16. Regulation Change Petitions (Marine) (Consent)

Today's Item Information \square Action \boxtimes

This is a standing agenda item for the Commission to receive new regulation change petitions and act on regulation change petitions received from the public at previous meetings. This meeting will address:

- (A) Action on previously received regulation change petitions
- (B) Receipt of new petitions for regulation change
- (C) Comments received on referred petitions not yet scheduled for action

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

(A) Petitions for Regulation Change - Scheduled for Action

Received Petition 2025-14
 October 8-9, 2025

Today potentially act on petition December 10-11, 2025

(B) New Petitions for Regulation Change - Receipt

• Today receive new petitions December 10-11, 2025

• Potentially act on new petitions February 11-12, 2026

(C) Comments Received on Referred Petitions (N/A)

Background

(A) Petitions for Regulation Change - Scheduled for Action

Petitions received at the previous meeting are scheduled for Commission consideration at the next regularly scheduled business meeting. A petition may be: (1) denied, (2) granted, or (3) referred to a Commission committee, staff, legal counsel, or the Department for further evaluation or information gathering. Referred petitions are scheduled for action once a recommendation is received.

Today, one petition is scheduled for action:

I. Petition 2025-14: Request to reduce Pismo clam bag limit (Exhibit A1)

(B) New Petitions for Regulation Change - Receipt

Pursuant to Section 662, any person requesting that the Commission adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation must complete and submit Form FGC 1. Petitions submitted by the public are "received" at this meeting if they are delivered by the public comment or supplemental comment deadlines or delivered in person to the Commission meeting.

Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Commission cannot discuss or act on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to determine whether to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, petitions for regulation change generally follow a two-meeting cycle of receipt and decision. The

Commission will act on petitions received at today's meeting at the next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting (February 11-12, 2026) following staff evaluation, unless the petition is rejected under the 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b).

No new petitions for regulation change were received by the comment deadline for this meeting.

(C) Comments Received on Referred Petitions

This sub-item is for receiving public comments for any petition previously referred for review and recommendation, but not yet ready for Commission action. Action on any referred petition will be scheduled once the Commission receives a recommendation.

The Commission is not expected to discuss referred marine protected area (MPA) petitions until the Department releases its evaluations in early 2026.

Significant Public Comments

(C) Comments on Referred MPA Petitions

Comment on six MPA petitions (Santa Barbara Channel and Islands)

The Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission outlines its positions and recommendations on six MPA petitions with proposed actions potentially affecting its region (Exhibit C1), citing insights gained from numerous meetings to better understand the petitions and local public sentiments.

Support

- Petition 2023-14MPA (Naples State Marine Conservation Area [SMCA]): The commission states a belief that the proposal facilitates kelp forest regrowth and is considered reasonable and beneficial for ecosystem recovery.
- Petition 2023-15MPA_AM1 (Footprint, Gull Island, and Santa Barbara Island state marine reserves [SMRs]): The commission recommends selecting one of the proposed "options" that best integrates with the existing network, acknowledging repeated public interest in allowing pelagic take in certain island MPAs.
- Petition 2023-18MPA (Vandenberg and Point Conception SMRs, Kashtayit and Campus Point SMCAs): The commission states a belief that all proposed actions address practical enforcement issues, improve public clarity, and/or promote equity.

Oppose

Petition 2023-28MPA_AM1 (new SMCA at Point Sal): Despite allowing shore-based fishing, concerns remain about negative impacts on Avila's local economy and fisheries.

- Petition 2023-29MPA_AM1 (new "Mishnopshno SMCA" at Carpinteria):
 Opposition is due to existing tribal co-management opportunities in other MPAs, prior rejection of similar proposals, potential loss of one of the last accessible fishing reefs in the area, anticipated impacts on local fishers, strong opposition from kayak and small-boat anglers, and reduced access to California halibut trawl grounds.
- Petition 2023-33MPA_AM1 (Point Conception, Gull Island, and South Point SMRs): Kelp restoration is already underway without restricting fishing; the commission contends that environmental factors, rather than fishing, are the primary cause of kelp loss, that restrictions could hinder active kelp restoration projects, and that there is strong local opposition.

Requests for MPA Petition Amendments

Two petitioners have requested amendments — formally or informally — to their MPA petitions in response to emerging issues identified through engagement of tribes, a federal military installation, and/or mapping discrepancies.

Petition 2023-28MPA (new SMCA at Point Sal)

Tribal co-sponsorship added: A joint letter from a tribal council and the original petitioning organization notifies the Commission that the tribe is now a formal cosponsor. The petition is requested to be reclassified as a "tribal petition." The copetitioners provide an updated petition form and narrative, reflecting goals of advancing tribal co-stewardship and identifying a Chumash place name through further consultation. (Exhibits C2 and C3)

Boundary modification: The co-petitioners also request a southern boundary modification to avoid conflicts with mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base, providing rationale and a map displaying the desired boundary change (Exhibit C3).

Petition 2023-32MPA (Duxbury Reef SMCA)

The petitioner requests minor amendments and submits additional supporting materials (exhibits C5 through C7).

Southern boundary correction: The petitioner states that the southern boundary extension was mapped larger than intended in SeaSketch and Department displays — extending approximately 0.37 miles further offshore — and, if adopted as drawn, could affect commercial and recreational fishing access and enforcement. A corrected map and coordinates are provided, which the petitioner requests be used in the evaluation.

Northern boundary clarification: The petitioner notes that the offshore portion overlaps a federally-protected marine wilderness, reducing the need for additional protection in the area further from shore; the petitioner emphasizes the focus on intertidal protection, not restricting non-motorized offshore fishing.

Supporting materials and documentation: The petitioner also provides documentation of all petition-supporting materials, tribal outreach, and non-tribal community engagement (2023 through 2025).

Other Comments on MPA Petitions

Petition 2023-24MPA AM1 (Laguna no-take SMCA expansion)

A Dana Point resident is opposed to this proposal, citing reduced coastal access for local shore fishers, divers, and youth; displacement of fishing effort to already-limited offshore areas; and concerns over statements regarding potential increases in property values. They plan to stay engaged and encourage broader community participation. (Exhibit C4)

Petition 2023-32MPA (Duxbury Reef SMCA)

Save Duxbury Access submits a letter and 50 individual postcards on behalf of the Bolinas community. They oppose the petition, citing: a lack of scientific evidence of harm to the reef; a belief that the petition mischaracterizes educational handling of marine life as poaching (and state that the interpretation is not supported by enforcement records); public access concerns; and a threat to a sustainable, historic local fishery. They believe that the proposal emphasizes expanded restrictions, while overlooking the fishery's importance to the community and alternative solutions (such as improved signage and education). (Exhibit C8)

Recommendation

Commission staff:

- (A) Refer Petition 2025-14 to the Department for review and recommendation.
- (C) Consistent with prior Commission direction on tribal co-sponsorship and amendments:
 - Petition 2023-28MPA (Point Sal): Accept the addition of the tribal co-sponsor and associated updates to the submitted narrative reflecting tribal co-sponsorship and co-stewardship goals.
 - Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-32MPA: Defer consideration of additional non-tribal-related boundary amendments (and all other requests for amendments) until the Commission receives and begins discussions around the MPA petition evaluations.

Exhibits

- A1. Petition 2025-14, received October 3, 2025
- C1. <u>Letter from Teresa Castro</u>, <u>Secretary</u>, <u>on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Fish and</u> Wildlife Commission, received October 24, 2025
- C2. <u>Letter from Violet Sage Walker, Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council,</u> received October 13, 2025
- C3. <u>Letter from Violet Sage Walker, Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council and</u> Sandy Aylesworth, Director, Pacific Initiative, Nature, Natural Resources Defense

- Council, and proposed amended Petition 2023-28MPA, revised narrative, and map, received November 24, 2025
- C4. Email from Cadyn Zeutenhorst, Third Officer, USNS Guam, received October 10,2025
- C5. <u>Letter from Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq., Executive Director, Environmental Action</u> Committee of West Marin, received November 26, 2025
- C6. Attachments 28.1 through 28.3 to letter in Exhibit C5, received November 26, 2025
- C7. Attachment 28.4 to letter in Exhibit C5, received November 26, 2025
- C8. <u>Letter from Save Duxbury Access and 50 individual postcards, received November 30, 2025</u>

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Moved by	and seconded by	that the Commission adopts the
staff recommendation	ons for items 14 through 17 on	the consent calendar.

Tracking Number: (__2025-14__)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Jorge Garcia, City Manager

Address: City of Pismo Beach, 760 Mattie Road, Pismo Beach, CA 93449

Telephone number: 805.773.4657

Email address: jgarcia@pismobeach.org

- 2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: California Fish and Game Code Sections 205 and 219.
- 3. Overview (Required) Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Request to amend Title 14, Sec 29.40(a) to include the City of Pismo Beach with the Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey and request to amend Title 14, Sec 29.40(b) by reducing ten (10) to a lower number to be determined.
- 4. Rationale (Required) Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The problem is the Pismo Clam population is dwindling with no known scientific data to support why or how. Recently a perceived increase in the number of mature Pismo Clams created a false sense of security that the Pismo Clam population is thriving to the point of never having to worry about the catastrophic decline that the City of Pismo Beach, witnessed before the 1980's. Amending the regulations is the core basis to protect, preserve, and provide a sustainable Pismo Clam population in the future.

The reason for the proposed change, which is championed by the City Council of the City of Pismo Beach, is to ensure that Pismo Clams will never face extinction and be available for responsible clamming for future generations. By limiting the clamming season and reducing the number of clams that may be held per person, per day, the City Council seeks to protect the existing population to:

1. Preserve the population so that clams may be clammed responsibly and reasonably,

- 2. Create an established baseline of Pismo Clams for scientific research, monitoring and protecting, and
- 3. Provide a family-oriented activity that will be sustainable for generations to come.

SECTION II:	Optional	Information
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	Category of Proposed Change
	□ Sport Fishing
Î	⊠ Commercial Fishing
Ì	☐ Hunting
Ì	Other, please specify: Click here to enter text.
	The proposal is to 1/To determine coefficient where he will be a common the service to sold at an
	The proposal is to: (To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or
į	https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs)
į	https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs) ⊠ Amend Title 14 Section(s):29.40(a) and 29.40(b).
į	https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs)

- 8. If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition Click here to enter text. Or Mot applicable.
- **9. Effective date**: If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: [July 1, 2026.]
- **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:
 - 1. City of Pismo Beach Staff Report 2025.06.18 Pismo Clamming Education and Outreach
 - a. City Council directed staff to increase education and outreach activities for responsible clamming in the City.
 - 2. City of Pismo Beach Staff Report 2025.09.02 Pismo Clam Regulations Discussion
 - a. City Council directed staff to submit a petition requesting to amend Title 14 Sections 29.40(a) and
 (b) by including the City of Pismo Beach in a limited clamming season and reducing the number of Pismo Clams that may be taken per person per day.
 - 3. Marquardt Et Al Aquatic Biology Pismo Clam Age Spawning 2022
 - a. Research project that focused on reproduction, age and growth of Pismo Clams which estimated that it takes at least 11 years for a Pismo Clam to reach a mature age/size.

11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: Historically, Pismo Clams were harvested in the millions on Pismo Beach and supported various commercial and recreational fisheries for decades.

Since the 1980's, the Pismo Clam populations on the Central Coast, most notably in Pismo Beach has declined and a legal sized Pismo Clam (at least 4.5") has not been found in Pismo Beach since 1993. While the commercial fishery industry ended in 1947, recreational fisheries remained active for nearly another half century. Currently, many clamming activities are performed by individuals/families that intend to consume the Pismo Clams and not sell them. For that reason, the City of Pismo Beach is not aware of any negative impact to CDFW, individuals, businesses, jobs, state agencies, local agencies, schools or housing from the proposed regulation changes.

12. Forms: If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed: There are no known forms to be created, amended or repealed if this petition is approved.

Date received: 10/3/2025
FGC staff action: Accept - complete Reject - incomplete Reject - outside scope of FGC authority Tracking Number Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action:
Meeting date for FGC consideration:
FGC action: Denied by FGC Denied - same as petition Tracking Number Granted for consideration of regulation change

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION RECEIVED 10/24/2025



Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director Elise Dale, Assistant Director

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

As Secretary of the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission, I am submitting the attached letter containing formal comments regarding the current Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions under consideration. This letter reflects the collective position of the full Commission, which includes signatures from all nine appointed members, representing diverse stakeholder groups within Santa Barbara County.

Our Commission has thoroughly reviewed the details of Petitions 2023-14MPA, 2023-15MPA-AM, 2023-18MPA, 2023-28MPA-AM, 2023-29MPA-AM, and 2023-33MPA-AM. As outlined in the attached document, our positions and recommendations were developed through numerous public meetings and extensive local input, based on decades of combined experience in fish and wildlife matters across the county.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion surrounding MPA management and thank the California Fish and Game Commission for its continued commitment to public engagement and science-informed decision-making. Should you or your staff require any further clarification or supporting materials, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Secretary, Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission

Phone: 805-934-6297

Email: castrot@countyofsb.org



Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director Elise Dale, Assistant Director

October 20, 2025

To: Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson

Executive Director

California Fish and Game Commission

715 "P" St. 16th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission

c/o Santa Barbara County Planning and Development

624 W. Foster Road. Santa Maria, CA 93455

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

The Santa Barbara Fish and Wildlife Commission is a county commission consisting of nine members appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. The commission, among other things, aids the county board on active fish and wildlife related matters with our combined hundreds of years of local fish and wildlife experience between our fellow commissioners.

This comment letter serves to provide our input regarding the current MPA petitions requesting changes be made to the MPA network specifically around the Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands. We feel our county fish and wildlife commission's input on the MPA petition process may prove especially valuable due to our local experiences and local understanding of the ecosystem, as well as our variety of backgrounds, consisting of non-consumptive users, fishermen, and biological scientists. This letter serves as a culmination of many public meetings learning about the MPA petitions that have been proposed as well as fellow commissioners observations being involved in local discussions about the petitions outside of official meetings to gauge public input and sentiment. This county commission appreciates the opportunity to provide the following feedback on these local MPA petitions.

Petition2023-14MPA

Petition 2023-14 MPA requests changes to several State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs), one of which, the Naples SMCA, is within the County. Generally, SMCAs already allow for some form of limited take, this petition requests adding commercial take of sea urchins to the allowable methods list inside of the SMCAs in the petition.



123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 • (805)568-2000 • Fax (805) 568-2030

Sea urchins are primarily taken commercially and are a core part of the County's commercial fishing sector. Urchins, and their tendency to graze on the root systems of local kelp forests, have recently posed problems with kelp rebuilding efforts after El Ninos in the 2010's reduced kelp forest size noticeably. Local fishermen cite urchin barrens inside of MPAs that cannot be touched and continue to spread to the surrounding area with no possible measures existing to remove the main mass from the MPA.

Recommendation: While cases may vary across different MPAs and counties, for the above reasons, this commission finds it reasonable to allow the proposed change and supports the petition for allowed sea urchin take at the Naples SMCA to help facilitate kelp forest regrowth. We kindly recommend this change be allowed at Naples.

Petition2023-15MPA-AM

Petition2023-15MPA requests changes to three joint State and Federal Marine Reserves (SMRs/FMRs), all of which, the Footprint SMR/FMR, Gull Island SMR/FMR, and Santa Barbara Island SMR/FMR, border the county. These MPAs, and others around the Channel Islands, are unique to the State network in that they were established through a joint process between State and Federal agencies before the coastal MLPA under the CINMS. The resulting network was a series of state and federal MPAs at the Channel Islands that covers federal water up to 6 nautical miles from the islands. All SMRs and FMRs the petition addresses are currently no-take areas.

The petition requests changing these areas to joint State and Federal Marine Conservation Areas, SMCAs and FMCAs, and proposes several options that allow for various forms of the limited take of pelagic finfish or highly migratory species recreationally and commercially. In addition, the petition provides possible sub-divisions of the Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island State MPAs into nearshore and offshore areas, similar to other State MPAs elsewhere. The primary arguments of the petition are the minimal impact pelagic fishing effort has on the local MPA ecosystem and goals, and the support of pelagic areas in the State's MPA Master Plans and other documents seen in the broader coastal network but apparent lack thereof in the pre-Master Plan Channel Islands network.

Several members of this commission were part of the original process at the Channel Islands over 20 years ago and the southern MLPA in 2012. We all understand that the primary factor for the MPA implementation at these island sites offshore was to originally protect species like groundfish and structure groundfish live on to rebuild overfished populations at the time. While MPA goals have changed since the 2000s, this fact is still key to understanding why these areas are the way they are today.

Pelagic fish, and the methods used to target them, are predominantly fished near the surface of the water column, offshore, and off the bottom. This type of effort avoids the nearshore or offshore rocky-bottom ecosystems local nearshore species or groundfish are predominantly found in. In addition, the pelagic species that would be taken in these areas are significantly less affected by these MPAs and the broader network due to them being very mobile, their relative abundance is not concentrated in an MPA compared to out of one. The MPA Master Plans from 2008 and 2016 discuss this, citing the lower effects that MPAs have on pelagic species and the need to have areas that allow for some form of limited pelagic take, aligning the petitioner's arguments with the Master Plans. In addition, the petition does point out an imbalance in pelagic allowed areas between the MLPA's coastal implementation phases that came after the first MPA Master Plan in 2008 and the Channel Islands Network implementation that came well before the first MPA Master Plan in the early 2000's.

Outside the Channel Islands, in the coastal network that came afterwards, most MPAs that overlap deeper waters pelagic species pass through allow for some form of take of pelagic finfish. Observing the Channel Islands, we can see a significantly higher overlap with offshore waters, namely due to the federal sections

of these MPAs. However, even with this significantly larger offshore encroachment, almost no pelagic allowed areas exist. Whether this difference was due to the Channel Islands process pre-dating the coastal process and the 2008 MPA Master Plan's outlook on pelagic species is up to debate, but the fact of the matter is the difference is noticeably present, and for no abundantly clear reason.

Recommendation: The subject of island MPAs allowing pelagic take, specifically these three, has been raised by the public several times prior at our meetings, and local MPA collaboratives our commissioners have attended. For these reasons, and those above, this commission supports this petition, and believes it should be accepted by the State Commission through one of the proposed "options" the petition lists that best fits the existing network.

Petition2023-18MPA

Petition2023-18MPA requests multiple changes to a variety of coastal and island MPAs within the county. Some of the changes are listed as "non-regulatory requests" by the Department while others make modifications to, or remove existing MPAs. All but one of the MPAs in the petition are within the County, they are the: Vandenberg SMR, Point Conception SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, Campus Point SMCA, and San Miguel Island Special Closure.

Of the changes, the proposal at Vandenberg SMR and San Miguel Island Special Closure are the two MPAs that would have the largest regulatory changes. At Vandenberg the petition requests a coastal SMCA be made that allows for only shore-based fishing by hook-and-line, citing an equity and enforcement concern between military base personnel and members of the public. Because military personnel are allowed to fish the shore of the SMR while members of the public outside the base cannot due to the SMR, both the equity and enforcement concerns are certainly present and should be addressed. The proposed solution of a shore based SMCA does seem to be a reasonable way to correct this problem.

At San Miguel and Anacapa (outside of the county) the petition requests the Special Closure(s) be removed in its entirety citing its original goal being to reduce disturbance to pinniped rookeries and seabird populations has been far exceeded and better methods have been developed on-site.

The remaining MPA requests are non-regulatory and include supported use for M2 radar monitoring at Point Conception SMR for better enforcement, a refined regulatory language for allowances at the Kashtayit SMCA, and using the color red instead of purple for distinguishing the Campus Point No-Take SMCA.

Recommendation; This commission finds all of the above modifications and requests more than reasonable, gives its support for them all. We recommend the FGC accept the petition in full.

Petition2023-28MPA-AM

Petition2023-28MPA requests to create a new MPA around Point Sal, designating it the Point Sal SMCA or a Tribally named SMCA, and listing it as a limited-take area with only an exception of a shore based finfish take allowance and tribal take allowance. The petitions driving reasons for the new MPA are that the area is ecologically significant in terms of local upwelling and relative to the landings that occur there the area is a small fraction of the State's commercial output, under 1%. The petition also cites tribal inclusivity and significance in the area as justification for its closure.

While the petition is accurate in the broader economic analysis, locally Point Sal is a very important area for both recreational and commercial operations out of Port San Luis (Avila), the local port to Point Sal.

Point Sal, and its surrounding waters, are essential for year-round and seasonal fisheries such as salmon, dungeness crab, groundfish, and halibut. This new MPA in addition to the existing network will significantly affect the local port's economic health due to Point Sal's being a significant fishing area for local commercial and recreational anglers. Namely, crab and groundfish boats out of Avila would be significantly affected by this change as per their testimony, over half their time is spent in the proposed area.

Recommendation: While the shore-based allowance is a welcome allowance, we believe this is still too costly on the local economy of Avila and its recreational and commercial fisheries to warrant its allowance. For this reason this commission has decided to be against this petition, and recommends the FGC deny it.

Petition2023-29MPA-AM

Petition2023-29MPA requests to create a new MPA around Carpinteria, designating it the Mishopshno SMCA. The petition asks to make take regulations for the area the same as the Point Sal petition, with an allowance of shore fishing of finfish and a tribal exception forthose in the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians which would be able to still use tribal take methods inside of the SMCA. The proposed area's size was reduced when the petition was amended to include the shore allowance.

The petition's primary reasons for this MPA include this tribal allowance and co-management model along with the added reasons of MPA connectivity, spacing, and protecting juvenile great white shark nursery grounds. While this commission does agree that Tribal inclusion is a warranted piece of MPA and coastal management, we do not believe that a new MPA altogether is needed to accomplish this. MPAs across the coast can be modified themselves to allow for such co-management but the existing area offshore Carpinteria is currently open to the entire public, Tribes included.

Carpinteria's coast has been the subject of several MPA proposals over the years. During the MLPA the same area was looked into but was ultimately not selected, trading off two other SMCAs instead of establishing one at Carpinteria in a separate MLPA planning alternative. In 2020 this commission also followed a similar MPA petition in a smaller area to the current proposal that similarly advocated to protect juvenile great white sharks. That petition was ultimately rejected by CDFW due to the larger footprint white sharks, a pelagic species, covered relative to the coast of Carpinteria/California in general, and we believe the same reasons from 2020 are still relevant in 2024 against the petitioner's arguments.

Additionally, it should be said that Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the MPA, is one of the last open reef areas to the fishing community. Removing this reef will see the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs, forcing anglers to travel further, coastally or to the islands, and burning more fuel to have similar opportunities. Commercial members of this commission are concerned for the areas of the proposed MPA that overlap the state halibut trawl grounds. These grounds are minimal already and have been reduced continuously over the years. This proposed MPA would cut a significant portion of the current open trawl area harming this unique fishery that the commission has repeatedly stated is well managed. Lastly, there is an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition specifically citing lost access to one of the last open reefs on the coast by boat and especially kayak.

Recommendation: For all of these reasons this commission has decided to be against this petition, and requests the FGC deny it.

Petition2023-33MPA-AM

Petition2023-33MPA requests for multiple MPA expansions and one MPA creation throughout the California coast, of which, three MPA expansions are within Santa Barbara at the Point Conception SMR, the Gull Island SMR, and the South Point SMR. Of the three expansions the South Point SMR expansion would be the largest, including all of the southwest side of Santa Rosa Island in the MPA and adding over 27.5 square miles to the SMR. This is followed by Point Conception SMR's expansion eastward adding over 14 more square miles to the SMR, and lastly by Gull Island SMR's smaller northward expansion adding over 1.5 square miles to the closure.

The driving force behind Petition2023-33MPA is kelp restoration. The petition claims growing these MPAs would allow for the now protected areas to rebuild their kelp forests under no fishing pressure which would also mean less traffic in general. Kelp restoration is a very important subject in Santa Barbara County as several sectors, consumptive and non-consumptive, depend on healthy levels of kelp for commercial and recreational use. That being said, this commission believes removing fishing access in these areas will do little to nothing to promote kelp regrowth and more-likely prevent kelp rebuilding projects (seeding, artificial reefs, and sea urchin removal programs) from directly assisting in the rebuilding of our kelp forests. Besides fishing, factors such as water quality, water temperature, storms, and swell need to be considered as larger drivers of kelp loss, not larger closed areas. There are several active projects locally and statewide dedicated to kelp rebuilding, none of which remove fishing access from areas in order to rebuild the kelp because there is no reason to. We believe the same applies in the areas this petition looks at. There are no reasons these specific areas need a fishing closure to help kelp forests regrow; therefore, there is no justification for their expansion, especially into waters predominantly too deep for kelp to root and grow. Similar to petition 29, there has been specific public outcry against this petition for all of the above reasons at MPA collaboratives, and public meetings.

Recommendation: For these reasons this commission has decided to be against this petition and recommends the FGC deny it.

Signed, the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Phil Beguhl (Chair) - 2nd District

Scott Cooper (Vice Chair) - 3rd District

Frank Abatemarco - 1st District

Chad Thomas - 4th District

David Morgan - 5th District

Jeff Landers - Santa Maria Sportsman's Association Representative

Whitney Uyeda - Santa Barbara Sport Fishing Representative

Jeff Maassen - Commercial Fisherman Representative

Steve Adam - Santa Ynez Valley Pistol and Bow Club Representative

County of Santa Barbara
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
North County
624 W. Foster Road, Suite C
Santa Maria, CA 93455-3623



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Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson Executive Director California Fish and Game Commission



Northern Chumash Tribal Council



northernchumash.org chumashsanctuary.org

October 13, 2025

Dear Fish and Game Commission and CDFW staff,

I am writing to notify you that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is in the process of finalizing formal co-sponsorship of Petition 2023-28MPA with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Petition 2023-28 MPA would create a new State Marine Conservation Area off of Point Sal in state waters within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). NRDC initially contacted us in the fall of 2023 before the petition was written, however we did not have the capacity to be involved at that time due to the designation process of CHNMS. Now that the CHNMS has been designated, I am eager to continue garnering strong protections to the sacred and culturally important waters of Point Sal, as part of NCTC's ongoing leadership in Chumash stewardship of California's marine resources.

We are in the final stages of formalizing the co-sponsorship agreement and will submit an amended petition form and narrative that details our Chumash collaborative co-stewardship approach and goals as a Tribally co-sponsored petition within the next couple of weeks. We would like Petition 2023-28MPA to be reclassified as a Tribal petition. We recognize that this is a significant change during the review process and appreciate your understanding that we had limited capacity to engage earlier. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss this addition in sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Violet Sage Walker Nominator, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Dear Fish and Game Commission and CDFW staff,

I am writing to notify you that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is in the process of finalizing formal co-sponsorship of Petition 2023-28MPA with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Petition 2023-28 MPA would create a new State Marine Conservation Area off of Point Sal in state waters within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). NRDC initially contacted us in the fall of 2023 before the petition was written, however we did not have the capacity to be involved at that time due to the designation process of CHNMS. Now that the CHNMS has been designated, I am eager to continue garnering strong protections to the sacred and culturally important waters of Point Sal, as part of NCTC's ongoing leadership in Chumash stewardship of California's marine resources.

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Sincerely,

Violet Sage Walker

Northern Chumash Tribal Council | <u>northernchumash.org</u> Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary | <u>chumashsanctuary.org</u>





Northern Chumash Tribal Council



northernchumash.org chumashsanctuary.org

October 13, 2025

Dear Fish and Game Commission and CDFW staff,

I am writing to notify you that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) is in the process of finalizing formal co-sponsorship of Petition 2023-28MPA with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Petition 2023-28 MPA would create a new State Marine Conservation Area off of Point Sal in state waters within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). NRDC initially contacted us in the fall of 2023 before the petition was written, however we did not have the capacity to be involved at that time due to the designation process of CHNMS. Now that the CHNMS has been designated, I am eager to continue garnering strong protections to the sacred and culturally important waters of Point Sal, as part of NCTC's ongoing leadership in Chumash stewardship of California's marine resources.

We are in the final stages of formalizing the co-sponsorship agreement and will submit an amended petition form and narrative that details our Chumash collaborative co-stewardship approach and goals as a Tribally co-sponsored petition within the next couple of weeks. We would like Petition 2023-28MPA to be reclassified as a Tribal petition. We recognize that this is a significant change during the review process and appreciate your understanding that we had limited capacity to engage earlier. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss this addition in sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Violet Sage Walker

Violet Sage Walker Nominator, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council From: Cadyn Zeutenhorst

Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 02:50 AM

To: FGC < FGC@fgc.ca.gov >

Subject: Petition 2023-24MPA-AM

Good Evening,

I just wanted to relay the following comments I sent to the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition regarding petition 2023-24MPA-AM, expanding the Laguna MPA:

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Hi there,

My name is Cadyn and I live in Dana Point. I would like to voice some serious concerns regarding your pending petition to expand the Laguna Beach MPA. As someone who has grown up fishing, diving, and working on boats in these areas, the idea that even more of our coastline could be closed is pretty frustrating to say the least. Don't get me wrong I am all for sustainability, but let me tell you why shutting down our coastline is unnecessary, unfair, and dismissive of the local community.

First and foremost, I seriously think you guys are approaching this in the wrong way. Continuously expanding protected areas simply puts more pressure on other regions. I read in your petition that fishing boats including Dana Wharf have plenty of other fishing grounds including Catalina and San Clemente island. Do you realize that miles of the Catalina coastline are also closed? Or that your average recreational fisherman can't just drive on out 60+ miles offshore to SCI when they want to fish? That island is always closed anyways because of Navy exercises! Closing miles and miles of coastline simply adds way more boat traffic and pressure to areas that need a break. Seriously, it's rare to show up to a spot at Catalina or even off the coast of Dana Point and not see a dozen other boats there. Why not rotate MPA's? If they work as well as you all say they do, then open Laguna after ten years and close San Clemente. Is that even being considered? Why wouldn't it work?

Many of the arguments in the petition were vague or just irrelevant. It was mentioned that lobster traps would *likely* interfere with whale migration along the coast. Has it happened? Were there any local, documented entanglements? I would love to see evidence. I rarely see anyone fish for lobster in deeper than 150 feet of water, so is this really a major problem? The petition mainly mentions Dana Wharf and sportfishing

boats in general, and how they have plenty of areas to operate. What about the free-divers? Beach fishermen? Private boaters? 6-pack charters? Kids who want to ride bikes down to the beach and make a few casts? These people will lose access to valuable coastline which provide local caught seafood and exciting recreational activities. The majority of fishermen I know spend most of their time fishing from shore, so why is one company the primary subject? Not everyone can afford to go on those trips all the time...

Additionally, please don't say that the purpose behind this is strictly for conservation. I noticed how you conveniently had included that "estimated resident property values gain an increase of 20% from proximity to a fully protected MPA." This is completely irrelevant to public access or conservation and just is super unnecessary. People that *actually* care about sustainability shouldn't even be thinking about financial gain.

I grew up fishing and diving in many of these places that you people want to shut down. It is still very productive and an area I love to go to regularly. Closing more of our coast to responsible recreational and commercial use is deeply frustrating and unfair to the people who depend on it for both livelihood and enjoyment. I urge the commision to give more transparency and also include people who get outside and use these areas responsibly.

Myself along with many of my friends, family, and members of the fishing community will be continuing to stay updated on this petition and will also reach out to Fish and Wildlife regularly. Please take these concerns seriously.

If there is any opportunity to comment or give feedback regarding this please let me know. I know many people who are passionately against this and would love to participate.

--

Respectfully,

Cadyn Zeutenhorst
Third Officer - USNS Guam



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Isabel Dawson
Policy Associate

Jessica Taylor Development Director

Celine Underwood Finance Manager

November 26, 2025

California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 Via Electronic Mail: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

RE: Agenda Item 25: General public comment for items not on the agenda - Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area

Dear President Zavaleta and Commissioners,

Established in 1971, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)'s mission is to protect and sustain West Marin's lands, waters, and biodiversity. We represent approximately 1,200 community members, primarily in West Marin. On November 30, 2023, we submitted Petition 2023-32 for Duxbury State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to be reclassified as a State Marine Reserve (SMR) and for a boundary expansion of the existing SMCA.

We submit this letter to provide additional information about our petition, **including** an updated Index of Attachments¹ (to replace the one submitted on July 3, 2025), a record of Tribal and community outreach, as well as a clarification of the Southern Boundary Extension and a request for further review of the offshore Northern Boundary Extension. While we understand the time for official petition amendments concluded earlier this year, the release of Seasketch California (Seasketch), which allowed us to more deeply analyze the mapping of our petition, and additional community outreach and input, has informed our request to submit an informal amendment for consideration in pending California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) recommendations.

The proposed petition originally requested that Duxbury Reef SMCA be redesignated to an SMR to more effectively protect its special intertidal habitat and vulnerable reef species, while also requesting that the northern and southern boundaries of Duxbury Reef be expanded to include connected habitat types that

¹ See Attachment 28.1.

were not included in the original SMCA. At this time, we are still asking for Duxbury Reef and its requested extensions to become an SMR. However, we request 1.) to clarify the boundaries of the requested Southern Boundary Extension, which we believe was mapped larger than originally requested, and 2.) that CDFW review the necessity of the Northern Boundary Extension's offshore component, due to the existence protections. We strongly urge that these requests, which have been developed after hearing additional community input and reviewing Seasketch mapping data, be considered in CDFW's staff recommendation and Commissioner decisions about this petition. Before discussing these requests, we provide a summary of the Tribal and community outreach conducted, which has helped inform this letter.

I. Tribal Outreach Conducted for Petition 2023-32

The following information was sent to CDFW and Commission staff via email on September 12, 2025, encouraging staff to conduct direct Tribal outreach for petitions, as most Tribal entities prefer government-to-government consultation. We strongly recommend that CDFW and/or the Commission conduct formal outreach to federally *and* non-federally recognized Tribes in petition areas, if it has not already done so.

Appropriate Tribal outreach was a topic of discussion at the August Fish and Game Commission meeting, and we seek to document the Tribal outreach we have conducted for our petition thus far.

We have documented Tribal support from the Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin's nonprofit, Huukuiko, Inc.² There is also a letter from Colleen Hicks, a Bolinas resident of Cherokee and Lakota lineage who is the former Executive Director of the Museum of the American Indian in Novato.³

Additionally, we have reached out to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) in person and via phone, email, and U.S. Mail regarding this petition. Specifically, a packet containing this petition and attachments was sent via U.S. Mail to FIGR, and receipt was confirmed on June 18, 2024. We also followed up via email on the same day, inviting FIGR's input on this petition. This followed our previous email outreach on April 2, 2024, inviting a conversation on our work around Marine Protected Areas. We have also requested introductions to FIGR and the sharing of petition information via local non-governmental organizations, the National Park Service, and a Fish and Game Commissioner. On September 20, 2025, EAC's Executive Director met Buffy McQuillen of FIGR in the Point Reyes area and then subsequently followed up with her via email on September 25, 2025, about the petition.

As we have stated, we are unsure whether FIGR has been contacted formally as part of the public process, and we hope that FIGR can share their perspective on this petition.

We are happy to provide introductions for any of the Tribal groups during the petition evaluation process. We are also open to additional recommendations for Tribal outreach.

² See Index Document 17.3 and 18: Letter from NGOs, including Huukuiko Inc.

³ See Index Attachment 17.2 and Document 26: Letters from Colleen Hicks.

⁴ See Attachment 28.2.

⁵ See Attachment 28.2.

II. Community Outreach Conducted for Petition 2023-32

A variety of outreach efforts have been conducted both before and after the petition was submitted, by both EAC staff and a local community member on behalf of EAC and the petition. We continue to conduct outreach to hear local and stakeholder perspectives and receive input on the petition, and have reached out to community members, recreational fishers, commercial fishers, scientists, organizations, and other individuals.

Please see Attachment 28.3 for a non-exhaustive summary of non-Tribal/community outreach that has been conducted directly by EAC for the petition thus far. This does not include all of the outreach that has been conducted by local community members, which may be submitted at a later date.

III. Clarifying the Requested Southern Offshore Extension

Some of the following information was sent to CDFW staff via email on August 6, 2025, requesting counsel on the best way to clarify the Southern Boundary Extension. While staff encouraged us to formally submit the information at the time, we wanted to conduct additional community outreach first. **We now include information about a requested boundary clarification for the record.**

With the release of Seasketch earlier this year, we were able to analyze CDFW's mapping of our petition in greater detail for the first time. Storymap, which had previously been the only available visualization of petition requests, did not provide a means to compare the map against what we had submitted, and we were unable to confirm the exact area size and GPS points.

Using Seasketch, we discovered a discrepancy between how the Southern Boundary Extension is described in our petition submission and supplemental letters versus how it is presented on Storymap and Seasketch. Crucially, CDFW's mapping of the Southern Boundary Extension is much larger than what we requested and intended.

We are concerned that this over-mapping could potentially impact commercial and recreational fishing that occurs off the southern portion of the reef—impacts we never intended with this petition. While we have confirmed with a commercial salmon fisher that the current Seasketch-mapped boundaries of the southern portion are too shallow for commercial salmon fishing, other commercial fisheries or recreational fishing may still be impacted.

We also believe that if the extension were adopted as currently mapped, the highly irregular shape would lead to confusion and enforcement issues. Notably, there is a small section of the reef that is still exposed and another section that juts out into Bolinas Bay and does not align with the existing boundary.⁶ One goal of our petition is to increase regulatory clarity, and this irregular boundary and the confusion it could generate could be detrimental to the reef's protection and the success of enforcement.

Due to these concerns, and considering community feedback, we are requesting that the Southern Boundary Extension be refined to the extent detailed in Attachment 28.4, which would still fully protect the

⁶ See Attachment 28.4.

EAC Comments re. Agenda Item 25: Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef Page 4 of 6

intertidal while allowing for easier enforcement, more intuitive public understanding of the boundaries, and continued offshore fishing opportunities for both commercial and recreational fishers.

IV. Reviewing the Requested Northern Offshore Extension

Upon receiving additional community feedback, we also ask the Commission to closely review the Northern Boundary Extension. We would like to point out that the *offshore* aspect of the Northern Boundary Extension is currently part of a Potential Marine Wilderness (1/4 mile from shore), as detailed in a letter from the National Park Service (NPS).⁷ This Wilderness area already provides offshore protections and limits potentially harmful activities. With these existing federal protections, the *offshore* protections originally requested in the Northern Boundary Extension may not be as necessary compared to the critical *intertidal* protections that would be included in the requested Northern Boundary Extension.

We highlight this existing Wilderness protection after receiving extensive community feedback about the petition from numerous stakeholders. The primary focus of our petition is protection of the intertidal, and we do not believe the restriction of offshore recreational fishing from non-motorized boats or kayaks in this area would enhance that protection. Thus, **to maintain access for these uses**, we urge CDFW staff to consider this information in their recommendations to the Commission.

V. Conclusion

While we understand that the time for official petition amendments has passed, much of this information came to light after the amendment period ended. We believe that our requested modification to the Southern Boundary Extension and review of the Northern Boundary Extension are important to avoid adverse economic impacts to the local economy, provide intuitive regulatory clarity, aid in ease of enforcement, and maintain access for offshore commercial and recreational fishing. It was never our intent to have a significant impact on commercial fishing, but to provide appropriate adaptive management boundary adjustments to better manage vulnerable reef habitat. We continue to conduct outreach with stakeholders in the community, including participation at a planned Bolinas Civic Group meeting.

We appreciate CDFW's large undertaking in assessing these petitions, and eagerly await staff recommendations next year. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. **Duxbury Reef is a truly unique and special place teeming with biodiversity, and we reiterate the invitation to any Commissioner or CDFW staff person who would like to join us for a reef field trip.** As ocean conditions and visitation trends continue to change, this extraordinary place deserves full protection to ensure its best chance for long-term health and biodiversity. Thank you for your careful consideration of this additional information.

Sincerely,

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.

A Eaglet

⁷ See Index Original Attachment 3: National Park Service letter.

EAC Comments re. Agenda Item 25: Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef Page 5 of 6

Executive Director Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

cc:

Susan Ashcraft, Senior Environmental Scientist and Marine Advisor, California Fish and Game Commission Erica Mason, Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Melissa A. Miller-Henson, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Claire Waggoner, Marine Region Habitat Conservation Program Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sara Worden, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

ATTACHMENT 28.1

Document #	Original Attachment # As Submitted	Current Attachment #	Document Date	Sender/Preparer	Description	Previously Submitted to FGC	FGC Meeting Document Link if Applicable
N/A	N/A	N/A	11/30/23	Prepared by Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)	Original Petition as submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline
N/A	N/A	N/A	11/30/23	Prepared by EAC	Original Petition submission Index	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=8
N/A	1	N/A	11/30/23	Prepared by EAC	Maps depicting ASBS and proposed changes (4 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=10
N/A	2	N/A	11/30/23	Prepared by EAC	Summarized data from mpawatch.org Marin MPA Watch (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=15
N/A	3	N/A	7/5/2023	EAC including attached letters from Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and National Park Service	EAC Comments to Fish and Game Commission re. MRC Agenda Item 5: MPA DMR Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef and Drakes Estero MPAs including attachments 1 + 2 ((1) EAC April 6, 2023, comments to Fish and Game Commission including EAC March 13, 2023 letter and November 14, 2022 letter from National Park Service (2) Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries April 15, 2023, comments to Fish and Game Commission)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=19
N/A	4	N/A	11/21/23	Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni	Support for Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for regulation change at Duxbury Reef (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=42

Document #	Original Attachment # As Submitted	Current Attachment #	Document Date	Sender/Preparer	Description	Previously Submitted to FGC	FGC Meeting Document Link if Applicable
N/A	5	N/A	November 20	Max Korton, Marin County Parks	Support for Environmental Action Committee's Petition for Regulation Change at Duxbury Reef (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=45
N/A	6	N/A	11/25/23	Sarah G. Allen, PhD, Retired Senior Science Advisor National Park Service	Decadal Review Recommendations for the California North Central Marine Protected Areas (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=48
N/A	7	N/A	11/29/23	Josh Churchman (commerical fisherman)	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=52
N/A	8	N/A	11/29/23	9 NGOs	Support for Environmental Action Committee's Petition for Regulation Change at Duxbury Reef (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=55
N/A	9	N/A	7/3/23	Kent Khtikian	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (4 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=58
N/A	10	N/A	7/3/23	Joe Mueller, College of Marin	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=63
N/A	11	N/A	7/6/23	Lily Rosenman	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=67
N/A	12	N/A	7/5/23	Bridget Bartholome	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=70
N/A	13	N/A	7/6/23	Laura Lee Miller	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=74

Document #	Original Attachment # As Submitted	Current Attachment #	Document Date	Sender/Preparer	Description	Previously Submitted to FGC	FGC Meeting Document Link if Applicable
N/A	14	N/A	7/1/23	150 individuals	Group letter supporting Duxbury Reef petition (30 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=78
N/A	15	N/A	7/6/23	Courtney Barend	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=109
N/A	16	N/A	11/30/23	Jeffrey R. Boehm, The Marine Mammal Center	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=218218&inline #page=112
17	N/A	N/A	2/1/24	Prepared by EAC	EAC Supplemental Comments to Support Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (17 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=219990&inline #page=1171
N/A	1	17.1	1/27/24	Kent Khtikian	Support Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=219990&inline #page=1178
N/A	2	17.2	1/27/24	Colleen Hicks (former Executive Director of the Museum of the American Indian)	Support Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=219990&inline #page=1182
N/A	3	17.3	2/1/24	14 NGOs (including original 9)	Support Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=219990&inline #page=1186
18	N/A	N/A	7/5/24	23 NGOs (including original 14) and Huukuiko, Inc., Coast Miwok Tribal non- profit	Additional Support for Environmental Action Committee's Petition for Modification/Regulation Change at Duxbury Reef (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=224049&inline #page=5
19	N/A	N/A	9/9/24, submitted 9/12/24	Jeff Clapp (recreational fishermen)	Support Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=225381&inline #page=1193

Document #	Original Attachment # As Submitted	Current Attachment #	Document Date	Sender/Preparer	Description	Previously Submitted to FGC	FGC Meeting Document Link if Applicable
20	N/A	N/A	4/8/25, submitted 4/10/25	District 2 Congressman Jared Huffman	Petition for Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (2 pages)	Yes	N/A
21	N/A	N/A	7/3/25	Prepared by EAC	EAC Comments re: Agenda Item 10: Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef (6 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=39
N/A	21.1	N/A	7/3/25	Prepared by EAC	Index of Attachments as of 7/3/25	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=46
N/A	21.2	N/A	12/7/24	11 community members	Group letter supporting Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (2 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=50
N/A	21.3	N/A	6/21/25	11 community members	Group letter supporting Modification/Regulation Change of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=53
N/A	21.4	N/A	7/3/25	Prepared by EAC	NOAA Habitat Area of Particular Concern - Duxbury Reef (1 page)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=57
N/A	21.5	N/A	7/3/25	Prepared by EAC	Seasketch Data and Google Earth Images of Duxbury Reef Petition (13 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=59
N/A	21.6	N/A	7/3/25	Prepared by EAC	2024 Duxbury Reef MPA Watch Data (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=232566&inline #page=73
22	N/A	N/A	8/5/25	Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	N/A
23	N/A	N/A	9/2/25	Dale Polissar	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (1 page)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=233425&inline #page=1002

Document #	Original Attachment # As Submitted	Current Attachment #	Document Date	Sender/Preparer	Description	Previously Submitted to FGC	FGC Meeting Document Link if Applicable
24	N/A	N/A	9/9/25	Joanna Moore	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (1 page)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=233425&inline #page=1001
25	N/A	N/A	9/14/25	James Sikes, University of San Francisco	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (3 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=233425&inline #page=1003
26	N/A	N/A	10/14/25	Colleen Hicks	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (4 pages)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=234649&inline #page=133
27	N/A	N/A	10/23/25	Joanna Moore	Petition for Modification of Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (1 page)	Yes	https://nrm.dfg.ca. gov/FileHandler.ashx? DocumentID=234649&inline #page=137
28	N/A	N/A	11/26/25	Prepared by EAC	EAC Comments re: Agenda Item 25: Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef (5 pages)	No	N/A
N/A	N/A	28.1	11/26/25	Prepared by EAC	Index of Attachments as of 11/26/25 (This Document)	No	N/A
N/A	N/A	28.2	11/26/25	Prepared by EAC	Tribal Outreach Documentation for Petition 2023-32 Duxbury Reef (4 pages)	No	N/A
N/A	N/A	28.3	11/26/26	Prepared by EAC	Non-Tribal Outreach Documentation for Duxbury Reef Petition (2 pages)	No	N/A
N/A	N/A	28.4	11/26/25	Prepared by EAC	Southern Boundary Extension Mapping Discrepancy - Duxbury Reef Petition (7 pages)	No	N/A

ATTACHMENT 28.2



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>

Thank you for touring Duxbury and follow up

3 messages

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>

Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 11:05 AM

To: Commissioner Anderson <

Cc:

Dear Darius,

Thank you so much for braving the cold weather and joining us for a tour of Duxbury Reef last night related to MPA Petition 2023-32MPA. You mentioned that you might be able to help me connect with Graton Rancheria through Commissioner Jacque Hostler-Carmesin. I would greatly welcome that opportunity. As I mentioned, I have reached out to Buffy McQuillen via phone, email, and mail related to this petition. However, I have been unsuccessful in connecting. I know that she is very busy.

In appreciation, Ashley

_-

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq. (She/Her)
Executive Director & Legal and Policy Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
PO Box 609 | 65 Third Street, Suite 12
Point Reyes Station, CA | 94956
(415) 663-9312
ashley@eacmarin.org

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Commissioner Anderson <

Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 10:27 PM

To: Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>

I forwarded your note to Jacki.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 11:05:55 AM

To: Commissioner Anderson < commissionerdarius anderson@gmail.com > **Cc:** jhostler@trinidadrancheria.com < jhostler@trinidadrancheria.com >

Subject: Thank you for touring Duxbury and follow up

[Quoted text hidden]



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>

- Re: Introduction from EAC of West Marin's

Director + package follow up

1 message

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org>

Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 5:51 PM

To:

Cc: Isabel Dawson <isabel@eacmarin.org>

Bcc: Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook <leslie@eacmarin.org>

Dear Buffy,

It was great to meet you at the same to make sure that you have access to information about the petition that I mentioned to increase protections at Duxbury Reef in Bolinas that we submitted in November 2023, as well as raise a few other issues. I am replying to the email chain where I reached out on this topic last year.

More info. on the Statewide MPA Petition Process Petition 2023-32 MPA (Duxbury Reef) - Interactive Map Full Original Petition

EAC's Website on the Issue and Fact Sheet

We have also submitted supplemental correspondence and research since the original submission, which I would be happy to share. This includes support from Congressman Huffman, additional NGOs, and individuals.

We will continue to encourage the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to conduct government-togovernment tribal consultations, but in the meantime, we would welcome input from FIGR. Recommendations from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and a decision by the FGC are expected in early to mid-2026.

FGC Meeting Schedule 2025

We would be happy to provide more information on any of these issues.

As I mentioned when we met, please let me know if there is a way we can support FIGR's interests in West Marin or statewide issues.

Warmly, Ashley

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On Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 5:27 PM Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org> wrote: Dear Buffy,

I hope that this email finds you doing well and that you have received my package with information about the marine protected area petitions that we submitted to the Fish and Game Commission, which we welcome FIGR's input on.

You can also access information online here. The petitions we submitted in Marin County are no. 2023-31 MPA (Drakes Estero) and 2023-32 MPA (Duxbury Reef).

Please contact me with any questions about these petitions or any of EAC's work.

Thank you in advance.

Best regards, Ashley

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On Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 2:02 PM Ashley Eagle-Gibbs <ashley@eacmarin.org> wrote: Dear Buffy,

I hope that this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out and introduce myself. I am the newly appointed Executive Director of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. I am hoping we can find a time to connect on some of our program work including and our work around Marine Protected Areas in Marin. We would love to get the tribe's perspective on these projects and your other West Marin priorities.

I can be reached at the contact information below, and I can also be reached at happy to come to meet you in-person at a location of your choosing.

I look forward to meeting you.

Best regards,

Ashley

11/21/25, 6:38 PM

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq. (She/Her)
Executive Director & Legal and Policy Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
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ATTACHMENT 28.3

Date of utreach/Contacts	Person / Group	Community	Membership (if any)	Type of Communication
2023-2025	EAC Advisory Committee meetings	Bay Area, Marin County focus	Varied, including scientists, conservationists, NGO, commercial & recreational fishing	Various Zoom meetings
Aug 2023	Golden Gate Collaborative	San Francisco/Marin Counties	Collaborative	Public meeting on Zoom
2024-2025	Community member	West Marin	Recreational fishing	Numerous phone conversations
Sep 2024	Golden Gate Collaborative	San Francisco/Marin Counties	Collaborative	Presentation at a public meeting in San Francisco (with Zoom option)
Oct 2024	Point Reyes Light	Point Reyes Station, West Marin	Newspaper	Email, Zoom
July 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	Recreational fishing	Email
July 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Email
July 2025	Community member	Marin	N/A	Email
July 2025	Gatecrasher Fishing Adventures	Bay Area	Charter fishing company	Email
July 2025	Golden Gate Fisherman's Association	Bay Area	Fishing	Email
July/Aug 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Social media
July 2025	Bolinas Hearsay	Bolinas	Newspaper	Email, phone
Aug 2025	Point Reyes Light	Point Reyes Station, West Marin	Newspaper	Email, phone
Aug 2025	Save Duxbury Access	Bolinas	Recreational fishing	Email
Aug/Sep 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Email
Sep 2025	Stinson Beach resident	Stinson Beach	Nonprofit	Email
Sep 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	Bolinas Rod & Boat Club	Email
Sep 2025	Save Duxbury Access, community members	Bolinas	Varied including fishing and community interests	Public meeting of est. 55-60 people
Sep 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	In person meeting
Sep 2025	Commercial fisher	Bodega Bay	N/A	Phone conversation

Attachment 28.3 - Summary of Non-Tribal / Community Outreach by EAC for Petition 2023-32 as of November 26, 2025							
Date of Outreach/Contacts	Person / Group	Community	Membership (if any)	Type of Communication			
Sep 2025	Community member, NGO representative	Point Reyes Station	Surfrider	Phone			
Sep 2025	Bolinas resident, recreational fisher	Bolinas	Rod and Boat Club, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council	Email			
Oct 2025	Commercial fisher	Bolinas	Commercial fishing	Phone			
Oct 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Phone			
Oct 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Email, phone			
Oct 2025	Ecologist, recreational fisher, naturalist	San Francisco	N/A	Email			
Oct 2025	Save Duxbury Access	Bolinas	Recreational fishing	Email			
Oct 2025	Commerical fisher	San Francisco	Commercial fishing	Email, Zoom			
Oct 2025	Ecologist	Marin	Marine Protected Areas	Phone			
Oct 2025	Commercial fisher	Bodega Bay	N/A	Phone			
Nov 2025	Scientist, community member	Bolinas	EAC Advisory Committee	Zoom, email			
Nov 2025	Commercial fisher	Bodega Bay	Commerical fishing	Zoom			
Nov 2025	Recreational fisher	Bolinas	Recreational fishing	Email			
Nov 2025	Community member, recreationist, conservationist	Marin	Golden Gate MPA Collaborative	Email			
Nov 2025	Bolinas resident, recreational fisher	Bolinas	Rod & Boat Club, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council	Email			
Nov 2025	Save Duxbury Access	Bolinas	Recreational fishing	Email			
Nov 2025	Bolinas resident	Bolinas	N/A	Email			
Nov 2025	High school students	Bolinas, Marin	N/A	Zoom			

ATTACHMENT 28.4

Attachment 28.4 Submitted for Petition #2023-32MPA Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Southern Boundary Extension Mapping Discrepancy - Duxbury Reef Petition

There is a discrepancy between how the Southern Boundary Extension is described in our petition submission (Duxbury Petition No. 2023-32) and supplemental comments and letters, *versus* how it is presented on mapping platforms such as Storymap and Seasketch California.

Mainly, the Southern Boundary Extension, as mapped, is *larger* than what EAC requested on the record or intended. We seek to clarify this discrepancy and have also included an example map below to demonstrate where we intended the boundary to extend.

I. Summary of EAC's Original Request

See below the request for the Southern Boundary Extension from our original petition submitted November 30, 2023. Please note that the orange outline was meant to be approximate.

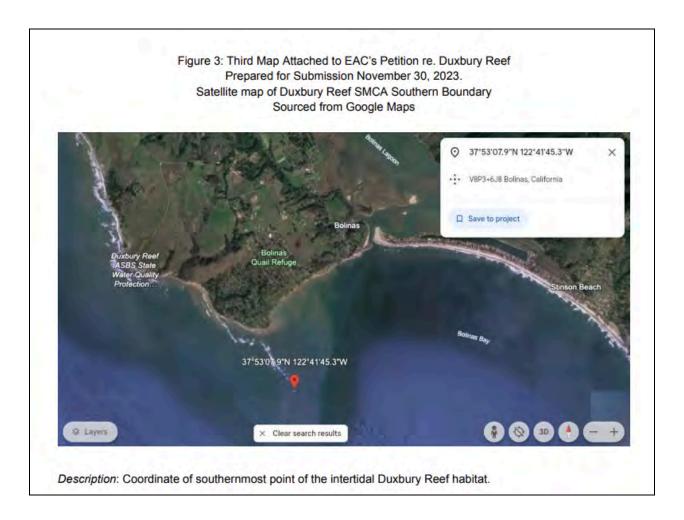
1

¹ https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=218218&inline

Figure 2: Second Map Attached to EAC's Petition re. Duxbury Reef
Prepared for Submission November 30, 2023, also submitted in EAC's March 13, 2023 letter to FGC



Description: Overlay of Duxbury Reef SMCA with an orange outline of the portion of the reef that is exposed at low tide that is not currently included in the MPA. A southern boundary extension of Duxbury Reef is needed to fully connect the ecological habitat area, protect vulnerable species, and reduce confusion for the public on what activities are allowed. The orange overlay shows the approximate location of our southern boundary extension request.



Additionally, in our July 5, 2023 letter, we requested: "3. Extend the southern boundary of the Duxbury MPA to the most southerly tip of Duxbury Reef exposed at mean lower low water, that is, to a point at approximately **37 deg. 53.1315' N. lat, 122 deg. 41.7549' W. long**."²

Notably, this asks to extend **the boundary itself** to this point, not beyond it. Letters from others supporting the petition on the record also address this point.

II. Seasketch and Storymap of EAC's Petition

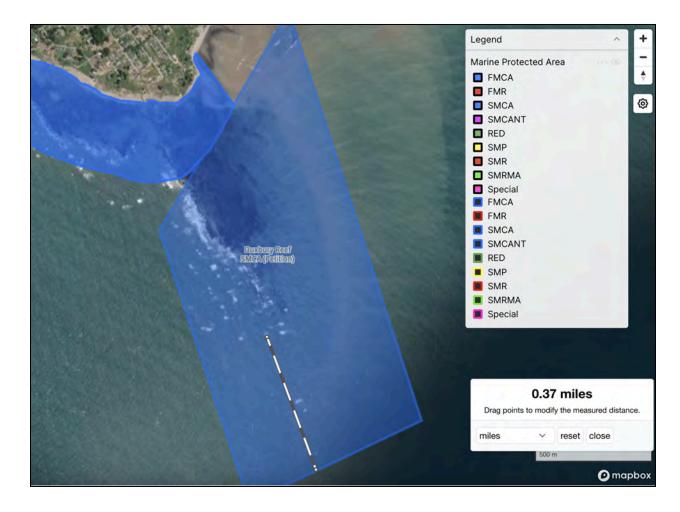
We believe the Southern Boundary Extension shown on both Seasketch California and Storymap is larger than what we originally asked for. We have also taken into account feedback from the community that the boundary extension, as mapped, is too large.

Below is an image of our requested Southern Boundary Extension on Seasketch. The measuring tool in white and gray starts from approximately the coordinate 37°53'07.9"N, 122°41'45.3"W, the location we had requested the southern boundary be extended to. From this coordinate point

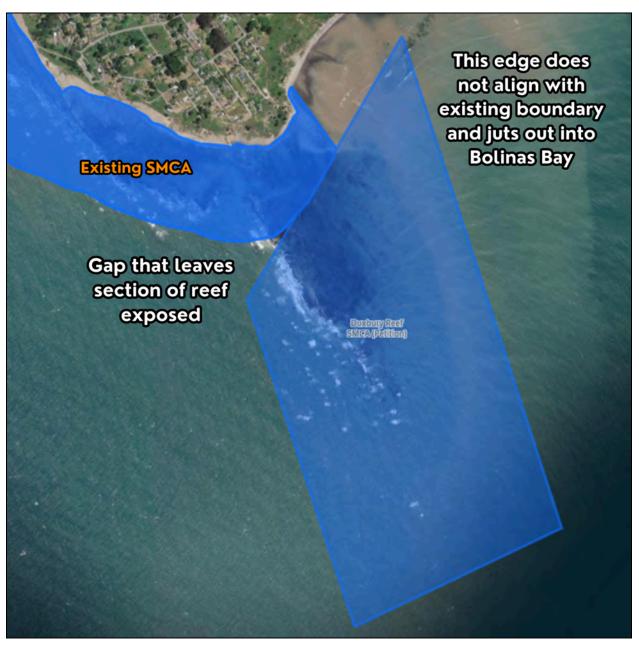
3

² See Index Document 21

to the southern edge of Seasketch's boundary seaward, it measures 0.37 miles or 1953.6 feet, which appears to be almost 2,000 feet in excess of the boundary we requested.



Additionally, this mapping results in a highly irregular shape, with a gap leaving one section of the reef exposed, and with the eastern edge jutting into Bolinas Bay and not aligning with the existing boundary at Laurel Road.



III. Clarification of Southern Boundary Extension

We seek to clarify the Southern Boundary Extension to meet the original intention and request of our petition, account for community feedback, and create a more coherent boundary to aid in the success of compliance and enforcement.

Following the format in which the Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area is listed in the Code of Regulations, we propose the addition of these *approximate* coordinate points to its description to define the Southern Boundary Extension (proposed language in bold). *Please note that this description does not include the Northern Boundary Extension or re-designation as a State Marine Reserve, which we are still requesting.*

- (50) Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area.
 - (A) This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, a distance of 1000 feet seaward of mean lower low water, and the following points:

```
37° 55.514′ N. lat. 122° 44.179′ W. long.;
37° 55.420′ N. lat. 122° 44.310′ W. long.;
37° 53.708′ N. lat. 122° 42.364′ W. long.; and
37° 53.770′ N. lat. 122° 42.020′ W. long.
```

And straight lines connecting the following points:

```
37° 53.708′ N. lat. 122° 42.364′ W. long.;
37° 53.099′ N. lat. 122° 41.809′ W. long.;
37° 53.250′ N. lat. 122° 41.546′ W. long.; and
37° 53.770′ N. lat. 122° 42.020′ W. long.
```

(B) Area restrictions defined in subsection 632(a)(1)(C) apply, with the following specified exceptions: the recreational take of finfish [subsection 632(a)(2)] from shore and abalone is allowed.

Please see below an *approximate* map of a clarified Southern Boundary Extension, as well as the specific landmarks and coordinate points that would create the extended border, which is outlined in yellow:



We hope these approximate coordinate points and map can aid staff in clarifying the Southern Boundary Extension. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if additional clarification is needed.

California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Sent via Email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

November 30, 2025

Re: Opposition to Petition No. (2023-32MPA) to change Duxbury Reef from a State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) and to expand its boundaries to encompass the entire 8-10 miles of rocky reef coastline in Bolinas, by Ashley Eagle-Gibbs of the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) of West Marin dated April 6, 2023.

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

We are writing on behalf of Bolinas to provide further community opposition to the misguided 2023-32MPA petition to reclassify the Duxbury Reef SMCA to a highly restrictive Reserve and to expand its boundaries to nearly triple its current size. (Please see attached postcards.) These unnecessary changes would cause great harm to our small rural coastal community without a clear environmental benefit. The EAC consistently portrays the elimination of commercial and recreational fishing on Duxbury Reef as a trivial matter. This demonstrates their profound indifference to the unique cultural heritage and economic needs of our maritime community, and ignores our generational dedication to conservation. Key points to consider:

1. The EAC has not presented any verified scientific evidence that there is an ecological problem at Agate Beach caused by the moderate to low visitation and "poaching" by school children, which makes it difficult to fully grasp the purpose of their petition. Regulatory changes cannot be effectively implemented without first developing a precise diagnosis of the underlying problem.

The EAC has presented lots of support from the scientific community for their petition, but none of their letters provide any verified scientific data to support the claim that ecological damage at Duxbury is caused by visitation and "poaching", and how eliminating user groups from the Bolinas coastline would directly benefit the reef. The devastating economic and cultural impacts this petition poses to our community are not acknowledged. These impacts include the potential destruction of the historic hook and line fishery, a celebrated model of sustainability with no by-catch, and vital food source for West Marin communities.

Instead, the EAC's letters of support all provide further evidence of the significant information gaps that were used to mislead community members, elected officials, and public agencies to secure support for regulatory change.

2. The EAC has not presented any verified scientific evidence to support their speculative claim that school children are temporarily handling marine resources i.e. "poaching" because they are confused by the presence of fishermen.

The EAC considers the temporary handling of marine resources by school children on educational field trips "poaching" because they use a legalistic definition of the term "possess" from the regulations to mean *any* handling of marine resources albeit gentle or temporary is against the current regulations, and thereby "poaching". This interpretation is not posted

anywhere on site because it is extreme and differs dramatically from the public's understanding, Marin County Parks and Open Spaces, the MPA Watch, and the Fish and Wildlife. Fortunately, CDFW Enforcement is reasonable and also does not consider this poaching. No citations have been issued by CDFW at Agate Beach to school children for "poaching" despite nearly 800 related "potential violations" recorded since 2014 by EAC volunteers.

Common sense dictates that school children will continue to temporarily handle marine resources regardless of the presence of fishermen because they do this out of *curiosity*, not confusion. Curiosity and respectful engagement with our ecosystems should be encouraged. Improving common sense tidepool best practices should be the goal, not the elimination of user groups.

3. Banning historically active user groups from a wide coastal zone without a science driven justification is capricious and arbitrary, and would likely be a breach of the California Coastal Act and the Public Trust Doctrine which were designed to ensure and maximize public access. Instead of implementing drastic changes that alienate visitors, sow division, and deviate from time honored sustainable practices, we can improve signage and educational initiatives for greater impact. This unifying proactive solution is widely supported by the Bolinas community and our visitors who are all eager to focus instead on the climate change impacts affecting intertidal ecosystems such as sea level rise, warming waters, ocean acidification, invasive species, increased disease, food web disruption, as well as pollution, and habitat destruction.

We appreciate your time and patience to review our materials as we continue to unpack the layers of this proposal that would directly impact our way of life in Bolinas and the experiences of our valued visitors. Furthermore, we wish to formally recognize the considerable commitment of the Fish & Game and Fish & Wildlife staff. Since we first discovered this petition just over four months ago, their remarkable professionalism, respect, and unwavering kindness toward our community have been exemplary. As you can imagine this has been a lot to learn in a very short amount of time, and your staff has been incredible. Thank you so much and happy holidays to you and your families!

Respectfully,

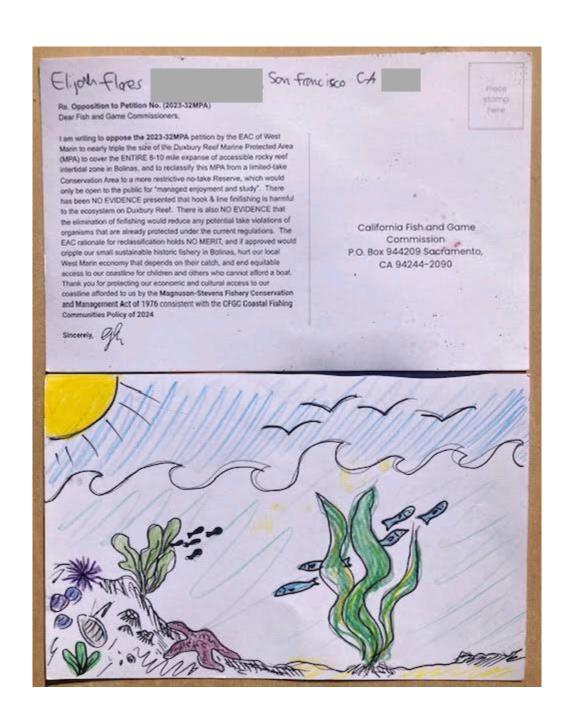
Save Duxbury Access, on behalf of the Bolinas Community

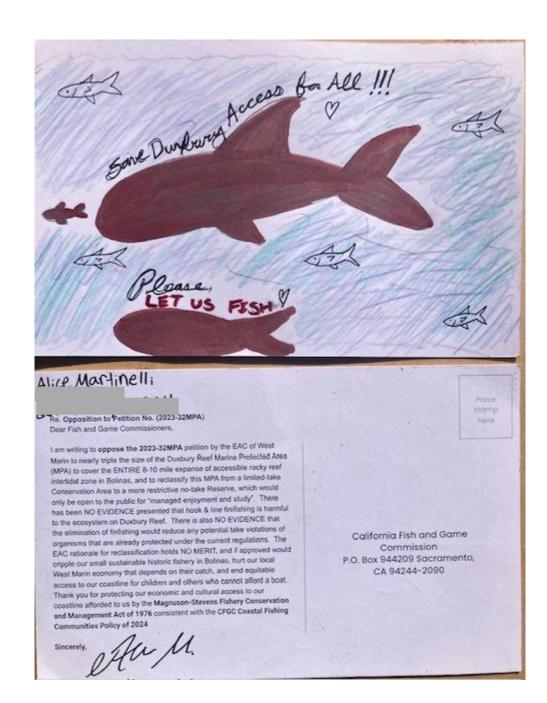
"Save Duxbury Access" is a grassroots group of locals who believe in preserving our beloved reef while keeping access open for finfishing (both commercial and recreational), surfer access, tidepooling, and reef educational programs for schools. Protecting access ensures that our children will nurture a connection with the place we all love, and continue our longstanding tradition of responsible stewardship. Contact us at saveduxburyaccess@gmail.com













Amanda Ross

Re. Opposition to Petition No. (2023-32MPA)
Dear President Sklar and Commissioners,

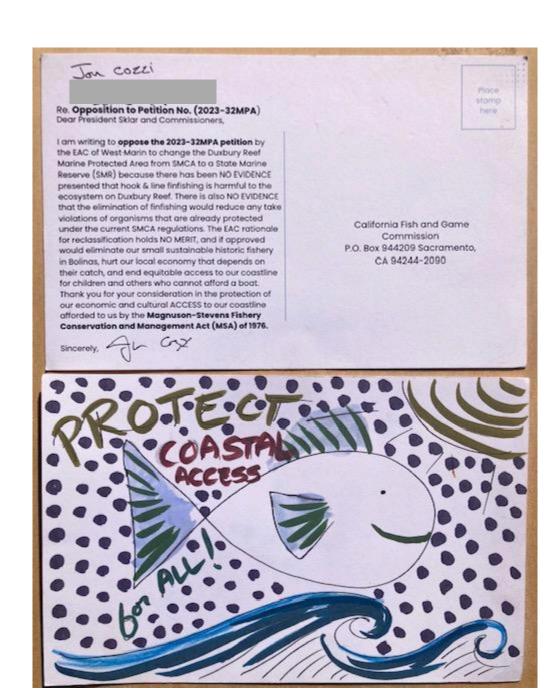
I am writing to oppose the 2023-32MPA petition by the EAC of West Marin to change the Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area from SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) because there has been NO EVIDENCE presented that hook & line finfishing is harmful to the ecosystem on Duxbury Reef. There is also NO EVIDENCE that the elimination of finfishing would reduce any take violations of organisms that are already protected under the current SMCA regulations. The EAC rationale for reclassification holds NO MERIT, and if approved would eliminate our small sustainable historic fishery in Balinas, hurt our local economy that depends on their catch, and end equitable access to our coastline for children and others who cannot afford a boat. Thank you for your consideration in the protection of our economic and cultural ACCESS to our coastline afforded to us by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) of 1976.

California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

stamp

hone

Sincerely





Patrick Sullivan

Re. Opposition to Petition No. (2023-32MPA)
Dear Fish and Game Commissioners.

I am writing to oppose the 2023-32MPA polition by the EAC of West Marin to nearly triple the size of the Duxbury Reef Marine Protected Area (MPA) to cover the ENTIRE 8-10 mile expanse of accessible rocky reef intertidal zone in Bolinas, and to reclassify this MPA from a limited-take Conservation Area to a more restrictive no-take Reserve, which would only be open to the public for "managed enjoyment and study". There has been NO EVIDENCE presented that hook & line finifishing is harmful to the ecosystem on Duxbury Reef. There is also NO EVIDENCE that the elimination of finfishing would reduce any potential take violations of organisms that are already protected under the current regulations. The EAC rationale for reclassification holds NO MERIT, and if approved would cripple our small sustainable historic fishery in Bolinas, hurt our local West Marin economy that depends on their catch, and end equitable access to our coastline for children and others who cannot afford a boat. Thank you for protecting our economic and cultural access to our coastline afforded to us by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 consistent with the CFGC Coastal Fishing Communities Policy of 2024

Cincaraly

California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



