

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed current materials on marine planning under Agenda Item E.1. Members of the CPSMT have also attended numerous meetings related to offshore wind (OSW) energy, including recent webinars held on August 4 and 11 related to the data layers in the OROWindMap tool and the Council's ad hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) meeting held on September 1.

California OSW areas

There are several potential OSW areas off California in various stages of development which all have a September 13, 2021 deadline for comment. The proposed Morro Bay call area with its extensions and the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) reside in Federal waters and are part of the BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) planning process. Two pilot projects have been proposed off Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) within state waters and are being evaluated by the California State Lands Commission. Based on the proposed geographical locations of these three areas, it does not appear there will be significant direct conflicts to existing CPS fisheries at this time. Possible effects on CPS stocks for the Morro Bay and Humboldt areas are not currently clear without specific details on site footprints and structures. The draft preliminary environmental assessment for the Vandenberg AFB projects states that effects of OSW facilities on the marine environment are speculative, given that few are currently deployed, but potentially could affect wind and wave dynamics, habitat, water quality, and marine resources, among other environmental impacts.

Oregon OROWindMap data layers

The CPSMT recognizes that the BOEM process for future Call Areas is now underway for waters off Oregon, although there is not currently a formal comment period open. Providing comments on the three areas off California is more pressing. Nevertheless, the CPSMT understands the importance of the Council engaging in this ongoing process that may affect Council-managed fisheries including CPS. The CPSMT reviewed the two very thorough reports submitted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ([Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1](#) and [Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 2](#)). The CPSMT endorses the detailed comments in both comment letters submitted to BOEM related to the data layers in the OROWindMap tool as they pertain to CPS. The first letter addresses the fact that potential habitat layers are included for just two of the species included in the CPS fishery management plan and suggests potential improvements that should be explored. The second letter calls out the lack of any fishery layers for CPS fisheries for the waters off Oregon at present.

Grays Harbor Wind (GHW)

The GHW project is still in the conceptual stage and the CPSMT does not have any comments at this time.

The CPSMT is concerned that there is at present little discussion of cumulative effects of OSW projects on CPS fishery management or fishery management in general. For example, multiple

projects may impact long-standing CPS survey efforts undertaken by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center which are critically important to assessing CPS stocks. The same may be true for surveys undertaken for stocks in other fishery management plans as well. The CPSMT recognizes that analyses of effects on surveys may not be part of the BOEM process at this time but may occur as part of secondary National Environmental Policy Act evaluations that will be conducted for specific wind energy projects. The CPSMT foresees that if such analyses occur in the future using a one project at a time approach, cumulative effects may not be considered in time to make any substantial changes to projects already in place as new ones move forward.

PFMC
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