

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a briefing on Marine Planning from Mike Conroy and offers the following comments and suggestions for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consideration.

The HMSAS strongly encourages the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop fisheries datasets that can be incorporated into a spatial suitability model, like the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science model. Before any final decisions are made on suitable sea space off the California coast for future offshore wind development, it is imperative that any and all efforts are made to ensure those areas are deconflicted with and for current ocean users. In their [June 9 letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\), Oregon Governor Kotek, Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Representatives Hoyle and Bonamici noted](#), “[a]dditional time would allow the State of Oregon to develop a more coordinated approach with the federal government to provide a deeper appreciation of community interests, to engage in meaningful Tribal consultation, and to develop opportunities to avoid and mitigate potential conflicts.” We encourage our California representatives on the Council to communicate similar sentiments to California’s Administration.

We support the MPC’s suggestions and recommendations included in MPC Supplemental Report 2. The albacore fishing community is one which includes harvesters from San Diego to Puget Sound. Members of that community should be included by the lessees in the preparation and development of their Fisheries Communications Plans.

As we have noted in previous statements, HMS fisheries stand to be directly impacted by offshore wind energy developments. Participants in those fisheries are still waiting to discuss this with BOEM. We reiterate our requests to the Council to strongly encourage BOEM to engage with the entire West Coast HMS fisheries directly impacted by offshore wind energy developments.

PFMC
06/23/23