

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
MARINE PLANNING

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has reviewed the reports under this agenda item and would like to thank the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) for its continued work engaging with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on emerging offshore wind development issues. The SAS would offer the following comments and additional emphasis for future engagement on this topic.

The SAS appreciates the Council's efforts to engage with BOEM and better integrate Council and BOEM processes. The SAS has previously voiced concerns that the lease process effectively means impacts may only be mitigated after a lease is issued rather than prevented through development specifications, and measures are forced to be reactive rather than proactive. The SAS would like to reiterate our overarching position that consideration of fisheries data must be a critical component of offshore wind development and remains deeply concerned that BOEM does not meaningfully include this substantive information in its analysis.

The SAS appreciates the amount outreach and coordination efforts by both members of the Council and MPC, and specifically those advisory board members who have attended additional meetings with shifting deadlines from other agencies that are not well aligned with Council processes. However, we are frustrated by the lack of traction relative to the volume of effort expended and feel efforts to engage in the process are not being met with responsiveness. Of particular concern is the lack of response to the Council's letters by BOEM and local jurisdictions, and the ensuing feeling that efforts to communicate the importance of fisheries inclusion are futile.

As to the future of the MPC, it is clear that engagement with the offshore wind industry requires dedicated, proactive outreach by the Council. In the future this need may be better met by asking state and Federal agencies to provide membership to a different body, as the workload can be daunting for already busy members of other advisory bodies.

PFMC
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