California’s Fisheries and Wildlife and Offshore Wind

Kate Huckelbridge, PhD
California Coastal Commission
The California Coastal Act

Key Coastal Act Issues applicable to offshore energy projects:

- Marine species and habitat, water quality
- Fishing – Commercial and Recreational
- Public access and recreation
- Navigation and Hazards
- Coastal Public Views
- Tribal and cultural resources
Federal Waters

State Waters

Onshore (within the Coastal Zone)
Addressing Impacts to California’s Fisheries and Wildlife

• General approach:
  – Avoid
  – Minimize & Mitigate

• Current activities
  – Collect and analyze environmental data
  – Develop a thorough and transparent regulatory process
  – Stakeholder outreach and collaboration
Next Steps

• Preparing for a federal consistency determination prior to a lease sale
• Development of mitigation and monitoring strategies