

MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met July 27, 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 (H.3.a, MPC Report 1) for the Council’s September meeting.

MPC members provided updates on activities and issues in California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as updates from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the West Coast Ocean Alliance, and a Tribal update. The MPC Report also includes upcoming events and items of interest.

On August 15, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued the [Draft Oregon Wind Energy Areas](#) (WEAs) for public review and comment, with a 60-day comment period. The MPC and Habitat Committee will consider the Draft WEAs and provide supplemental reports to the Council. Other Council Advisory Bodies may also consider the Draft WEAs and provide supplemental comments for Council consideration as appropriate.

There are three attachments to this agenda item. Attachment 1 is an August 2023 letter from two Oregon U.S. Senators and two Congress Members to BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein. The letter expresses concern that “the process is not adequately engaging all voices in the planning process” and asks for “in-person meetings in communities that would be impacted by the development of wind energy off of Oregon’s South Coast if you move forward with the leasing process.” The letter further recommends that if draft WEAs are released, BOEM should proactively solicit public comment, and should schedule three public, in-person meetings in Oregon coastal communities to hear directly from them.

Attachment 2 is a letter from the American Clean Power, on behalf of the five California OSW lease holders. The letter is in response to the July 28th letters the Council sent to the five lessees. The lessees would like assistance from the Council in developing a common portal or website to share information with the public on all five leases. The letter also says that they are working on holding public meetings in Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay, and ask the Council for advice on identifying fishermen who are not based in the lease areas.

Attachment 3 is a letter from BOEM Pacific Region Director Doug Boren, in response to letters sent from the Council to BOEM on [April 6](#), [April 12](#), and [May 11](#), 2023. The letter summarizes the OSW energy planning and development process for the U.S. West Coast, describes the planning process used for potential OSW areas off the Oregon Coast, affirms its commitment to meaningful community and Tribal engagement, discusses the limitations of OSW development in waters deeper than 1300 meters off the U.S. West Coast, and summarizes ongoing environmental review and studies efforts.

The Council should consider MPC Report 1 and the three letters and provide guidance as appropriate.

Council Action:

1. **Consider the Marine Planning Committee report and provide guidance as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1: Congressional letter.
2. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 2: American Clean Power letter.
3. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 3: BOEM Response letter.
4. Agenda Item H.3.a, MPC Report 1.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

H.3 Marine Planning Update

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
08/15/23