

Memorandum

Date: June 27, 2024

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Craig Shuman, D. Env. 
Marine Regional Manager

Subject: Draft Proposed Phase 1 Categorization of Marine Protected Area Petitions

At their February 14-15, 2024 meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) referred 20 MPA petitions received to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review, evaluation, and recommendation. In addition, they requested CDFW provide an administrative update at their March 19 Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting on the approach to evaluate the petitions. After discussion and input from interested stakeholders, the MRC recommended approval of CDFW's proposed 3-phase approach to evaluate petitions, and the CFGC approved the approach at their April 17 meeting. CDFW has completed Phase 1 of the 3-phase approach and will present the proposed draft binning at the July 17, 2024, MRC meeting.

Phase 1 petitions are categorized into two bins using the criteria outlined in the 3-phase approach to determine which petitions can be evaluated in the near-term (Bin 1) and which petitions will require additional policy guidance, information, and/or resources prior to evaluation (Bin 2). CDFW released the draft Phase 1 outcomes to California Native American tribes and the public on May 31, which includes tables that outline the proposed Bin 1 and Bin 2 petitions with brief justifications that describe why petitions are categorized into each bin.

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

Attachment 1: 3-phase approach for MPA Petition review and evaluation

Attachment 2: Draft Proposed Phase 1 Categorization of Marine Protected Area Petition background, Bin 1 and Bin 2 tables, and brief justifications

Attachment 3: Power Point presentation outlining process, proposed binning, and next steps

ec: Jenn Eckerle, Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy
Natural Resources Agency

Stephen Wertz, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Marine Region