

ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND RESEARCH NEEDS FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OFF THE OREGON COAST

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The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently involved in the review of alternative energy projects off the Oregon Coast. We are reviewing these projects under the following statutory authorities: the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

NMFS, in coordination with other Federal, state, and local entities, proposed study plans and associated monitoring to delineate the potential biological, ecological, physical, and cumulative effects of these projects on NMFS trust resources and the larger ocean ecosystem. This paper describes those studies, along with suggested next steps for research.

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