

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Public Scoping Report

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region is pleased to share our [Public Scoping Report](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/public-scoping-report-southern-california-aquaculture-opportunity-areas) (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/public-scoping-report-southern-california-aquaculture-opportunity-areas>) which summarizes the public comments received on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for a proposed Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Area(s). The PEIS will assess the impacts of siting aquaculture facilities in different potential AOA locations in federal waters in the Southern California Bight, as informed by the [Southern California Bight Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas](#) and other relevant sources of information.

The 60-day public scoping period for the NOI began on May 23rd, 2022, and concluded on July 22nd, 2022. NOAA Fisheries received a total of 53 oral and written submissions, which are available verbatim in the report.

This Public Scoping Report provides a high-level overview of the nature and themes of the comments received. This summary is not meant to serve as a complete record of outreach for the NEPA process; and it is not an exclusive list of topics that may or may not be included in the PEIS. NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region will consider all substantive comments received during the public scoping period, input from cooperating agencies and agency partners, and the best information available gathered from many sources to finalize the scope of the PEIS.

The PEIS itself is part of a long-term planning effort. It is not a regulatory or permitting action. This NOI was the first of two opportunities during the NEPA process for stakeholders to provide public comment. The next opportunity for public comment will occur once NMFS West Coast Region prepares the draft PEIS and publishes it for public comment in the Federal Register.

For more information on the Southern CA Aquaculture Opportunity Area process in general, please visit our [website](#). For any questions, please contact Diane Windham at socalaoa.wcr@noaa.gov.

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