humboldt County



# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Environmental Impacts

### Top Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy In Humboldt County

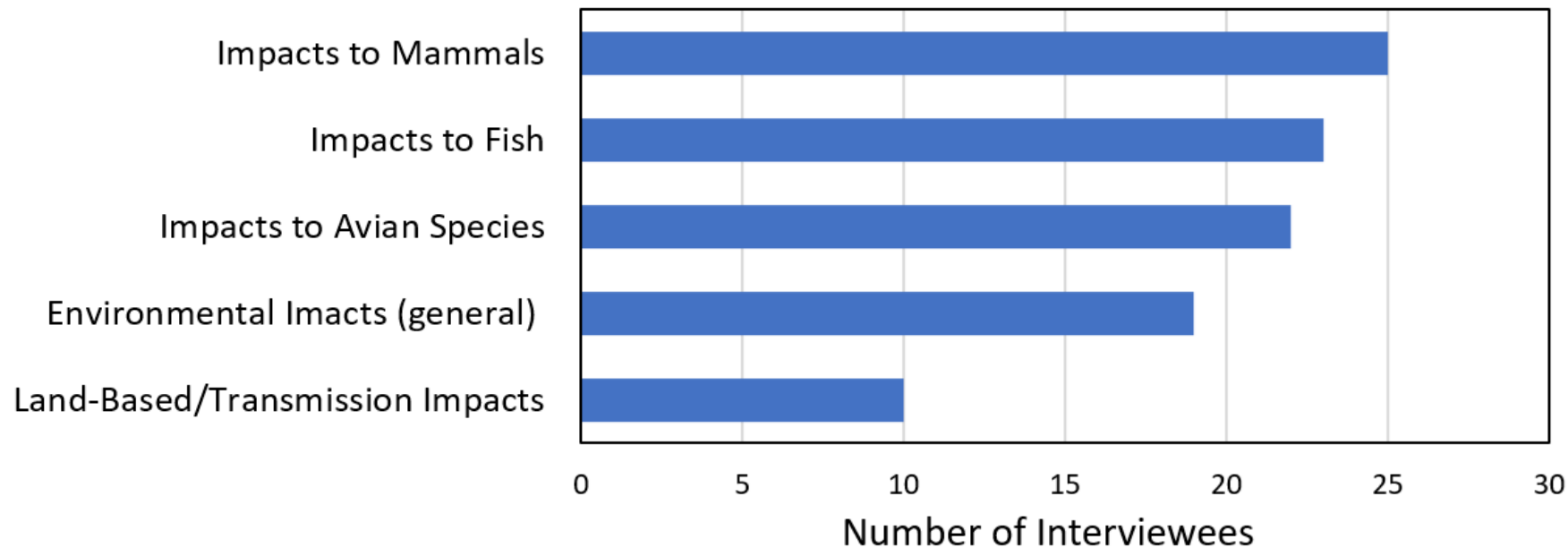




# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Environmental Impacts

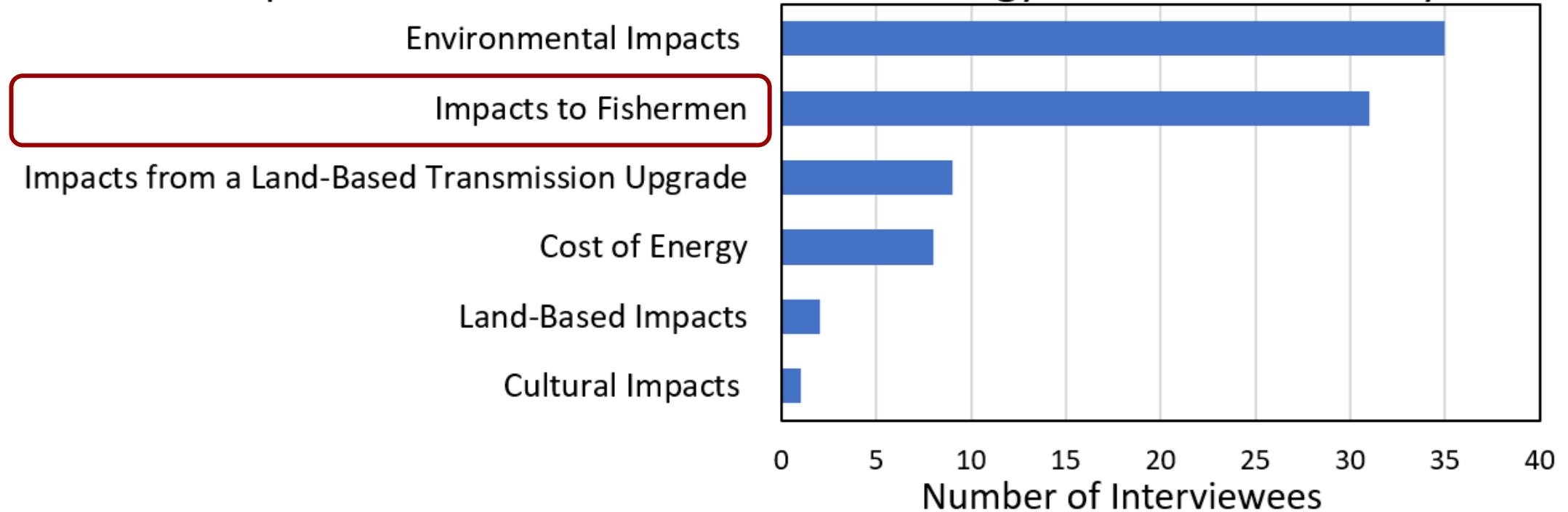
### Commonly Cited Environmental Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy in Humboldt County



# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Impacts to the Fishing Fleet

### Top Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy In Humboldt County



# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Impacts to the Fishing Fleet

- Loss of Ground & Potential Crowding
  - “From a draggers point of view, there’s no good scenario here” (FSH, BOEM meeting, 2018).
  - “They’re going to have to run a cable and if they say we don’t want you fishing over the cable then that’s further loss of grounds that will extend all the way to the shore. I don’t know about that” (FSH, 2018).
- Safety & Displacement from Bay Resources
  - Harbor Entrance
  - Working waterfront space
- Mobilization of the Fleet & Having a Voice
  - “I feel every time something like this happens, I just feel like we are railroaded. I mean, we have no say, really” (FSH, 2019).

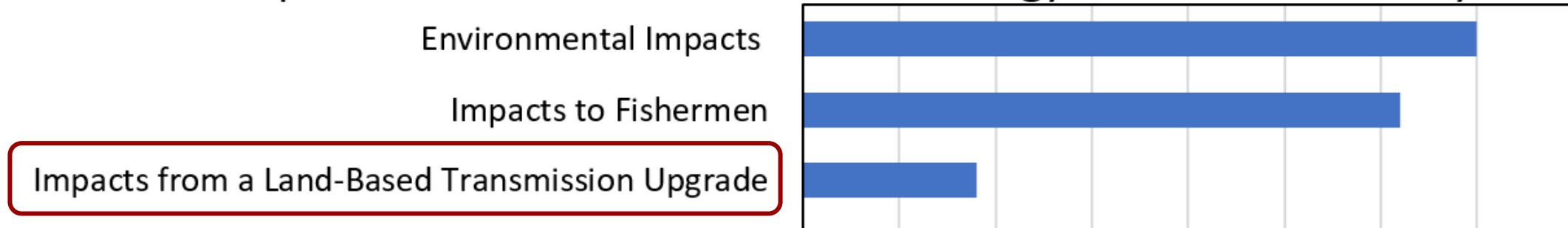




# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Project Scale/Transmission Upgrade

### Top Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy In Humboldt County

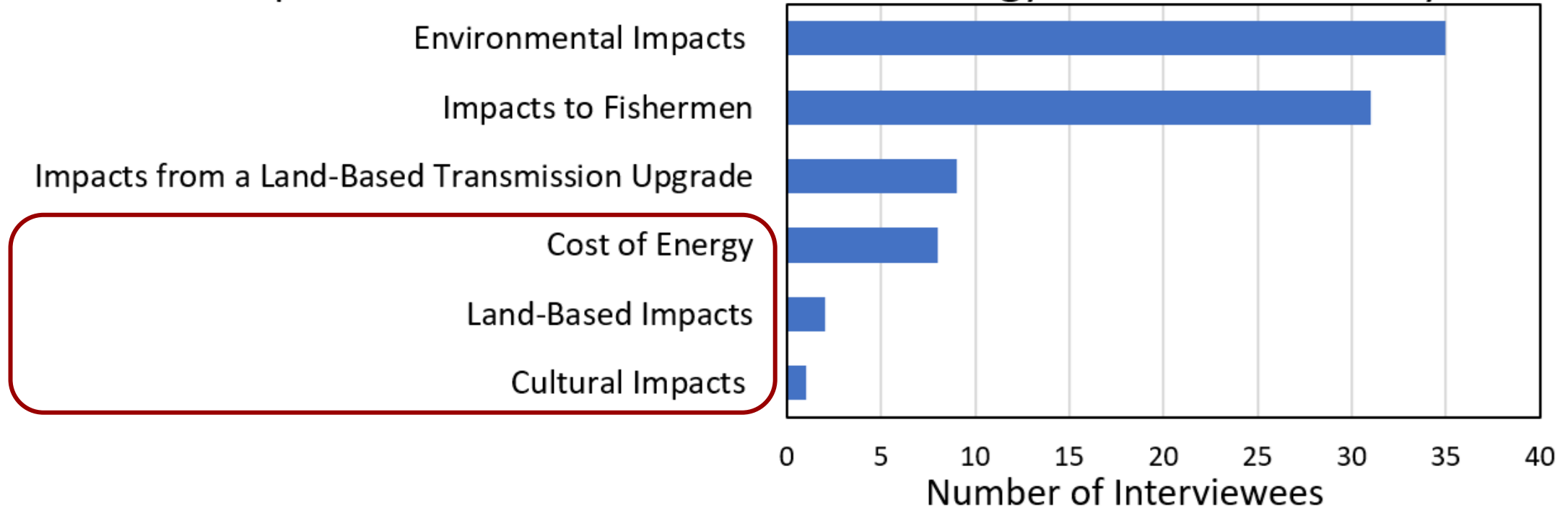


- “Won’t say the death of, but the great curtailment of a timber industry that ran roughshod over the community for a number of decades...we need to reinvent ourselves and maybe that reinvention really is that all industries are boutique here. We don’t do anything on a big scale. And the one thing that we do have here that is on a big scale is making sure that we survive” (FSH 2018).

# Results

## Stakeholder Concerns: Other

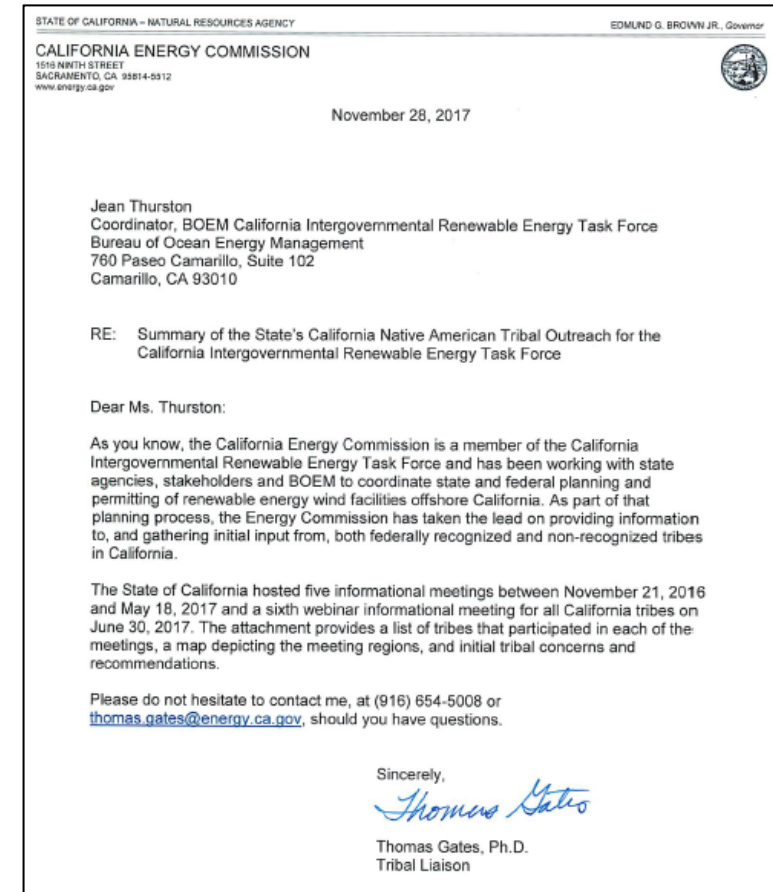
### Top Concerns about Offshore Wind Energy In Humboldt County



# Results

## Tribal Perspectives

- Concerns Captured by CA Energy Commission Tribal Liaison (2017)
  - Religious and cultural importance of the ocean and viewshed;
  - Effects to tribal resources, both biological and cultural, onshore and offshore, including burial and archeological sites and wildlife;
  - Confidentiality and thoroughness of data collection related to cultural resources;
  - Impacts to offshore rock outcrops and geography;
  - Long-term impacts for future generations;
  - Noise and vibration, especially as it impacts the sea floor and wildlife;
  - Harbor development; and
  - Long-term monitoring and cyber-attacks
- Interest in potential benefits of offshore wind including to the environment and economy/jobs
- Interest in further engagement:
  - to gain more information
  - to contribute to better capturing of tribal views on offshore wind
  - to engage with and inform regional decision-making





# Results

## Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)



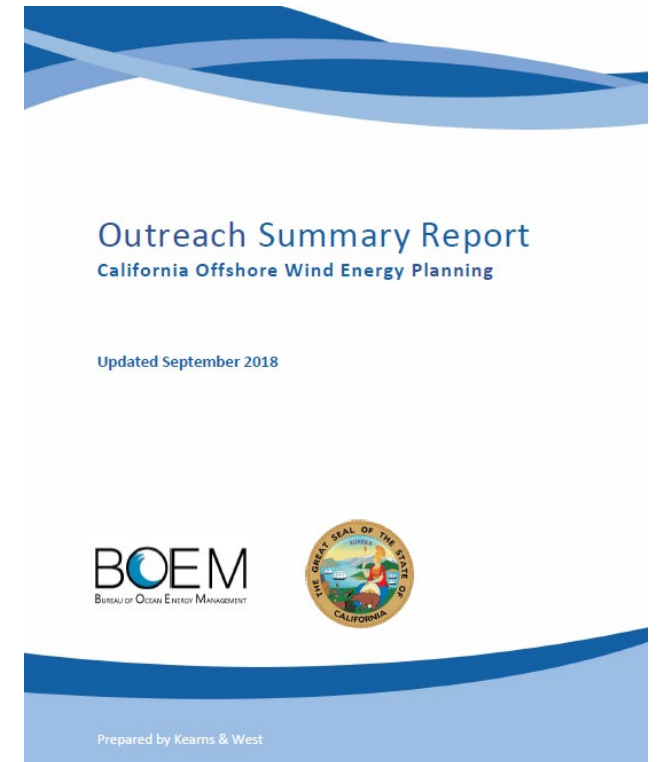
Photo: Rob Dumouchel

- Fishermen would prefer no project, but also expressed interest in engaging in conversations around CBAs
  - “obviously we've got to get all these folks in line with the concept of: you pay to play. You're not here to just extract resources from us, even though that resource is this thing you can't see way offshore...do the right thing” (FSH 2018).
- Several fishermen expressed preference to the establishment of a general fund for the fishing fleet rather than one time payouts to individuals
  - Cited Morro Bay example: Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee administers the Commercial Fishing Industry Improvement Fund
- Several cited RCEA as potential conduit between developers and local entities for community outreach/benefits

# Results

## Perceptions of Development Process to Date

- Some concerns related to clarity, transparency, and trust
  - Some of the flowcharts and figures overwhelming and confusing
  - Confusion about difference between BOEM leasing process and RCEA efforts
  - 14 specifically cite lack of transparency and/or trust in process
  - Desire for local control/community-based
- Tribal concerns on process
  - Expression that adequate tribal consultation has not yet occurred
  - Would welcome ongoing engagement
  - “Direct community involvement and local stakeholder support are essential to the viability and success of an offshore wind project.” - Wiyot Tribe Letter 2019
- Going Forward:
  - Open and transparent, accessible to the public, and community-based
  - “We’re aiming for a barista, hotel clerk, waiter/waitress kind of grassroots movement [in support of offshore wind]” (EI 2018).



# Conclusion

- Information on stakeholder perceptions is important
- Areas for further work/recommended next steps:
  - Update over time
  - Include additional tribal perspectives
  - Cultural resources
- Key benefits: environment (GHG), jobs, port development
- Key concerns: environment, fishing industry
- Scale and process matter
  - Attitudes might change for larger-scale installations
  - Strong community ethic/value towards project with local control
  - Greater transparency and inclusion in process



# Acknowledgements

- Project Funder:



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COUNCIL**

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  - Ciara Emery – HSU Master’s Student
  - Laura Casali – Research Assistant
- All stakeholders who shared their perspectives
- Members of the North Coast Tribal Chairperson’s Association
- Participants in the CEC Tribal Outreach meeting 2/5/20

For more information: Ciara Emery to present her thesis work on “Stakeholder Perceptions of Offshore Wind Energy in Humboldt County” today at 7:00 pm  
350 Humboldt

