

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE  
MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) was provided an overview of current marine planning initiatives including Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) and efforts to identify potential offshore wind energy sites by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The SAS appreciates the efforts of the Council and Habitat Committee to prioritize essential fish habitat (EFH) in the evaluation of AOAs. The SAS also appreciates the precautionary approach advocated for by the Council in ensuring that AOAs do not negatively impact Council managed fisheries through direct impacts like displacements and gear restrictions and impacts to managed species through vectors like disease and competition with wild stocks. In future steps, the SAS is interested in how and whether evaluation criteria are weighted during the evaluation of potential AOA sites.

The SAS also heard about BOEM offshore wind energy planning and hopes that a detailed analysis of potential impact to fisheries and fishing grounds will be included in the analysis of potential sites. The SAS asks that offshore wind projects be designed to allow for fishing since they can act as fish aggregating devices. The SAS believes the devil is in the details when determining impacts to fisheries and fleets and advocates for a comprehensive evaluation of both siting and construction of offshore wind projects including but not limited to minimizing the footprint of submerged cables and mooring lines, minimization of transit restrictions, prevention of stray current and electromagnetic fields, and shark avoidance. The SAS would also be interested in updates from our east coast counterparts regarding any lessons learned because they are further along in the offshore wind permitting process.

PFMC  
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