

NATIONAL
ACADEMIES

Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

Impacts on Shipping and Commercial, Tribal, and Recreational Fisheries from Development of Renewable Energy on the West Coast

The National Academies Overview and Study Process

Meeting #1, March 14, 2025

Caroline Bell, Study Director



Open Session Agenda

12:00 PM	Welcome	Michele Conrad and Keith Michel, Committee Co-Chairs
12:10 PM	Orientation to the National Academies, Study, and Committee Process	Caroline Bell, Study Director
12:35 PM	Sponsor Briefing and Project Background	Emily Hildreth, BOEM Lilah Ise, NMFS
1:30 PM	Discussion of Statement of Task	Committee
2:00 PM	<i>Adjourn</i>	

About the National Academies



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The National Academies

The National Academy of Sciences (1863)

- Chartered under the Lincoln Administration and established to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation.

The National Academy of Engineering (1964)

The National Academy of Medicine (1970; formerly Institute of Medicine)



The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (“NASEM”)

The National Academies have a dual mission:

- Honor top scientists
- Serve as advisers to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine.

The National Academies are:

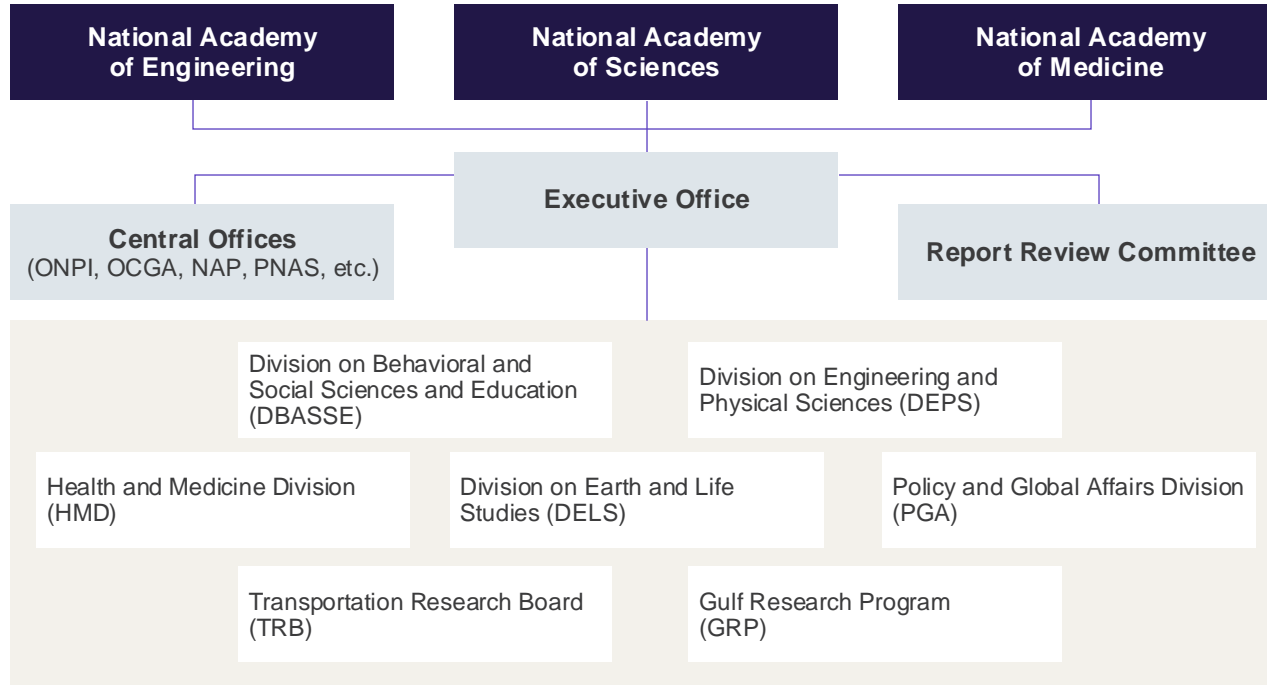
- Nonprofit, independent

The National Academies are NOT:

- Part of the government
- An advocacy organization
- A for-profit consulting organization



Program Units within the Academies



Typical Activities



Consensus Studies

- We produce authoritative reports that provide independent, objective, and nonpartisan scientific and technical advice to inform complex problems.



Expert Meetings and Workshops

- By convening symposia, workshops, meetings, and roundtables, we connect professionals and stimulate dialogue on diverse matters.



Communications and Outreach

- A wide range of communications activities, products, and events are used to convey the messages and disseminate our work.

Committee Membership



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Committee Membership and Staff

Michele Conrad (co-chair), Oceanbeat Consulting

Keith Michel (co-chair), Webb Institute (ret.)

David Anning, Integral Consulting Inc.

Diana Bob, Native Law PLLC

David Checkley, University of California San Diego,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Michael Conroy, West Coast Fisheries Consultants

Jeremy Firestone, University of Delaware

Stephen Joner, Makah Indian Tribe

Rebecca L. Lewison, San Diego State University

Brian Penoyer, Center for Strategic and International
Studies

Tracy Phillips, U.S. Coast Guard (ret.)

Robert Sheppard, Spire Engineering Services LLC

Annette von Jouanne, Baylor University

Staff

Caroline Bell – Program Officer

Mark Hutchins – Senior Program Officer

Madeline Jensen – Research Associate

Zoe Alexander – Senior Program Assistant

Rachel Amhaus – Program Assistant

Project Roles



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Project Roles

Sponsor

- Negotiate initial Statement of Task during contracting process, participate in public information gathering sessions, enjoy **no** unique privileges or access to deliberations or draft materials

Staff

- Maintain contact with sponsors, organize meetings, collect/disseminate information, integrate writing contributions, set-up report briefings, shepherd the Committee through the process

Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs and Members

- Attend meetings, identify topics or experts for information gathering, contribute and analyze materials, write report, respond to review questions, participate in dissemination.

Members of the Public and Invited Guests

- Attend and participate in open session meetings, submit requested or relevant information to the committee for consideration, submit nominations for committee members or reviewers

Committee Process



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Our Study Process and Opportunities for Engagement



Committee Updates and Solicitations

If you have not already, please sign up for our email updates!

- On the right side of our [website](#) you can register for our email list.
- Communications may include updates on study timeline and process, including meeting announcements, as well as solicitations for information and materials from the public.

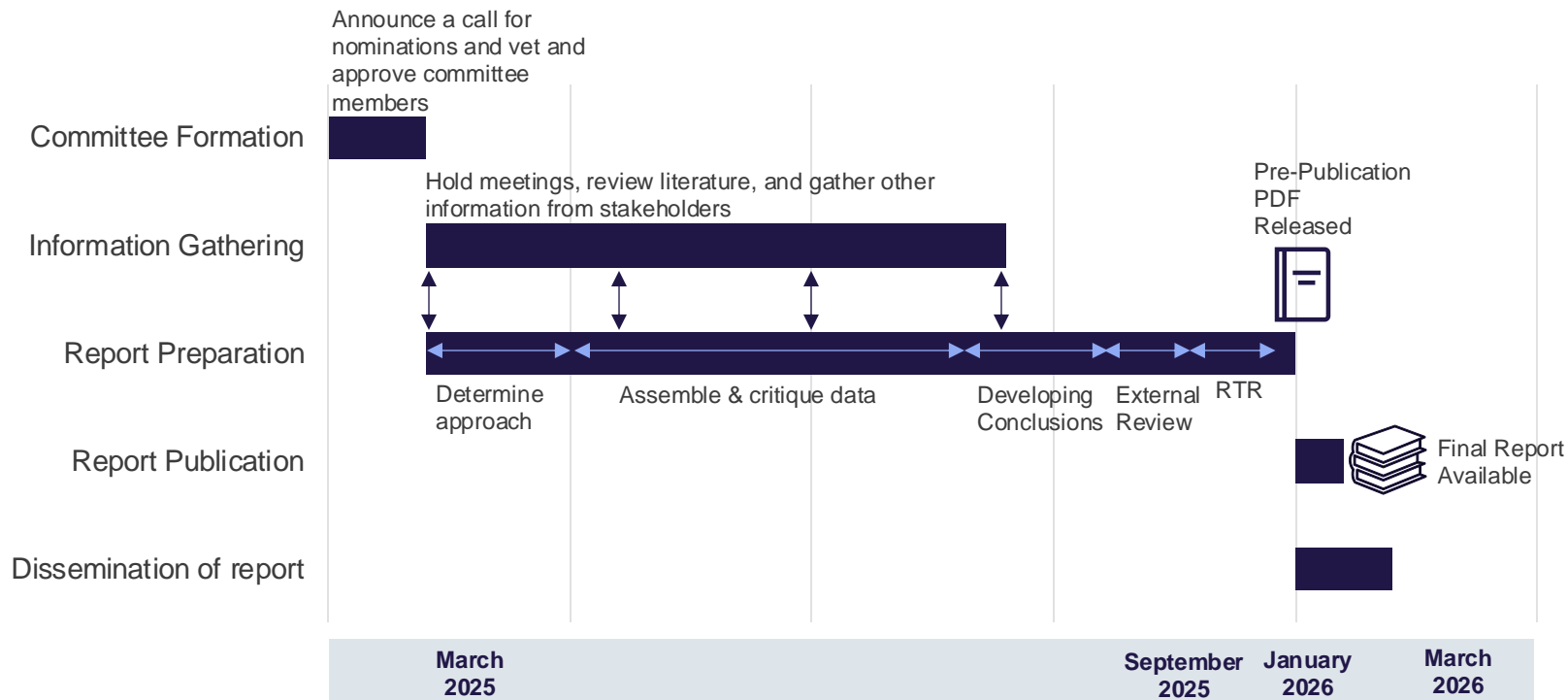
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Project Timeline



Information Gathering Process: Meetings and Materials

Meetings

- At least 3 Open Session Meetings
- At least 2 additional Meetings (likely to be many more virtual meetings or calls)
- At least 3 in-person meeting
- **Open sessions:** meetings that include anyone other than committee members and staff.
- **Closed sessions:** limited to committee members and staff for the purpose of deliberations.

Materials

- Information can be collected through committee research, presentations at Open session meetings, or other submissions to the committee
- Any materials, including email, submitted to the committee for consideration during the study are made publicly available through the Public Access Records Office

FACA Section 15

Confidentiality

Committee Deliberations

- The confidential deliberation process is a cornerstone of Academies studies.
- The committee may not discuss issues, disagreements, preliminary conclusions or recommendations with anyone outside of the committee, including *after* the report is released

Draft and Final Report

- All draft report materials are confidential work product of the committee
- The committee may only discuss the contents of the final report *after* it has been made available to the public as a pre-publication.

Acceptable Discussion Topics

- While the study is underway, the committee may discuss only **three items** with anyone outside of the committee/staff:
 - Statement of Task,
 - Committee roster/bios
 - Identity of the sponsors

Statement of Task



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Statutory Language

Statement of Task

The objective of this study is to understand potential impacts of offshore renewable energy development on maritime traffic and fisheries (commercial, recreational, and Tribal) on the west coast in federal and state waters. The study will consist of a literature review and information gathering through public meetings to document the historic and current uses of areas that could be considered for renewable energy development and assess how they may be affected by the installation and operation of wind turbines and/or hydrokinetic energy structures. Specifically, the committee will:

- (1) Document historic and current uses of offshore areas based on available, published information to include—
 - (A) Historic and current Tribal, commercial, and recreational fishing grounds, as well as areas where fish stocks are anticipated to shift in the future;
 - (B) Tribal usual and accustomed fishing areas in all covered waters;
 - (C) Historic, current and potential future shipping lanes, based on projected growth in shipping traffic in all covered waters.

Statement of Task (Cont'd)

(2) Analyze—

- (A) Current and expected Coast Guard operations relevant to commercial fishing activities, including search and rescue, radar, navigation, communications, and safety within and near renewable energy sites;
- (B) Anticipated, substantial interactions with, and adverse impacts on, maritime activities with the placement of renewable energy infrastructure and the associated construction, maintenance, and operation; and
- (C) Anticipated, substantial benefits and methods to mitigate adverse impacts through design, siting, maintenance and operational plans for renewable energy infrastructure, and including adjustments in management of fishing, shipping, and other maritime activities.

(3) Review the current decision-making processes for offshore wind in covered waters, and outline recommendations for governmental consideration of all impacted coastal communities, particularly Tribal governments and fisheries communities, in the decision-making process for offshore wind in covered waters, including recommendations for—

- (A) ensuring the appropriate governmental consideration of potential benefits of offshore wind in covered waters; and
- (B) risk reduction and mitigation of adverse impacts for safety at sea and search and rescue Coast Guard operations relevant to commercial fishing activities.

Thank you!



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Thank you!

For additional information or questions
please visit our [study website](#)