

## 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 Invenergy 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Fisheries Communications Plans (FCP): Section 6.2**

- Describes strategies the Lessee intends to use for communicating with commercial fishing communities prior to and during activities in support of the submission of a Construction and Operations Plan.
- Lessee must host a meeting with BOEM and interested commercial fishing communities to discuss the FCP.
- Must include a process to file a complaint with the OSW operator to seek the replacement of, or compensation for, lost gear.

### **Native American Tribes Communications Plan (NATCP): Section 3.1.2**

- Purpose - Ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion about potential issues, and collaborative identification of solutions to ensure that tribes have an early and active role in providing input to the Lessee before it makes decisions that may impact their cultural, economic, environmental, and other interests.

- Describes strategies the Lessee intends to use for communicating with tribes that have cultural and/or historical ties to the Lease Area.
- Should include detailed information and protocols for regular engagement with tribes.
- Should outline specific methods for engaging with tribes and disseminating information related to planned activities in the Lease Area to the tribes and a process for addressing and resolving disputes.

### **Agency Communications Plans (ACP): Section 3.1.3**

- Purpose - ensure early and active information sharing, focused discussion of potential issues, and collaborative identification of solutions in order to improve the quality and efficiency of various agency decision-making processes, and to promote the sustainable development of OSW energy projects.
- Describes strategies the Lessee intends to use for communicating with Federal, state, and local agencies (including harbor districts) with authority related to the Lease Area and should outline specific methods for engaging with and disseminating information to these agencies.
- Should include detailed information and protocols for regular engagement with permitting, planning, and resource agencies.

Members of the MPC offered several suggestions to the lessees as they begin working on their FCPs:

- Encouraged them to understand there will be interested fishing community members who reside outside of the immediate locations of the Lease Areas. This includes fisheries that operate throughout the West Coast region as well as those inshore of the Lease Areas that may be impacted by cabling. The albacore fishery, for example, has participants from San Diego, CA., to Bellingham, WA., and tribal fisheries in the Pacific Northwest were specifically mentioned as ones who have historic use, or historic dependence on ecosystem services, of the lease sites. It is also important to engage with fisheries and communities that may operate outside the footprint of the turbine arrays.
- Encouraged coordination by and between the lessees when preparing and sharing drafts of their respective FCPs. Asking the fishing communities to engage in separate meetings with each developer would be inefficient and an additional burden.
- Prioritize avoiding or disrupting National Marine Fisheries Service vessel-based scientific surveys.
- Encouraged comprehensive two-way communications between developers and fishermen. Specifically, regarding the Waterfront [mobile app](#) that is being used on the East Coast to facilitate communications between the OSW and fishing industries, allowing the developer to send alerts to fishermen and fishery participants to pin locations of their fixed gear so OSW survey crews can be aware of gear locations. The MPC encouraged developers to add a function for additional two-way communications so fishermen can report issues that would be received by all relevant developers. This would minimize the burden on fishermen and help fishermen understand with whom they should be communicating, as well as to consider alert preferences for both local and regional fishery participants. Support was also expressed for developing a web-based dashboard as a more effective and efficient means of information sharing.

- Encouraged lessees to look for fisheries liaison officers who are known and trusted by the fishing community.

The MPC offers the following **recommendations** to the Council:

- Request the lessees include the Council as one of the audiences in their FCPs and provide the Council with copies of the progress reports.
- Continue to engage with the lessees, as appropriate. The Council, particularly through the MPC, can be a conduit of information to and from the fishing communities and lessees. The [Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils jointly compile information and links](#) to help stakeholders stay informed about OSW development activities that may be relevant. The MPC sees value in this and would ask the Council to consider something similar for the West Coast.
- Remind BOEM to request the lessees be notified that the PFMC places high value on maintaining our fishing grounds, and suggests that all lessees, and every one of their contractors, avoid abandoning any weights, anchors or other items considered expendable by surveyors in the areas under Council management. Even small concrete blocks used to hold a beacon on the seabed during survey equipment calibration can have a lasting impact on Council-managed resources and fisheries. Weights should be recovered if possible, or if not practicable, made of sand in biodegradable burlap bags. Meteorological buoys moored for longer periods should *not* be fitted with acoustic release mechanisms which abandon the weights on the seabed.

### **West Coast Ocean Alliance**

Mr. John Hansen, Coordinator of the [West Coast Ocean Alliance](#) (WCOA), provided an update on recent projects and funding. He will also provide an update to the Council under the Marine Planning agenda item on June 24. Mr. Hansen provided a background on the WCOA and reviewed recent funding opportunities through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The WCOA will receive \$2 million per year, with \$1 million dedicated to tribal engagement and planning. That funding will allow the Alliance to:

- Develop a five-year strategic plan;
- Add staff (two staff members already have been hired: Margaret Corvi, for tribal engagement; and Bri Goodwin, project coordinator);
- Increase tribal engagement efforts;
- Create a dashboard tracking a suite of indicators related to topics such as water quality, kelp forests, ocean acidification and others to identify and quantify changes over time; and
- Develop a WCOA fellowship program.

Additionally, the WCOA plans to: a) hold an OSW summit at a future date, b) a WCOA annual meeting, tentatively scheduled for Portland in October; and c) a tribal summit, also tentatively scheduled for Portland in October 2023.

Regarding OSW specifically, the WCOA hopes to support outreach and engagement on a regional scale and is considering what role tracking some of the science related to OSW, and, e.g., as

related to California, [Assembly Bill 80 \(AB 80\)](#). AB 80 would require the [Ocean Protection Council](#) to establish and oversee, in coordination with other state and Federal agencies, a West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity. The science entity's purpose would include ensuring that comprehensive baseline and ongoing monitoring of the California ocean ecosystem was conducted, and that targeted research is available and used to inform state and Federal decisions about OSW development in Federal waters and the management of any impacted marine resources. Regional ocean partnerships on the East Coast host a similar science collaborative effort.

### **MPC Committee Structure and Possible In-Person Meeting**

When the MPC was formed in 2021, the Council agreed to revisit its form and function after two years. The MPC agreed that OSW will remain an extremely important issue in the future and sees value in continuing this Ad Hoc committee. Aquaculture is also an important topic, although less pressing at this time. The MPC asked each of its members to hold informal discussions with their respective Advisory Bodies (ABs) to consider what improvements, if any, may be appropriate, including any potential changes to MPC representation.

The MPC also discussed (and was generally in favor of) a potential in-person meeting in the fall of 2023. This would be in addition to the regular MPC meetings held in advance of each Council meeting. The MPC discussed what would make that in-person meeting most effective. Typically, the MPC is in a reactive mode, responding to public notices and activities that have unpredictable timing. Therefore, a well-designed in-person meeting could benefit MPC members in ongoing issues and could be an effective use of time and resources. The MPC discussed the possibility of a one-day meeting on November 1st, immediately prior to the November AB meetings.

As the Council discusses the future of the MPC, it could **consider** asking ABs to re-nominate MPC members and could consider modifications to MPC make up (e.g., adding a tribal seat to track OSW activities and issues in the southern end of the OSW planning region). The Council should also discuss the potential for a one-day in person MPC meeting in the fall.

### **California Energy Commission Slides and Follow Up from May 18th**

MPC Report 1 indicated an inability to share the slides presented by the California Energy Commission (CEC) until the materials had been presented during the June 1, CEC workshop on Identifying Additional Suitable Sea Space and Assessing Impacts and Mitigations for Offshore Wind Energy Development. The slides are now available and attached as Appendix 1 to this MPC Report 2. Below, we briefly describe those slides that may be of interest to the Council.

- Slide 7 - This shows the areas the State of California has identified as being potentially suitable for OSW development. The blue area contains the two Humboldt lease sites. The green areas are those areas the State is potentially suitable for future OSW developments along the north coast. The red and orange depicts the wind resource; and the purple is the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.
- Slide 8 - Shows available fisheries information relative to the areas the State has identified as potentially suitable for future OSW developments along the north coast.
- Slide 9 - Replicates the types of information contained on Slide 7 but applies it to the central coast. The dark purple area is the Diablo Call Area, the lavender area is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

- Page 10 - Replicates the types of information contained on Slide 8; but applies it to the central coast.

### **Upcoming Events and Information**

- The United States Coast Guard (USCG) announced it had [completed the Pacific Coast Port Access Study](#). The study will be available at the [USCG Navigation Center's website](#); but was not available when this report was submitted for the Briefing Book. The Federal Register notice announcing the report's availability is included in June Briefing Book materials as Supplemental Informational Report 10.
- BOEM confirmed there are plans in place to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the five lease sites off California. There is no planned release date for the Notice of Intent to Prepare the PEIS; but BOEM expressed an intent do so relatively quickly.
- The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) recently launched an [Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance Request for Proposals](#). OPC is seeking applications to develop comprehensive environmental monitoring guidance for OSW development in California. Full proposals are due July 31, 2023.
- The East Coast based Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind ([RWSC](#)) is hosting a webinar on June 22, 2023 at 1:00pm EDT (5:00pm UTC) to share information about the launch of the RWSC Draft Science Plan. Register [here](#).
- The Ocean Renewable Energy Conference ([OREC 2023](#)) will be held in Portland, Oregon June 21 - 22, 2023, with a focus on a broad range of subjects such as testing infrastructure and Blue Economy opportunities. Workshops on environmental monitoring, marine energy data pipeline, and others will be held in conjunction with the conference.

PFMC  
06/12/23

**Appendix 1: California Energy Commission Slides from May 18, 2023 MPC Meeting**



# AB 525 – California Offshore Wind Strategic Plan Sea Space Identification Update

Scott Flint: Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

May 18, 2023



# Strategic Plan Update: Outreach and Workshops

## Fisheries Outreach and Consultation in coordination with partner-agencies and BOEM:



- Virtual Meetings in June:
  - June 5 (3-6pm)
  - June 20 (3-6pm)
- In-person meetings in June:
  - June 8 (1-4pm) - Morro Bay, Veterans Hall
  - June 13 (3-6pm) – Crescent City, Crescent Lodge No. 45
  - June 14 (3-6pm) – Eureka, Wharfinger Building
  - June 15 (3-6pm) – Fort Bragg, Caspar Community Center
- Staff available for consultation.

## CEC Staff Workshops:

- May 23 - Seaports and Workforce Development
- May 25 - Transmission
- June 1 - Suitable Sea Space and Impacts and Mitigations
- June 2 - Permitting





# Identification of Suitable Sea Space and Impact Assessment

## Identification of Suitable Sea Space

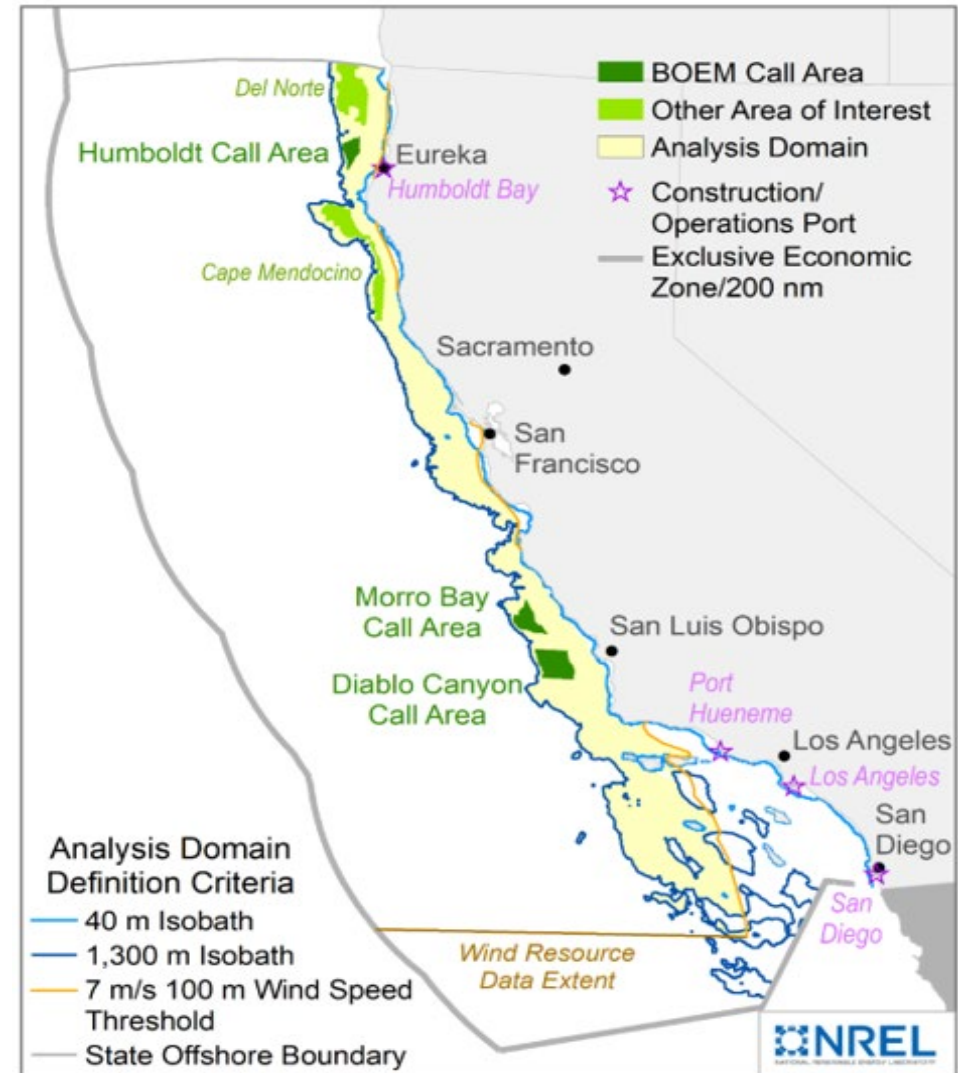
Identify suitable sea space in federal waters to accommodate the 2030 and 2045 offshore wind planning goals

## Impact Assessment

Consider potential impacts to:

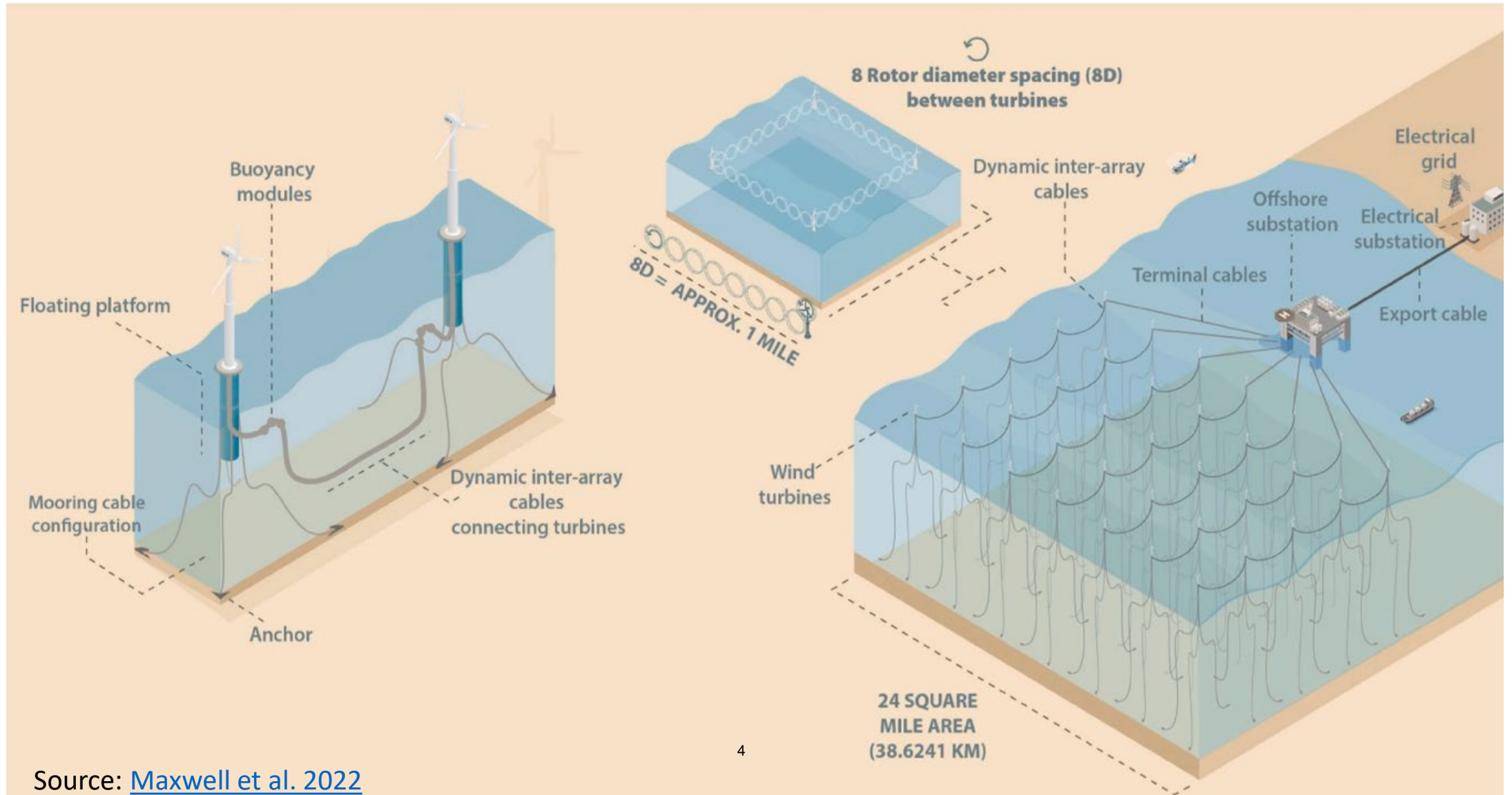
- Coastal resources
- Fisheries
- Native American and Indigenous peoples
- National defense

...and identify strategies to address those impacts...



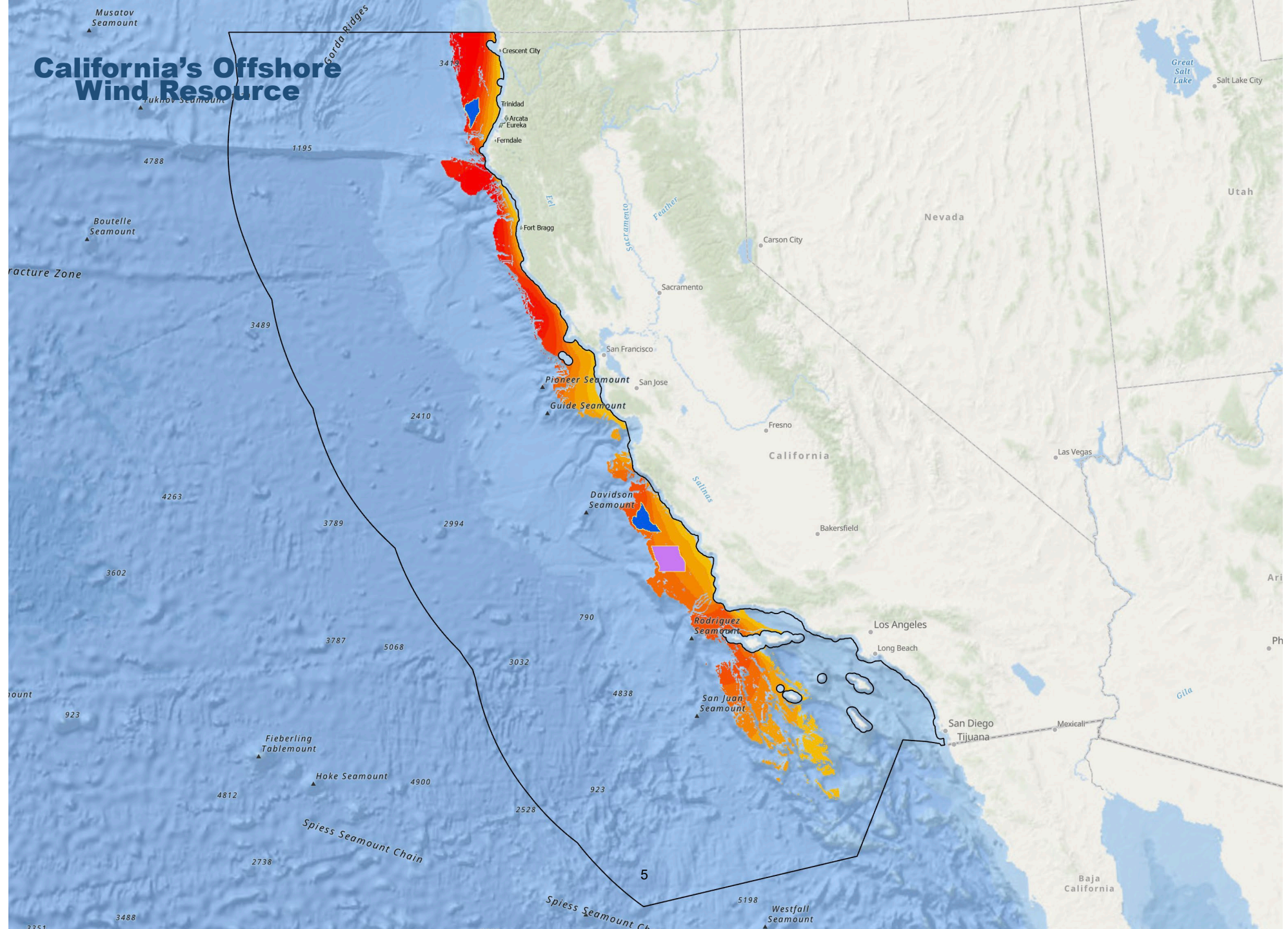


# Example of a Floating Offshore Wind Energy Development



Source: [Maxwell et al. 2022](#)

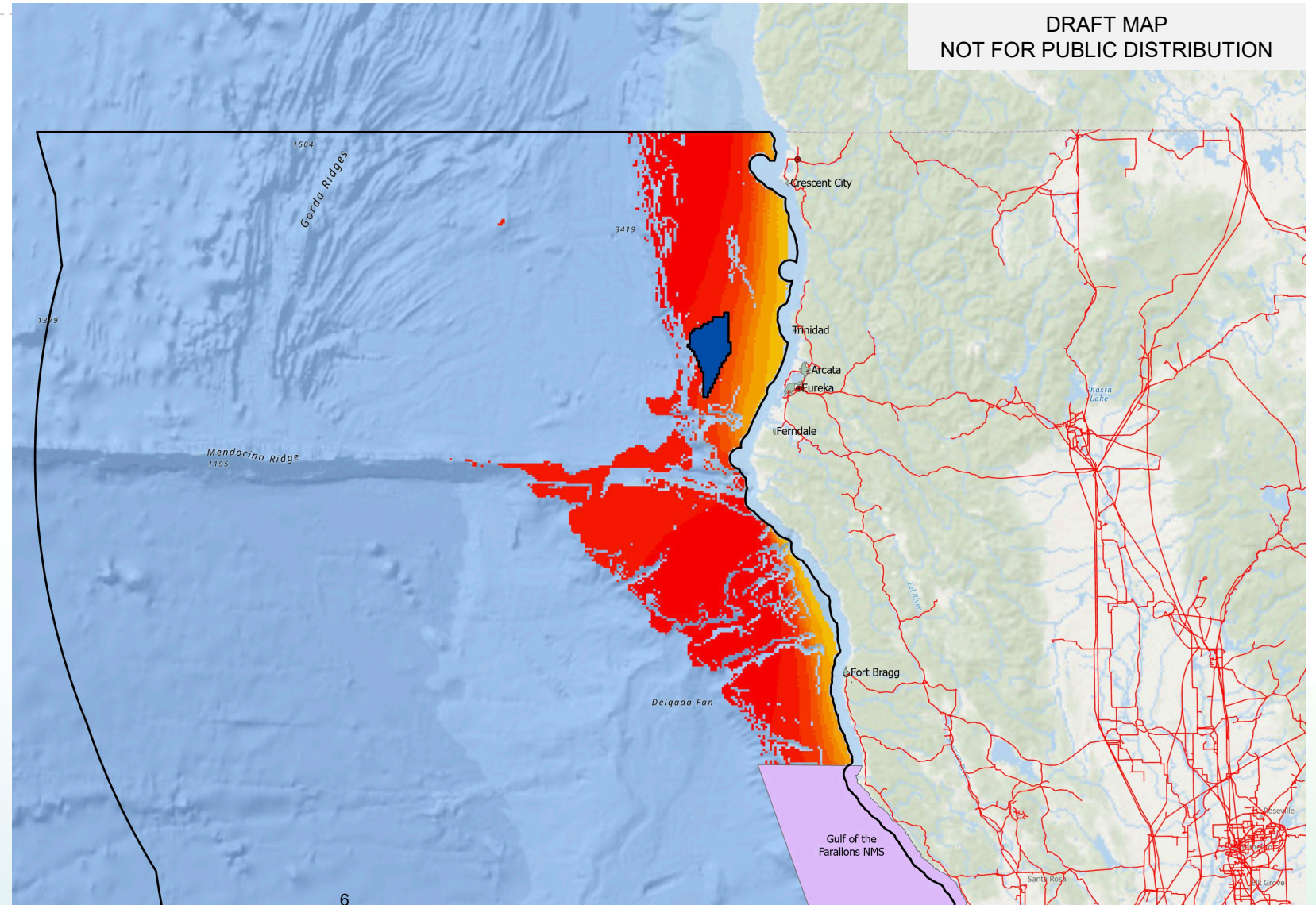
# California's Offshore Wind Resource





# Offshore Wind Resource – North Coast

- Wind Speed 10m/s or better
- Wind Speed Consistency
- Wind Speed 5-9 PM

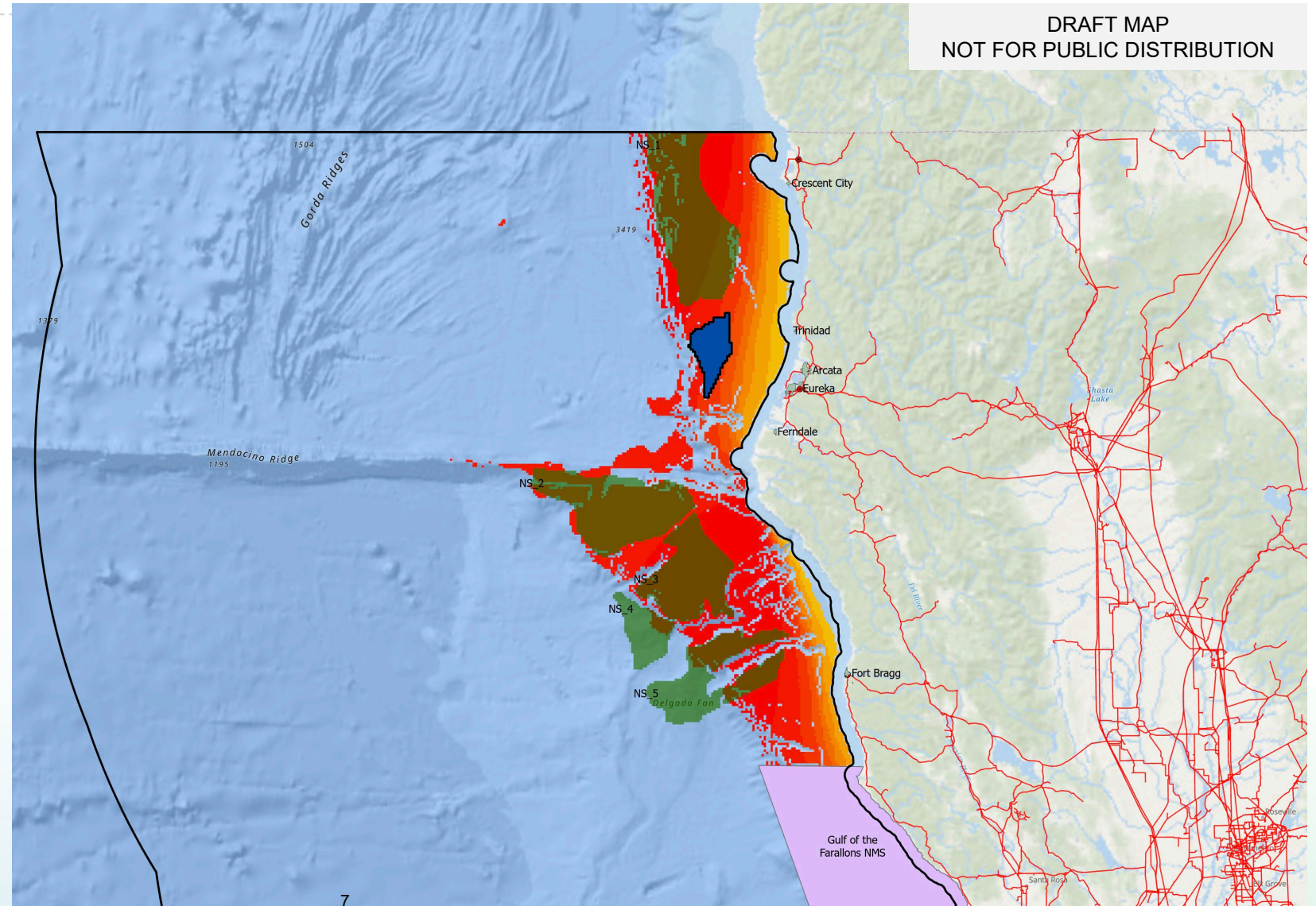




# Sea Space – North Coast

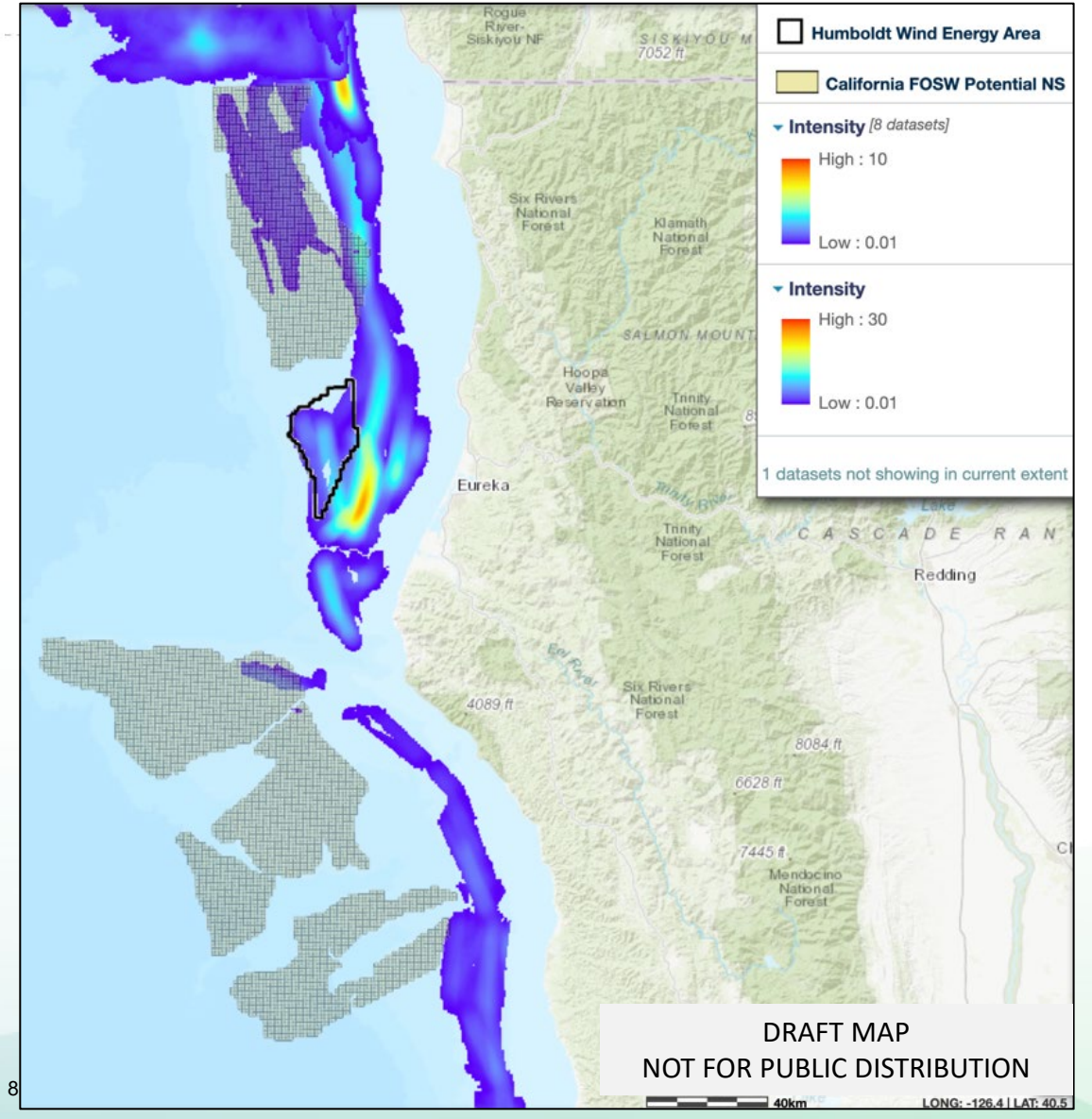
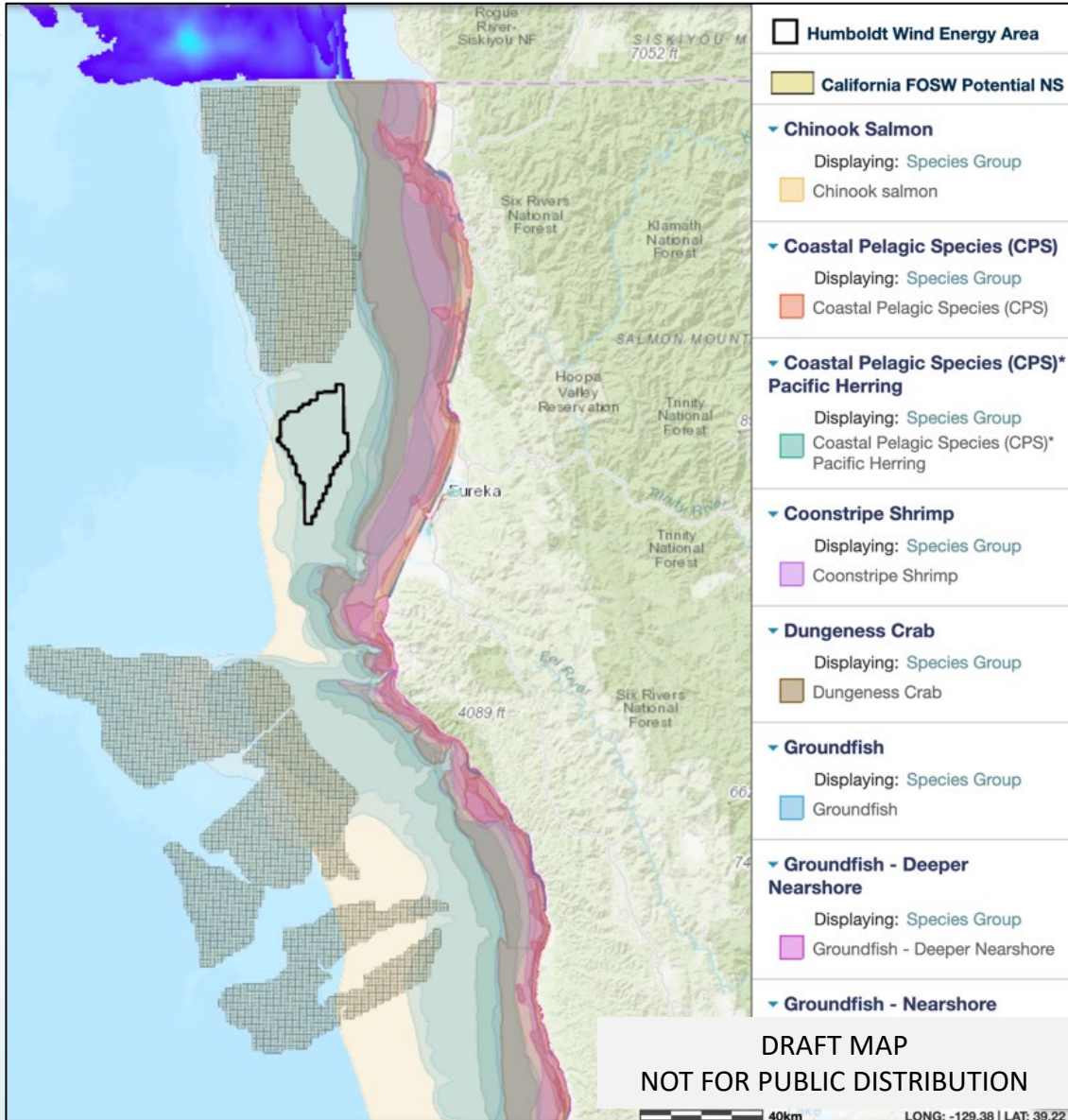
## Near-Shore

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





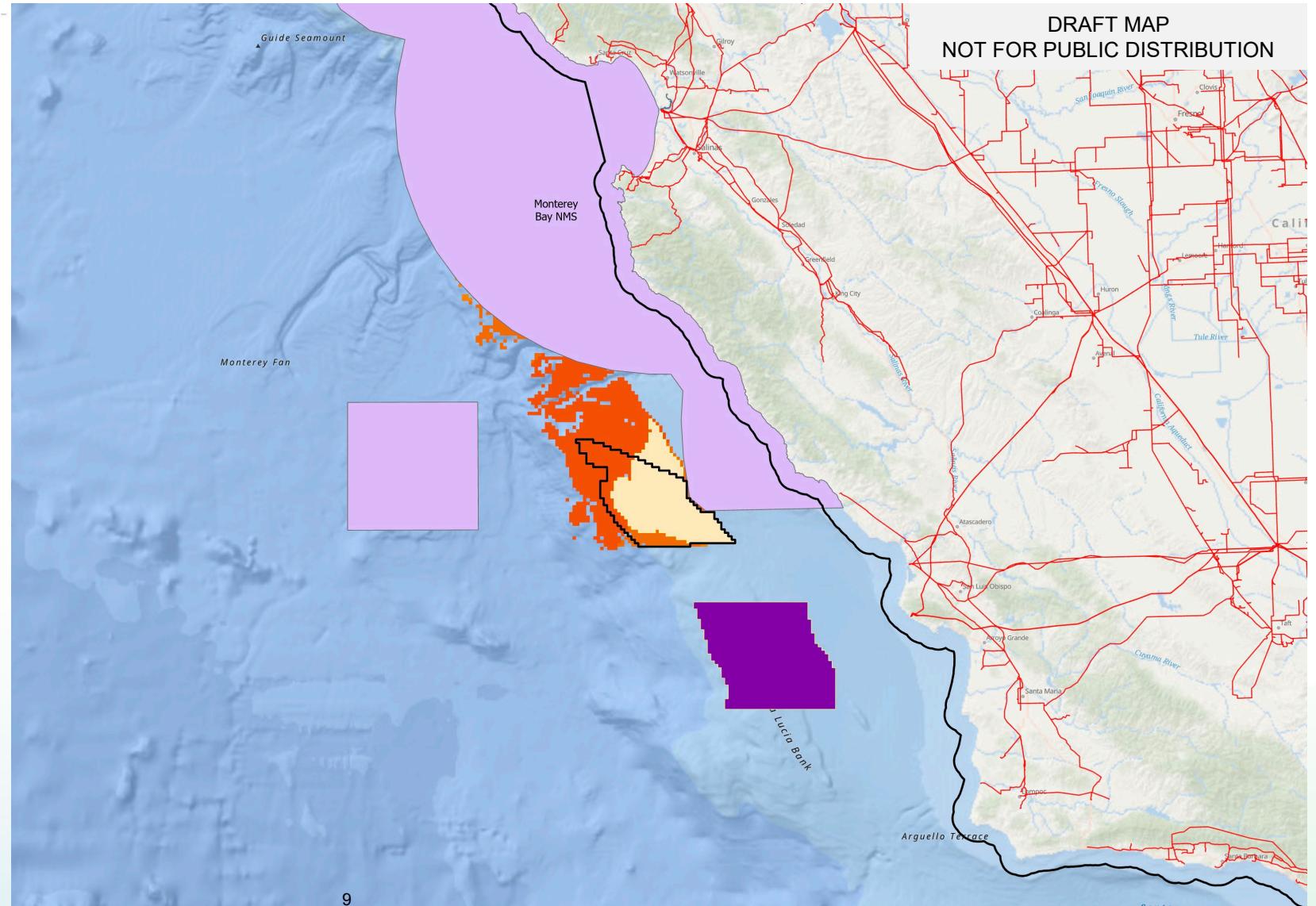
# Sea Space – North Coast Commercial Fisheries





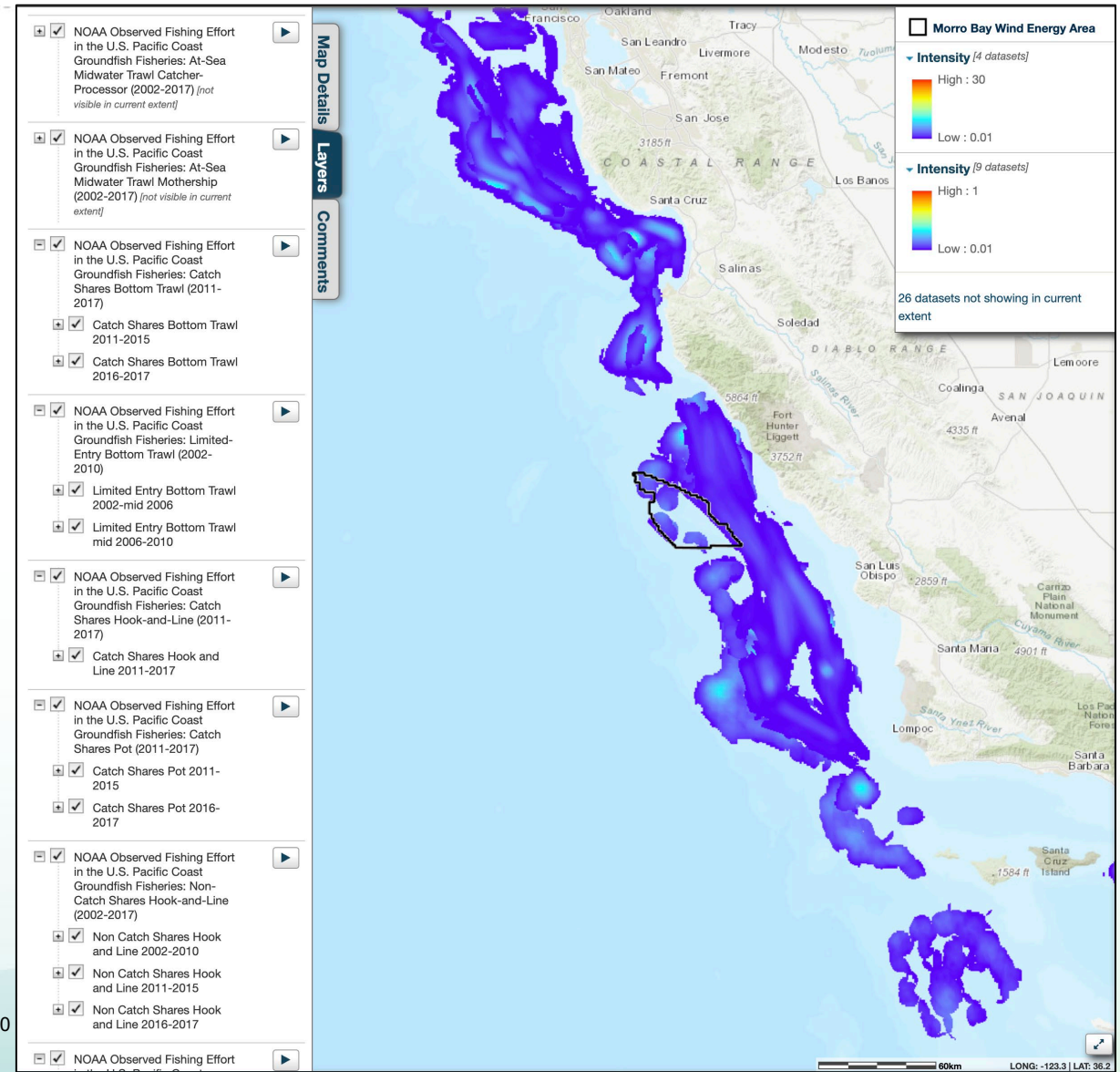
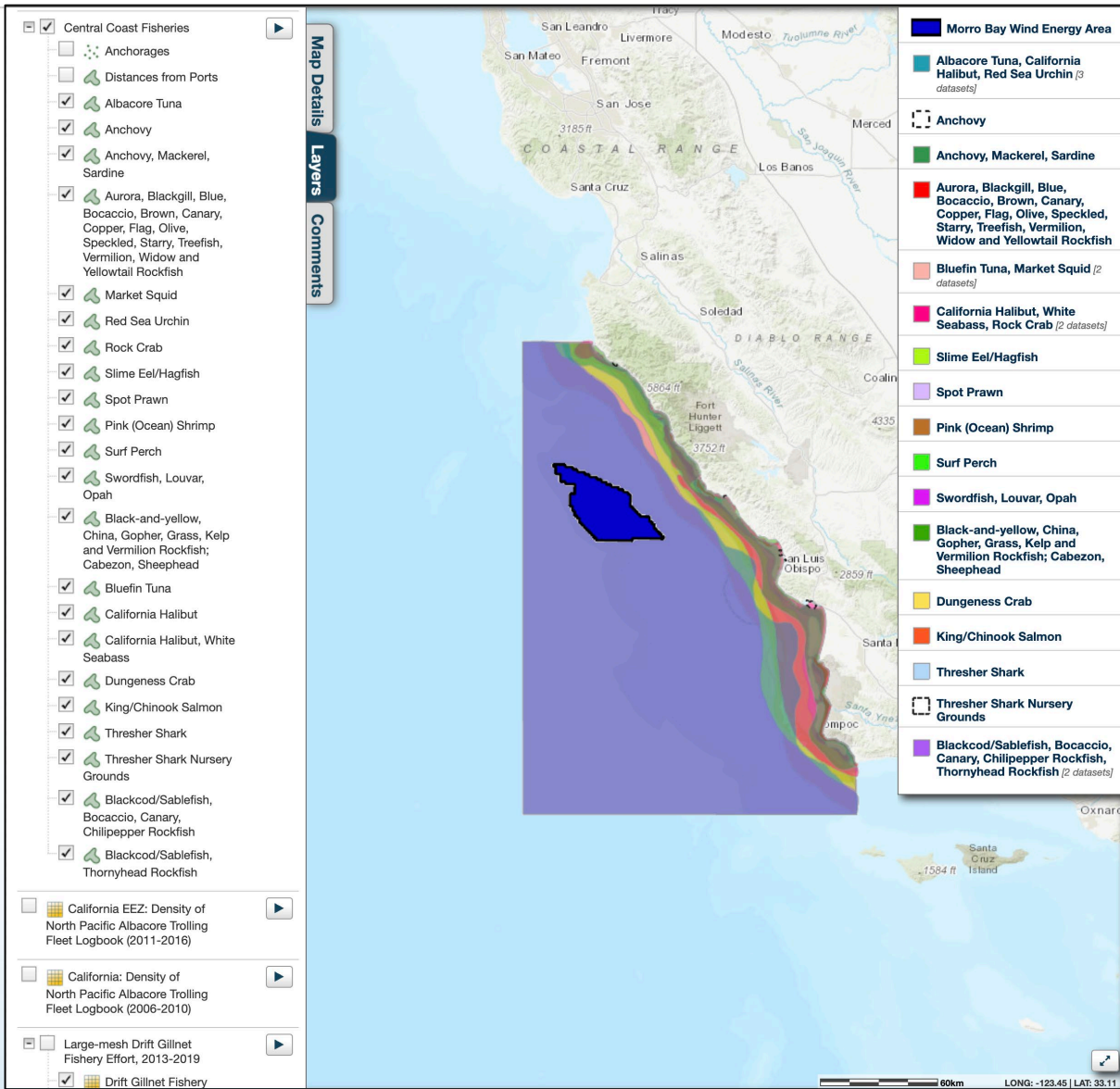
# Sea Space – Central Coast

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





# Sea Space – Central Coast Commercial Fisheries







# Sea Space Technical Characteristics and Generation Potential

		BOEM	INDUSTRY	50% BOEM	50% INDUSTRY
	KM2	GW - 3	GW - 5		
NS_1	2,751.1	8.3	13.8	4.1	6.9
NS_2	2,251.9	6.8	11.3	3.4	5.6
NS_3	1,642.0	4.9	8.2	2.5	4.1
NS_4	674.0	2.0	3.4	1.0	1.7
NS_5	1,647.9	4.9	8.2	2.5	4.1
SSC-1	1,149.0	3.4	5.7	1.7	2.9
	10,115.8	30.3	50.6	15.2	25.3