

MARINE PLANNING

Offshore Wind Energy Planning and Development

The Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online October 9, 2024, to consider current issues and activities related to offshore wind (OSW) energy development and fisheries issues off the Pacific Coast. A recording of the meeting and other meeting materials are available on the MPC meeting [webpage](#). The MPC produced one report (D.2.a, MPC Report 1) for the advanced November Briefing Book.

MPC Report 1 includes updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the states, and a tribal update. In addition, Lisa Pfeiffer and MPC member Lilah Isé presented the report “Socioeconomic Characterization of West Coast Fisheries in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy Development” which was commissioned by BOEM (D.2.b, NMFS Report 1). The MPC also invited John Hansen (Director, West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA)) to provide an overview of WCOA’s work that is being planned around cumulative impacts, although taking a broader scope than just offshore wind energy development.

The MPC continues its work to develop a high-level framework document for identifying key issues, research gaps, and potential impacts of offshore wind energy development on the U.S. West Coast. The MPC has also compiled a list of organizations that are involved in this and related efforts. This information would help to inform a coast-wide, long term cumulative impacts evaluation for the U.S. West Coast. The MPC may submit a supplemental report on this effort.

Subsequent to the October 9 MPC meeting, the NMFS West Coast Region released its OSW Energy Strategic Science Plan, included in November Briefing Book materials as D.2.b, NMFS Report 2.

California Marine Protected Areas Petition Process

At the June 2024 meeting, a public comment submitted under Agenda Item C.7 (Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning) included a [petition](#) to the California Fish and Game Commission, proposing modified fishing regulations in three Marine Protected Areas around the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). To clarify the process, timeline, and to provide other baseline information, California Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted a brief report (D.2.b, CDFW Report 1). This topic is informational in nature, there is no Council action associated with it, and the MPC did not take it up for discussion. A representative from the CINMS is expected to be available to take questions.

The Council should consider MPC Report 1 and other materials under this agenda item, and provide guidance, as appropriate.

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1, Governor Inslee letter to WCMAC.
2. Agenda Item D.2.a, MPC Report 1.
3. Agenda Item D.2.b, NMFS Report 1 (Socio-Economic Characterization) (**Electronic Only**).
4. Agenda Item D.2.b, NMFS Report 2 (Strategic Science Plan) (**Electronic Only**).
5. Agenda Item D.2.b, CDFW Report 1 (MPA Petition process).
6. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

D.2 Marine Planning

- a. Report of the Marine Planning Committee
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider the Marine Planning Issues and Committee Report, Provide Guidance, as Appropriate

Kerry Griffin
Mike Conroy

PFMC
10/23/24