

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2021 MRC

4. MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive DFW update on planning for the first decadal management review of California's marine protected area (MPA) network. Discuss and consider a committee recommendation on a process for FGC and public receipt and review of the DFW report.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|---|---|
| • FGC adopted master plan for MPAs | Aug 24-25, 2016; Folsom |
| • MRC received first DFW update on plans for decadal management review | Mar 16, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference |
| • MRC update and discussion | Jul 21, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference |
| • Today's update and discussion of process for decadal management review | Nov 9, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference |

Background

The first decadal management review of California's MPA network is scheduled to commence in 2022. Called for in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) master plan for MPAs, the 10-year review will compare statewide monitoring results relative to regional baseline conditions, evaluate network efficacy, and determine whether changes in the management program are warranted to meet the goals of MLPA. Evaluations will consider progress toward meeting MLPA goals related to different focal areas of the MPA management program. FGC will receive DFW's decadal management review report at the end of 2022 or early 2023 and decide shortly after whether to direct DFW and its partners to pursue recommendations and identified next steps.

In Mar 2021, DFW provided MRC an update on planning efforts for the decadal management review. DFW highlighted the highly-coordinated preparation among program partners, including DFW, the California Ocean Protection Council, FGC staff, long-term monitoring project leads, and partners. DFW noted that two scientific working groups were formed to develop guidance on scientific evaluation and climate change considerations for the decadal review.

In Jul 2021, DFW presented MRC a general overview of the anticipated timing for several reports and products under development to support the decadal management review. DFW reported forming two steering committees to support targeted stakeholder outreach and tribal engagement (see Exhibit 1 for background).

DFW also presented potential options for FGC and public receipt and review of decadal management review materials, including options for a public symposium (see Exhibit 2 for additional background information). DFW requested MRC guidance on preferred approaches.

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Following discussion, MRC expressed support for a full-day MPA symposium, regular updates, and incremental release of monitoring reports, other research, and evaluations leading up to the DFW report, rather than releasing all information at one time. MRC requested that DFW and FGC staff work together to develop options for process and timing for various steps of the review, and return to MRC at this meeting with potential options for incremental release of monitoring reports and evaluations, a public symposium, and process for MRC, FGC, and public review of DFW's decadal management review report and adaptive management recommendations.

Since the Jul 2021 MRC meeting, consistent with MRC direction, staff from DFW, FGC, and OPC have been working together to develop options for a review process and timeline that balances MRC's priorities, the timing for public release of each reporting piece, the needs of the state and constituencies, and opportunities for public review and vetting of the review report before FGC provides direction for any adaptation of the MPA management program. Staff believes that FGC's process will likely extend into early 2023 to allow DFW to integrate into its report the multiple scientific reports being prepared, and for public engagement following the release of DFW's report; suggested elements have included a public symposium, an opportunity for MRC and FGC public discussion of the review report, and FGC direction to DFW regarding adaptive management actions.

At today's meeting, staff and DFW will bring a proposed approach for discussion and potential MRC recommendation.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Discuss the proposed MPA network decadal management review approach for an FGC and public review process, as presented today, and recommend to the Commission an approach that best matches and balances competing priorities for timeline, transparency, equitable access, and public vetting leading up to FGC direction about any adaptation of the MPA management program.

Exhibits

1. [Background document: Staff summary for Jul 2021 MRC meeting, agenda item 4](#)
2. [DFW presentation provided at Jul 2021 MRC meeting](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Marine Resources Committee recommends that the Commission approve an updated Commission process and schedule to receive, discuss, and provide input on the marine protected area network decadal management review report, as follows:

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR JULY 21, 2021 MRC*Provided for background purposes only***4. MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK****Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive and discuss DFW update on planning for the first decadal review of California's marine protected area (MPA) network in 2022.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|--|
| • FGC adopted master plan for MPAs | Aug 24-25, 2016; Folsom |
| • MRC received first DFW update on plans for decadal management review | Mar 16, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference |
| • Today's update and discussion | Jul 21, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference |

Background

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) master plan for MPAs, adopted by FGC in 2016, provides a structure for monitoring and adaptively managing California's MPA network to meet the goals of the MLPA. The master plan established a formal 10-year review cycle to evaluate network efficacy and determine whether changes in management are warranted. The first such decadal management review of the statewide MPA network will occur in 2022. The review will cover four core areas - research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance, policy and permitting, and outreach and education - and provide adaptive management recommendations.

In Mar 2021, DFW provided MRC an update on preparation for the first decadal management review. DFW reported that preparation has involved substantial coordination among DFW, OPC, and FGC staff, MPA monitoring project leads, and partners. DFW also highlighted that two science advisory working groups, convened by DFW, OPC, and California Ocean Science Trust, were in the process of developing guidance on scientific evaluation for the decadal review. Substantial effort is needed to develop not only the approach to the first review, but also considerations for subsequent reviews.

Updates

Since Mar, the two science advisory working groups have concluded and released reports with recommendations to lend scientific support to the 2022 review. The "decadal working group" report focuses on approaches and priorities for evaluating MPA network performance, while the "climate resiliency working group" report provides guidance for integrating climate change with MPA science (see links listed as exhibits 3 and 4). Several active contracts are also proceeding; these aim to increase education and outreach surrounding MPAs or gain input from tribes, stakeholders, and partners over the next 12 to 16 months. There are also seven OPC-funded research projects underway, designed to synthesize long-term monitoring data associated with key habitats found in the MPA network (see Exhibit 1 for project descriptions and links).

Today, DFW will present an update on planning efforts for the 2022 MPA network decadal management review (Exhibit 2), and will highlight for MRC discussion potential options for how to incrementally release reporting and results to the MRC, FGC, and public.

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Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. Long-term MPA monitoring project descriptions, received Jul 8, 2021
2. DFW presentation
3. Decadal working group report, available at https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2021/06/Evaluating-Californias-Marine-Protected-Area-Network-2021.pdf?mc_cid=10b78d03c5&mc_eid=c1c16576a3
4. Climate resiliency working group report, available at https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2021/06/Climate-Resilience-and-Californias-MPA-Network-2021_final.pdf?mc_cid=10b78d03c5&mc_eid=c1c16576a3

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)



MPA Network – 2022 Decadal Review Update



21 July 2021

Presented to:

Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Webinar

Presented by:

Becky Ota
Program Manager
Marine Region



Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Goals

Protect biodiversity



Rebuild populations



Enhance research, education, recreation



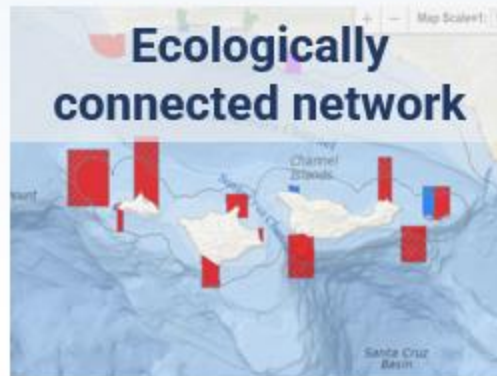
Protect marine heritage



Manage, enforce, sound science



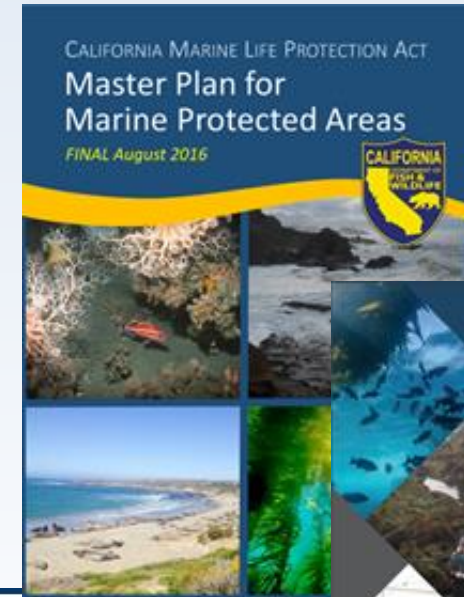
Ecologically connected network





MPA Master Plan + Decadal Management Review

- MLPA Master Plan established:
 - MPA Management Program
 - 10-year management review cycle
 - Monitoring Program
 - Action Plan
 - Performance evaluation questions



**MPA Statewide
Leadership Team**





MPA Management Program



Outreach and Education



Research and Monitoring



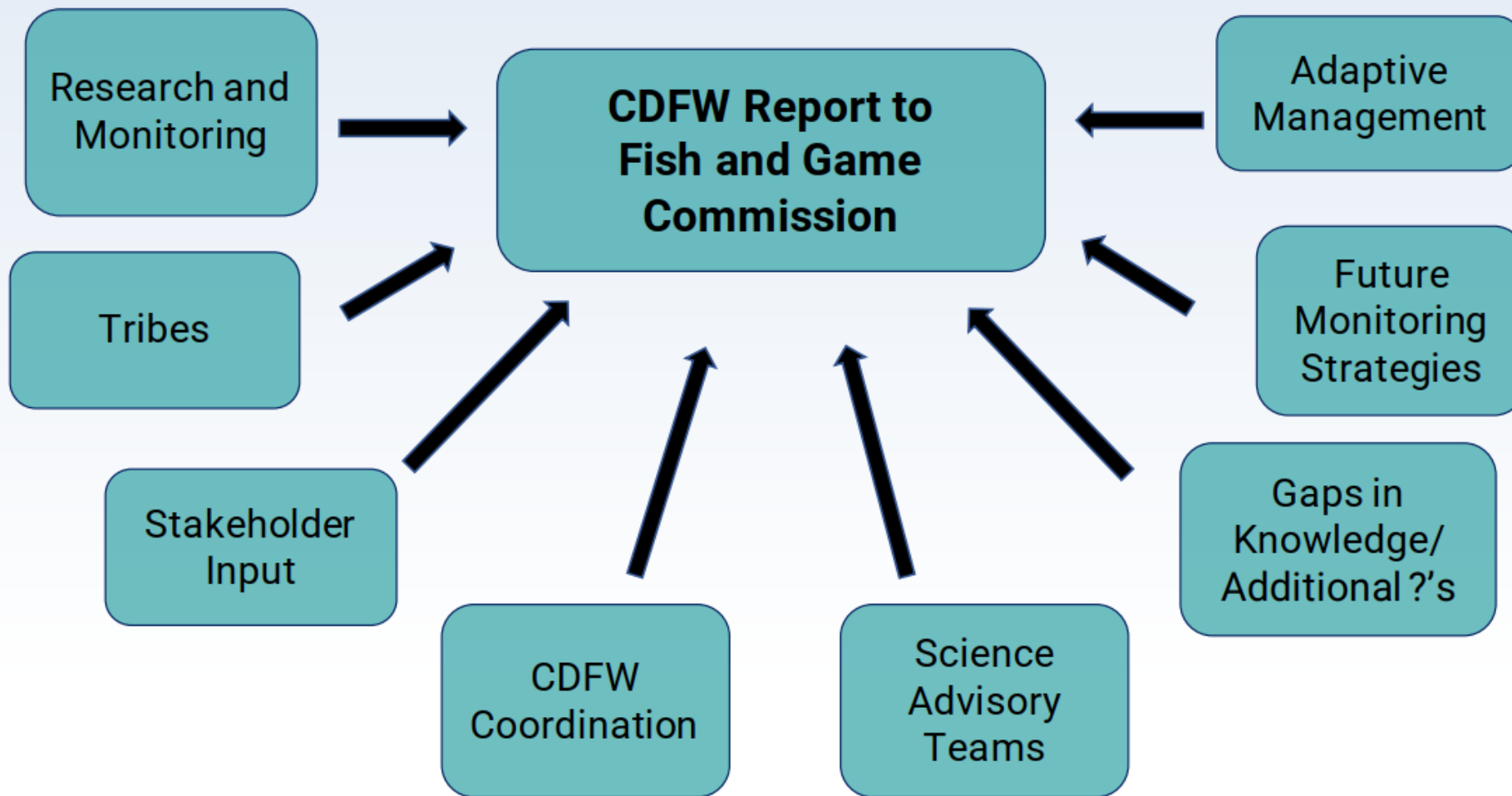
Enforcement and Compliance



Policy and Permitting



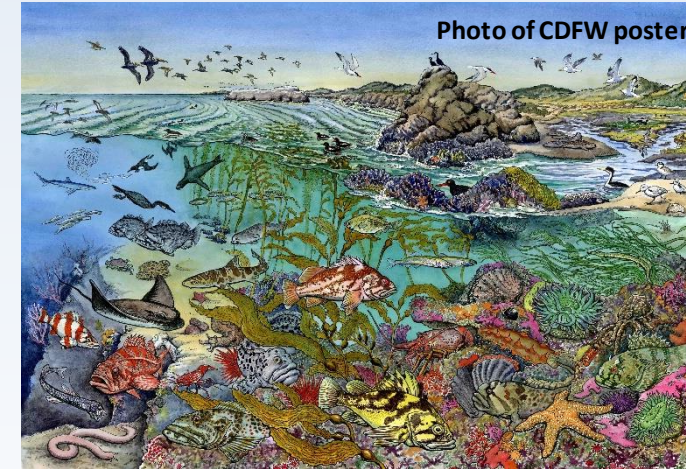
Components of Decadal Management Review





Outreach and Engagement Steering Committees

- Stakeholder (Key Communicators)
 - Identify
 - communications channels
 - strategies
 - target audiences
 - advise on the Outreach Workplan
- Tribal (a separate/parallel committee)
 - inform Tribal engagement
 - not a substitution for government to government consultation
 - similar roles

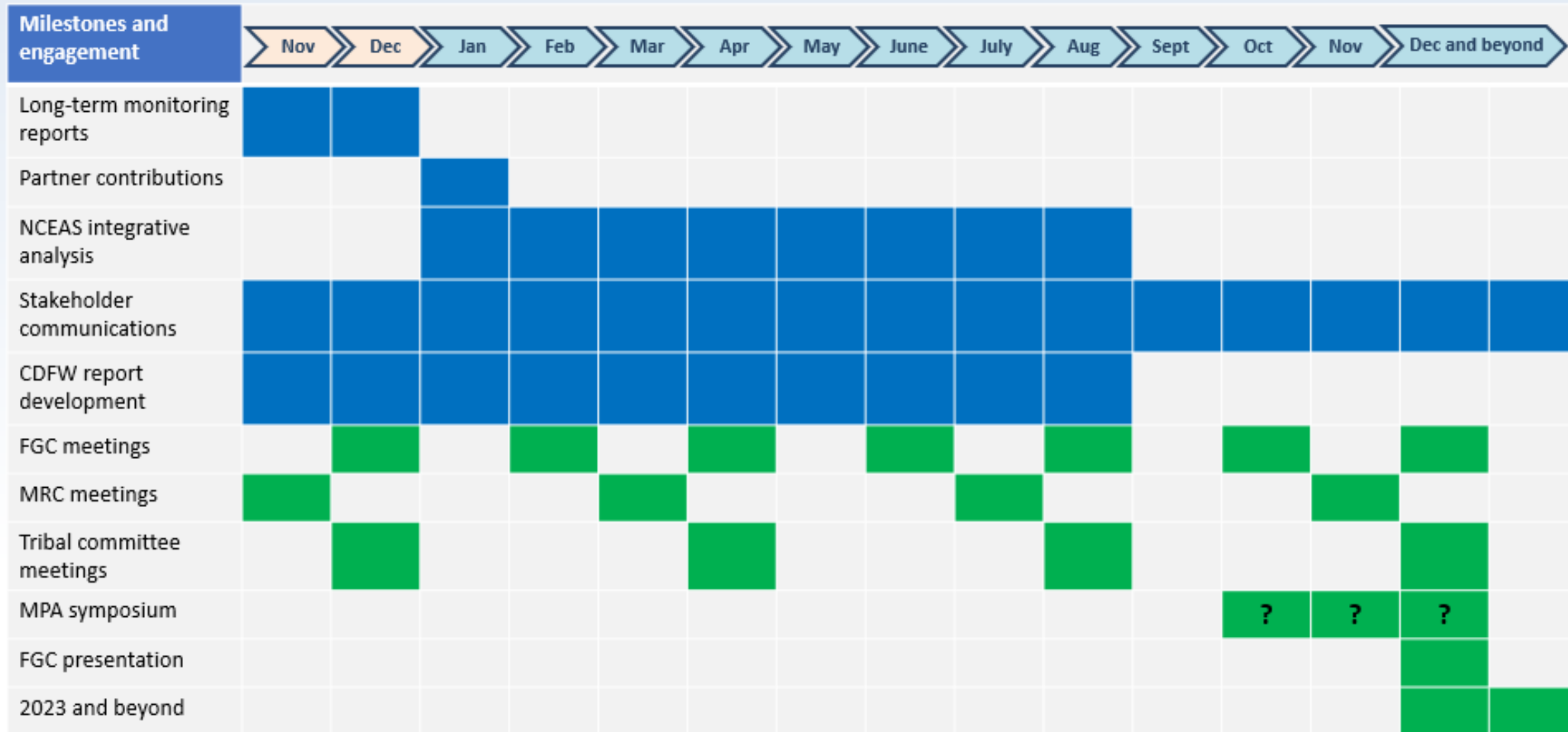




Decadal Management Report Timeline

2021

2022





Anticipated Outcomes from Decadal Review

- Progress towards meeting the MLPA goals
- Actions taken to engage Tribes and Ocean Community
- Summary of knowledge gaps
- Opportunities for next steps
- Recommendations on adaptive management





MPA Symposium

- Recognize partners
 - Options
 - Full Day Symposium
 - October 2022
 - November 2022
 - Day before the December Commission meeting
 - Half Day Symposium
 - Same months for full day
 - Half day prior to December Commission meeting
 - Half day on same day of December Commission meeting



December 2022 Commission Meeting

- How does the Commission want to receive the MPA Decadal Management Review Report at your December 2022 meeting?
- How much time do you want to set aside?
 - 1 hour
 - 2 hours
 - Half day
 - Full day



Thank You

- **Becky Ota, Program Manager**

Becky.Ota@wildlife.ca.gov

wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPA

MPAManagementReview@wildlife.ca.gov

[Climate Resilience and California's Marine Protected Area Network](#)

[Science Guidance for Evaluating California's Marine Protected Area Network](#)

www.oceansciencetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Foreword-MPA-reports-2021.pdf