

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update from Mr. Mike Conroy, Marine Planning Committee (MPC) Co-chair. At the outset, the GAP wishes to thank the MPC, the tribes, and all the industry groups and individuals for their leadership and the valuable time and energy they have committed to this issue.

The GAP discussed the draft Council comment letter on Draft Oregon Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) in detail ([C.3, Supplemental Attachment 3](#)) and commends the authors for their excellent work. The GAP focused its discussion on the fisheries portion of the letter and offers the following comments.

The GAP agrees wholeheartedly with the conclusion that “... there are areas integral to fishing activities within the Draft WEAs that should be removed prior to issuing final WEAs.” (C.3, Supplemental Attachment 3, page 4). Flowing from that belief, the GAP further supports the removal of the aliquots described on pages 5 and 6. Failure to remove those areas will create unacceptable impacts on commercial and recreational fishermen and communities in Oregon.

Additionally, the GAP recognizes the Habitat Committee’s work on habitat and thanks the Committee for its work.

The GAP strongly recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council send its comment letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and requests Oregon Governor Kotek be cc’d on the letter.

During the GAP discussion, Mr. Steve Joner, Tribal representative on the GAP and MPC, provided an update on the letter the Makah Tribal Council submitted to BOEM to cease all activities on the West Coast until BOEM has addressed the many ecosystem, natural resources, fisheries and cumulative impacts to coastal communities concerns. He also provided an update of the letter the Makah Council submitted to NMFS requesting technical assistance on fisheries and ecosystem information. We support the Tribe in their efforts.

PFMC
11/05/23