The FLYING STEELHEAD of SANTA MONICA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

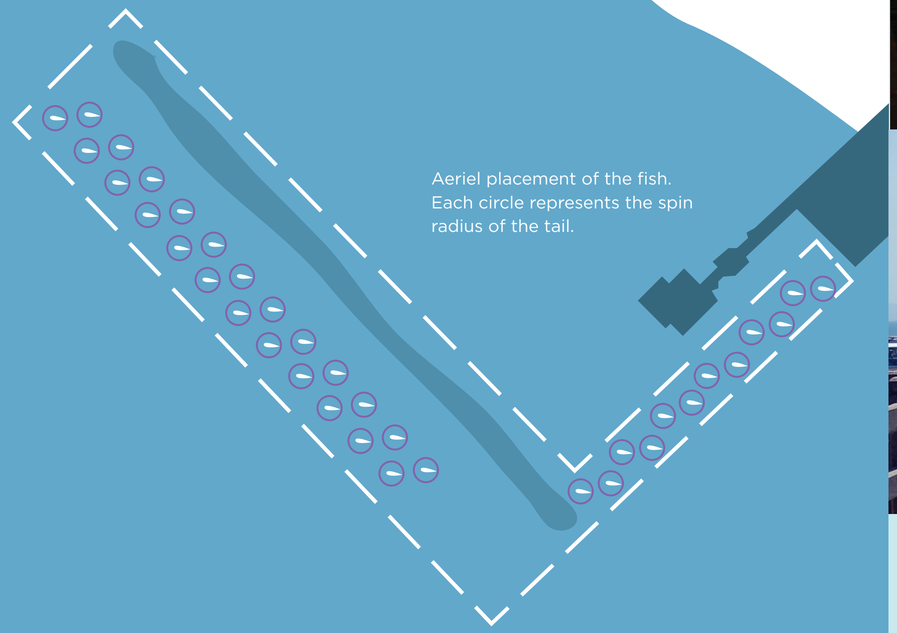
The negative environmental impact of this project is kept to a minimum because the site is barely altered. The towers for support could be similarly built to other wind generators that sit in the ocean. The ones designed for this project are a little different. These precast concrete towers have a pre cast foot. The foot has six large, sphere-like toes that surround a space as big as the perimeter spheres. When compressed air is shot down the center of the tower at the time of placement, the sand underneath is driven from the spot and the toes are able to go below the surface of the sand. The sphere like toes are hollow for easier movement but then fill with sand when placed.

The ocean is notorious for destroying things set near it. If any of the towers are ever knocked out of skew by a storm, compressed air can be run back down the center as well as down into the spheres, blowing all the sand out from around the base and it can be reset. In this way the array of fish can be adjusted to optimize the relationship to each other as we lean more about being like nature.

After setting the towers, the site is allowed to go back to its state before they were set. Except that, like the pier, the towers themselves create some habitat for fish.

The array of fish is adjustable in number and spacing. There is room enough for over seventy. The estimated annual output per fish is 1752 MWh. For this situation we imagine thirty-six fish, yielding 63,072 MWh yearly.

The long term ramifications of this project, done well, could have a profound impact on how we perceive and live in the world.



Aeriel placement of the fish. Each circle represents the spin radius of the tail.