Marine Planning Committee Report

Pacific Fishery Management Council

June 12, 2026

Oil and Gas Activities

- 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program
- Lease sales in California Planning Areas

Oil & Gas Leasing Program – Next Steps

- 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program



Oil & Gas California

California Oil and Gas Leasing Activities

Call for Information and Nominations

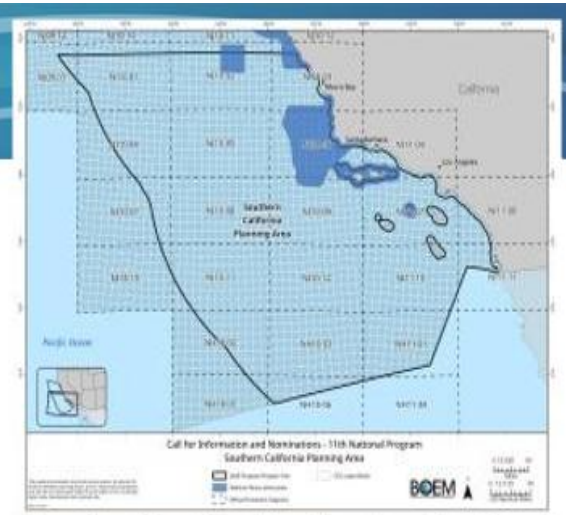
Comment period closed on Feb 26, 2026.

- **Southern California Call:** Covers potential lease sales offshore in the Southern California planning area.
- **Central California Call:** Covers potential lease sales offshore in the Central California planning area.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

- Notice of Intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement announced on February 26, 2026
- Public scoping period opened on February 27, 2026
- Comment period closed March 30, 2026
- Comments received are publicly available at https://www.regulations.gov, Docket BOEM-2025-0681.

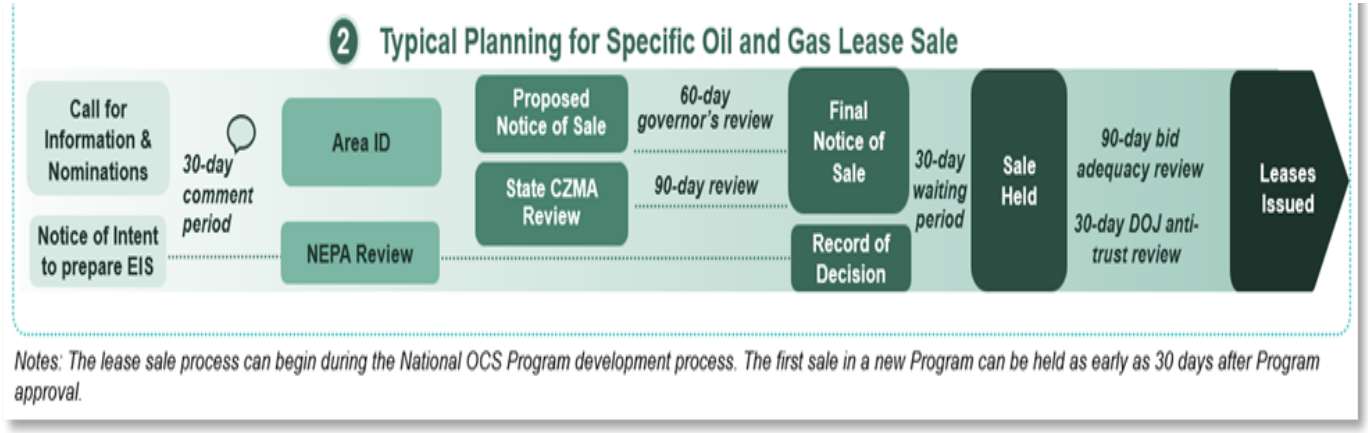
First sale is tentatively scheduled for 2027 (Draft Proposed Program – 1st Analysis & Proposal)



BOEM BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

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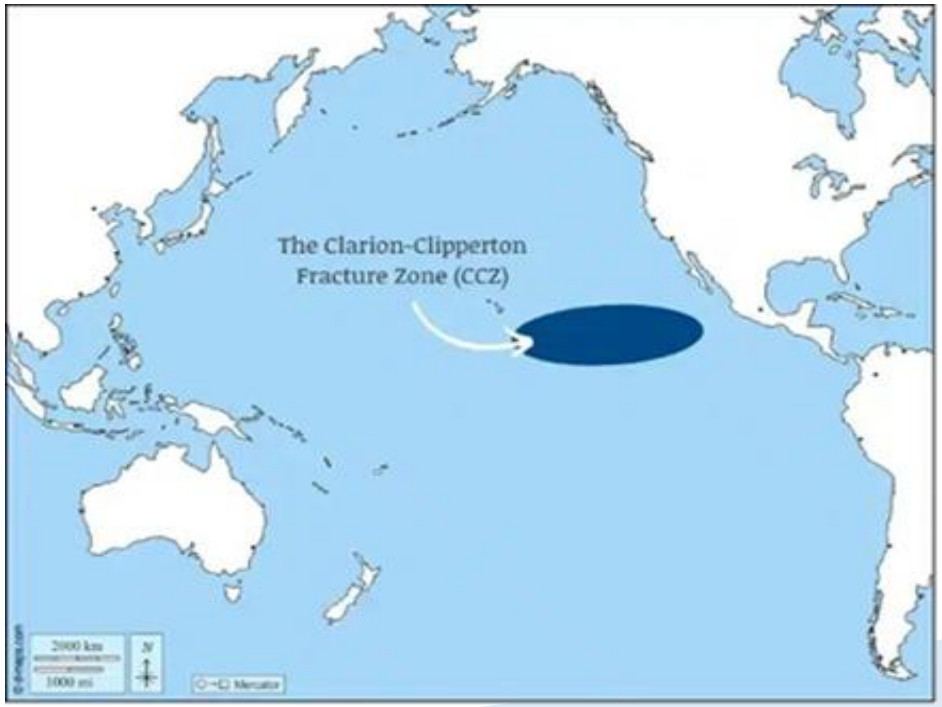
Oil & Gas California – Next Steps



- Area Identification and PSN
- Issuance of the Final PEIS

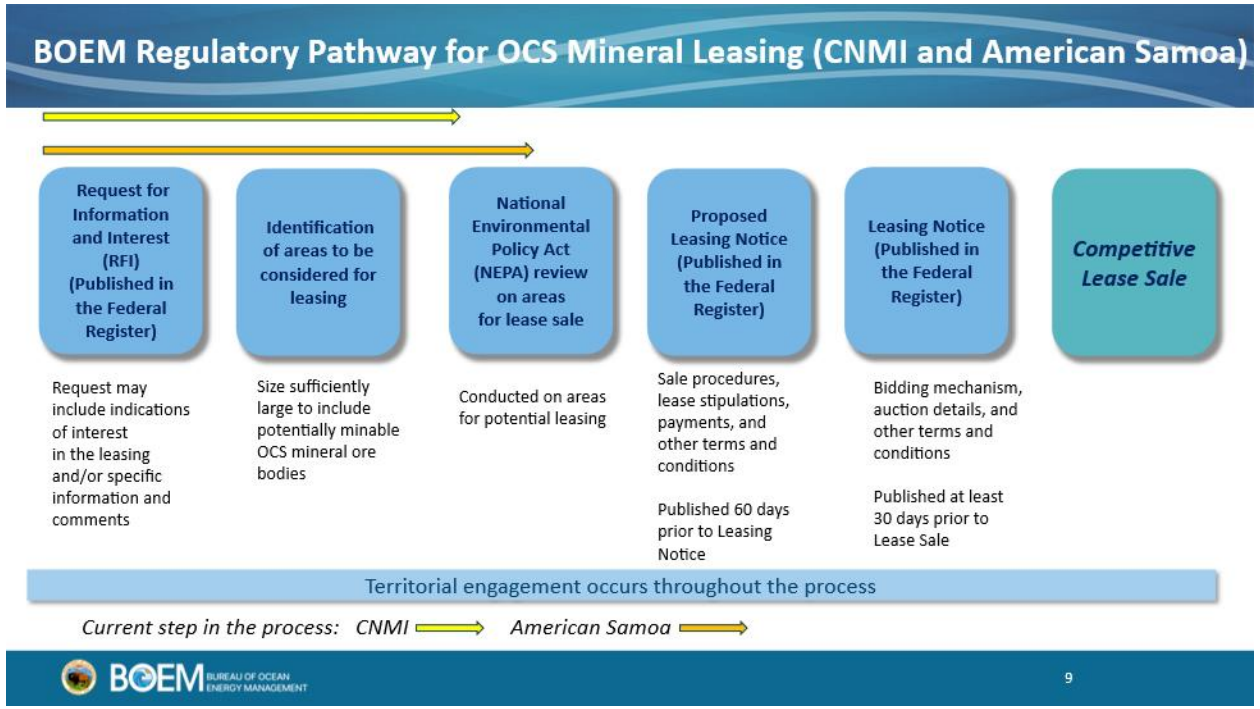
Offshore Mineral Mining

- Outside the EEZ - NOAA
  - Deep Seabed Hard Minerals Resources Act (DSHMRA) duty to consult



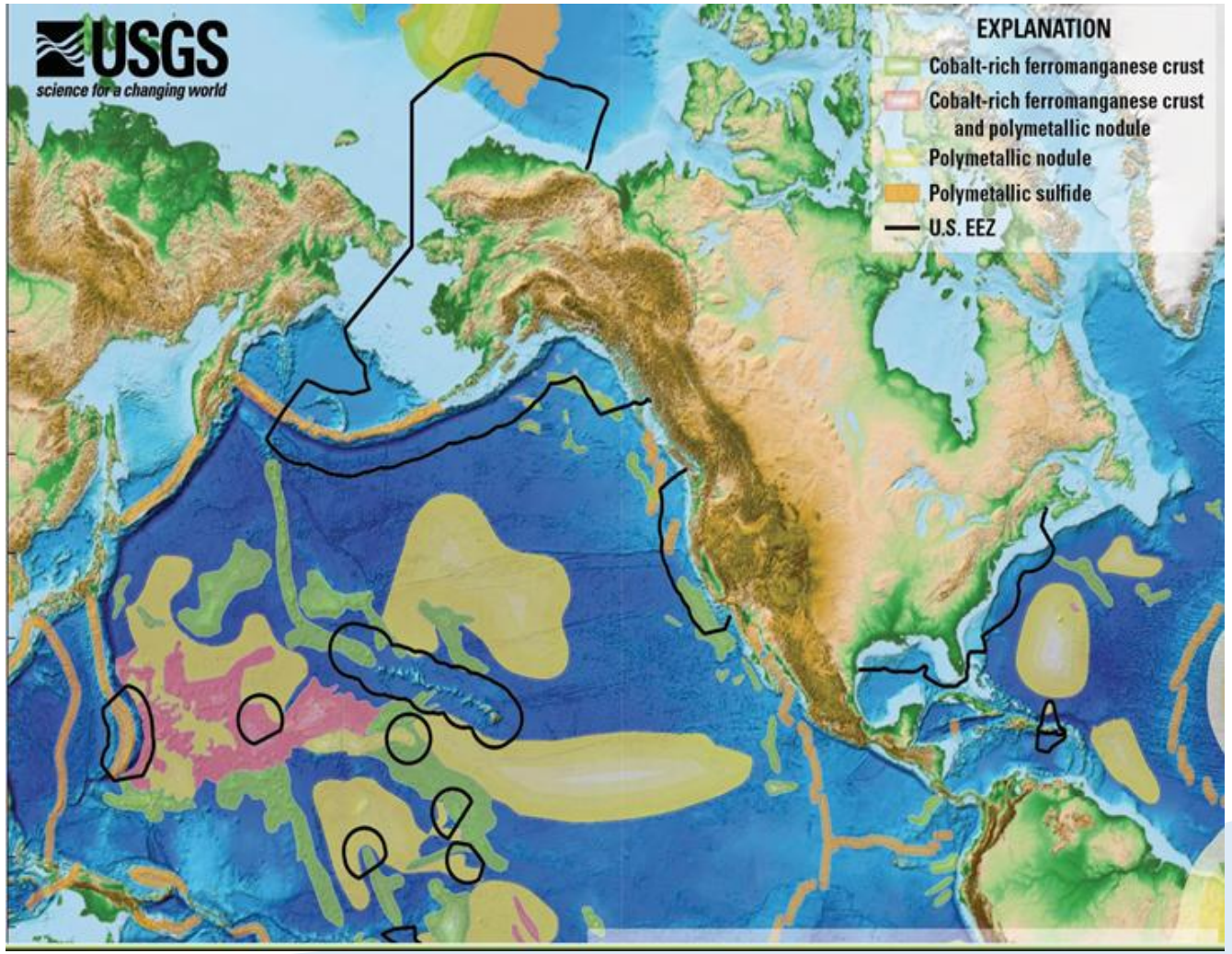
Offshore Mineral Mining

- Inside the EEZ – BOEM/MMA



- Alaska/CNMI/American Samoa

Offshore Mineral Mining



State & Tribal Updates

Proposed Ocean Rainforest Aquaculture Project

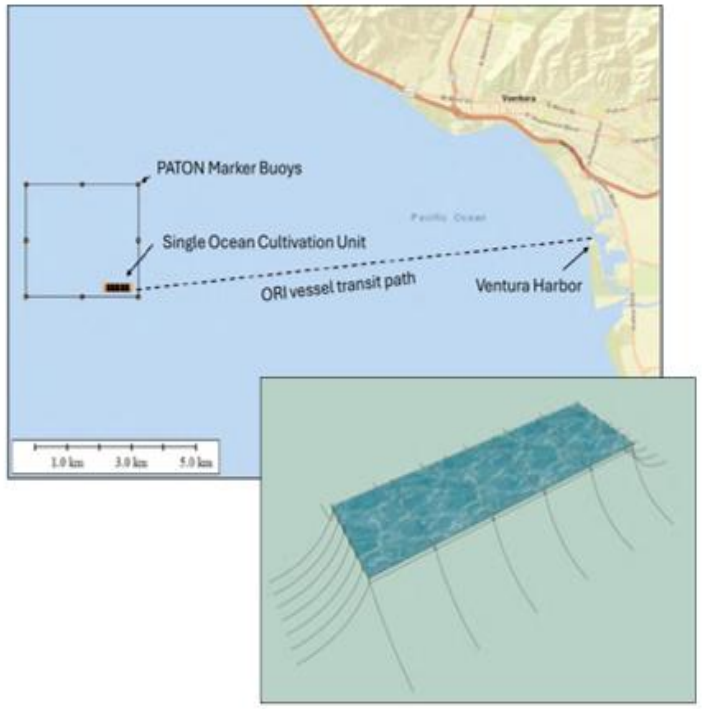
History

- 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 commerical location is N2-D
  - Mud/sand soft bottom, ~115 ft depth



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



Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal - mCDR

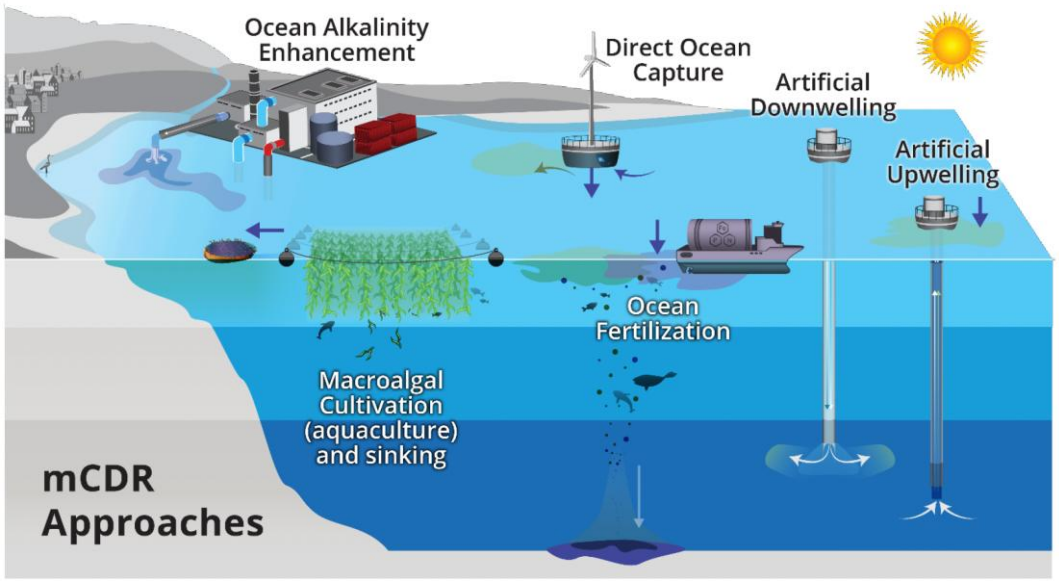
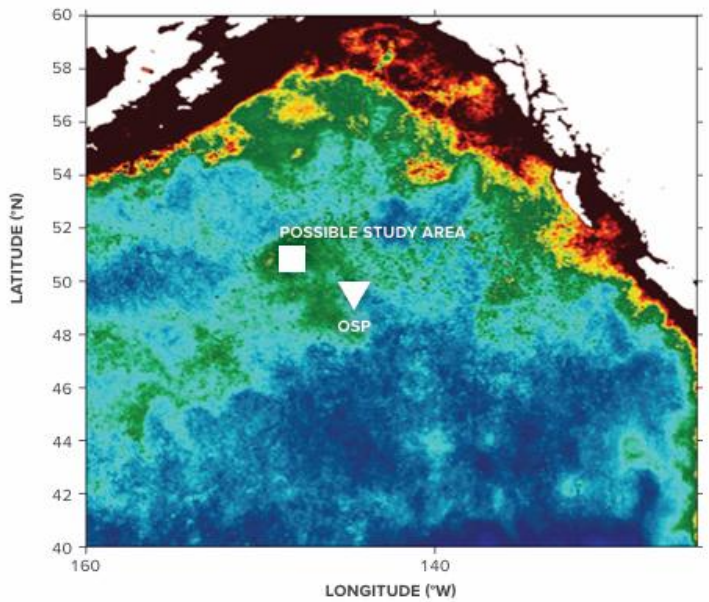
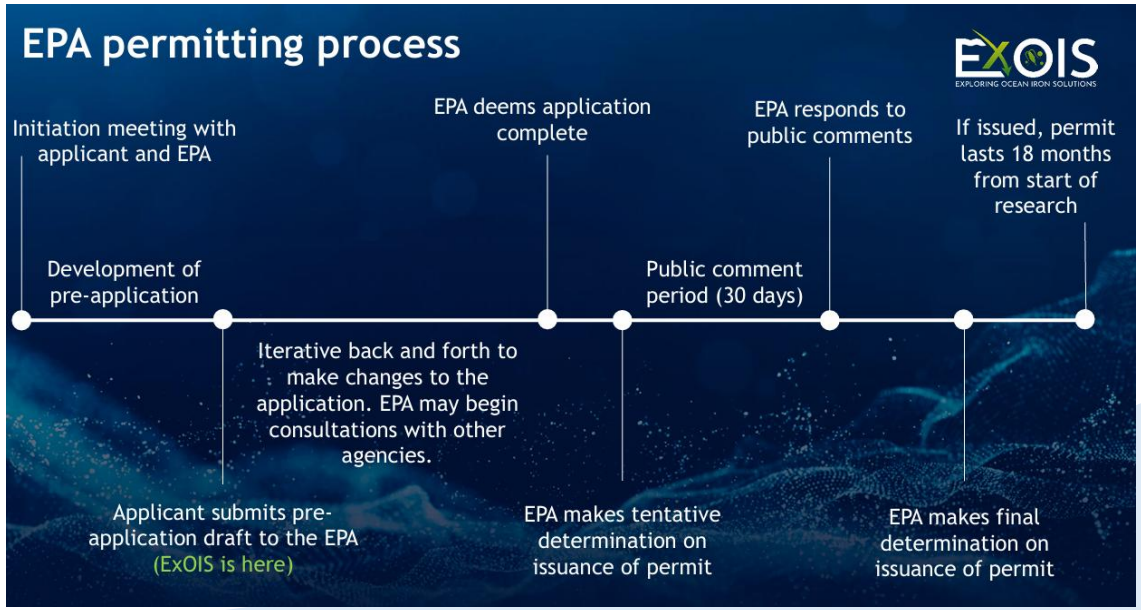


Figure 1: Schematic illustrating marine CDR approaches discussed in this Strategy. Figure by Sarah Battle, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

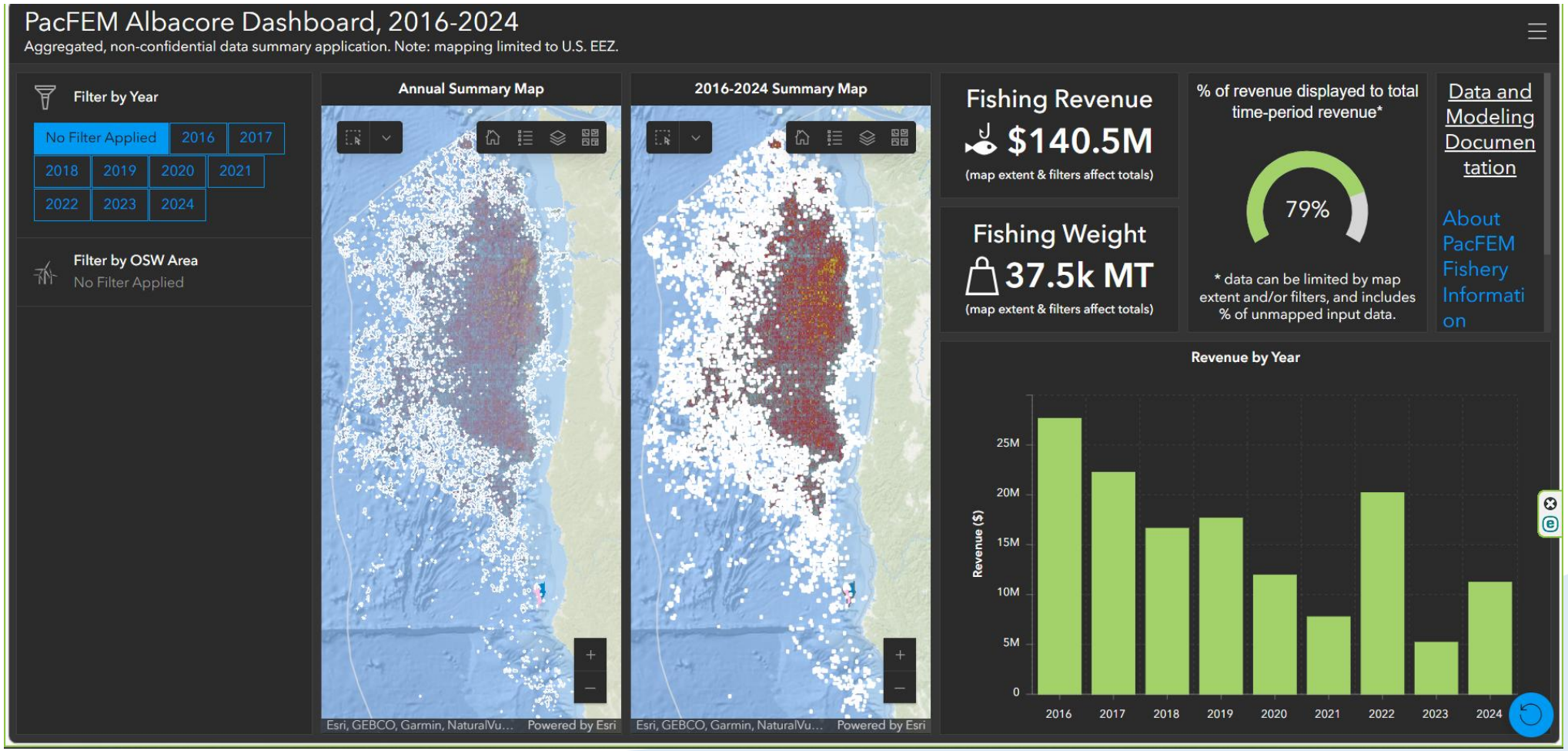
mCDR – ExOIS Pilot Project



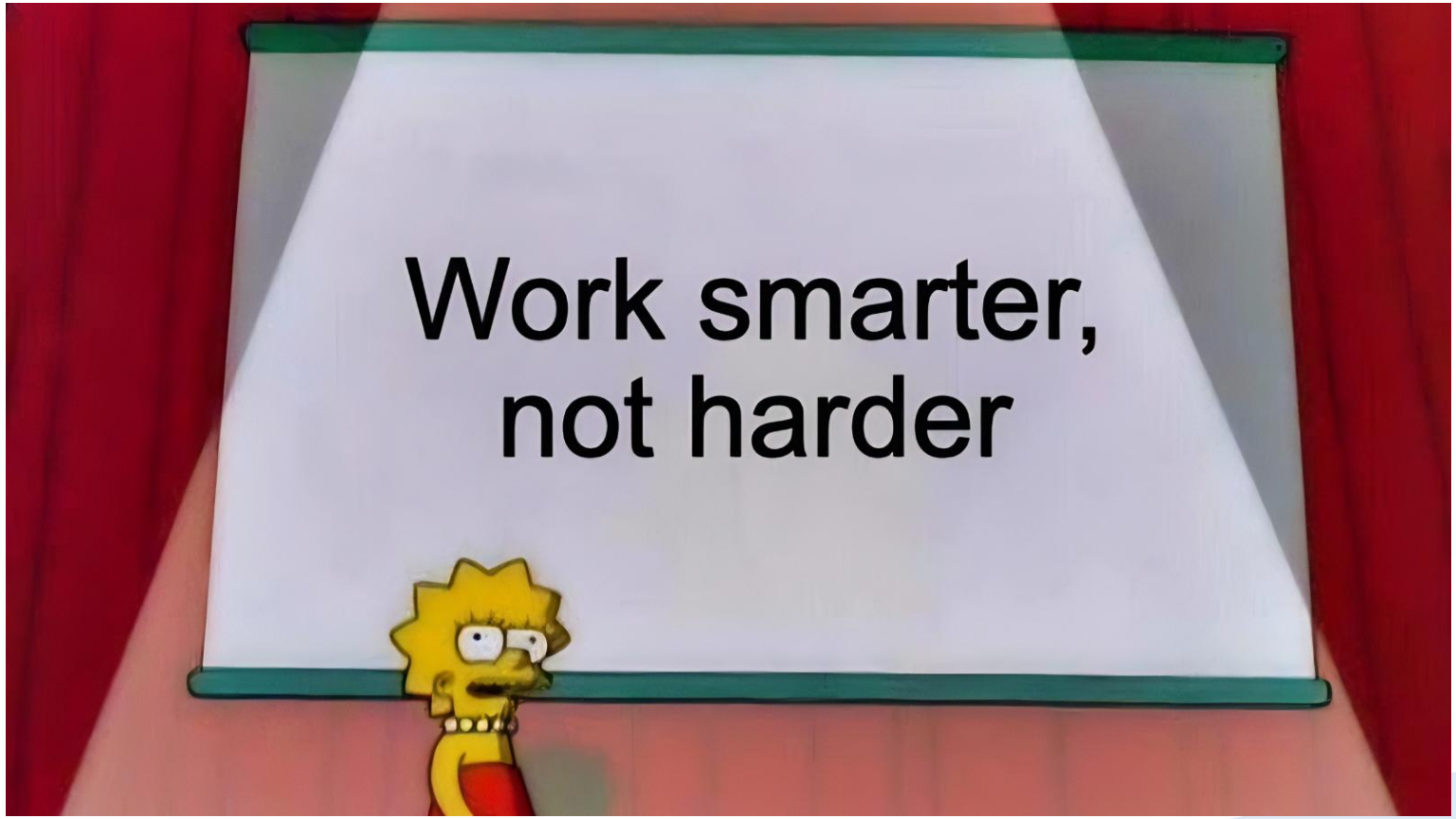
Map of the nominal location of the next generation field studies site in the NE Pacific. Also showing Ocean Station Papa (OSP), a long term time-series monitoring site. Background color is chlorophyll concentration.



Pacific Fishing Effort Mapping Project (PacFEM)



MPC/HC Template



MPC Recommendations

- **Include a standing Marine Planning agenda item** at Council meetings in June, November and March, supported by advance MPC meetings and reporting.
- **Consult with NOAA on offshore mining activities in the CCZ** that may affect Council-managed fisheries;
- **Continue to support the MPC in:**
  - tracking offshore oil and gas leasing activities in California planning areas and coordinating with the Habitat Committee (HC) on Council comment letters, as appropriate;
  - tracking offshore mineral activities and reporting to the Council;
  - coordinating with the HC in tracking the Ocean Rainforest kelp project and developing a Council comment letter, if appropriate;
  - tracking of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) efforts and their potential fishery and ecosystem effects; and
  - monitoring relevant state marine planning efforts, including Oregon's Offshore Wind Roadmap and related initiatives.
- **Request a briefing on PacFEM** to support its application in Council decision-making;
- **Support development of an MPC-HC comment letter template** for use when comment timelines limit detailed letter production and review.

Questions & Thank you

