

MARINE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING ISSUES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online April 18, 2024, for updates and discussion on several topics to and prepare a report for Council consideration. The meeting agenda and materials can be found on the meeting [webpage](#). This report summarizes the presentations from that meeting and provides additional information on upcoming events and comment opportunities.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Update

NMFS provided presentations of two activities undertaken by their West Coast (West Coast Region, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), Southwest Fisheries Science Center) Offshore Wind (OSW) Team. The Team has been developing a NMFS West Coast Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Science Plan. Lisa Pfeiffer, NWFSC Fisheries Economist, presented an overview of this plan ([slides](#)). This plan will guide the agency's research and investments over the next 5-10 years in this new area of scientific understanding for NMFS on the West Coast. The plan is intended to be a living document and be adaptive to new scientific advancements, newly identified needs, and the priorities of the federal government, our partners, and our stakeholders. The focus is on issues for which there is not currently information or understanding about the potential impacts of OSW on NMFS trust resources, and on supporting the development of strategies to mitigate impacts to these resources and to NMFS's scientific enterprise, including surveys and monitoring designs. This plan also focuses on the areas of special expertise and scientific capacity unique to NMFS. NMFS aims to share the plan document by early summer.

The NMFS team is also working to develop fisheries spatial layers for future siting off the coast of California, similar to the layers that NMFS and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided to the National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science model used by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in siting Oregon Wind Energy Areas. Blake Feist, Landscape Ecologist, NWFSC, presented an overview of this effort ([slides](#)) and discussed differences in the data and methods between the OR layers and layers for CA being developed. The team incorporated the PFMC's comments on the ODFW & NMFS analysis ([PFMC April 2023 letter](#) and [MPC March 2023 letter](#)) where possible. For example, the composite fishing activity metric for this analysis will include tons landed in addition to effort (hours fished) and ex-vessel revenue that were used in the OR analyses. Many of the same species/fisheries that were included in the OR layers will also be included in the CA layers, as well as many more. The team is preparing comprehensive maps for waters off OR and CA. The layers will account for fisheries that operate in CA waters but land their catch in OR. A remaining issue is the lack of geospatial data for recreational fisheries. An MPC member recommended talking with seafood processors to see where they get their fish from and incorporating that information into the data layers. An MPC member asked if the layers will represent future fisheries potential for species that are experiencing increased population size (e.g., bluefin tuna) and/or range expansion owing to climate change (e.g., dover sole). Developing spatial distributions of future fishing activity is not part of the current analysis, but it is a priority within NMFS's Strategic Science Plan and initial research has begun.

BOEM Update

Representatives from the BOEM Pacific Region provided an update on recent and upcoming activities. The next steps in the Oregon leasing phase will include the release of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for site assessment and characterization activities, and the proposed sale notice (PSN) for public review, followed by a lease auction that is scheduled to occur as soon as October 2024 (see Figure 1). The [Oregon Coastal Management Program](#) (OCMP), which is part of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), leads the state of Oregon's implementation of the Federal Consistency review required by the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. It is expected that the Federal consistency review will include a minimum 60-day review period, including a public comment period so stakeholders can provide public comment to the OCMP. The Council may want to comment on the draft EA, PSN, and/or Federal consistency review.

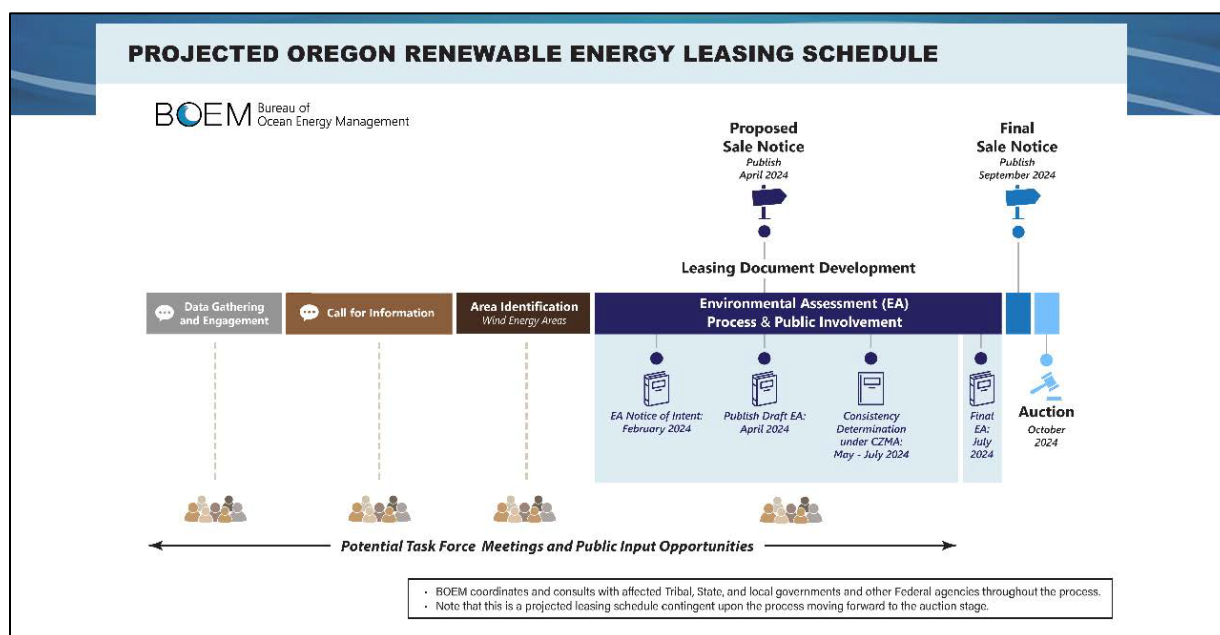


Figure 1: Oregon OSW leasing schedule.

Subsequent to the April 18 MPC meeting, BOEM published the draft EA and PSN, with comment periods of 30 and 60 days, respectively. Links to those documents are included below under the Upcoming events and comment opportunities section.

California Updates

Updates related to California, primarily centered on timelines for specific actions and are reflected in the updated MPC Year-at-a-Glance table at the end of this report.

The five companies holding leases off California have been submitting required Progress Reports to BOEM. These are available on the BOEM website under the [Existing Leases](#) tab:

- RWE (Canopy Wind) - [RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC \(OCS-P 0561\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)

- California North Floating LLC - [California North Floating LLC \(OCS-P 0562\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)
- Equinor/Atlas Wind - [Equinor Wind US LLC \(OCS-P 0563\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)
- Golden State Wind - [Golden State Wind LLC \(OCS-P 0564\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)
- Invenergy/Even Keel - [Invenergy California Offshore LLC \(OCS-P 0565\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)

The MPC also received an update from Rick Robins (RWE/Canopy) on their site assessment and characterization plans. Their anticipated start date is now June 8.

Oregon Updates

In addition to the BOEM updates above, the MPC heard updates on two other Oregon-related items.

Oregon Offshore Wind “Roadmap”

As mentioned in the MPC’s March MPC Report 1, Oregon House Bill 4080 was passed in the short session of the Oregon legislature. This bill tasks DLCD to do the outreach and lead an effort to develop an offshore wind Roadmap “in consultation with a broad group of stakeholders” that considers “all benefits and ramifications of offshore wind development to this state.” [An informal offshore wind working group](#), convened by representatives from the seafood industry, the renewable energy industry, and labor groups, is developing early guidance for an Oregon Offshore Wind Roadmap with Exit Ramps document and is planning to provide it by the end of April to Governor Kotek for DLCD consideration when developing a Roadmap for Oregon. The next step is that DLCD will use the informal offshore wind working group’s guidance when engaging in public discussions and development of the Roadmap itself throughout 2024 and the first half of 2025. Though still in early development, DLCD staff made a presentation to the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council in April that detailed some of DLCD’s timelines and plans for community engagement and outreach in the development of the Roadmap. Additionally, Governor Kotek sent a letter to BOEM on April 16, 2024, requesting no offshore wind construction occur off Oregon until Oregon has a chance to finalize its Roadmap. That letter is included in the June Briefing Book as H.1, Attachment 1.

Oregon PacWave Update

Oregon State University hopes to install marine transmission cables this summer for its [PacWave South](#) marine wave energy test site and deploy some research equipment for [PacWave North](#) for a new 15-year term of year-round research, pending final approval. See links above for more information about the projects.

Washington Updates

As noted in our [March 2024 Report 1](#) and [April 2024 Informational Report](#), a consultant study commissioned by Governor Inslee’s office is underway and being conducted by the firm Gridworks. An open letter to coastal interests and representatives from the Governor’s Senior Policy Advisor on Environment and Water, Carrie Sessions, dated April 4, 2024, describes the purpose of the study as “not intended to evaluate potential offshore wind development, but rather

to recommend the design of a comprehensive and transparent process to do so.” The letter (H.1, Attachment 2) emphasizes that “no decisions have been made on the range or scope of potential next steps” and states that Gridworks’ report is expected to “inform both the scope and nature of options for consideration.” The final report is due to the Governor on June 15.

Gridworks has interviewed a number of MPC members and Council stakeholders and held one in-person fisheries stakeholder meeting. They are expected to release a public review draft of their report in May. The MPC again anticipates that the Council will be interested in commenting. While the comment period was not known at the time of writing, a Quick Response process would likely be needed prior to the June meeting given the June 15 deadline for the final report.

Lastly, a routine Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) meeting was held May 8 in Aberdeen, in hybrid format. The agenda and meeting materials are posted on the Department of Ecology’s [EZ View webpage](#), which includes a link to the recording that is available via TVW’s website. Gridworks gave a presentation on their process to date and initial thinking on possible recommendations and provided opportunity for clarifying questions and preliminary feedback from the WCMAC. Gridworks also reaffirmed that there will be upcoming opportunities for public input on their draft report and recommendations, likely in late May. A special meeting of the WCMAC will be held on July 10 for the specific purpose of reviewing and commenting on the final Gridworks report.

Other

Although not discussed during the meeting, on April 24, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland [announced](#) that BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement had finalized updated regulations for renewable energy development on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. The Council submitted a comment [letter](#) in March 2023 on the proposed regulation.

BOEM also announced a five-year offshore [wind lease schedule](#), which is intended to provide advance notice to stakeholders of areas being considered for future lease sales, and to facilitate planning by Tribes, states, territories, localities, interest groups, academia, non-profits, fisheries, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders. See H.1, Attachment 3.

Upcoming events and comment opportunities

- BOEM Oregon [Draft EA Notice](#) and comment opportunity – published May 1, comment deadline May 31. A [Public Webinar](#) will be held Tuesday, May 21 at 1pm
- BOEM Oregon [Proposed Sale Notice](#) and comment opportunity – published May 1, comment deadline July 1. A fishing-specific [webinar](#) is scheduled for May 29, 2024, 5pm. A general public [webinar](#) is scheduled for May 30, 2024, 5pm
- Oregon Auction Seminar (June 2024 date and time TBD)
- Oregon Consistency Review [Notice](#) – published May 2, comment deadline June 15. DLCD is hosting a series of in-person meetings and one virtual webinar to provide information on the State’s review of the BOEM consistency determination and seek feedback. Meetings are planned for the following locations and times, with details on the [DLCD website](#):
 - Virtual webinar May 29, 2024, noon – 3pm
 - Brookings, June 3, 2024, 5:30pm

- Coos Bay, June 4 or 5, 2024, 5:30pm
- Florence, June 6, 2024, 5:30pm
- Newport, June 7, 2024, 5:30pm
- BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force [meeting](#) - Thursday, May 23, 9am – 2pm
- Peer-Review of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Draft Survey Mitigation Plans Relative to Offshore Wind Atlantic survey mitigation meeting ([hybrid meeting](#)). May 20 – 22
- July – September 2024:
 - Oregon Lease Areas Final EA (July) and Final Sale Notice (September)
 - Draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Statement for California leases
 - Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Multipurpose Marine Terminal Project
- October – December 2024:
 - Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for NOAA Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (September)
 - Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for 5 California OSW Leases
 - Oregon OSW lease auction (October)
 - CADEMO environmental review documents (December)
 - California OSW Call Areas (to be determined)

PFMC
05/14/24