

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) considered marine planning issues including five topics identified by the Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) (Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental MPC Report 1). Except as noted, the CPSAS concurs with the MPC report and supports the three draft letters proposed by the MPC (Agenda Items E.1, Attachments 3, 4, and 5), with the following additions and clarifications.

Humboldt Offshore Wind Energy Area (WEA)

The CPSAS notes that there is a substantial amount of fishing activity that occurs in the WEA, upon which local processors and communities are dependent. In the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) on site characterization, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) should include characterizing fishing activities over the past 20 years, including fishing occurring under all four Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) fishery management plans (FMP) as well as state-managed fisheries. These data should include landings, values, total trips, per unit area.

Projects off Vandenberg Air Force Base

The CPSAS notes that the proposed project area is in an area of intense activities, including:

- The proposed projects are in an area of significant squid spawning habitat that may be negatively impacted.
- This area is an important navigation area for fishing, recreational, and commercial vessel traffic. Point Arguello and Point Conception are where vessels ‘turn the corner’ while transiting into or out of the Southern California Bight, and the presence of the project infrastructure would hamper navigation and raises safety concerns.
- The proposed projects are located in an area of with major ecosystem services, including abundant fish stocks, habitat, bird and whale use. The project site is surrounded by California state marine sanctuaries, essential fish habitat (EFH) Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, and EFH Conservation areas.
- Transmission lines, moorage lines, and inter array cables all represent potential hazards for marine life, habitat, and vessel navigation through the area.

Other Considerations

- Although there is no formal lease request yet, the area mapped for wind energy by Grays Harbor Wind in the Quinalt U&A is said to be the most productive area off the Washington coast and has robust populations of marine life, including fish, mammals, and sea birds. This area supports two major processors in Westport, Washington as well as some in Astoria, Oregon. It is also a popular area for recreational fishing.
- Principles that should be observed for the development of any and all Offshore Wind (OSW) projects include:
 - BOEM should strive to minimize potential adverse impacts to existing ocean resource users and coastal communities, consistent with the Data Gathering and [Engagement Plan](#) for Offshore Wind Energy in Oregon.

- Fishermen need to be actively engaged in vetting the fishing data and to give historical and “future” perspective.
- Latitude/Longitude coordinates as well as shape files should be provided for all Call Areas and WEAs.
- A thorough socioeconomic review and analysis for EAs needs be conducted that includes all aspects of business activity and lost revenue in the communities and fishery supply chains. Social impacts including increased poverty, impacts to schools and social services from job losses and associated depleted tax base, etc need to be cataloged. The Council should consider recommending that compensation be provided to offset negative socio-economic impacts to coastal communities. Compensation for lost business activity should include stranded capital as well as income loss and be equal to actual losses for no less than five years.
- Require adequate bonding to ensure proper decommissioning and restoration to a pre-construction state, and to mitigate financial risk from accidents or harm related to project infrastructure.
- Regular inspections should be required to prevent contaminants and materials from harming habitat, fish stocks, and ecosystem services.
- Consideration should be given to the seafood supply chain and national food security when making decisions about permitting and siting OSW farms.
- Siting of offshore wind farms, transmission cables, and ancillary infrastructure should be located outside fishing areas, fishery survey areas, designated habitat conservation areas, and designated habitat protection areas. Data sources and maps should include the Groundfish Amendment 28 EFH Conservation Areas and the Amendment 19 Habitat Areas of Particular Concern layers housed on the Northwest Fisheries Science Center’s Data [Warehouse](#).

The CPSAS commends and thanks the MPC for pulling together its report and three draft letters and looks forward to future reports and guidance from the MPC.

PFMC
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