

## HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

At its November 2022 meeting, the Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed and discussed the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) report (C.6.a, MPC Report 1) and the supplemental report (C.6.a, Supplemental MPC Report 2), and offers the following comments.

The MPC report summarized ongoing activities and upcoming items related to marine planning issues. The identification of draft Wind Energy Areas (WEA) within the Oregon Call Areas is currently in process by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). BOEM has partnered with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) to conduct suitability modeling to aid identification of draft WEAs. Although the draft WEAs will be shared with Council with the opportunity to comment, there is no description of the process or criteria for how draft WEAs will be selected, nor an opportunity for the Council to provide input on the selection process.

The HC asks that the following questions be added to the list of questions for BOEM in the MPC Supplemental MPC Report 2.

- How, specifically, is BOEM using the model results to inform its selection of draft WEAs, what other specific factors is BOEM using in its selection of draft WEAs, and how is BOEM specifically applying and weighting all these factors in its selection decision?
- Please identify the areas identified for consideration but not selected as draft WEAs.
- Can maps be shared that describe the WEA selection process including the areas being considered and data layers that will be used to identify the draft WEAs?

The MPC report mentions the draft Environmental Impact Statement on oil rig decommissioning. The HC is currently drafting a letter to BOEM for the Council's consideration on oil rig decommissioning and will share drafts of that letter with the MPC.