

MARINE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

This supplemental report provides updated information to complement the Marine Planning Committee’s (MPC) report in the advanced September Briefing Book ([Agenda Item C.4.a, MPC Report 1](#)).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Draft Fisheries Mitigation Strategy

As the MPC noted in its report, BOEM, working with NOAA Fisheries, in June solicited comments on its 12-page Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585, with a public comment deadline that closed on August 22, 2022. The overview, draft mitigation strategy, and Appendix A can be accessed on Regulations.Gov, docket [#BOEM-2022-0033](#) and also on the [BOEM website](#).

As of the supplemental briefing book deadline, 87 of 108 comments BOEM received were posted to the docket, including those submitted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). A number of West Coast fishing, seafood, conservation and Tribal entities submitted comments. Comments from other state and Federal agencies included the U.S. Coast Guard; California state agencies (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, California State Lands Commission, California Energy Commission and Ocean Protection Council); the Small Business Administration and NOAA. The complete list of comments can be found in the [docket](#).

Washington Unsolicited Lease Request

Near the end of August, BOEM alerted Washington State agencies that Hecate Energy had made public its unsolicited lease request (ULR), called [Cascadia Wind](#). [The ULR is](#) for two areas off Southern Washington. This is the second such ULR for waters off Washington (the first was [Olympic Wind](#)) near Grays Harbor.

Cascadia Wind’s proposal is for two areas about 15 miles offshore Washington, for a total of about 403 square miles. In contrast, Olympic Wind’s proposal for two areas is more than 40 miles offshore and encompasses 291.9 square miles. The table below shows a simple comparison of both projects and areas (full ULRs that include charts and more explanations, are available online at the links for each project).

Name	Approximate miles from shore	Total area (square miles)	Total area (square kilometers)	Size of project (GW)
Olympic Wind	>40	291.9	756	Up to 2 GW
Cascadia Wind	~15	403	1,044	≥ 2 GW

BOEM is still reviewing the ULRs for completeness and to determine competitive interest. The MPC expects BOEM will provide an update on the status of these two ULRs at the September Pacific Council meeting, under this agenda item.

Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC PARS)

Earlier this year, the Council submitted the following comment letters on the United States Coast Guard (USCG) PAC-PARS: The Pacific Coast From Washington to California:

- [January 25 – USCG Port Access Route Study](#)
- [May 25 - USCG Vessel Traffic Assessment: Near Point Mugu, San Francisco Bay, Humboldt Bay, and Morro Bay, California](#)

On August 26th, the USCG announced the availability of the draft Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS) and is requesting public comments on the draft. See Attachment 1 depicting proposed navigation Fairways. Please note that the attached map identifies ‘Wind Energy Areas’ in the legend, when those areas should be referred to as ‘Call Areas’ It is our understanding that the Call Areas will be winnowed down in coming months and at that point will be labeled as Wind Energy Areas. The docket contains a total of 18 supporting and material documents attached to it. The MPC suggests the following are most critical:

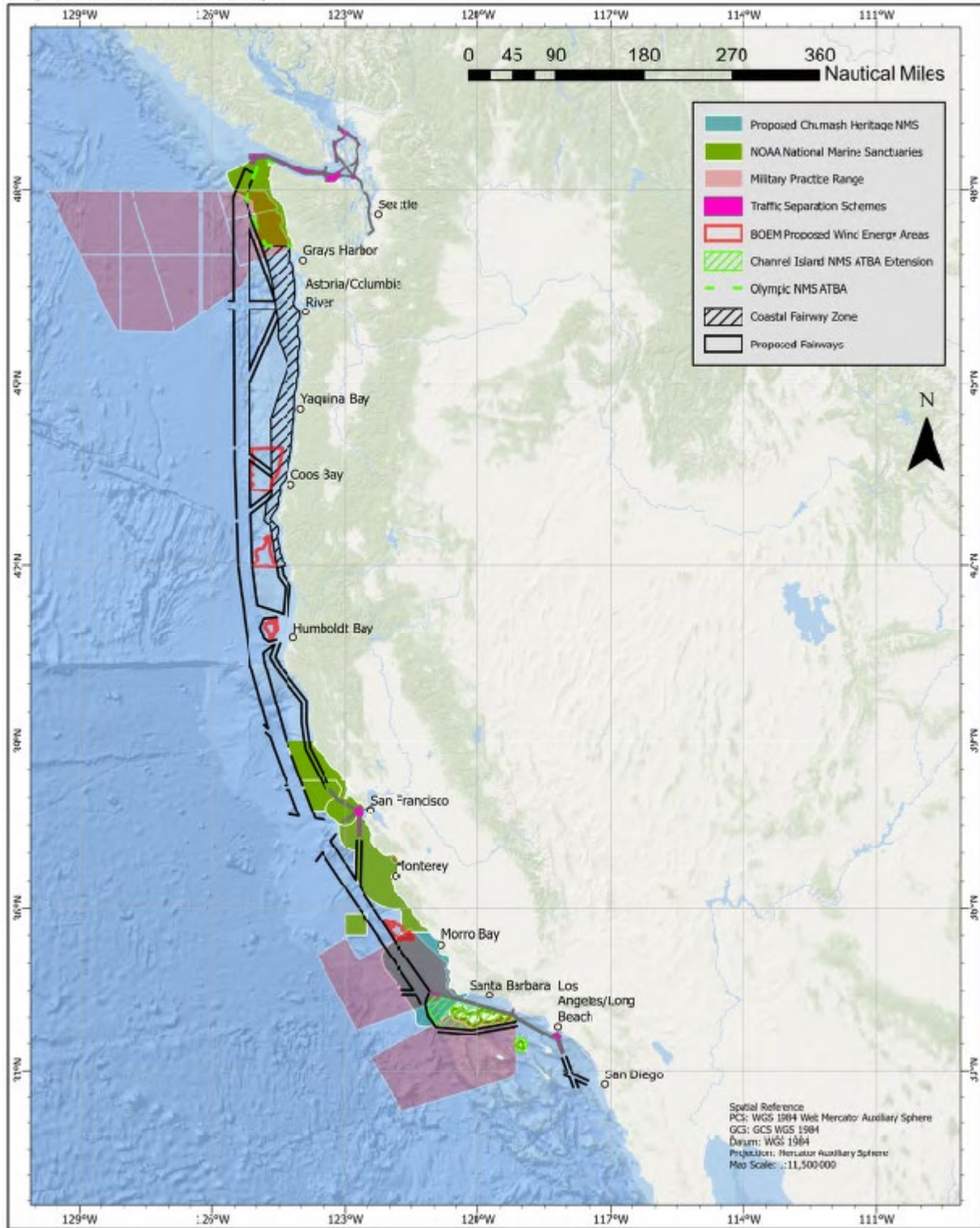
- [The Federal Register Notice](#)
- [Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study](#)
- [Eleventh Coast Guard District Recommendation Memo](#)
- [Thirteenth Coast Guard District Recommendation Memo](#)
- [Port Access Route Study: The Pacific Coast from Washington to California – Vessel Traffic Coastal Analysis](#)
- [Port Access Route Study: The Pacific Coast From Washington to California – Vessel Traffic Summary](#)
- [Proposed Pacific Coast Fairways](#) (See Attachment 1)

The Public comment period closes on October 25, 2022 and we recommend the Council authorize the MPC to develop a comment letter under the Council’s Quick Response format.

PFMC
08/31/22

Attachment 1: Proposed PAC-PARS Fairways

Proposed Pacific Coast Fairways



Basemap: Esri, GEBCO, DeLorme, Navteq, Swire, NOAA, BOEM. Additional overlay information documented in the Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS)