

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MARINE PLANNING

June 2023



Already in Briefing Book*

• MPC Report 1

Agenda Item C.3.a
MPC Report 1
June 2023

MARINE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online on May 18, 2023, to discuss and consider recent and pending offshore wind (OSW) energy activities and issues on the Pacific Coast. This report summarizes the presentations and provides a summary of national, state, and tribal updates.

Remarks by Katie Westfall
Katie Westfall, the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service Senior Advisor on OSW to Janet Coit (Assistant Administrator for Fisheries) 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. She'll also be looking at ways to improve the efficiency of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) role in the offshore wind permitting process. She provided some national updates on budget and survey mitigation, and noted that Janet Coit's priorities for OSW include spatial planning, education about NMFS' regulatory processes, and bolstering NMFS' scientific capacity to address OSW issues. She is getting up to speed on West Coast OSW issues and invited people to reach out to her at katherine.westfall@noaa.gov. She heard from the MPC about tribal concerns with OSW development, including concerns about cumulative impacts, impacts on upwelling and oceanographic processes, larval fish distributions, and that the Tribes are asking for OSW development to slow down to address these concerns.

California Updates
The MPC received updates from three California State Agencies:

- The [Coastal Commission](#) provided an update on the five 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 Vandenberg Space Force Base; and
- The [Energy Commission](#) provided an update on its efforts in identifying suitable sea space

• California focus

• Supplemental MPC Report 2

Agenda Item C.3.a
Supplemental MPC Report 2
June 2023

MARINE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on June 6, 2023, to consider issues related to offshore wind (OSW) energy development, West Coast marine planning, and administrative issues, and provides the following information and recommendations for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration.

Fisheries Communications Plans
The MPC received presentations from four of the five companies holding OSW leases off the California coast. [Presentations](#) were provided by RWE Renewables, California North Floating, Equinor Wind, and Invenenergy Even Keel Wind. The presentations focused on the lessees' intentions for developing the required Fisheries Communications Plans (FCPs) and timelines for FCP development. At least one lessee expressed a desire to begin site characterization activities as soon as the 3rd quarter of this year. OSW lessees are required to develop three communications plans, described below. That is followed by a summary of the MPC's discussion and recommendations.

The five executed OSW leases are now available on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ([BOEM-California webpage](#)). Each lease requires the lessee to complete three publicly available Communications Plans within 120 days of the lease effective date (June 1), unless granted an extension by BOEM. Each of these must be provided to BOEM and the Plan audience for review and comment. Lessees are required to host a meeting with BOEM and the Plan's audience. If a lessee proposes to revise any of the communications plans after engaging with the intended beneficiaries, supporting documentation must accompany the request of BOEM. BOEM also requires lessees to submit progress reports on the communications plans every six months, and those are available to the public. Several lessees emphasized that the FCPs are living documents that will evolve based on feedback and new information. Such information should be included in the progress reports. The following plan requirements are incorporated into each lease; the section references are the same for each approved lease.

• Lessee's fisheries communications plans

MPC Report 1

California Coastal Commission

7(c) - Working Group

CA State Lands Commission

CADEMO OSW pilot Project

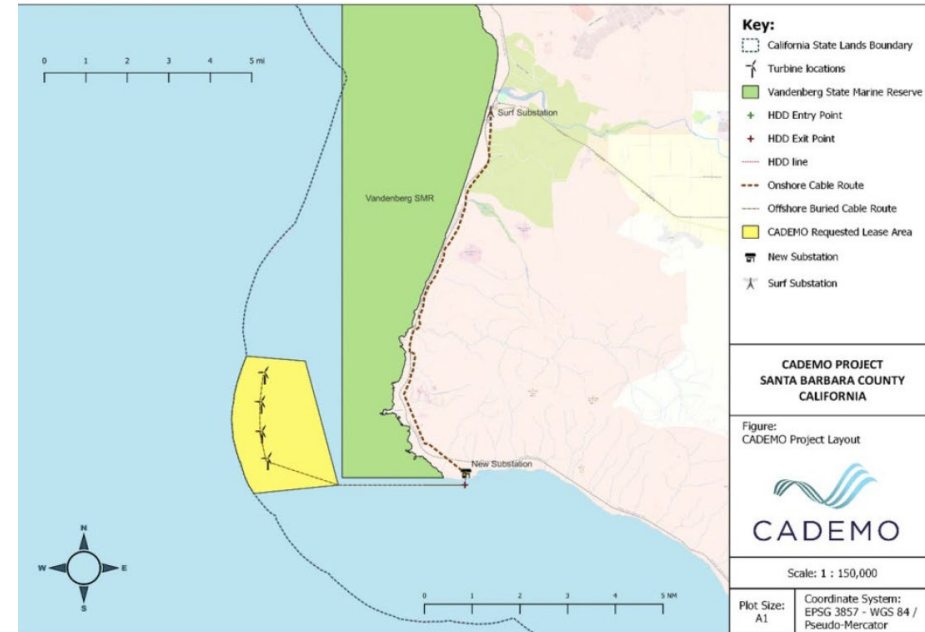


Figure 1: Location of CADEMO project.

California Energy Commission

AB 525 Strategic Plan (focus on Suitable Sea Space)

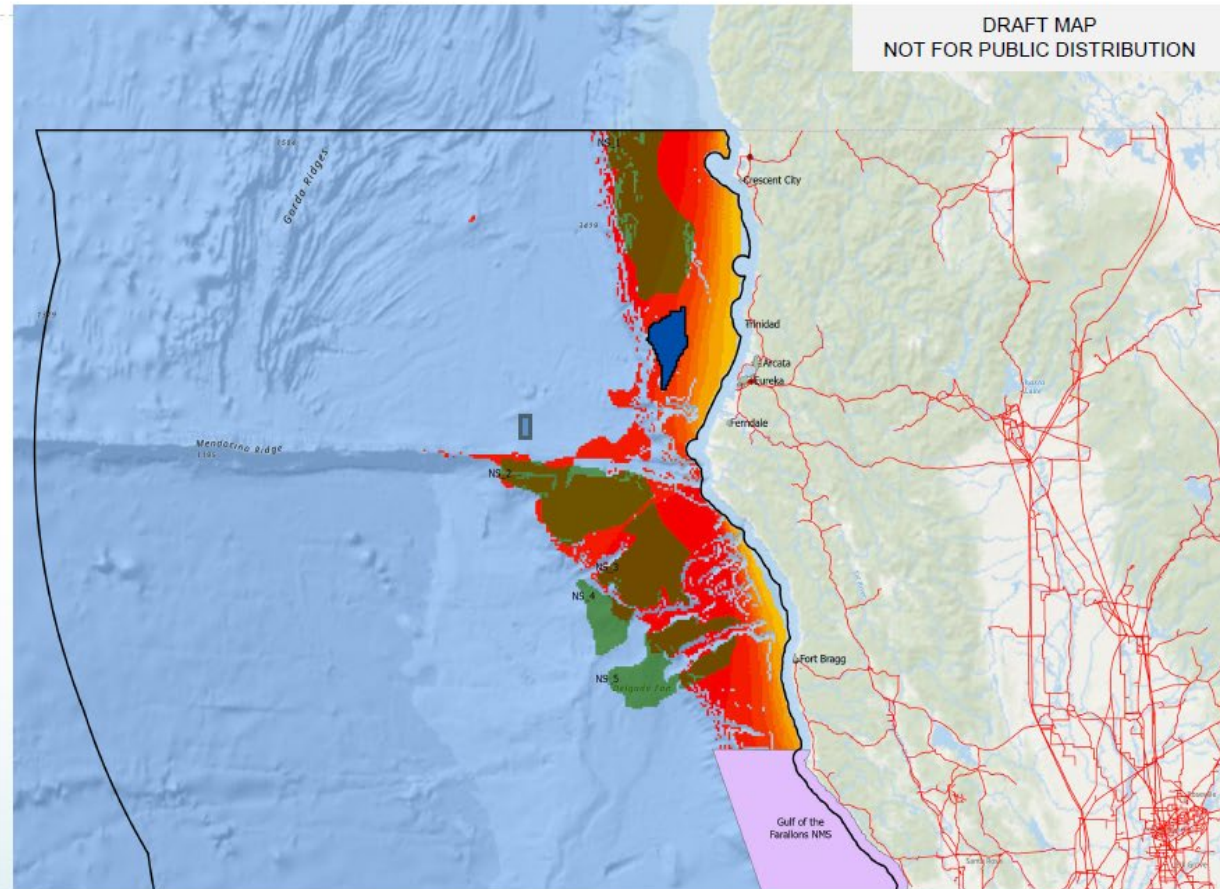
CEC slides on suitable sea space – North Coast



Sea Space – North Coast

Near-Shore

- Wind Speed 10m/s or better
- Water Depth – approximately 800m to 2600m
- Distance from Shore – approximately 20-70 miles

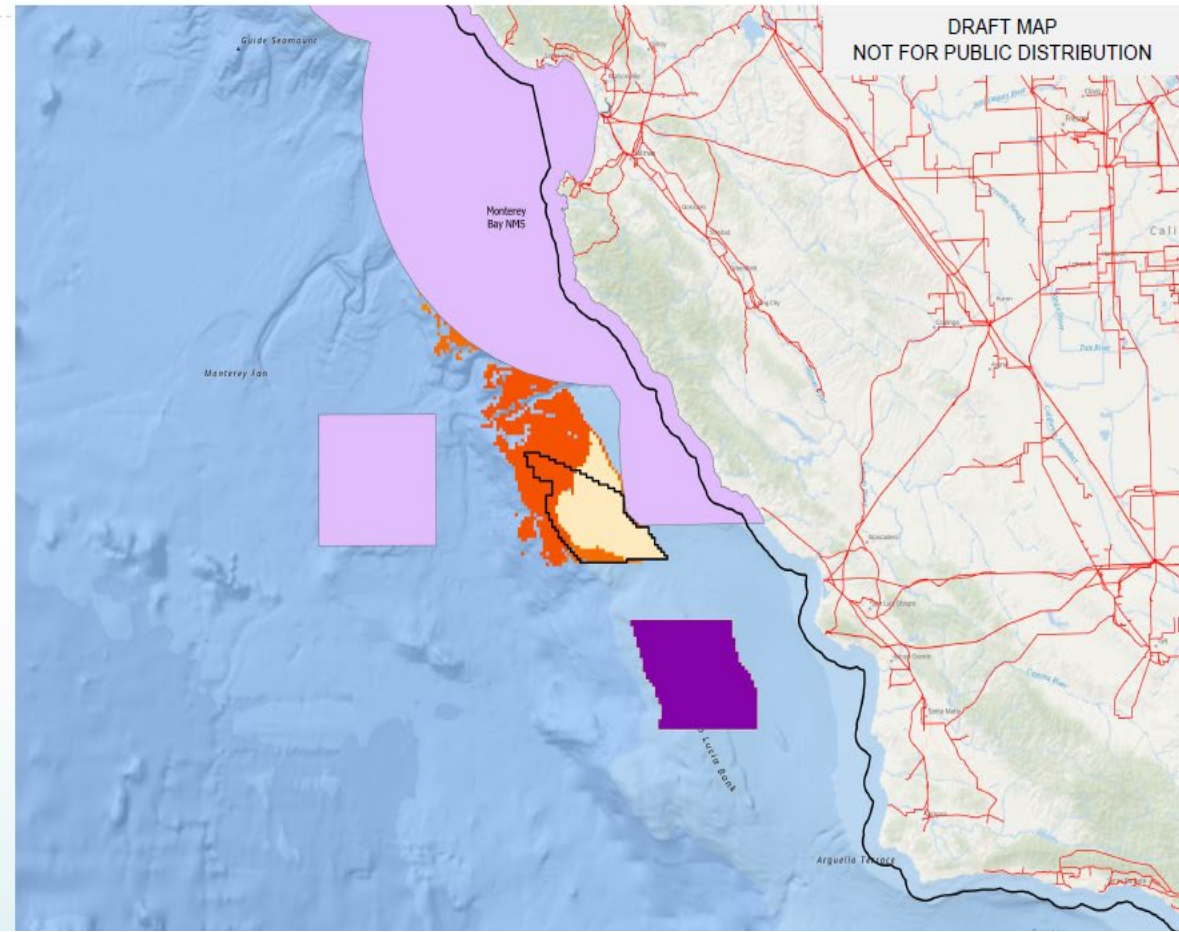


CEC slides on suitable sea space – Central Coast



Sea Space – Central Coast

- Wind Speed 8m/s or better
- Water Depth – approximately 900m to 2600m
- Distance from Shore – approximately 20-50 miles



Caveat

Slides shown by the CEC during its 5/31 workshop on sea space were more focused on broader areas

OSW, Fishing and Shipping all supported defining a process for ID'ing sea space when we need to do so. What is suitable today may not be so in 5 or 10 years

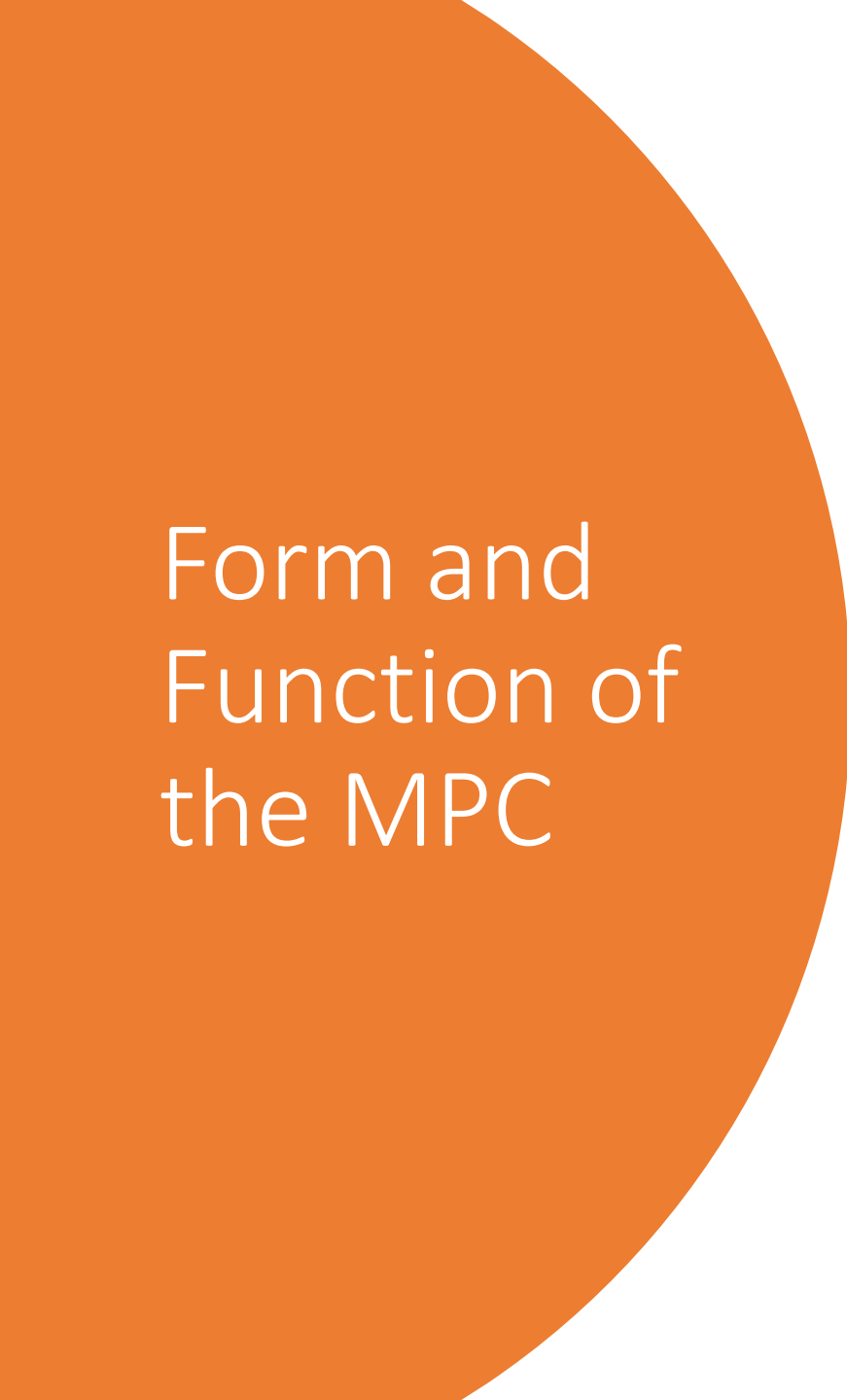
Supplemental MPC Report 2

- Lease required Communication Plans
 - Fisheries
 - Native American Tribes
 - Agency
- West Coast Ocean Alliance
- Form and Function of and Representation on the MPC




Fisheries Communication Plan

- You can access a copy of the signed leases via the link in the Supplemental Report.
- Unless extended by BOEM – 120 days from effective date (June 1)
 - How lessee with communication with commercial fishing communities
 - Lessee must host meeting w/ **interested** commercial fishing communities
 - How to deal w/ lost gear
- MPC Suggestions to lessees and recommendations to PFMC
 - “interest commercial fishing communities” to be defined broadly
 - Lessee (esp those in close proximity) should coordinate sharing and preparation of FCPs
 - NMFS Survey avoidance
 - Two-way communications between lessees and commercial fishing communities – including a trusted Fisheries Liaison Officer
 - PFMC be kept informed of progress



Form and Function of the MPC

- Questions we posed:
 - How could the MPC better serve you, your AB, the Council, and/or the public?
 - Do you want to change your AB's rep on the MPC?
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What's Likely Next?

- Oregon
 - Draft Wind Energy Areas (pending)
 - Governor et al [letter](#) to BOEM
- California
 - IHAs
 - 7(c) Working Group
 - Site Assessment Plans
- Washington
 - ULRs
 - WCMAC recommendations



Questions?