

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the November 2022 Briefing Book materials on Agenda Item C.6, Marine Planning Issues.

The CPSAS appreciates the thorough work by the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) and Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff that follow West Coast marine activities, and specifically offshore wind (OSW). The detailed updates and briefings supplied to the Council and advisory bodies, as well as the letters from the Council to BOEM composed by Council staff and the MPC on OSW are critical in communicating Council and fishermen concerns about the impacts of OSW project deployment on our fisheries, coastal communities, and the California Current Ecosystem.

We provide some succinct comments related to the suitability model (described in MPC Report 2) and the fishery engagement process (described in MPC Report 1):

- 1. The CPSAS stresses that BOEM's engagement process has suffered and will continue to suffer under new Suitability Models if their process for engagement does not change.** To date there has been no direct dialogue and information exchange with NW fishermen prior to mapping prospective Call areas.
- 2. To the CPSAS's knowledge there has been no direct engagement with CPS fishermen at any level, or in any region about potential effects of OSW on CPS fisheries or CPS spawning, feeding, or nursery areas. CPS species are not only important to fishermen but also to avian species, endangered whales, and predatory species of fish (e.g., king salmon).**

As we have seen, data and maps may not be accurate due to a variety of reasons, including limited non-representative time periods or lack of comprehensive sources necessary to show variation and trends in potential conflicts. Regardless of a model's strength, it must be tested against the knowledge of active fishermen and consider all sectors and areas. This requires availability of maps and model results for review over a substantial period of fishing and which includes present day operations. This should be followed up by workshops which give each fishing sector time for fishermen to illustrate mapping contrasts with present day fishing. This needs to occur before prospective project areas are advertised for lease sales. Workshops must be timed and located to ensure broad representation of fishermen to ensure that input is comprehensive. fishermen inspection of the various data maps and dialog concerning the potential conflicts, overlaps, and trends must be part of this process and their feedback recorded.

To facilitate dialog, these workshops should be done in person and at the local level and facilitated by the state fishery department or a party that is mutually agreed upon. If multiple sectors attend each workshop, each sector should be provided with a separate time allowance to ensure that all sector's inputs are received.

In addition, the CPS agrees with points the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel has expressed and recommends regarding review of their November 2022 statement to the Council related to the PAC PARs item.

Finally, the CPSAS reminds the MPC and Council of the absolute need of an independent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing environmental impacts, including social and economic impacts, and cumulative regional impacts, prior to advancing any leasing. This does not preclude the need for individual project EISs.

PFMC
11/06/22