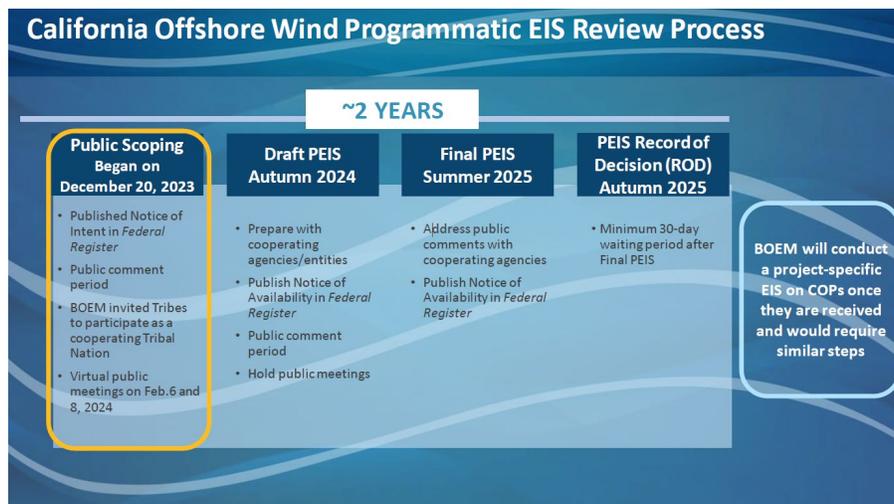


## MARINE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING ISSUES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Council, PFMC) Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online January 23, 2024, to discuss items relevant to the March Council meeting.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Updates:**

BOEM Pacific Region staff provided updates and information on the [Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#) (PEIS) for the five lease sites off the California Coast. The PEIS will analyze potential impacts of offshore wind energy development activities within those leases. The purpose of the PEIS is to propose programmatic mitigation measures and analyze the impacts from the human and natural environment that could result from adopting those measures. The PEIS will allow BOEM to utilize a tiered approach when considering future submitted Construction and Operations Plans (COP). Each COP would then be subject to an additional National Environmental Policy Act process addressing the specifics of that lessee’s plans. The MPC and Habitat Committee collaborated on a quick response letter that was submitted during the public comment period. That letter is included in the materials under this agenda item. During the meeting, BOEM provided the following anticipated timeline for PEIS review:



Regarding the Oregon Draft Wind Energy Areas, BOEM is still reviewing the comments submitted during that comment period.

### **California Update:**

On January 19, the California Energy Commission (CEC) announced the availability of the Assembly Bill 525 Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development (Draft Strategic Plan). The Draft Strategic Plan is comprised of three volumes:

- Vol I: Overview of AB 525 Strategic Plan: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254023&DocumentContentId=89341>
- Vol II: AB 525 Strategic Plan:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254034&DocumentContentId=89352>

- Vol III: Appendices AB 525 Strategic Plan:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254038&DocumentContentId=89353>

Given the proximity of the publication of the Draft Strategic Plan to the MPC meeting, a detailed conversation did not occur. It was noted that Draft Strategic Plan contained a lot of information and included recommendations related to (1) Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind and Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Strategies; (2) Port and Waterfront Infrastructure; (3) Workforce Development; (4) Transmission Technology and Alternatives Assessment; (5) Transmission Planning and Interconnection; and (6) Offshore Wind Permitting.

The Draft Strategic Plan also identified sufficient sea space area to meet the State's 2045 offshore wind planning goal of at least 25 GW of offshore wind, as noted in Figure 1, taken from the Plan:

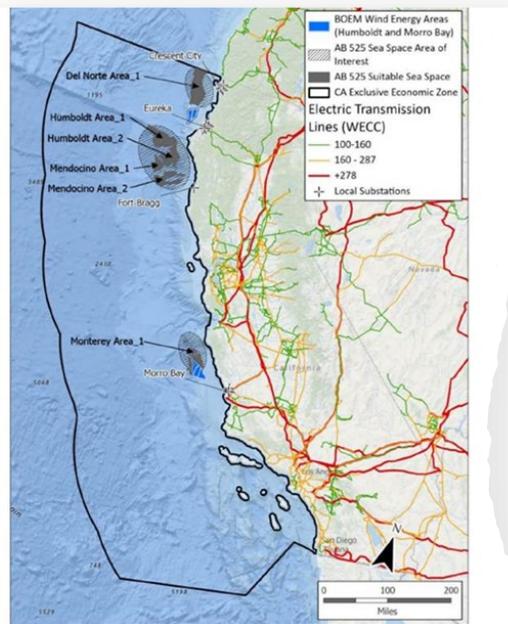


Figure 1. Areas identified as suitable for future offshore wind (OSW) development by the CEC.

The public comment period on the Draft Strategic Plan is currently slated to close on March 22.

### **Oregon Update:**

An informal offshore wind working group, convened by representatives from the seafood industry, the renewable energy industry and labor groups, has been meeting to develop the components of an “Offshore roadmap with exit ramps” for Oregon. To be clear, components of the roadmap as well as the roadmap itself do not predispose the development of offshore wind off Oregon; rather, it is designed to allow for a full public discussion regarding offshore wind and to include ways to ensure that if offshore wind is developed, it is done so responsibly.

Relative to that, [HB 4080](#), was introduced in the Oregon Legislature during the short session that started February 1st. The Bill was developed by labor representatives and is intended to ensure labor standards are met if offshore wind is developed off Oregon. It also directs state agencies to develop the road map, building on the informal working group's foundational concept.

The MPC also heard that the Oregon Coastal Caucus submitted a [letter](#) to BOEM reiterating that offshore wind should not be developed off Oregon at the cost of existing seafood industry related businesses.

### **Washington Update:**

#### *Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) December 2023 Meeting*

The WCMAC met on [December 6, 2023](#) (meeting recording available from the [TVW website](#)). In addition to routine updates, the WCMAC received two sets of presentations meant to help the WCMAC gain understanding of how OSW may fit into state and regional energy plans.

The first set of presentations covered the 2021 Washington State Energy Strategy and a more recent and related study from Net-Zero Northwest. Both examined various scenarios for reaching clean energy goals by 2050 and used models that select least cost options from potential renewable energy sources throughout the Western U.S. The models found OSW to be less cost effective and so selected other renewable energy options to come online first. The earlier study began selecting OSW off the state after 2040 with the amount selected varied by scenario. The highest amount of OSW was selected in the scenario where new transmission capacity was insufficient to import electricity from inland states. The Net-Zero Northwest modelling, in contrast, did not select OSW off WA. It found that OSW from other states would be sufficient to support regional clean energy goals.

The second presentation summarized another recent modeling study commissioned by Trident Winds, Inc. and conducted by the Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) consulting firm. Their study focused on a 2025-2045 planning period and was based on a scenario where the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for floating OSW reaches \$60 per MW hour by 2035. In this scenario, the E3 model selects WA OSW starting in 2035 and reaches a total of 19.1 GW by 2045. The model did not consider whether the ocean space off WA was sufficient to produce this amount. The study acknowledged this limitation and noted that 7 GW of OSW would result in system cost savings of \$5.1 billion compared to scenarios without any OSW placed off the state (which is only less 20% lower than the savings from the 19.1 GW scenario). The study noted that WA OSW was favorably selected by the model because of lower transmission costs and because the wind patterns off WA in winter match winter electricity usage better than solar and onshore wind and even OSW off OR.

The MPC provides this summary recognizing that the models are complex and based on highly uncertain assumptions about renewable energy development and interconnections throughout the Western states. The recordings of the WCMAC presentations and the study authors should be consulted for a fuller understanding of the complexities and uncertainties involved.

#### *WCMAC February 2024 Meeting*

As noted in the [MPC Report 1 from November 2023](#), Governor Inslee announced the intent to hire consultants to help evaluate the appropriateness of OSW in the waters off WA and to engage with

tribes and stakeholders for exploring options for engagement in the state federal OSW planning process. As noted in [MPC Report 2](#) from that meeting, the WA Department of Commerce issued a [request for proposals](#) on behalf of the Governor, which closed on December 11. [Gridworks](#) was selected to conduct the project and is scheduled to attend the next WCMAC meeting on February 14. The agenda is posted on the [Department of Ecology's EZ View](#) page. The meeting will be virtual and held via Zoom from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The “Developing a Framework on a Planning and Evaluation Process for OSW Projects” topic is scheduled for 45 minutes and a 1:15 PM start.

### *Washington State Legislature*

The Washington State Legislature is in the short session of its two-year legislative cycle, which will close on March 7. The MPC discussion noted one bill [HB 2341](#). This bill would direct the University of Washington to conduct a study on the cumulative effects of offshore wind development on the oceanographic processes of the Pacific Ocean. As of time of writing, the bill was still under consideration by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

### **West Coast Ocean Alliance:**

The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) provided the MPC with updates on the following:

- Strategic Planning Update: WCOA’s five-year strategic plan is being developed collaboratively with WCOA members. A public webinar on the strategic plan is likely within the next few months.
- Ongoing OSW Engagement & 2024 OSW Summit: WCOA’s offshore wind working group is meeting monthly to determine where WCOA can best contribute to these efforts. An OSW summit is planned for this year. It is not expected the OSW summit will be a public event.
- WCOA Governance & Partner Outreach: This effort is intended to focus on formal engagement both with members and entities like the Council. For example, can the Council’s prior participation in the West Coast Regional Planning Body be improved upon? There is an ongoing dialogue on formalizing relationships via Memorandums of Understanding or utilizing a less formalistic approach. This is something WCOA would bring to the Council when appropriate.
- Tribal Engagement: Margaret Corvi (WCOA Tribal Engagement Manager) provided updates on the Tribal summit held in October as well as efforts to increase tribal participation.
- West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard Development: When complete it is intended to report on ocean health indicators for the West Coast. A number of indicators being developed around things like kelp, beach water quality, ocean acidification, some work on coastal access and others. WCOA membership has been driving indicator identification. This work can be shared with the Council at an appropriate time.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report:**

Celia Barroso is NMFS’ Acting Aquaculture Coordinator for California. Diane Windham had been in this role and recently retired. Ms. Barroso announced that the Office of Aquaculture is hosting listening sessions focused on priorities for the future of aquaculture. The West Coast session will be on March 1. Information about the listening sessions can be found below, and registration for the March 1 session is available here: [West Coast Program Plan Listening Sessions registration](#).

Lilah Isé, NMFS West Coast Offshore Wind Energy Coordinator, reported that NMFS is working on data layers to prepare for future offshore wind energy siting in California. NMFS is interested in hearing from the MPC about fisheries data recommended to use for that purpose and considering lessons-learned from the data layers NMFS provided to BOEM for the Oregon spatial model. Ms. Isé also announced that there will be a section in NOAA's upcoming CCIEA Ecosystem Status Report that provides information on potential ecosystem indicators for offshore wind energy as well as potential interactions with fisheries. The report is included in the March briefing book. Finally, Ms. Isé noted that NMFS staff met with the Makah Tribe's fisheries staff in December 2023 following up on the Tribe's request of NMFS for technical assistance around their concerns about ecosystem impacts of offshore wind energy development.

**Tribal Update:**

Tribal representative Steve Joner was absent, but information about tribal conversations was discussed throughout the meeting. The MPC discussed the Makah Tribe's concerns about upwelling in the California Current (as presented at the November Council meeting) and other issues. The Committee also discussed Mr. Joner's ongoing outreach efforts to other West Coast tribes in Oregon and California and will work with Margaret Corvi, the tribal coordinator for the West Coast Ocean Alliance, to coordinate those efforts.

**Upcoming Events and other items of interest:**

January 9: Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) released a discussion draft of the [Create Offshore Leadership and Livelihood Alignment By Operating Responsibly And Together for the Environment \(COLLABORATE\) Act](#). Collaboration with regional fishery management councils is specifically mentioned in the discussion draft. This is a bill the Council may wish to track through its Legislative Committee if/when it is introduced.

March 1: [Public Listening Session](#) for the Future of Aquaculture at NOAA Fisheries

March 13 – 14: [Offshore Wind Transmission West](#) in San Francisco, California

May 13 – 15: [Pacific Offshore Wind Summit](#) in Sacramento, California

# MPC Year at a Glance

\* At best a guess and subject to change- last updated 1/23/24

Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan	Oregon NOI EA	DPEIS AOAs	Oregon FSN <sup>2</sup>	Oregon Auction
SAPs <sup>1</sup>	IHAs	Oregon Draft EA	Draft PEIS Ca Leases	
NOI – DPEIS Ca Leases	CADEMO Notice	Oregon PSN	CADEMO NOP/NOI EIR/EIS	
IHAs	WA – Pre-planning OSW (ongoing thru Q2)	California Call Areas	Draft PEIS for AOAs	
NOI – EIS Pier Wind Terminal Development Project at the Port of Long Beach (12/19)	California Pre-Call Planning	Humboldt EIR		
	AB 525 Draft Strategic Plan (released 1/19)	Feasibility Study – SB 605 (Ca)		
CCC 7(c) working group				

1 - Amount of MPC involvement unknown

2 – Not an opportunity for engagement

Items highlighted in yellow have been moved and the item in blue is new.

PFMC  
02/07/24