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Using Available Data to Identify Offshore Wind Energy Areas

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Conservation science for a healthy planet

Stakeholders Need

- Transparent and objective analysis to identify siting locations
- Research to identify key data gaps
- Ability to update models with new data to inform managers
- Explicit incorporation and presentation of uncertainty



Goal

To promote transparent and objective decision-making around the selection of locations and types of renewable energy development.





Background

There are ~700 data layers to inform energy siting that need to be synthesized



Objectives

- **1. Identify suitable locations** for marine renewable energy siting using existing body of information compiled in 'Data Basin',
- 2. Provide the foundation for lease selection by **identifying data priorities and gaps, and evaluating conflicts and trade-offs**.
- **3. Examine offshore wind "call" areas** identified by BOEM and additional candidate areas for potential development.
- **4. Disseminate results** of data quality and spatial optimization analysis to agency managers, industry, and other stakeholders.



Approach







-120° -118°

-120 -110

What is Critical Data?

Define "key science-based datasets" in the context of the project.

Deep Sea

abitats

Fish

Cultural Res.

Whales

Human Uses

Seabirds

Deliverables

Large scale analysis

Maps identifying locations along the west coast that maximize energy production and minimize potential environmental impacts and conflicts with human use.





Deliverables

Fine scale analysis and 'Call' area evaluation

Maps showing data availability and report evaluating the data types, quality, resolution and extent of time series available in main identified sites from large scale analysis and 'call' areas identified by BOEM.





Outcome

Recommendations on offshore wind energy siting guided by and based on a comprehensive and transparent analysis of data included in the California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway.

Analysis includes: 1) **quantification of impacts** to habitats, species and ocean uses, 2) **accounts for offshore energy potential** in a statistically rigorous framework derived from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders, 3) **provides explicit measures of uncertainty** and risks through transparent analysis.





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Thank You



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