



Statewide Aquaculture Action Plan

Presentation to the Aquaculture Development Committee

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OPC's Mission & Priorities

Protect California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration.

Climate
Change



Equity



Biodiversity



Sustainable Blue
Economy



2026-2030 Strategic Plan



Objective 4.1: Support sustainable, climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture



More information
on our website

opc.ca.gov/2026-2030-strategic-plan/



Guiding Principles

Released by the Statewide Aquaculture Leadership Team in 2021



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE MARINE AQUACULTURE IN CALIFORNIA



VISION

California has a tremendous opportunity to advance sustainable marine aquaculture in a way that serves as a model for other states around the nation. We envision a robust, sustainable commercial aquaculture industry that is informed by best available science; compatible with wild fisheries; guided by comprehensive planning and collaboration; causes minimal harm to the environment; provides local, safe and healthy food production; supports living wages and equitably grows the state's economy; partners with California Native American Tribes; and protects public access.

COLLABORATING AGENCIES

California Coastal Commission
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Department of Public Health
California Fish and Game Commission

California Natural Resources Agency
California Ocean Protection Council
California State Coastal Conservancy
California State Lands Commission
State Water Resources Control Board



Aquaculture Action Plan

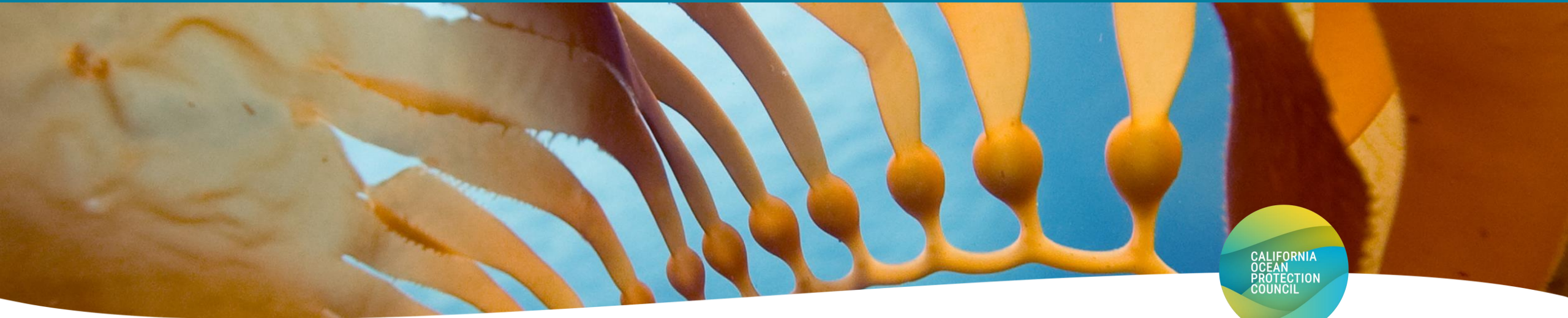
Targeted engagement efforts highlighted the need to:

Improve California's existing aquaculture management and regulatory framework

Develop consistent, coherent permitting and oversight processes

Protect public health and the coastal marine environment

Establish the framework necessary for the sustainable development of marine aquaculture in California.



Aquaculture Action Plan

Purpose

To increase coordination among state agencies and improve consistency, transparency, and efficiency in planning, facilitating, permitting, managing, and fostering sustainable marine aquaculture.





Working Definitions and Scope

***Marine aquaculture** is the culture and husbandry of marine algae and shellfish in state waters including within estuaries, and marine algae, shellfish, and finfish in land-based, recirculating tank operations occurring along the coast.*

*The focus of this Action Plan is the governance, environmental sustainability, and development of **commercial marine aquaculture**; aquaculture intended for harvest for sale.*

***State waters** include marine waters, estuaries, and submerged tidelands which extend from the shoreline out to three nautical miles.*





Working Definitions and Scope

*The terms **permits** and **permitting** include all types of entitlements, such as leases, permits, and licenses, and apply both to new projects and changes to existing projects.*

The Action Plan incorporates ***adaptive management*** principles.





Goals

1. Improve California's aquaculture governance framework through increased interagency coordination and transparency.
2. Maximize environmental sustainability and protect public health.
3. Facilitate sustainable development of marine aquaculture in state waters.





Actions

- Actions nested within each of the 3 goals
 - Short-term (1-3 years)
 - Mid-term (3-5 years)
 - Long-term (5-10 years)
- Many actions are cross-cutting across goals





Thank you!

Katie Cieri, Fisheries and Aquaculture Program Manager

