Agenda Item D.3
Situation Summary
November 2025

# MARINE PLANNING

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online October 31, 2025, primarily to consider the recently issued Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the establishment of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in the Southern California Bight. There are 10 defined geographic areas that have been evaluated to determine their potential suitability for commercial aquaculture. Maps, shapefiles, and additional information can be found on the Southern California AOA webpage. No applications for commercial development have been publicly issued at the time of the advanced Briefing Book, although a notice of intent to develop commercial scale kelp aquaculture at site N2-D in Federal waters off Ventura was submitted at the end of 2024.

The Council will receive an overview of the NOAA AOAs and should discuss potential impacts of commercial scale aquaculture development in the 10 AOAs. Although there is no comment period open currently, the Council should provide guidance to the MPC and the Habitat Committee on responding to proposed development projects, should a public notice of commercial development be issued.

**Council Tasks:**

**1. Provide Guidance on Future Comment Opportunities.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental MPC Report 1.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see e-portal).

Agenda Order:

D.3 Marine Planning — Kerry Griffin
   a. Report of the Marine Planning Committee — Mike Conroy
   b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
   c. Public Comment
   d. **Council Action**: Consider Marine Planning Issues and Committee Report, Provide Guidance as Appropriate

PFMC
11/4/25