

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Sub Panel (CPSAS) commends the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) on another excellent report.

The issues the Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental MPC Report 2 (“Report”) stresses (including the Report’s list of data gaps) are the largest challenges facing our future West Coast Fisheries. What will the total impacts of scaled-out floating offshore wind (FOSW) be on fisheries’ displacement when FOSW reaches its targeted goals? Are there additional FOSW goals we do not know about? Moreover, what will the cumulative impacts be on the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) productivity, protected species, food security, and socioeconomic welfare?

The Report delves into the large data gaps that make it impossible to use present methods to estimate the full extent of FOSW impacts, leaving us fully exposed to harm. Potentially most harmful are those gaps that overlook transposition of the foundational elements that support the current marine ecosystem.

The Report takes an important step forward. The CPSAS is convinced that if we do not take heed of the data gaps and cumulative impact studies noted in the Report, production capacities of our fisheries and the CCLME could be severely constrained.

PFMC
11/13/24