

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL  
REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING ISSUES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) commends the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) for the excellent reports and outstanding work they have done under Agenda Item E.3. We empathize with, and fully support, the MPC's request for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) guidance in Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental MPC Report 2 in the March 2024 Briefing Book.

The MPC seeks Council guidance on:

1. The draft comment letter responding to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for offshore wind (OSW) energy leasing offshore Oregon, related to the issuance of Final Wind Energy Areas (WEAs).
2. A potential comment letter on the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525) Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development.
3. Guidance on a potential coastwide, long term, cumulative effects analysis for the future of offshore wind on the Pacific Coast.

Bullet point 3 is of especial importance. The effects of thousands of turbines and many additional industrialized floating offshore wind (FOSW) energy projects on the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and fishing communities will be much greater than the present short list of FOSW industrial projects. The use of the term cumulative impacts as it will be presently applied in California and Oregon is a misnomer and disregards best protective environmental practices for the long-term.

This completes our statement, thank you.

PFMC  
03/07/24