

MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Marine Planning Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet May 24, 2022, to consider current marine planning issues and develop a supplemental report for the June Council meeting. Topics will include recent Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore wind planning activities, development of a draft policy guidance document on ocean development activities, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA). The MPC may also discuss the possibility of a process that would facilitate fisheries stakeholder input into the Oregon Call Areas planning process, and will be submitting a supplemental report for the June Council meeting as soon as possible after the May 24th MPC meeting.

Oregon Call Areas Draft Letter

On April 29, 2022 BOEM formally announced a Request for Information and Nominations for offshore wind (OSW) energy development off the Oregon Coast for the Coos Bay and the Brookings Call Areas. One proposed Call Area (Bandon) was removed prior to the final notice. The Notice and other information on Oregon OSW planning is available on BOEM's [website](#). The comment period ends June 28, 2022.

A draft comment letter is included in June meeting materials as C.3, Attachment 1. The Council should consider the draft letter, input from the Marine Planning Committee, and provide guidance for finalizing the letter.

Policy Guidance Document

At its March 2022 meeting, the Council considered three draft policy guidance documents; two addressed marine development activities that could potentially impact fishing activities, marine habitat, and fishing-dependent coastal communities. These were in March Briefing Book materials as C.2.a, HC [Report 1](#) and C.2.a, MPC [Report 2](#). The Council directed staff to combine those two documents into a single policy guidance document (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2) for consideration at the June 2022 Council meeting. A third draft policy document, C.2.a, EWG [Report 1](#), was developed as an over-arching document addressing non-fishing impacts in the broader California Current Ecosystem. The Council stated that further consideration of that document would occur at the June meeting. At the June meeting, the Council should consider adopting the policy guidance document, and should provide further direction on the EWG document.

NOAA AOAs

NOAA is expected to issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on AOAs in late May, with a 60-day comment period. The Council directed staff to compose a comment letter once the NOI has been issued. However, a draft letter may not be available for review at the June meeting. The Council should discuss the topic and provide guidance as appropriate.

Other Marine Planning Issues

Several other related issues may be discussed at the June meeting and at the May 24th MPC meeting. These topics may include California lease sales and an unsolicited lease request in waters off the Washington Coast that was recently submitted. The Council should consider information and recommendations in the MPC report and provide guidance as appropriate.

This agenda item will include brief updates from BOEM and NOAA representatives on OSW energy planning and NOAA AOAs, respectively. Agency representatives will be available to answer questions during the agenda item.

Council Action:

Consider the Marine Planning Committee report, the draft letter on Oregon Call Areas, the draft policy guidance document, and provide guidance as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1, Draft Oregon Call Areas letter.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2, Draft Policy Guidance Document.
3. *Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental MPC Report 1.*
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

C.3 Marine Planning

Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Approve Final Recommendations on Oregon Call Areas, Review and Adopt the Draft Policy Guidance Document, and Develop Comments on the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

PFMC
5/17/22