

# Update

Marine Protected Area Management Program e-news

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Thousands of stakeholders contributed to the process of redesigning California's marine protected areas (MPAs) to function as a network. By sharing information, voicing opinions, and providing expertise, they helped establish a unique system of 124 ecologically connected MPAs with varying levels of protection. Although over five years have elapsed since California's MPA Network was completed in 2012, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) continues to encourage public involvement with adaptive management of the Network.

California's MPA Network is now managed through the [MPA Management Program](#), a collaboration between CDFW, the Ocean Protection Council, the California Fish and Game Commission, and the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team](#) (Leadership Team). While the Leadership Team is composed primarily of government partners, one of the key representatives outside of government is the [MPA Collaborative Network](#) (MPACN).

The MPACN was formed in 2013 to ensure local constituents could continue to have a voice in the management of their local MPAs. In 2017, a formal [agreement](#) was reached between the MPACN and Leadership Team recognizing the importance of the MPACN's ability to gather local expertise to support the management of the MPAs statewide.

With 14 individual "Collaboratives" representing California's coastal counties, the MPACN provides a forum for nonprofits, fishermen, tribal representatives, government staff, municipalities, academic institutions, citizen scientists, teachers, aquariums, and others to work together to enhance awareness and understanding about MPAs, and what activities are permitted within their boundaries.



According to their mission statement, *the mission of the MPACN is to empower coastal communities to advance MPA management and encourage ocean stewardship*. This mission has led to many local successes as each Collaborative engages its local community regarding MPAs through meetings, videos, brochures, trainings, and outreach [events](#).

So, if you would like to get involved with your local Collaborative, visit [mpacollaborative.org](http://mpacollaborative.org) and join more than 600 members working to connect communities with their local MPAs!

Story by CDFW Environmental Scientist, Amanda Van Diggelen  
Photos provided by MPA Collaborative Network

[Sign up](#) to receive these [MPA Management Program](#) newsletter updates. California's MPA network is managed collaboratively through the MPA Management Program, which includes four focal areas: outreach and education, enforcement and compliance, research and monitoring, and policy and permitting.

## QUESTIONS?

Please send all inquiries to [ASKMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:ASKMPA@wildlife.ca.gov)



## LEARN!

Watch this [video](#) to learn how MPAs work to protect our resources.