

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

Regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Request for Information and the Supplemental Attachment 4 [outline and bullet points](#), the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) supports the development of a Council letter based on these ideas. We offer additional recommendations for that letter.

1. Request the study include provisions for complete burial of transmission cables. Fishermen have experienced snagging fiber optic cables, and it can be prohibitively expensive to a fisherman if he is held liable. To that end, several cable committees on the West Coast and Alaska have worked with fiber optic companies to establish funds for repair and to hold fishermen harmless.<sup>1</sup> No such pathway exists for power transmission cabling related to offshore wind and thus the GAP feels it is imperative that the cables be buried. This would avoid severing any transmission cables, avoid any economic harm to fishermen, prevent the loss of fishing grounds and prevent the disruption of habitat (to some degree). The GAP emphasizes this would not be a panacea for approving offshore wind in its entirety but is one facet that should be studied further.
2. Studies regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF) from both AC and DC should be considered. Generally, studies have been done regarding AC current, but some developers may decide to use DC current utilize offshore converter substation to convert AC current to DC current before transmitting ashore. While EMF is included under questions 1 and 2 pertaining to Council-managed fisheries, the GAP remains concerned both AC and DC current could affect state-managed shellfish fisheries and should be included in the study.
3. Regarding floating offshore converter substations, the GAP cautions these should be studied in more detail before including them as part of industrial offshore wind arrays. No operational offshore converter substations currently exist and unintended consequences of including these could be problematic for the seafood industry, the marine environment, and/or the habitat.

With respect to the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) summary of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and DOE presentation on transmission planning, the GAP supports the MPC recommendation to include a seafood industry member(s) on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife subgroup that is informing the PNNL/Northwest Fisheries Science Center socio-economic modeling collaboration. We stand ready to work with the Council or MPC to provide potential candidates for inclusion in this subgroup.

The GAP would like to express our gratitude for keeping offshore wind energy and marine planning items on the Council agenda, and for the efforts of the MPC.

PFMC  
09/18/24

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<sup>1</sup> See Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee for an example of one of these agreements:  
[http://www.ofcc.com/mfsg\\_web\\_version.pdf](http://www.ofcc.com/mfsg_web_version.pdf)

