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Comment from Wild Things Ranch

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Feb 20, 2026

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I am submitting this comment on behalf of Wild Things Ranch, a small agricultural business operating in Northern California with direct economic ties to a healthy and functioning coastline.

The Draft Proposed Program's inclusion of offshore oil and gas lease sales off the California coast introduces unnecessary risk to coastal-dependent economies that support small farms, ranches, and rural businesses. Offshore drilling and the potential for spills or environmental degradation threaten tourism, fishing, and consumer confidence—all of which directly affect demand for local agricultural products and the stability of small businesses like ours.

Clean coastal environments are foundational to regional economic resilience. Disruptions to coastal systems ripple inland through reduced tourism, strained markets, and increased uncertainty for small producers already operating on narrow margins.

A more responsible approach would be to exclude the Pacific Region from new offshore lease sales and limit offshore oil and gas activity to areas with existing infrastructure, rather than expanding into historically protected regions like California.

We urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to prioritize economic stability, environmental protection, and the long-term viability of coastal-connected agricultural businesses in its final decision-making.

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