

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 16, 2017

**23. REPORT ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT FOR 2016****Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive DFW annual report on marine protected areas (MPA) program management activities in 2016.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

California's network of 125 MPAs, adopted by FGC consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), is managed by DFW in collaboration with numerous partners. The collaborative nature of MPA management in California is exemplified by the Ocean Protection Council-convened MPA Statewide Leadership Team, with management commitments memorialized in an MPA Statewide Leadership Team work plan (Exhibit 1).

With its adoption of the MLPA Master Plan for MPAs in 2016, FGC signaled a move from the design, initial implementation, and baseline monitoring phase into long-term program management. In light of this transition, FGC requested that DFW prepare annual reports to inform FGC of recent management and monitoring activities. The 2016 report presented today (Exhibit 2) is the first of these annual reports.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [MPA Statewide Leadership Team 2015-2018 work plan](#)
2. [DFW memo – "MPA Management Program Highlights for 2016", received Aug 8, 2017](#)

**Motion/Direction (N/A)**



CALIFORNIA STATE  
**LANDS  
COMMISSION**



**COLLABORATIVE  
NETWORK**

## **Marine Protected Area (MPA) Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18**

### *The MPA Statewide Leadership Team*

California's MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team) was convened with the goal of increasing communication and collaboration among agencies and partners to ensure the state is effectively managing the statewide MPA network. The Leadership Team includes state and federal agencies and other partners that play a direct or key support role in management of the network. MPA management encompasses a wide range of partners and activities that require active collaboration and communication to implement successfully. The state has recognized that no one agency or group has the knowledge, capacity or resources to effectively manage the MPA network in isolation. The Leadership Team focuses on leveraging resources and breaking down traditional silos to collaboratively address MPA network management which cuts across jurisdictions and mandates.

Members of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, led by the Ocean Protection Council (**OPC**), include: the Department of Fish and Wildlife (**DFW**), DFW Law Enforcement Division (**LED**), Fish and Game Commission (**FGC**), California Coastal Commission (**CCC**), California State Lands Commission (**CCLC**), Department of Parks and Recreation (**DPR**), State Water Resources Control Board (**SWRCB**), California Ocean Science Trust (**OST**), MPA Collaborative Network (**CN**), and West Coast Regional Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (**ONMS**).

### *Approach to the Work Plan*

The Leadership Team has identified the following focal areas as key to successful management of MPAs: Outreach and Education, Research and Monitoring, Enforcement and Compliance and Policy and Permitting. Active, sustained engagement in each of these focal areas is integral to achieve the goals of the Leadership Team. In practice, this means directing the work of the Leadership Team by identifying shared strategic priorities, key actions and outcomes. A key tool for this is the creation of a work plan that was identified as a key task in "[The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan](#)"<sup>1</sup>. The work plan covers a three year period beginning in 2015 and is a key tool in directing MPA management and holding members accountable for identified outcomes.

### *Work Plan Notations and Acronyms*

\* Indicates responsible agency will contract or award a grant to lead efforts to complete key action

"Agency" refers to federal, state, tribal, and local authorities.

Parks and Recreation Commission (**PRC**) Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (**PORTS**)

California Natural Resources Agency (**CNRA**)

Marine Life Protection Act (**MLPA**) Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (**MMAIA**)

[California Seafloor and Coastal Mapping Program](#) (**CSCMP**)<sup>2</sup> California Environmental Quality Act (**CEQA**)

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System's [Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System](#) (**CeNCOOS**)<sup>3</sup>

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System's [Southern California Ocean Observing System](#) (**SCOOS**)<sup>4</sup>

[Southern California Coastal Water Research Project](#) (**SCCWRP**)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2010/03/mapping-californias-seafloor-2/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2010/03/mapping-californias-seafloor-2/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cencoos.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sccoos.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sccwrp.org/Homepage.aspx>

## Focal Area: Outreach and Education (page 1-3)

| Strategic Priority 1 - Build support and durability of the MPA network goals and performance through improved public awareness |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                               |                     |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Key Action                                                                                                                     | Action Summary                                                                                                   | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Responsibility                | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 1.1 Create statewide outreach and education plan                                                                               | 1.1.1 Engage MPA Partners (NGOs, tribes, agencies) in discussion of best practices in MPA messaging              | MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, play an active role in ongoing development of messaging efforts and strategies                                                                                                                                          | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC, CN             | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.1.2 Compile and maintain inventory of MPA messaging and materials created by agency and non-agency partners    | MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, have online access to a comprehensive inventory of MPA messaging and available resources (e.g. brochures, sign templates, etc.) developed by state, federal and NGO partners and can easily contribute to the inventory | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC*, CN            | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.1.3 Identify priority audiences, audience-specific messages and outreach methods, and who will do the outreach | MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, contribute and have access to recommendations on how to maximize the effectiveness of their outreach to different audiences                                                                                             | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC*, CN            | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.1.4 Identify opportunities to insert messaging into related, non MPA-specific efforts                          | Existing programs increase avenues for MPA messaging to a broad constituency without requiring additional investment from MPA SLT members                                                                                                                                          | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC*                | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.1.5 Implement outreach and education plan                                                                      | Agencies and external partners work from a coordinated education and outreach strategy, improving the reach and effectiveness of MPA outreach and education                                                                                                                        | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC*                | 2016            |
| 1.2 Create MPA-focused outreach materials and host or participate in events                                                    | 1.2.1 Produce printed outreach materials                                                                         | Agency partners work with the MPA Collaborative Network members to continue producing locally specific materials                                                                                                                                                                   | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                  | Printed materials are readily available at key locations used by consumptive users (e.g. harbors, tackle shops, etc.)                                                                                                                                                              | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | DFW                 | 2016 - 2018     |
|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                  | Printed materials are readily available at key locations used by non- consumptive users (e.g. aquaria, dive shops, etc.)                                                                                                                                                           | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | DFW                 | 2016 - 2018     |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.2.2 Produce video/web/phone app-based materials                                                                | Web and video material produced by partners is promoted through Thank You Ocean and other venues                                                                                                                                                                                   | MPA non-agency partners       | OPC                 | 2016 - 2018     |
|                                                                                                                                | 1.2.3 Hold or take part in outreach and education events                                                         | Promote events through list-serves, Thank You Ocean and other partner websites                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MPA non-agency partners       | OPC                 | 2016 - 2018     |

| <b>Strategic Priority 2 - Create a broad understanding of regulations and increase compliance</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  |                            |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Key Action</b>                                                                                                         | <b>Action Summary</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Responsibility</b>                            | <b>Lead Responsibility</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| 2.1 Develop, install and maintain regulatory and interpretive signage statewide                                           | 2.1.1. Signage is properly permitted and installed in priority locations                                                                                    | Verification from grantee and contract manager of proper installation of signs                                                                                                                          | OPC, DFW, DPR, CCC and other non-agency partners | OPC*                       | 2015                   |
|                                                                                                                           | 2.1.2 Develop and implement project to install signs at remaining high and medium priority locations                                                        | Verification from grantee and contract manager of proper installation of signs                                                                                                                          | OPC, DFW, DPR, CCC and other non-agency partners | OPC*                       | 2016                   |
| 2.2 Continue production of DFW outreach materials focused on regulation compliance                                        | 2.2.1 Regionally specific materials including maps and booklets with regulations are produced                                                               | Outreach materials reach both traditional and non-traditional audiences                                                                                                                                 | DFW, FGC                                         | DFW                        | 2016 -2018             |
|                                                                                                                           | 2.2.2 Continue to support production of additional products on different media (waterproof paper, mobile devices, etc.) to maximize reach and effectiveness | Outreach materials reach both traditional and non-traditional audiences                                                                                                                                 | DFW, FGC                                         | DFW                        | 2016 -2018             |
| 2.3 Coordinate with private companies that produce products which provide information to the public about MPA regulations | 2.3.1 Regularly monitor products (e.g. GPS layers, phone applications, etc.) to ensure accurate information is being disseminated                           | Commonly used GPS systems accurately depict MPAs                                                                                                                                                        | DFW, CN, LED                                     | DFW                        | 2015-2018              |
| <b>Strategic Priority 3 - Develop consistent messaging with state, federal and other partners</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  |                            |                        |
| <b>Key Action</b>                                                                                                         | <b>Action Summary</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Responsibility</b>                            | <b>Lead Responsibility</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| 3.1 Create and distribute DFW Partnership Guide                                                                           | 3.1.1 Expand on existing DFW MPA Outreach Quick Reference Guide for partners                                                                                | DFW Partnership Guide is posted widely on the web and provides specific detail on review process, available resources and roles of various partners and agencies in review of outreach materials        | DFW, OPC and other non-agency partners           | DFW                        | 2016                   |
| 3.2 DPR effectively disseminates MPA messaging and actively engages in MPA management support activities                  | 3.2.1 Update webpage on "state underwater parks"                                                                                                            | DPR website explains the department's history in identifying special underwater areas and how the term "underwater park" is no longer applicable since the MMAIA. Also includes link to DFW MPA webpage | DPR, OPC                                         | DPR                        | 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                           | 3.2.2 Provide MPA training to staff and docents using a "train the trainer" model                                                                           | OPC provides trainer and training materials developed in partnership with MPA partners and Collaborative members to coastal districts as requested                                                      | DPR, OPC                                         | DPR                        | 2015                   |

|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |     |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-------------|
|                                                                                                            | 3.2.3 Develop MPA-specific curriculum for Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) by leveraging existing materials                                                     | Existing coastal PORTS programs use MPA curriculum which is currently under development                                                                                                   | DPR, DFW, OPC                 | DPR | 2015        |
|                                                                                                            | 3.2.4 Engage with Division of Boating and Waterways staff to identify opportunities to insert MPA messaging into existing outreach campaigns                                            | MPA messaging is inserted in at least one ongoing Boating and Waterways outreach campaign                                                                                                 | DPR, OPC                      | OPC | 2016 - 2018 |
| 3.3 Create and distribute a map of California waters that includes all protected areas (state and federal) | 3.3.1 Collect map layers of MPAs, Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERRs), National Marine Sanctuaries (NMSs), etc.                | Agencies and the public can view the distribution of all protected areas in California in one place for the first time                                                                    | DFW, DPR, OPC, OST, SWRCB     | OST | 2016        |
|                                                                                                            | 3.3.2 Determine and distribute map showing state waters that receive full protection (e.g., % coverage of SMRs) and some protection (i.e., % coverage of all other protected areas)     | The state and public have a more complete understanding of the percentage of CA state waters and coastal areas that are protected                                                         | DFW, DPR, OPC, OST, SWRCB     | OST | 2017        |
| 3.4 ONMS effectively disseminates MPA messaging and actively engages in MPA management support activities  | 3.4.1 Communicate and depict Federal/State jurisdictions to clarify their complementary nature                                                                                          | Explanatory infographic or other messaging concept is broadly distributed to state and federal agencies as well as public audiences to ensure types of allowed use are clearly understood | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC | 2017        |
|                                                                                                            | 3.4.2 Provide MPA training to staff and docents                                                                                                                                         | OPC provides trainer and training materials as requested to ensure ONMS staff and docents have accurate and updated information about the state's MPA network                             | ONMS, OPC                     | OPC | 2015        |
| 3.5 Effectively disseminate MPA messaging through OPC                                                      | 3.5.1 Update content and structure of OPC website to better reflect current MPA programs and partnerships, ensuring consistency with partner web pages by using links where appropriate | OPC website hosts or links to relevant documents related to the design, designation, implementation and management of the MPA Network                                                     | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC | 2016        |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         | OPC website describes OPC's current role in MPA management and highlights current and previous MPA projects                                                                               | OPC                           | OPC | 2016        |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         | OPC website links to and describes partner agencies and organizations                                                                                                                     | OPC                           | OPC | 2016        |
|                                                                                                            | 3.5.2 Update content on CNRA website                                                                                                                                                    | CNRA website accurately describes current work of OPC and other key management agencies including DFW and DPR                                                                             | OPC, DFW, DPR                 | OPC | 2015        |
|                                                                                                            | 3.5.3 Use Thank You Ocean Campaign to update constituents about MPA Collaboratives and significant MPA events                                                                           | Thank You Ocean and MPA Collaboratives serve as conduits of information regarding MPA efforts                                                                                             | OPC                           | OPC | 2015 - 2018 |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         | Thank You Ocean website links to <a href="http://mpacollaboratives.org">mpacollaboratives.org</a>                                                                                         | OPC                           | OPC | 2015        |
|                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         | Relevant MPA news is included in monthly Thank You Ocean newsletter and shared via Thank You Ocean social media platforms                                                                 | OPC                           | OPC | 2015 - 2018 |

## Focal Area: Enforcement and Compliance (page 4)

| Strategic Priority 1 - Increase capacity and effectiveness of enforcement                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                     |                 |
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| Key Action                                                                                                                  | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                   | Outcome Required/Performance Indicator                                                                                                                               | Responsibility | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 1.1 Use technology and other tools to increase effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement resources in the field           | 1.1.1 Develop statewide Records Management System (RMS) to collect, organize and track citation data.                                                            | DFW implements an RMS to improve its ability to collect, store, and query law enforcement data in the field                                                          | DFW            | LED                 | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                  | DFW Submits AB 2402 report to the legislature on a feasibility study for electronic data management                                                                  | DFW            | DFW                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                             | 1.1.2 Identify enforcement priority areas based on poaching hotspots, seasonal trends, potential for resource impact, level of use, and potential for violations | RMS allows accurate analysis of the enforcement efforts/needs for specific MPAs                                                                                      | DFW            | LED                 | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                             | 1.1.3 Explore existing and emerging technologies and enforcement monitoring systems to enhance MPA enforcement                                                   | Regularly assess available technologies and deploy those with potential to enhance MPA enforcement                                                                   | DFW            | LED                 | 2015-2018       |
| 1.2 Maintain and enhance cooperative enforcement efforts with local, state and federal agencies                             | 1.2.1 Promote interagency cooperation and collaboration for more effective MPA enforcement                                                                       | Develop and facilitate MPA Collaborative Network programs for statewide MPA enforcement                                                                              | LED, CN        | CN                  | 2015-2018       |
| 1.3 Increase judicial system and law enforcement officer awareness of the value of MPAs and knowledge of MPA regulations    | 1.3.1 Develop educational tools specifically for judges and district attorneys                                                                                   | Develop MPA enforcement video and distribute widely to court and enforcement officers                                                                                | LED, CN        | LED, CN             | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                  | Design and facilitate MPA training to be provided to the judicial system within all CA coastal counties                                                              | LED, CN        | LED, CN             | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                  | Encourage designation of at least one wildlife/marine specialist within each DA office                                                                               | LED, CN        | LED, CN             | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                             | 1.3.2 Hold Enforcement Trainings for court officers                                                                                                              | Hold at least one training in each county and conduct training effectiveness evaluations                                                                             | LED, CN        | LED, CN             | 2015-2016       |
| 1.4 Plan and conduct an LED Needs Assessment to determine if they have the resources to effectively enforce MPA regulations | 1.4.1 Identify and address LED personnel needs for MPA enforcement                                                                                               | Identifying appropriate staffing levels and equipment requirements for existing and anticipated future needs, including recruiting officers from diverse communities | DFW            | LED                 | 2016 - 2018     |
|                                                                                                                             | 1.4.2 Identify and address LED equipment needs for MPA enforcement                                                                                               | Identify funding source(s) to purchase items needed for MPA enforcement                                                                                              | DFW, OPC       | LED                 | 2016 - 2018     |

## Focal Area: Research and Monitoring (page 5 – 8)

| Strategic Priority 1 - Establish a benchmark of ecosystem and socioeconomic condition in all MLPA coastal regions that informs the initial five-year regional MPA network management reviews (management reviews) |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |                     |                 |
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| Key Action                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                                   | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                           | Responsibility     | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 1.1 Identify and pursue opportunities to bring additional results to bear on establishing a benchmark of conditions in each region (i.e., projects and programs outside the official MPA monitoring programs)     | 1.1.1 Coordinate state and federal entities to incorporate relevant oceanographic and physical habitat data and results                                                          | CSCMP spatial data inform management reviews                                                                                                                                      | OST                | OST                 | 2015            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  | CeNCOOS, SCOOS, and other partners' oceanographic data inform management reviews                                                                                                  | OST                | OST                 | 2015            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1.1.2 Coordinate with SCCWRP and member agencies to incorporate relevant water quality data and results                                                                          | SCCWRP's Bight Regional Monitoring Program data inform management reviews                                                                                                         | OST, SCCWRP        | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1.1.3 Coordinate with agency, tribal, academic and citizen scientists to ensure relevant scientifically robust datasets are incorporated                                         | Relevant datasets from agency, academic, tribal and citizen scientists are incorporated as appropriate into management                                                            | OST                | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
| 1.2 Develop State of the Region assessments to inform management reviews                                                                                                                                          | 1.2.1 Synthesize results and explain methodology of each baseline program and other monitoring efforts in the regions to build a snapshot of baseline conditions for each region | Ensure that the monitoring programs and results are cohesive, align with program purposes, and realize value beyond MPAs                                                          | DFW, OPC, OST      | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  | MPA monitoring results and reporting in the North Coast incorporate traditional ecological knowledge                                                                              | DFW, OPC, OST      | OST                 | 2017            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Build a more comprehensive understanding of ecosystem condition and trends to support management decisions and inform the approach to long-term monitoring                        | DFW, OPC, OST, FGC | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Information sharing among agencies and tribal governments results in a common understanding of ecosystem condition and trends                                                     | DFW, OPC, OST, FGC | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
| 1.3 Engage with California's diverse ocean communities to share results from the baseline programs                                                                                                                | 1.3.1 Share results of baseline monitoring broadly through a variety of venues, including community meetings and the Western Society of Naturalists (WSN) Annual Meeting         | Diverse constituencies, including scientists, fishing communities, tribes, and decision makers see baseline monitoring results as credible, accessible, and useful for management | DFW, OPC, OST, FGC | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1.3.2 Maintain communication with California's ocean community and tribes, including through the MPA Collaboratives, and encourage contributions to oceanspaces.org              | Build trust in MPA monitoring results before and after they are released                                                                                                          | DFW, OPC, OST      | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Tribal governments are engaged in the monitoring program                                                                                                                          | DFW, OPC, OST      | OST                 | 2015-2018       |

| Strategic Priority 2 - Design and implement a partnership-based monitoring program that assesses MPA network performance and informs multiple mandates                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                           |                |                     |                 |
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| Key Action                                                                                                                                                                             | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                   | Responsibility | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 2.1 Align marine and water quality protected area (i.e., ASBSs, MPAs) monitoring programs to leverage resources, capacity and expertise across mandates and jurisdictions              | 2.1.1 Compare goals for ASBS and MPA monitoring programs and identify potential areas of overlap                                                                                                                                                                                | Evaluation of whether the two programs aim to meet similar objectives or if there are discrepancies                       | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Agencies involved in ASBS & MPA monitoring better understand goals of each other's programs                               | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2.1.2 At a regional scale, review monitoring plans, reports and/or work plans to identify overlaps in program components                                                                                                                                                        | Map illustrates where ASBSs and MPAs are co-located and where data for each monitoring program has been collected         | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Internal document identifies overlaps in requirements, methodology, funding sources, and personnel                        | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Highlight overlapping areas with potential for collaboration between the two programs                                     | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2.1.3 Assess whether current structure of ASBS and MPA monitoring programs hinders or limits progress in achieving program goals                                                                                                                                                | Deficiencies or problematic components in the two programs are identified                                                 | OST, SWRCB     | SWRCB               | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ways to address identified impediments are identified                                                                     | OST, SWRCB     | SWRCB               | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2.1.4 Develop and begin to implement interagency strategy to resolve any inconsistencies between monitoring programs that hinder accomplishment of program goals                                                                                                                | Agencies involved in ASBS and MPA monitoring improve collaborative efforts                                                | OST, SWRCB     | OST                 | 2016-2017       |
| 2.2 Align fisheries and MPA monitoring to leverage resources, capacity and expertise across mandates                                                                                   | 2.2.1 Prioritize and align data collection and approaches that can inform both 1) essential fisheries information needed for stock assessments and fisheries management decisions, and 2) ecological information needed to assess the condition and trends of marine ecosystems | Key indicators, metrics, and datasets that can inform both fisheries and MPA management at multiple scales are identified | DFW, OST, OPC  | DFW                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Focal MPAs where data collection could inform both MPA and fisheries management are identified                            | DFW, OST, OPC  | DFW                 | 2016-2017       |
| 2.3 Develop and adopt a comprehensive data and information management plan for MPA monitoring that leverages existing technology solutions and ensures long-term, public accessibility | 2.3.1 Work with data management experts to identify opportunities and develop a written plan to leverage existing technology solutions                                                                                                                                          | Adopted plan is cost-effective and feasible to implement                                                                  | DFW, OST       | OST                 | 2015            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | MPA monitoring data and results are easily accessible and curated for long-term, public accessibility                     | DFW, OST       | OST                 | 2015-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2.3.2 Implement plan as part of long-term monitoring                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Plan is added as appendix to regional long-term monitoring work plan                                                      | DFW, OPC, OST  | OST                 | 2015-2018       |



| 2.4 Develop an MPA Monitoring Plan for the North Coast region to be submitted to the Fish & Game Commission for consideration as an appendix to the MLPA Master Plan                                                    | 2.4.1 Identify metrics that consider management and community priorities, and are informed by results from the North Coast MPA Baseline Program                                                                                                | Monitoring metrics are based on the best available science and reflect management and community priorities                                                   | DFW, OST                      | OST                 | 2017            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2.4.2 Develop an inventory of short- and long-term evaluation questions                                                                                                                                                                        | Monitoring program is designed to answer evaluation questions                                                                                                | DFW, OST                      | OST                 | 2016-2017       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2.4.3 Conduct peer-review process of technical components of plan                                                                                                                                                                              | Monitoring approaches identified by plan are scientifically rigorous and feasible                                                                            | DFW, OST                      | OST                 | 2017            |
| 2.5 Diversify monitoring collaborations and include multiple sources of knowledge (e.g. agency, academic, tribal, local) to broaden participation and deepen understanding of MPA network and relevant ocean conditions | 2.5.1 Develop and begin to implement an approach for integrating multiple sources of knowledge (e.g., traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), ecological data, socioeconomic data)                                                             | Guiding document provides a framework for integrating traditional ecological knowledge with other sources of information into long-term monitoring statewide | OST                           | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Data use guidelines for North Coast baseline monitoring results are complete and can be applied to long-term MPA monitoring activities                       | OST                           | OST                 | 2015-2016       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2.5.2 Develop an inventory of relevant citizen science monitoring programs that exist statewide                                                                                                                                                | Extent and capacity of existing citizen science monitoring programs informs approach to long-term monitoring in each region                                  | OST                           | OST                 | 2016-2018       |
| <b>Strategic Priority 3 - Develop an approach to statewide MPA network assessment (network assessment) that builds upon the monitoring framework to inform management decisions at a statewide scale</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                              |                               |                     |                 |
| Key Action                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                      | Responsibility                | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 3.1 Increase alignment of research activities with state priorities, to increase usefulness for management decisions across agencies                                                                                    | 3.1.1 Consider MPA network goals in state agency-contracted research on ocean issues and align research activities with these goals when feasible                                                                                              | Deliberate consideration of statewide MPA network goals in agency-contracted ocean/fisheries-related research                                                | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OST                 | 2016-2018       |
| 3.2 Pursue MPA research and monitoring activities that have the potential to inform and/or align multiple management mandates and priorities                                                                            | 3.2.1 Identify and pursue opportunities for alignment of research activities with information needs for fisheries management                                                                                                                   | MPA network assessment informs fisheries management                                                                                                          | DFW, OST                      | DFW                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3.2.2 Incorporate monitoring approaches and strategies identified by the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Science Panel                                                                                                        | MPA and OAH monitoring activities are geographically and temporally aligned                                                                                  | OPC, OST                      | OPC                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | OAH research and modeling activities informs and are informed by MPA monitoring                                                                              | DFW, OPC SAT                  | OST                 | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3.2.3 Engage regional experts to develop and recommend approaches for assessing impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems and resources and evaluate how a changing climate may affect our ability to meet MPA management and policy goals | Long-term MPA monitoring produces data that contributes to our understanding of climate change impacts                                                       | DFW, OPC, OST                 | OST                 | 2016-2018       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | MPA monitoring and network assessment help determine climate change impacts to ecosystem structure and function                                              | OPC, OST                      | OST                 | 2016-2017       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |     |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------|
| 3.3 Develop and implement an ecological impact assessment tool to identify potential cumulative impacts to MPAs from research, monitoring and education activities to inform issuing Scientific Collecting Permits (SCP) | 3.3.1 Develop a framework for an automated ecological impact assessment to help inform management decisions about issuing SCPs                                           | OPC working group with DFW , DPR, FGC convened to clarify roles and responsibilities in SCP for marine areas adjacent to park units                                                                          | DFW, DPR, OPC, FGC | OPC | 2016      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          | Published manuscript that describes the assessment tool's purpose, function and components                                                                                                                   | DFW, OPC SAT       | DFW | 2015-2016 |
| 3.4 Develop a statewide monitoring approach document that is distinct from regional monitoring plans and work plans                                                                                                      | 3.4.1 Clarify respective roles and purposes for regional and statewide monitoring                                                                                        | Strengthened decision support for adaptive management                                                                                                                                                        | DFW, OPC, OST      | OST | 2016      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3.4.2 Develop guidelines for incorporating a broad range of data into statewide monitoring including information on management, outreach, education and other activities | Build efficiency into monitoring programs across state mandates                                                                                                                                              | DFW, OST           | OST | 2015-2017 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          | MPA monitoring data (ecological, socioeconomic) are considered together with oceanographic monitoring and enforcement/compliance monitoring to build a more robust understanding of the state of the network | DFW, OST           | OST | 2015-2017 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          | Fisheries, coastal zone and water quality management both inform and are informed by MPA monitoring                                                                                                          | DFW, OST           | OST | 2015-2017 |

## Focal Area: Policy and Permitting (page 9 – 11)

| Strategic Priority 1 - Improve governance of MPA network through adaptive management                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                    |                     |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Key Action                                                                                                                                         | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                         | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Responsibility                                                     | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 1.1 FGC and PRC develop and convey process for receiving requests for changes to MPA network                                                       | 1.1.1 Post guidance on relevant agency websites detailing appropriate process                                                                                          | Members of the public can easily access information that clearly articulates how, if, and when FGC and PRC will receive and evaluate proposals and hear discussion about potential changes to the MPA network, as well as the criteria used to determine if action by either commission is warranted | MPA Statewide Leadership Team                                      | FGC, PRC            | 2017            |
| 1.2 Oversee and maintain effective MPA regulations                                                                                                 | 1.2.1 Adopt regulations that are clear accurate and enforceable                                                                                                        | Regulatory ambiguities, inaccuracies, needs or enforcement challenges are addressed through the rulemaking process                                                                                                                                                                                   | MPA Statewide Leadership Team                                      | FGC, DFW, DPR, PRC  | 2015 - 2018     |
| 1.3 Partner agencies identify emerging issues and develop recommendations to address them                                                          | 1.3.1 MPA SLT serves as a forum for agency communication about emerging issues identified by staff or constituents that may require a response by more than one agency | Members of the MPA SLT raise emerging issues to staff at partner agencies and elevate them when appropriate, including at the biannual "MPA Milestones" meetings that all MPA SLT agency Directors attend                                                                                            | MPA Statewide Leadership Team                                      | FGC, PRC            | 2015 - 2018     |
| 1.4 Assess pending agency regulations for potential impacts to MPAs                                                                                | 1.4.1 Partner agencies provide informal input to proposed regulations that may affect MPAs early in the process                                                        | Proposed new or revised regulations that could affect MPAs are brought to MPA SLT meetings for discussion prior to adoption                                                                                                                                                                          | Coastal Regulatory Agencies (CCC, CSLC, FGC, DFW, DPR, PRC, SWRCB) | OPC                 | 2015 - 2018     |
| 1.5 Clarify MPA network objectives                                                                                                                 | 1.5.1 Conduct review of original intent regarding placement, design, and regulations of the MPA network                                                                | Coastal Regulatory Commissions have access to a comprehensive inventory that captures existing documentation regarding design considerations for each MPA in the network                                                                                                                             | FGC, CN, OPC, DFW                                                  | FGC, DFW            | 2018            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | 1.5.2 Assess whether stated goals and objectives of MPAs are compatible with the design considerations                                                                 | FGC identifies any MPAs that may be out of alignment with the adopted design considerations                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FGC, DFW                                                           | FGC, DFW            | 2018            |
| 1.6 Continue discussions with tribal governments about management                                                                                  | 1.6.1 Respond to requests for information sharing and tribal consultations                                                                                             | Hold meetings with Tribal governments for the purpose of identifying areas of common ground and areas of disagreement that will help inform further discussion.                                                                                                                                      | DFW, FGC, OPC                                                      | FGC, DFW            | 2015 - 2018     |
| Strategic Priority 2 Integrate MLPA and MPA network goals, objectives and partnership-based management approach into relevant management documents |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                    |                     |                 |
| Key Action                                                                                                                                         | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                         | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Responsibility                                                     | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 2.1 Update MLPA Master Plan (Master Plan)                                                                                                          | 2.1.1 Update language regarding MPA management review cycle                                                                                                            | MLPA Master Plan update includes a clearly defined management review cycle that is explicitly connected to adaptive management of the MPA network                                                                                                                                                    | DFW, OPC, FGC                                                      | DFW                 | 2015            |

|                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |                            |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                            | 2.1.2 Align monitoring section with other relevant documents                                                                       | Monitoring section of the MLPA Master Plan is aligned with the existing MPA monitoring framework and regional monitoring plans                                                                                                                                            | DFW, OPC, OST, FGC            | DFW                        | 2015                   |
| 2.2 Insert relevant content into MLMA Master Plan update                                                                   | 2.2.1 Describe role and value of partnerships                                                                                      | Relevant sections of the MLMA Master Plan update (such as development of FMPs, assessing impacts on non-consumptive users, and public involvement strategy) include language about partnerships                                                                           | DFW, FGC, OPC                 | DFW                        | 2016 - 2018            |
|                                                                                                                            | 2.2.2 Highlight value of MPA monitoring data                                                                                       | MLMA Master Plan update references MPA monitoring data in relevant contexts                                                                                                                                                                                               | DFW, FGC, OPC, OST            | DFW                        | 2016 - 2018            |
| 2.3 As SWRCB planning and policy documents are updated, insert relevant content                                            | 2.3.1 Integrate considerations of the MPA network during development of Once Through Cooling (OTC) policy amendment where relevant | Adopted amendment to SWRCB OTC Policy includes relevant references to MPA network goals, objectives, and partnership-based management                                                                                                                                     | OPC, SWRCB                    | SWRCB                      | 2016                   |
| 2.4 Insert relevant content into agency Strategic Plan updates                                                             | 2.4.1 CSLC Strategic Plan update reflects CSLC commitments regarding MPAs                                                          | Relevant portions of the CSLC Strategic Plan reference MPAs and CSLC's specific role with respect to MPA management                                                                                                                                                       | OPC, CSLC                     | CSLC                       | 2015                   |
|                                                                                                                            | 2.4.2 CCC Strategic Plan update reflects CCC commitments regarding MPAs                                                            | Relevant portions of the CCC Strategic Plan reference MPAs and CCC's specific role with respect to MPA management                                                                                                                                                         | OPC, CCC                      | CCC                        | 2018                   |
| <b>Strategic Priority 3 – Enhanced protection for MPA resources is provided in relevant resource agency authorizations</b> |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |                            |                        |
| <b>Key Action</b>                                                                                                          | <b>Action Summary</b>                                                                                                              | <b>Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Responsibility</b>         | <b>Lead Responsibility</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| 3.1 Create tools to improve and highlight inter-agency coordination                                                        | 3.1.1 Conduct inventory of existing interagency MPA coordination procedures                                                        | White paper outlining and summarizing: legislative or policy foundations for special consideration of MPAs, current agency practices, and recommendations to improve communication and coordination is created and distributed to agency staff                            | CSLC, CCC, SWRCB, OPC         | OPC                        | 2015                   |
|                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                    | Public document discussing how agencies coordinate is broadly distributed to relevant stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                        | OPC                           | OPC                        | 2015                   |
| 3.2 Improve consistency in approach to analyzing impacts of projects to MPAs                                               | 3.2.1 Develop internal interagency coordination guidance document for staff use                                                    | Interagency coordination document includes an identified MPA point of contact for each agency                                                                                                                                                                             | OPC                           | OPC                        | 2015 – 2016            |
|                                                                                                                            | 3.2.2 Guidance document for using CEQA for MPAs                                                                                    | Develop guidance document for state agencies that serve as lead for CEQA review which includes broadly applicable suggestions on avoiding and minimizing impacts to MPAs                                                                                                  | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC                        | 2017                   |
|                                                                                                                            | 3.2.3 Draft MPA-specific guidance for potential inclusion in next Office of Planning and Research CEQA guideline update            | CEQA guidelines require lead agencies to consider factors such as sediment re-suspension, invasive species introduction, substrate disturbance, noise effects on living organisms, and water quality impacts when determining the significance of project impacts to MPAs | MPA Statewide Leadership Team | OPC/CNRA                   | 2018                   |

| Strategic Priority 4 - Identify marine resource enhancement/mitigation opportunities and impact avoidance strategies within or associated with MPAs |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                      |                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Key Action                                                                                                                                          | Action Summary                                                                                                                                                                       | Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                      | Responsibility                       | Lead Responsibility | Completion Date |
| 4.1 Develop knowledge base from existing data regarding marine resource enhancement, mitigation, and impact avoidance strategies pertinent to MPAs  | 4.1.1 Review MPA monitoring results to identify areas that may benefit from marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies                                  | Develop regional lists and/or maps that identify opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies in the MPA network                | DFW, OST, OPC                        | OST                 | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                     | 4.1.2 Consult with local MPA Collaboratives about opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance                                                     | Regional lists and maps developed under 4.1.1 depict opportunities identified by local MPA Collaboratives                                                                    | DFW, OST, OPC, CN                    | OPC and CN          | 2016            |
|                                                                                                                                                     | 4.1.3 Inventory projects related to marine resource enhancement, mitigation and impact avoidance strategies that could benefit the MPA network                                       | Regional lists identify successful/unsuccessful projects as well as projects that require additional funding to reach completion                                             | DFW, DPR, SWRCB, CSLC, OPC, OST, CCC | OPC                 | 2016            |
| 4.2 Use regulatory/policy tools to carry out marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies                                | 4.2.1 Identify opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies in current regulatory/policy requirements at participating MPA SLT agencies | Create internal document summarizing relevant regulatory/policy requirements relevant to marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies             | DFW, CSLC, CCC, SWRCB, OPC           | OPC                 | 2017            |
| 4.3 Identify and support research projects on MPA mitigation                                                                                        | 4.3.1. Utilize existing and promote new research to evaluate MPA mitigation projects                                                                                                 | State agencies on the Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) assert the importance of funding research proposals that assess potential MPA mitigation strategies | CSLC, CCC SWRCB, DFW, OPC            | OPC                 | 2016 - 2018     |

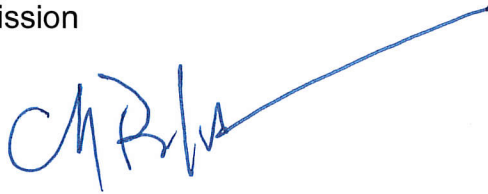
# Memorandum

2017 AUG -8 AM 8:45

Date: August 1, 2017

To: Valerie Termini  
Executive Director  
Fish and Wildlife Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Marine Protected Areas Management Program Highlights for 2016**

## Overview

On April 13, 2016, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) requested the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) provide an annual report regarding management of California's marine protected areas (MPAs). The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) calls for a MPA Management Program to help with all aspects of managing the MPAs. The Department is an integral part of the MPA Management Program and, along with core partners, manages the MPAs as a statewide network using a collaborative partnership-based approach. The MPA Management Program is composed of four components: 1) outreach and education, 2) research and monitoring, 3) enforcement and compliance, and 4) policy and permitting. This approach is essential to inform adaptive management of the MPA network and to meet the goals of the MLPA. The intent of this memo is to provide the Commission with the Department's and partner's activities in each of the four program components in 2016.

## Outreach and Education

Outreach and education efforts focused on increasing public awareness to improve compliance and understanding of California's statewide network of MPAs.

## Signage

The Department coordinated and participated in MPA signage development with partners to highlight MPAs, provide interpretative panels including fish and invertebrate identification, and display fishing regulations.

- A total of 66 regulatory and interpretive signs were installed statewide providing visitors with MPA information; 156 additional signs are in development and will be installed by 2019

### Education

The Department continued the established cooperative partnership between the Department and State Parks (Parks) to provide a full year of MPA-related lessons through Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students ([PORTS](#)) connecting resource experts in parks with students in their classrooms.

- Core-curriculum teaches students about California's MPAs. Modules initially included Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve (SMR), Crystal Cove and Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA), where students learn about elephant seals, tide pool ecology, and the Salmon lifecycle, respectively
  - A new MPA PORTS site established at Point Lobos SMR in 2016 teaches students about kelp forests
- Online MPA curriculum is now available for use in conjunction with the live-video conferences
- A total of 17,200 students participated in MPA PORTS programs in 2016 with programing continuing in 2017

### Articles

The Department published a series blogs and an article for public information.

- The Department's Marine Management News monthly blog series [Exploring California's Marine Protected Areas](#) continues to receive positive feedback from the public and partners
- Informational blogs were published in [NOAA's MPA Center Newsletter](#), and [California's Collaborative Network blog](#)
- Outdoor California magazine article: [Conserve & Protect: California's Oldest Marine Protected Area Safeguards Resources for Generations to Come](#)

### Guidebooks and Brochures

The Department printed MPA materials include 63,500 guidebooks; 105,000 brochures; and 3,000 information cards to increase awareness of California's MPAs across a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

- Materials were shipped to 360 locations such as sporting goods stores, academic institutions, parks, harbors, and commercial fishing enterprises for increased distribution

### Miscellaneous

- A total of 13 presentations about MPA Management Program were made by Department staff at various scientific and public venues, including: the Western Society of Naturalists, NOAA's National System of MPAs Workgroup bi-annual meeting, and the Oregon-California MPA Forum



- Extensive and ongoing meetings and communications with Tribes, stakeholders, scientists and researchers, state and federal agency staff and policy makers

#### Partnerships

The MPA Collaborative Network continues to form a cornerstone of the Department's partnerships in MPA management. The Department participated in over 20 MPA Collaborative Network meetings and outreach events throughout the state assisting collaborative members in the development of county specific resources including: 1) enforcement trainings, 2) developing and installing regulatory signs, and 3) developing maps and Department approved text for local brochures.

#### **Research and Monitoring**

As part of the Management Program, core partners developed a cost-effective Statewide MPA Monitoring Program. Successful coordination and collaboration continues amongst MPA monitoring partners including academic, agency, tribal, and citizen scientist as well as other experts. The core partners that help coordinate the MPA Monitoring Program includes the Department, the Ocean Protection Council, and Ocean Science Trust. The MPA Monitoring Program consists of two phases:

##### Phase 1: Regional, baseline monitoring

The MPA Monitoring Program used \$16 million dollars of voter approved bond funds to collect regional baseline data at or near the time the MPAs were established. Data collection, associated technical reports, and Department management review of the information were completed, and provided to the Commission, for the central, north central, and south coast regions in [2013](#), [2016](#), and [2017](#), respectively. The Commission will receive a report on the north coast region in 2018, finalizing Phase 1.

##### Phase 2: Statewide, long-term monitoring

The State has committed an annual General Fund allotment of \$2.5 million for Phase 2, beginning in fiscal year 2015/2016. Phase 2 statewide long-term monitoring reflects current State priorities and management needs, and builds on the knowledge, capacity, and unique considerations developed for each region during Phase 1. In addition, a Statewide MPA Monitoring Program Action Plan (Action Plan) is being developed to guide long-term monitoring.

The Action Plan will identify a priority list of indicators and sites for long-term monitoring to evaluate the performance of the network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. The Action Plan will also aggregate and synthesize work to date, including work that has developed quantitative approaches to siting and indicator selection.

#### Additional Research

The Department and partners completed a deep-water visual survey offshore of California's coast using a remotely operated vehicle.



This survey yielded the most comprehensive underwater visual survey of California's deep-water rocky habitats ever documented and will inform long-term monitoring decisions.

- Video transects in 2016 covered a total of 361 kilometers of habitat across 138 sites inside and outside of MPAs

In coordination with Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans and Reef Check California, Department research vessels and scientific divers deployed for subtidal nearshore census surveys to assist those projects in implementing state funded MPA monitoring work in the central and south coast regions.

### **Policy and Permitting**

#### 2016 Master Plan for MPAs

The Commission adopted the [2016 Master Plan for MPAs](#) in August 2016. This document shifts focus from the original 2008 Master Plan's focus on guiding MPA design and planning, towards managing California's redesigned MPA network through the MPA Management Program to meet the goals of the MLPA.

#### Regulatory Changes - Title 14, California Code of Regulations

As part of the adaptive management framework, the Commission adopted Department recommended administrative regulatory amendments in 2015. These amendments became effective on March 1, 2016.

- Amendments included: a clarified take definition for all MPA designations, refining MPA boundaries to improve boundary accuracy, amending aquaculture regulations, simplifying MPA names, changing one MPA designation from a state marine conservation area to a state marine reserve, and clarifying the reference to commercial troll gear

#### Scientific Collecting Permits

- Eighty-seven permits were issued statewide for research within MPAs

#### California Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

- The Commission adopted the California Spiny Lobster FMP in 2016. The harvest control rule in the adopted Lobster FMP includes the first instance where the Department has quantitatively integrated MPAs into fishery management by reflecting the importance of MPAs to the reproductive potential of spiny lobster

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

#### MPA Related Citations in 2016

- A total of 20,566 MPA related contacts were made, resulting in 531 citations

#### Coordination

MPA Program staff coordinated with LED to:

- Write sections of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs
- Compile, analyze, and interpret LED citation data for the first five years of MPA implementation in the north central and south coast MPA regions
- Clarify MPA regulations to improve MPA compliance

#### Enforcement Tools

Efforts continue to improve the enforcement and compliance of wildlife violations by developing a records management system. It will help identify violation hot spots, repeat offenders, and cross county offenders

#### **Looking Forward**

The Department and its partners continue to work towards achieving the six goals and requirements of the MLPA through the MPA Management Program. Significant transitions and next steps include:

- Anticipated completion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MPA Statewide Leadership team and each of the 14 Community Collaboratives comprising the MPA Collaborative Network
- Completion of Phase 1 of the MPA Monitoring Program in 2018 with the preparation of the State of the Region report and the Department's 5-year management review of the North Coast MPAs
- Development of the Statewide MPA Monitoring Action Plan in 2018 to guide long-term monitoring and future spending of Phase 2 activities

These highlights would not be possible without leveraging cooperative partnerships from statewide, regional, and local scales. The Department will continue to provide the Commission with annual MPA highlights into the future to facilitate conversations involving the adaptive management of the network.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager of the Marine Region, at (805) 568-1246.

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