

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the information and reports under this Agenda Item in the March Briefing Book. Some members of the CPSMT also attended the [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\) Oregon Task Force meeting](#) on February 25, 2022 that focused on the preliminary call areas BOEM has put forward off the Oregon coast. These documents and the meeting were discussed by the CPSMT with the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) at its joint meeting on March 1, 2022. Several members from both the CPSMT and the CPSAS also stated their intention to attend the meeting that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is holding with BOEM on March 4, 2022.

The CPSMT would like to thank the Marine Planning Committee (MPC), the Habitat Committee (HC), and the Ecosystem Work Group (EWG) for their thorough reports. The CPSMT endorses the EWG recommendation that the MPC take primary responsibility for drafting the Council's policy guidance document for offshore development activities. The [MPC Report 2](#) is an excellent starting point for moving forward and the CPSMT recommends that it be used as the basis for the final Council policy document. The Council may wish to consider directing the MPC to incorporate additional points made in [EWG Report 1](#) and [HC Report 1](#) such as highlighting the socioeconomic effects of fishery dependent communities in the EWG report and specific effects on habitats of particular concern in the HC report.

The CPSMT was surprised by the magnitude and locations of the three proposed call areas off Oregon that were announced by BOEM with a total area of 2,181 square miles all off the southern Oregon coast. These call areas were estimated to have the capacity for generating approximately 17 gigawatts of power. But the maximum capacity for accepting that wind energy generated offshore at all five points of interconnection to the power grid near the coast is currently slightly over 2.6 gigawatts and only two of the five points of interconnection are close to the three call areas, with those two only able to handle approximately 1.5 gigawatts. Thus, changes to shoreside infrastructure will be needed for Oregon to be able to integrate even up to 3 gigawatts of offshore wind energy. In addition, the three proposed call areas are important areas for a number of fisheries based on early analyses of incomplete fisheries data. Although some [additional data have recently been added to the OROWindMap tool](#), full analyses of the fisheries data that were added has yet to be done. Those fisheries data that are available are still incomplete, as the only CPS fisheries data off Oregon that are included are for the market squid fishery from 2016 - 2020. The CPSMT recommends that the Council continue to engage with BOEM and urge BOEM not to designate Wind Energy Areas or allow leasing until thorough analyses of the socioeconomic and environmental effects, both those on the water as well as those shoreside, have been completed.

A recent study (Christiansen et al. 2022) found that offshore wind farms change the oceanographic dynamics in the areas downwind of the wind farm that include reduction of mixing caused by greater stratification of the water column and changes to currents. These types of changes can affect nutrient delivery to the upper waters and thus primary productivity in the ecosystem that many CPS feed on. It will be critically important that the cumulative effects of wind energy installation in the California Current Ecosystem off the West Coast be evaluated. The CPSMT has

concerns that such cumulative effects analyses and considerations do not seem to be part of the process that BOEM is undertaking.

As for next steps for the Oregon call areas, BOEM indicated that they are planning to have meetings with fishing sectors and are looking for input on how best to engage with these sectors in the most meaningful way. The CPSMT suggests that the MPC may be in a good position to engage with the fishing community and sectors to help guide BOEM in planning its engagement structure, venues, and forums in a manner that works well for the fishing community.

Reference cited

Christiansen, N., U. Daewel, B. Djath, and C. Schrum. 2022. Emergence of large-scale hydrodynamic structures due to atmospheric offshore wind farm wakes. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 9:818501 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.818501>

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