

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Legislative Committee (LC) met by webinar on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

The LC first heard a staff review of recent Federal legislation (Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1). There has been no activity on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization since the March meeting, and most Federal fisheries bills remain in the introductory stage. However, the LC is tracking two state bills promoting offshore wind projects off Oregon and California. The Oregon bill (HB 3375) establishes a goal of developing 3,000 megawatts (or three gigawatts) of commercial-scale floating offshore wind energy projects in Federal waters off Oregon by 2030 (see Agenda Item H.3, Attachments 2 and 5). A work session on the bill was held April 12. The California bill (AB 525, Attachment 6) would have required the California Energy Commission to plan for at least 10,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy off California by 2040, with an interim target of 3,000 megawatts by 2030. However, the bill has been pulled from the Energy Committee agenda due to disagreements about the timeline for energy development and research.

The LC also discussed the two draft letters in the briefing book responding to Section 216 of President Biden's Executive Order (EO) 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (Attachments 3 and 4). Attachment 3 is a letter to the Dept. of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce providing the Council's perspective on Section 216(a) of the EO. The LC proposed some minor changes to the letter: remove the words "we believe that" in the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 3, and remove the words "we submit that" from the first sentence of the third paragraph on the same page.

Attachment 4 is a letter to NOAA responding to Section 216(c) of the same EO. The LC approved this letter as written, and recommends that the Council approve both letters, including the proposed changes to Attachment 3.

Future Meetings

The LC recommends the Council put legislative matters on the June 2021 meeting, and that the LC meet prior to that.

PFMC
04/12/21