

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

Members of the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) attended the Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee's (MPC) meeting on February 1, 2022. The meeting featured a presentation on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning and Leasing Process and an Oregon Offshore Wind (OROWind) Map Presentation. The HMSMT further met with the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) during this Council meeting to participate in a discussion led by Mike Conroy, HMSAS representative on the MPC.

The HMSMT reviewed reports and information on this agenda item produced by the MPC, Habitat Committee, and the Ecosystem Working Group (EWG). The HMSMT supports the recommendations these advisory bodies put forth regarding the topic of offshore wind, which include:

- 1) a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, similar to the approach for the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas,
- 2) the need for recreational fishery input, and
- 3) more complete data to support necessary biological and economic impact analyses such as those required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The HMSMT also seconds the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife [report](#) recommendation that fishing effort mapping analyses should be informed through stakeholder input. The efforts put forth by Council advisory bodies to comprehensively review proposed BOEM actions are immense and highly appreciated.

The [EWG report](#) on Marine Planning noted that non-fishing activities, such as offshore windfarms, may impact transboundary stocks, including HMS and protected species stocks, and their management by the Council and international regional fishery management organizations. The HMSAS addressed international HMS issues and conveyed concerns over the potential impact on international stock assessments that could result from changes in effort and/or catch, and the HMSMT shares these concerns. The HMSMT suggests that further discussions and investigations into the potential impact on international HMS issues may be warranted.