

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) listened to a presentation by Kerry Griffin on the report put forward by the Marine Planning Committee (MPC). This report (Supplemental MPC Report 1) included sections on offshore aquaculture development plans from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Port Access Route Study by the United States Coast Guard (USCG), community outreach by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), updates on offshore wind energy development plans in Oregon by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and lastly by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We would like to thank and commend the MPC and all the support agencies for their contributions.

These contributions led to the MPC Report which is a comprehensive document that covers many topics and lists carefully thought-out recommendations that could ameliorate future difficulties with new ocean economies and offshore development. If left unchecked, we believe these difficulties will impact our fisheries, our habitat, and our marine ecosystems.

The CPSAS supports the entire suite of recommendations made in the MPC report. We highlight and strongly support the need to establish a Council Policy Document on Offshore Development, and to authorize and send the MPC draft letter to BOEM as written and recommended by the MPC. We intend to review NOAA's *Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas for the Southern California Bight*, as well as provide input on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) expected to be published in early 2022.

We are at an important crossroads with the advent of development of huge areas of the ocean for renewable energy and for aquaculture. There is no doubt there will be major and irreversible impacts to fisheries and potentially our marine environment if there are no changes to present plans. The formation of the MPC and the recent Council actions are a step in the right direction, but we need to stay fully engaged in order to protect our fisheries, our heritage, and our ocean ecosystems. This is more important than ever given the present disruptions in overseas supply chains and issues surrounding our nation's food security.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

PFMC
11/17/21