

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) received an update from Mike Conroy on Marine Planning. The HC focused its discussions on the California Update and the Cumulative Impacts Framework (CIF) Document sections of Marine Planning Committee Report (D.2.a, MPC Report 1).

California Energy Commission (CEC) Suitable Sea Space for Wave and Tidal Energy Projects

This process is in the preliminary planning phase of exploring these potential energy projects. As there is no permit application for this project yet and there is no Federal action proposed, the HC does not see a need to provide comments from a habitat perspective on the CEC Draft Phase 2 Consultant Report at this time.

CIF Document

The HC appreciates all the work done on the CIF document so far and that it now incorporates National Marine Fisheries Service priorities from their West Coast Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Science Plan. While more work could be done, including Advisory Body input to identify Council priorities, the HC suggests holding off on further work on the CIF document, given current uncertainties around the status of offshore wind development. The HC recognizes the CIF document could be a useful tool, should the Council decide to engage in cumulative impacts analysis related to offshore wind development in the future.

PFMC
03/03/25