

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard updates on Marine Planning issues described in E.3.a, MPC Report 1 and E.3.a, Supplemental MPC Report 2. The HC understands the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) is suggesting the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) send a comment letter to the California Energy Commission on the Assembly Bill 525 Draft Strategic Plan. The HC has not identified substantial habitat related comments at this time on the strategic plan, but if the Council chooses to task the MPC with a letter, they will offer comments on the draft if necessary.

The HC supports a potential coastwide cumulative effects analysis, as described in Supplemental MPC Report 2, but recognizes that it is not the role of the Council to lead in this effort.

The HC has some minor comments below on the MPC's draft comment letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Oregon Wind Energy Areas.

PFMC
03/06/24

Minor comments on draft letter:

1. On Page 2 of the MPC draft comment letter on the NOI to prepare an EA, the sentence should read "Appendix B, Parts 1 and 2". And, change the URL so that it points to both Part 1 and Part 2.
2. Terminology used for site activities is not consistent in the letter. We recommend using BOEM's terminology that's in the Federal Register Notice: "site characterization surveys and site assessment activities."
3. In the table, include cable routes and 'assessment' in Benthic Habitats because we're asking that the contents of the table be included in the scope of analysis.
4. We recommend the recommendations be in bold font for the entire sentence, not just the word "recommendation".