

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL
REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received an update from Mike Conroy regarding the Draft Oregon Call Area Comment letter, the Draft Policy Guidance Document, the recently published Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the proposed identification of one or more aquaculture opportunity areas to be located in Federal waters off the coast of Southern California, as well as recent activities which would fall under the purview of the Marine Planning Committee (MPC). Like the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, the HMSAS greatly appreciates the MPC's and the Council's work in this space.

Oregon Draft Call Area Comment Letter:

In the *Federal Register* Notice, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management specifically seeks comments on other uses of the Outer Continental Shelf in or near the Call Areas. The albacore fishery representatives on the HMSAS agree with the Draft Comment Letter's highlighting the albacore fishery as one which operates in or near the Call Area. The albacore fishery is important to both commercial and recreational fisheries that are based in central and southern Oregon as well as vessels that are based in California and Washington which participate in the albacore fishery.

The HMSAS suggests Bureau of Ocean Energy Management considers reissuing the Call Areas in waters deeper than the 1,300 m (700 fm) depth contour. As we noted in [Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1, March 2022](#), "prime fishing grounds for HMS fisheries exist in waters deeper than 1,300 m." In the current Call Areas, or any future Call Areas, we recommend there be a 15-mile buffer around seamounts, ridges, and canyons to minimize impacts to HMS fisheries.

Humboldt and Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas Proposed Sale Notice:

The HMSAS supports the Council drafting a comment letter, via the Quick Response process, on the Proposed Sale Notice as mentioned in the MPC Supplemental Report.

NOAA Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

While the HMSAS does not expect any direct conflicts with HMS fisheries from the aquaculture opportunity areas, we are mindful that our Southern California members are interested in ensuring the Council participates in the process as a PEIS is developed.