



Proposed Marine Protected Area Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework

17 July 2025

Presented to:

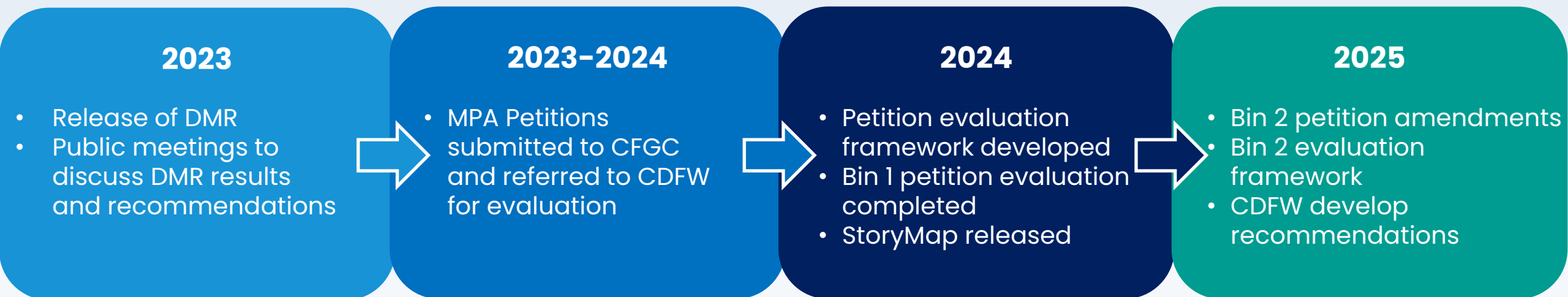
Marine Resources Committee
California Fish and Game Commission

Presented by:

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Marine Region Manager



Recap: Decadal Management Review and Petition Timeline



Common acronyms:

CFGC=California Fish and Game Commission

CDFW=California Department of Fish and Wildlife

DMR=Decadal Management Review

MRC=Marine Resources Committee



2023 MPA Petition Evaluations: Status





Discussion Overview

- Draft 2023 MPA Bin 2 petition evaluation framework
- Petition groupings
- Potential Next steps





Draft Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework

- Developed in collaboration with Commission and Ocean Protection Council staff.
- Based on:
 - Adaptive management process outlined in chapter 4 of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs
 - Decadal Management Review
 - MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework approved by the CFGC in August 2023





Draft Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework (cont.)

- I. Petition Summary
- II. CDFW Draft Recommendations with Brief Justifications
- III. Bin 2 Petition Grouping: Identify Petitions with Tribal Components
- IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluation and Narrative
- V. Supplemental Analyses, Data and Information, and Citations
- VI. Summary of Other Considerations





Draft Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework: Petition Summary

I. Petition Summary

CFGC Tracking Number	
Petition Contact/Affiliation	
Number of Proposed Actions	
Affected MPAs	
Petition Summary	
Link to StoryMap page	
Petitioner's stated rationale and brief justification for proposed actions	



II. CDFW Draft Recommendations and Brief Justification

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Note: If a change to the MPA regulations is not needed to address the proposed change, CDFW will not evaluate the proposed change using the framework. However, CDFW may recommend an alternative pathway to achieving the desired outcome of the proposed change.

Petition Action ID	Petition Proposed Action	Petitioner's stated rationale and brief justification for proposed actions	CDFW Draft Recommendation	Brief Justification



III. Bin 2 Petition Grouping: Identify Tribally-focused Petitions

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Tribal Components Questions	Answer and Explanation
Was the petition submitted by a tribe, tribal representative, or have a tribal co-sponsor?	
Does the proposed change explicitly aim to advance tribal co-management, subsistence harvesting, stewardship, and/or provide a tribal benefit through recognizing the cultural significance of an area?	
Is the proposed regulatory change explicitly linked to a tribe or tribes? (i.e. tribal exemption, tribal take only MPA, or new MPA for co-management)	

Yes to one or more = Tribally-focused petitions

No to all = Other Petitions



IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation

- Based on the August 2023 CFGC approved MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework and rooted in the DMR recommendations.
- Not all evaluation components will apply to every proposed petition action.
- The level of detail and analyses may vary based on petition/petition action.



Evaluation Narrative: *[This section will include a summary narrative of the CDFW evaluation and recommendations.]*



IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation (Cont .1)

Evaluation Question	2023_XMPA_1 ¹ Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_2 Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_3 Answer and Explanation
Question 1: Does the proposed change support the MPA Network in meeting one or more of the MLPA Goals and align with MPA Master Plan adaptive management objectives?			
Question 2a: Does the proposed change advance adaptive management recommendations in the Decadal Management Review? Question 2b: If not, does the proposed change address a current or emerging MPA management challenge?			
Question 3: Does the proposed change have the potential to affect existing CFGC non-MPA regulations, permits, or leases (e.g., active kelp, aquaculture leases, Experimental Fishing Permits)?			
Question 4: Does the proposed change have the potential to affect existing regulations, permits, leases, or management activities of any other agency or entity?			
Question 5: Are there significant information gaps that need to be filled to inform the evaluation of the proposed change?			



IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation (Cont .2)

Evaluation Question	2023_XMPA_1 ¹ Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_2 Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_3 Answer and Explanation
Question 6: Are there significant management gaps that need to be filled to inform the evaluation of the proposed change?			
Question 7a: Was the proposed change considered during the MLPA Planning Process or the implementation of MPAs around the Northern Channel Islands? Question 7b: If so, is there new information available, changing conditions since the implementation phase, and/or information presented in the DMR that warrants reevaluation of the proposed change?			
Question 8: If the proposed change affects an existing MPA, does the proposed change align with the original intent of the MPA identified during the MLPA Initiative planning process or the implementation of MPAs around the Northern Channel Islands?			



IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation (Cont .3)

Evaluation Question	2023_XMPA_1 ¹ Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_2 Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_3 Answer and Explanation
Question 9: Does the proposed change improve individual MPA or MPA Network design so that it better aligns with or meets the MPA science guidelines?			
Question 10a: Does the proposed change align with CDFW Feasibility Guidelines? Question 10b: If not, is there a rationale for moving forward with the proposed change or an alternative that could meet the intent but better align with feasibility guidelines?			



IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation (Cont .4)

Evaluation Question	2023_XMPA_1 ¹ Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_2 Answer and Explanation	2023_XMPA_3 Answer and Explanation
Question 11: Does the proposed change maintain or improve enforceability of MPA regulations?			
Question 12: Does the proposed change simplify regulatory language or enhance public understanding without changing the intent of the MPA?			
Question 13: Does the proposed change maintain or enhance protection of marine resources?			
Question 14: Does the proposed change provide more access opportunities (i.e. fishing, educational, and/or other recreational opportunities) for traditionally underserved or marginalized communities?			
Question 15: Does the proposed change have the potential to affect consumptive and/or non-consumptive activities? If so, how?			
Question 16: Does the proposed change interact with or have the potential to affect proposed changes in other 2023 MPA petitions?			



Draft Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework: Sections V & VI

V. Supplemental Analyses, Data and Information, and Citations

This section will include any supplemental analyses, supporting data or information, and citations used to inform CDFW's recommendation.

VI. Summary of Other Considerations

This section will summarize other factors, if any, that the Commission should be aware of related to the petition.





III. Bin 2 Petition Groupings: Identify Tribally-focused Petitions

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Tribal Components Questions	2023_19MPA New MPA Chitaqwi SMCA	2023_20MPA Point Buchon MPAs	2023_21MPA Pyramid Point SMCA	2023_28MPA New MPA Point Sal SMCA	2023_29MPA New MPA Mishopshno SMCA
Was the petition submitted by a tribe, tribal representative, or have a tribal co-sponsor?	✓	✓	✓		✓
Does the proposed change explicitly aim to advance tribal co-management, subsistence harvesting, stewardship, and/or provide a tribal benefit through recognizing the cultural significance of an area?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Is the proposed regulatory change explicitly linked to a tribe or tribes? (i.e. tribal exemption, tribal take only MPA, or new MPA for co-management)	✓	✓	✓		✓

Yes to one or more = Tribally-focused petitions

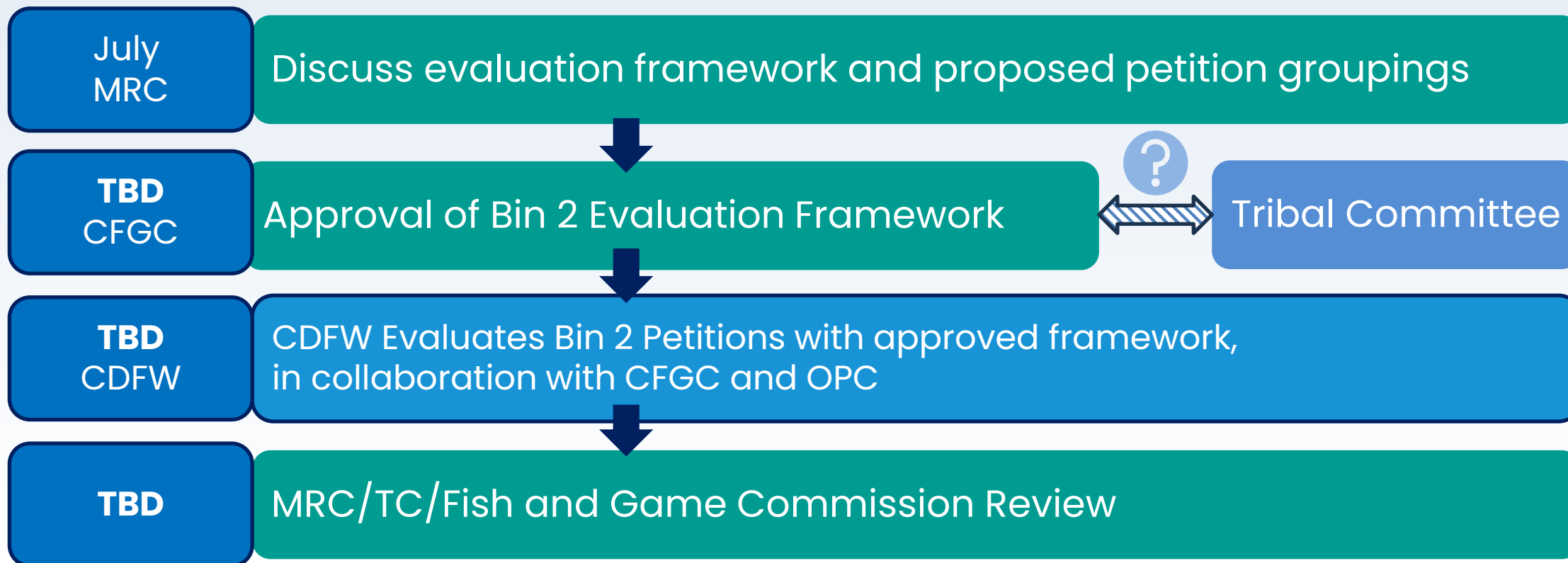


Proposed Bin 2 Petition Groupings

Group 1 – Tribally-focused Petitions		Group 2 – Other Petitions	
19	Add new MPA near Morro Bay	14	Allow commercial sea urchin take in 9 MPAs
20	Modify boundary and take allowances at Point Buchon MPAs	15	Reclassify 3 Channel Islands SMRs to allow take
21	Modify boundary and take allowances at Pyramid Point SMCA	16	Reclassify 2 north coast SMRs to allow take
28	Add new MPA near Point Sal	18	Modify allowed uses in several Santa Barbara Channel MPAs
29	Add new MPA near Carpinteria	23	Add new MPA, and modify regulations and take allowance in several Monterey County MPAs
		24	Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA
		27	Eliminate take allowance at Anacapa Island SMCA
		32	Reclassify and expand Duxbury Reef SMCA
		33	Add new MPA near Pleasure Point, expand 6 MPAs, add take allowance at Point Dume SMCA
		34	Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA and modify regulations at Farnsworth MPAs



Bin 2 Petitions Potential Next steps



TBD-To be determined



MPA Petition Updates: StoryMap



Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petition Process

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Click through the collection to:

→ See an **overview** of the petition process, petition evaluation framework, and anticipated timeline

→ Dive into an **interactive map** to visualize proposed changes

→ Explore **petitions sorted** by numerical order, change category, or county, and click the links to learn more about each petition. Any petition proposing a change that can be visualized on a map (e.g., boundary or designation change) will have an image with a slider to swipe between the existing network and the proposed change. Any petition proposing a non-spatial change (e.g., take allowance or regulatory language change) will have a static image showing the location of the affected MPA(s).



Current status:

- CDFW is in Phase 2 of its 3-phased petition evaluation framework and splitting each petition into individual action items
- At the December Commission meeting, CDFW provided its annual report on MPA Management Program accomplishments for 2024; next steps for Bin 2 petition evaluation were discussed, including setting a timeline for accepting amendments to Bin 2 petitions; and, as recommended by the MRC, the Commission adopted a slightly modified version of CDFW's [draft recommendations](#) for Bin 1 petitions

Up next:

- For Bin 2 petitioners who submitted a notice to amend their petition, the full amendment package is due March 14, 2025



Stay up to date!





Next Steps: Implement DMR Recommendations

Near-Term (ongoing – 2 years)

- Rec 1: Improve state agencies tribal engagement
- Rec 4: Apply Review knowledge to Network/Management changes
- Rec 7: Expand outreach and education materials
- Rec 9: Continue OPC coordination
- Rec 10: Improve coordination across Management Program pillars
- Rec 11: Update Action Plan
- Rec 16: More targeted outreach to specific audiences
- Rec 17: Improve SCP process
- Rec 18: Use policy to review MPA restoration/mitigation efforts
- Rec 20: Increase enforcement capacity
- Rec 21: Enhance citation record keeping and management
- Rec 25: Implement MPA climate change research
- Rec 27: Improve understanding of MPA effects on fisheries

Mid-Term (2 – 5 years)

- Rec 2: Create pathway to tribal MPA management
- Rec 3: Build tribal capacity to participate in MPA management
- Rec 6: Include and fund more diverse researchers and stakeholders
- Rec 8: Evaluate MPA accessibility
- Rec 12: Improve understanding of human dimensions
- Rec 13: Explore innovative technologies
- Rec 14: Develop MPA community science strategy
- Rec 15: Evaluate Outreach needs and resource effectiveness
- Rec 22: Increase knowledge on MPA judicial outcomes
- Rec 23: Examine MPA Network design attribute more effectively
- Rec 26: Consider climate change in human dimensions monitoring
- Rec 28: Integrate influencing factors into MPA performance evaluations

Long-Term (5- 10 years)

- Rec 5: Establish targets to meet MLPA goals
- Rec 19: Create MPA Enforcement Plan
- Rec 24: Better incorporate marine cultural heritage into MPA Network





Thank You

Questions?

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