

MARINE PLANNING

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online August 12, 2024, to consider current issues and activities related to offshore wind (OSW) energy development and fisheries issues off the Pacific Coast, and to produce a report (C.1.a, MPC Report 1) for consideration at the Council's June meeting. A recording of the meeting and other meeting materials are available on the MPC meeting [webpage](#).

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory presented information on OSW energy transmission planning across California, Oregon and Washington, and stakeholder engagement and outreach. A Request for Information (RFI) was subsequently issued, and described in MPC Report 1. The Council should consider responding to the RFI, which has a deadline of October 3, 2024.

A representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service briefed the MPC on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as it relates to OSW energy development, following a June 2024 request from the Council for such a briefing. The briefing addressed distinctions between the Endangered Species Act and the MBTA, and nuances regarding incidental take of seabirds and the potential applicability of the MBTA to OSW energy development.

The MPC continues its work to develop a high-level framework document for identifying key issues and potential impacts of offshore wind. This information would help to inform a coast-wide, long term cumulative impacts evaluation for the U.S. West Coast. Dr. Karina Nielsen (Director, Oregon Sea Grant) presented a summary of OSW energy research activities in Oregon, as well as several research projects under way regarding social science/human dimensions, marine ecology, wildlife, fisheries, oceanography, engineering, and OSW supply chain/manufacturing.

MPC Report 1 also includes information and updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the three West Coast states, a Tribal update, and upcoming events and comment opportunities. The Council should consider MPC Report 1 and other materials, and provide guidance, as appropriate.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the Marine Planning Committee report and provide guidance, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1, Letter from NWIFC to Governor Inslee.
2. Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 2, Letter from NWIFC to BOEM.
3. Agenda Item C.1.a, MPC Report 1.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

C.1 Marine Planning

- a. Report of the Marine Planning Committee
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion and Guidance as Appropriate

Kerry Griffin
Mike Conroy

PFMC
08/23/24