

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) appreciates the work of the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) as it relates to Council-managed fisheries and communications regarding upcoming events or notices that may intersect with recreational and commercial activities. Regarding Council action at this meeting, the GAP recommends the following:

1. Approve, finalize, and submit the [draft letter](#) to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regarding that agency's Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the finalized wind energy areas off Oregon;
2. Task the MPC and Habitat Committee to develop a comment letter regarding the California Energy Commission's Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development (as part of Assembly Bill 525), as outlined in [Supplemental MPC Report 2](#); and
3. Request the MPC continue its work on a document related to a potential coastwide cumulative effects analysis for future offshore wind activities, as described in [Supplemental MPC Report 2](#).

The GAP suggests adding to the analysis document the importance and consideration of transboundary stocks. Establishing industrial offshore wind arrays off the West Coast could have lasting impacts to stocks for which the U.S. has treaties (Pacific Salmon Treaty, Pacific Whiting Treaty, etc.) and responsibility for maintaining healthy stocks. Additionally, if wind farms off the U.S. West Coast close fishing in traditional or historically productive areas, or areas that become important under the unknown impacts of climate change, U.S. fishermen could be disadvantaged compared to fishermen in neighboring countries fishing on the same stock.