

MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met May 18, 2023, to consider current issues and activities related to offshore wind (OSW) energy development and fisheries issues on the Pacific Coast, and to produce a report (C.3.a, MPC Report 1) for the Council's June meeting.

Katie Westfall, the new National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Senior Advisor on OSW, joined the meeting to introduce herself and her new role. Katie is focused on coordinating across Federal agencies and working with developers, the fishing industry, states, Tribes, and others to develop and deepen partnerships at the regional and national levels.

Representatives from three California State agencies provided updates. The Coastal Commission provided an update on the five OSW leases off the California Coast; The State Lands Commission provided an update on the status of the pilot OSW projects proposed in State waters off Vandenburg Space Force Base; and The Energy Commission provided an update on its efforts in identifying suitable sea space for future OSW development to meet the State's planning goals.

MPC members provided updates on activities and issues in California, Oregon, Washington, and from a Tribal perspective. Details are provided in MPC Report 1 (C.3.a, MPC Report 1).

The MPC is scheduled to convene again on June 6th, to discuss fisheries communications plans that will be developed by offshore wind companies, and other issues, and anticipates submitting a supplemental report for the June Briefing Book. The MPC had been expecting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) would present information on the draft Oregon Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) at the MPC's June 6th meeting. However, the MPC was informed that BOEM would not be ready to present the draft WEAs or supporting analyses. It appears unlikely that BOEM or NCCOS will be prepared to provide information on the draft Oregon WEAs at the Council's June 24th Marine Planning agenda item.

At its June meeting, the Council should consider the recommendations and information in MPC Report 1 and provide guidance as appropriate. The Council should also consider the status of the MPC, which was created in June 2021 with the expectation of reevaluating the need for the committee after two years. Ad Hoc committees are typically created to address specific issues in a relatively short time frame. While the MPC does not have a strict sunset date, the Council should consider whether the MPC should continue, as well as any items related to the continuation of the MPC, such as membership and relation of the MPC to other Council Advisory Bodies. For example, the Council may wish to consider whether existing MPC membership is optimized to help the Council address important OSW and Aquaculture issues, and how the MPC may best relate to other Advisory Bodies in order to help the Council efficiently and effectively address marine planning matters.

Council Action:

1. Consider the Marine Planning Committee report and provide guidance as appropriate.
2. Consider the continuation of the Marine Planning Committee and provide direction regarding membership and process as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3.a, MPC Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

C.3 Marine Planning

Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Consider Marine Planning Committee Report and Provide Guidance

PFMC
05/26/23