



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232

November 8, 2021

Agenda Item C.2.a
Supplemental NMFS Report 1
November 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97225
marc@gorelniklaw.com

Dear Mr. Gorelnik:

Thank you for standing up a Marine Planning Committee that, in coordination with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) suite of advisory bodies, will help the Council, states, tribes, and the fishing industry and public stay engaged in West Coast processes regarding the development of offshore wind energy installations, among other issues. I am writing to share with you recent steps that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has taken or will take to engage in and track emerging offshore wind energy development on the west coast.

President Biden's [Executive Order 14008](#) on *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* includes priorities on a range of issues aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, including doubling offshore wind by 2030. Specifically, the administration's goal is deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind in the United States by 2030, while protecting biodiversity and promoting ocean co-use.¹

The Bureau for Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) within the Department of the Interior is the federal government's lead for permitting and assessing offshore wind energy installations. BOEM is required to engage with NMFS under various statutes to address issues such as endangered species or essential fish habitat. NMFS is also partnering with BOEM to better understand the science planning, background research, and data products needed to analyze the potential effects of installing, operating, and eventual decommissioning of offshore wind turbines and wind farms.

NMFS is standing up a team to coordinate our agency's engagement and work on offshore wind energy issues along the west coast, led by senior staff: Ms. Jennifer Lilah Isé (Jennifer.Ise@noaa.gov) at the West Coast Region, will serve as the Chair of the team; Dr. M. Elizabeth Clarke (Elizabeth.Clarke@noaa.gov) at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center; and Dr. Roger Hewitt (Roger.Hewitt@noaa.gov) at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

¹ [FACT SHEET: Biden Administration Jumpstarts Offshore Wind Energy Projects to Create Jobs](#)



Ms. Isé has extensive fisheries and marine policy experience within the agency, both at the Region and in NOAA headquarters, and her West Coast work includes experience with Pacific salmon fisheries and swordfish fisheries. She will be coordinating the Region's offshore wind energy engagement across our mandates, from endangered species and marine mammal interactions, to effects on critical and essential fish habitat, to interactions with fish stocks and fisheries. Dr. Clarke has experience developing and implementing new science programs in support of public policy-making, particularly for fisheries and habitat, and has led a variety of NMFS offshore research efforts. Dr. Hewitt has extensive experience designing and leading programs to provide science-based advice to both international and domestic resource management bodies; he is currently an Assistant Director at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Ms. Yvonne deReynier will continue to serve as the NMFS representative to the Council's Marine Planning Committee. She has over 25 years of experience working with a diverse group of state, tribal, and federal managers and the public on West Coast domestic and international fisheries issues. She will be working closely with our new team.

Offshore wind energy development on the west coast is evolving rapidly, and we are taking steps to prepare for it. We value the strong partnership between the Council and NMFS on the west coast, and look forward to our continued engagement on offshore wind energy. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Lilah Isé (Jennifer.Ise@noaa.gov), NMFS West Coast Offshore Wind Energy Coordinator.

Sincerely,



Barry A. Thom
Regional Administrator

cc: Chuck Tracy, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dr. Scott Rumsey, Deputy Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region
Ryan Wulff, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS West Coast Region
Kristen C. Koch, Science and Research Director, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Dr. Kevin Werner, Science and Research Director, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center