

Council Policy on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Policy Goal: *The Council supports practices for US energy development including LNG development and operations that will sustain the health of marine ecosystems and fishery resources while minimizing the impacts to the marine environment and fisheries.*

1. LNG facilities should utilize the best commercially available technology. Closed loop systems should be used to avoid impingement and entrainment of living marine resources and to reduce disruptions to the temperature and salinity of the aquatic environment.
2. Strategies should be implemented to diffuse heating or cooling in any effluent. Alteration of the temperature regimes of the receiving waters could cause a change in species assemblages and ecosystem function.
3. LNG facilities that use surface waters for regasification and engine cooling purposes should not be sited in areas of high biological productivity (e.g., estuaries).
4. To decrease the need for additional dredging, LNG developers should consider expanding existing LNG import and export facilities or repurposing existing industrial sites or ports which already have deep water facilities.
5. Preference should be given to the use of softer or “living” shoreline stabilization methods for construction of new onshore LNG infrastructure, which can offer an alternative form of erosion control, with less severe habitat impacts than “hard” shoreline stabilization methods (e.g., concrete bulkheads and seawalls, concrete or rock revetments).
6. LNG pipelines should not be constructed in areas with sensitive fish habitat such as shellfish beds, fish spawning and/or nursery habitat areas, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), or hard/structured habitat.
7. The best available technology should be utilized during pipeline installation to reduce potential impacts on the affected environment. This may include horizontal directional drilling to avoid impacts on sensitive fish habitat.
8. Some nearshore/onshore impacts can be avoided through the construction and use of offshore, deepwater LNG ports; however, the transportation of LNG from offshore terminals to onshore facilities may have other offshore impacts.
9. The siting, construction, and operation of LNG facilities should be conducted in a way that minimizes conflicts with other users groups, including recreational and commercial fisheries.
10. LNG facilities should not be placed in or adjacent to sensitive fish habitat.

11. Monitoring and leak detection systems should be installed at LNG production and transportation facilities.
12. LNG production and transportation facilities should develop and implement adequate LNG spill response plans and protocols¹. These plans should:
 - a. Include the identification of sensitive marine habitat.
 - b. Include methods to track the movement of spills.
 - c. Ensure adequate response equipment is immediately available.
 - d. Allow researchers to have timely access to impacted areas, as needed.

¹ Consistent with the US Coast Guard, US Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety & Health Administration/HAZMAT, and other state or Federal requirements.