

Ocean Rainforest Inc. Commercial Scale Kelp Farm

Overview of proposed project and
California Coastal Commission role

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Introduction, California Coastal Commission

- Regulates land and water use in the coastal zone
- Implements the Coastal Act
 - Policies include protection of coastal access and recreation, habitat, fishing, water quality, and marine resources
- Administers the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

Presentation Overview



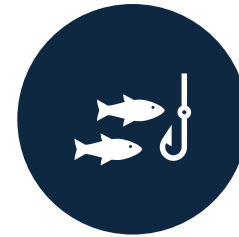
PROPOSED
PROJECT



HISTORY



COASTAL
COMMISSION'S
ROLE



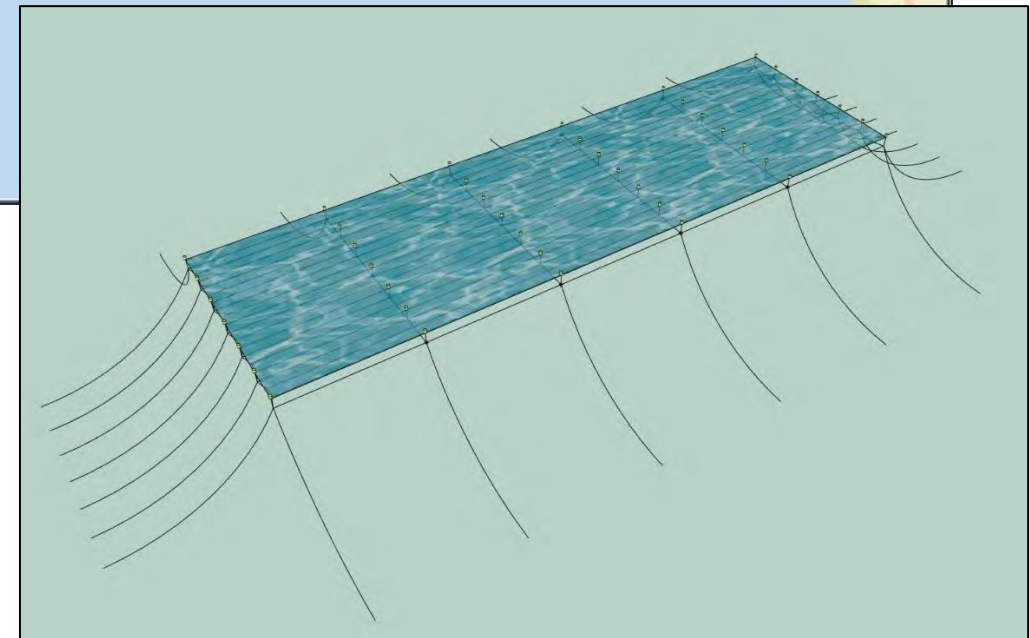
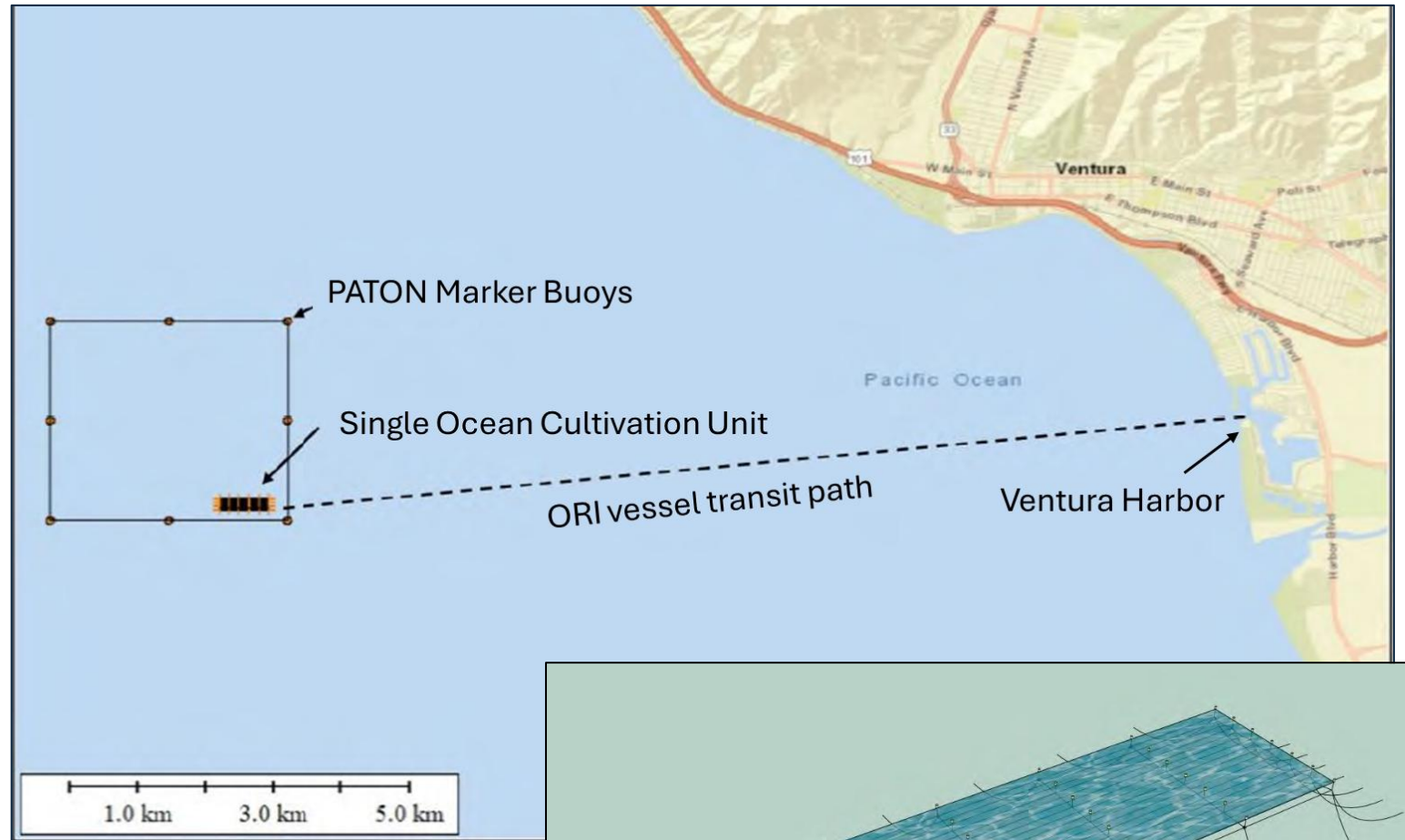
EFFECTS ON
FISHING



NEXT STEPS

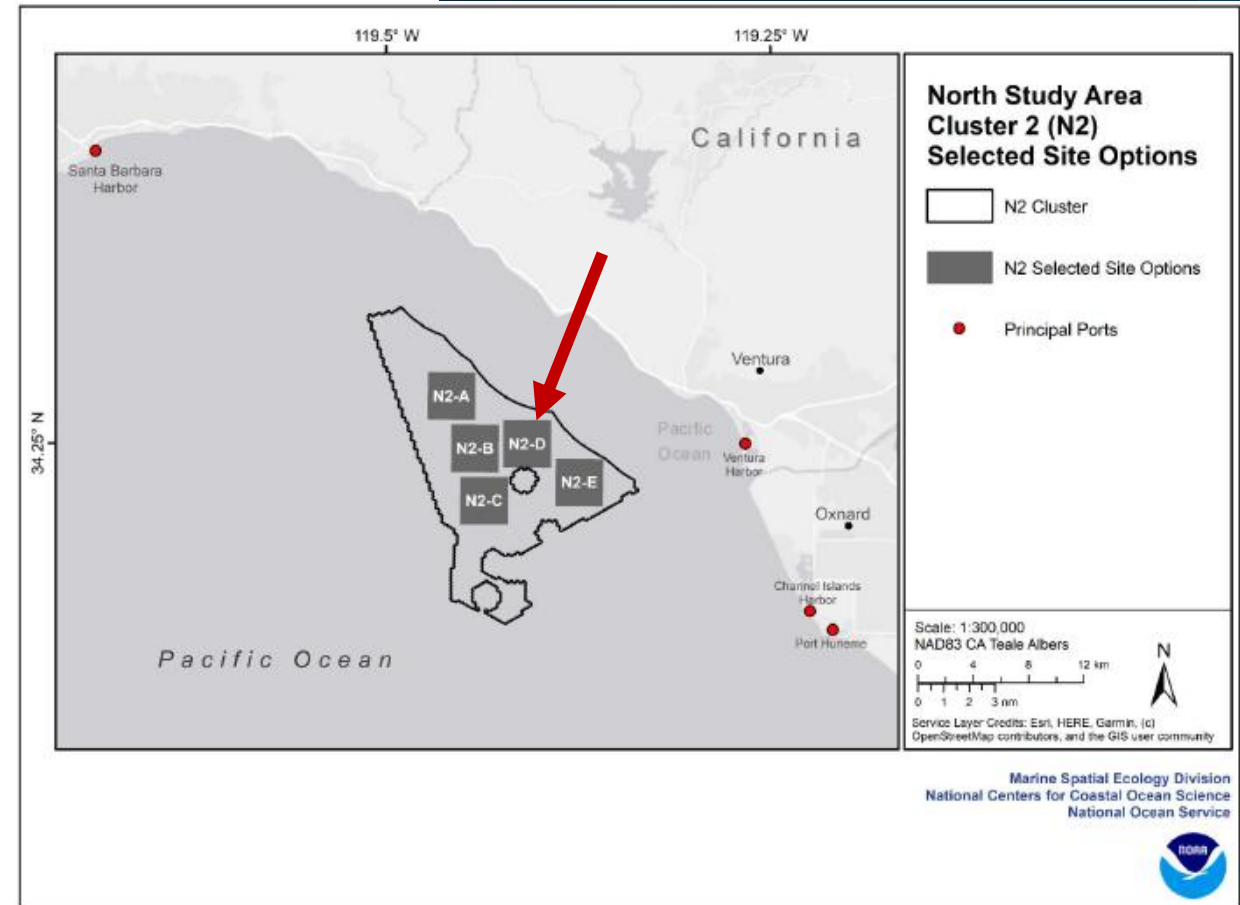
Proposed Project

- Install and operate commercial kelp farm
- Phased buildout of 2,000-acre area
 - Federal waters
 - 6.3 miles from Ventura harbor
- Giant Kelp, (*Macrocystis pyrifera*)
- Cultivation units, submerged grow lines
- Harvest at sea
- Handling and Processing in Ventura Harbor



History

- Ocean Rainforest demonstration project
 - Federal waters of Santa Barbara, ~16 acres or grow area
 - Record No. CC-0003-21
- Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA)
 - Atlas of potential areas, least conflicted
 - Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)
- Proposed commercial location is N2-D
 - Mud/sand soft bottom, ~115 ft depth



Coastal Commission Role

- Coastal Zone Management Act
 - Creates partnership between state and federal government; and
 - Provides states with decision-making authority over federal actions that impact state coastal resources.
- Federal Consistency Review
 - US Army Corps of Engineers permit
- Commission decision at public meeting
 - Written comment period (~2 weeks prior)
 - Oral comments

Effects on Coastal Resources

- Marine Resources
 - Benthic Habitat
 - Marine Wildlife
 - Non-native/invasive species
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
 - Displacement from fishing grounds
 - Loss/damage to fishing gear

Effects on Fishing

- Siting to avoid and minimize impacts
- Potentially impacted fisheries
 - Market Squid
 - California Halibut
 - Ridgeback Prawn
- Next steps
 - Better understanding specific fisheries economic impacts
 - Refinement/development of mitigation measures
 - Gear loss program
 - Operation best practices
 - Communication

Next Steps

- Getting specific
 - Impact effects
 - Phased buildout
 - Avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures
 - Monitoring and maintenance plans
- Incorporation of PFMC suggestions on DPEIS
- Tentative Plan: Coastal Commission July 2026 in Ventura, CA
 - Official 6-month period ends September 24, 2026

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