

Revised Dec 12, 2025

California Fish and Game Commission
Status of Marine Protected Area (MPA) Petitions for Regulation Change Documents Index

NOTE: An accepted petition is a petition which (1) is submitted on the proper form, (2) contains the necessary information in the required categories listed on FGC 1, and (3) pertains to regulations under the Commission's authority. Referred petitions have been referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for initial evaluation. Additional petition materials and information are linked to each tracking number. Amended petitions are designated with AM1 or AM2. Links to amended petitions include original petitions. Comment packets are updated after each meeting for active petitions.

Select acronyms: MPA = Marine Protected Area; SMR = State Marine Reserve; SMCA = State Marine Conservation Area

2023 Petition Tracking No.	Date Received by FGC Office	Subject of Request	Description	Status	FGC Meeting	Comments Received
2023-34MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Amend Point Buchon SMCA, Farnsworth Onshore SMCA and Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	1) Request to reclassify Point Buchon SMCA as SMR 2) Request to modify take at Farnsworth Onshore SMCA and at Farnsworth Offshore SMCA to allow only recreational spearfishing	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025
2023-33MPA-AM1	3/14/2025 (original received 11/30/2023)	MPAs: Amend 5 SMRs and 1 SMCA; Designate new MPA near Santa Cruz (Proposed as Pleasure Point SMCA)	1) Request to expand boundaries of Natural Bridges SMR, Point Conception SMR, South Point SMR, Gull Island SMR; and Cabrillo SMR Expand Point Dume SMCA and allow recreational take from shore by hook and line and spearfishing 2) Request to designate new MPA at Pleasure Point in Santa Cruz and allow recreational take from shore by hook and line or spearfishing	Referred	4/16-17/2025	November 2023- November 2025
2023-32MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Amend Duxbury Reef SMCA	Change Duxbury Reef SMCA as an SMR, extend the southern boundary further south, and extend the northern boundary to the Double Point Special Closure	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025

2023 Petition Tracking No.	Date Received by FGC Office	Subject of Request	Description	Status	FGC Meeting	Comments Received
2023-31MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Combine MPAs at Drakes Estero and Estero de Limantour into one SMR	Merge Drakes Estero SMCA and Estero de Limantour SMR into a single SMR	Granted	12/11-12/2024	N/A (completed)
2023-30MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Modify recreational crab take regulations at Big River SMCA	Change recreational crab trap gear restrictions in Big River SMCA to only allow Type A (collapsible) hoop nets, eliminate hoop net Type B (rigid frame) allowance from general provisions, reduce number of set traps from 10 to 5, and reduce crab bag and possession limit from 10 to 5	Denied	12/11-12/2024	N/A (completed)
2023-29MPA-AM1	3/26/25 (original received 11/30/2023)	MPAs: Designate new MPA near Santa Barbara (Proposed "Mishopshno SMCA") for California Chumash co-management	Amended request to designate a new California Chumash co-management SMCA near Santa Barbara to be named Mishopshno (with modified boundaries in a portion of the original boundaries, modified to reduce size in all dimensions covering 9.05 sq miles) that allows take by members of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians using hand based equipment for traditional, ceremonial, cultural and subsistence purposes, and allows recreational take of finfish from shore using hook and line.	Referred	4/16-17/2025	November 2023- November 2025
2023-28MPA-AM1	3/14/2025 (original received 11/30/2023)	MPAs: Designate new MPA in central California (proposed as Point Sal SMCA); consult with tribes	Amended request to create a new SMCA around Point Sal in central California (14.22 sq mi) except identify a traditional tribal name for the SMCA through consultation with Chumash tribal community – and allow recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line from shore.	Referred	4/16-17/2025	November 2023- November 2025

2023 Petition Tracking No.	Date Received by FGC Office	Subject of Request	Description	Status	FGC Meeting	Comments Received
2023-27MPA-AM1	1/7/2025 (original received 11/30/2023)	MPAs: Amend take and access at Anacapa Island SMCA	Amended request: Amend Anacapa Island SMCA to protect eelgrass meadows, considering 3 options: 1) Disallow commercial lobster fishing year round; 2) Disallow hard bottomed fishing gear (including anchoring if applicable) near eelgrass; or 3) Extend the existing lobster trap closure within [Anacapa Island Special Closure] from less than 20 ft deep to apply out to within 30 meters from shore.	Referred	2/12-13/2025	November 2023- November 2025
2023-26MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Boundaries at Swami's SMCA; modify three estuarine no-take SMCAs in San Diego County	1) Request to shift Swami's SMCA south to the State/Solana Beach line to cover tidepools 2) Change color of three estuarine no-take SMCAs from blue to red	1) Withdrawn 2) Granted	12/11-12/2024	N/A (completed)
2023-25MPA	11/30/2023	MPAs: Shift boundaries of Long Point SMR; remove feeding of fish at two Catalina Island MPAs; adjust two no-take SMCAs	1) Request to expand Long Point SMR 2) Remove feeding of fish allowance at Lover's Cove and Casino Point SMCAs; 3) Change color of Blue Cavern Onshore and Casino Point no-take SMCAs from blue to red	1) Denied 2) Denied 3) Granted	12/11-12/2024	N/A (completed)
2023-24MPA-AM1	1/7/2025; revised 3/14/2025 (original received 11/29/2023)	MPAs: Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA into Dana Point SMCA	Amended request: Expand southern boundary of Laguna Beach no-take SMCA to subsume a portion of Dana Point SMCA to due west of the southern border of City of Laguna Beach, shifting northern boundary of Dana Point SMCA southward.	Referred	4/16-17/2025	November 2023- November 2025

2023 Petition Tracking No.	Date Received by FGC Office	Subject of Request	Description	Status	FGC Meeting	Comments Received
2023-23MPA-AM1	1/13/2025 (original received 12/28/2023)	MPAs: Modify classification and/or uses at four MPAs near Monterey, and designate new MPA (Proposed “Tanker’s Reef SMR”)	Amended request: Proposes 28 individual actions to support and promote proposed kelp restoration activities at Edward F. Ricketts, Pacific Grove Marine Gardens, and Carmel Bay SMCAs and Point Lobos SMR and one proposed new SMR in Monterey, including reclassification, unlimited recreational urchin take, establishing new kelp restoration permits, exempting from scientific collecting permit to outplant kelp, prune kelp canopy, disperse kelp spores, limit fishing when kelp restoration is underway, and more. Also, create regulatory pathway to place artificial reef structures and sunken ships for recreational diving.	Referred	2/12-13/2025	November 2023- November 2025
2023-22MPA	11/29/2023	MPAs: Modify language for tidepool take and research/ restoration for Orange County MPAs; adjust no-take MPAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Request to modify definition of tidepools 2) Refine tidepool take prohibitions language 3) Add language regarding research, monitoring, restoration and education to Orange County MPAs, with the exception of Upper Newport Bay SMCA 4) Change color of no-take SMCAs to red on outreach maps 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Grant in concept 2) Grant in concept 3) Deny 4) Grant 	12/17-18/2024	N/A (completed)
2023-21MPA	11/29/2023	MPAs: Amend Pyramid Point SMCA to no-take with tribal take exemption, and correct boundary	Request to modify take allowances in Pyramid SMCA to no-take with tribal exemption for the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation; and change northern boundary to align with California/Oregon state line	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025
2023-20MPA	11/29/2023	MPAs: Amend Point Buchon SMCA and SMR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Request to rename Point Buchon SMCA as “Point Buchon Chumash-California SMCA” to support tribal co-management 2) Add take allowances 3) Extend northern boundary of Point Buchon SMR 	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025

2023 Petition Tracking No.	Date Received by FGC Office	Subject of Request	Description	Status	FGC Meeting	Comments Received
2023-19MPA	11/29/2023	MPAs: Designate new MPA near Morro Bay (Proposed "Chitqawi SMCA")	Request to designate new MPA as Chitqawi SMCA with tribal co-management with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians between Morro Bay and Cambria	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025
2023-18MPA	11/28/2023	MPAs: Amend four MPAs and 2 special closures in Santa Barbara Channel	Request to redesignate the shoreline of Vandenberg SMR as SMCA for shore fishing; amend Point Conception SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, and Campus Point SMCA; consider modifying or removing San Miguel Island Special Closure and Anacapa Island Special Closure) related to take regulations and vessel landing access	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025
2023-16MPA	11/22/2023	MPAs: Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to allow take	Request to reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs as SMCAs to allow commercial take of salmon by trolling	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025
2023-15MPA-AM2	1/9/2025; revised 3/14/25 (original received 11/22/2023)	MPAs: Reclassify three SMRs in Santa Barabara Channel as SMCAs to allow take	Amended request: Reclassify Footprint SMR, Gull Island SMR, and Santa Barbara Island SMR partially or fully to SMCAs to allow (1) take of highly migratory species (HMS), (2) possession of coastal pelagic species (CPS), and/or (3) take of pelagic finfish; proposing six options with various gear combinations.	Referred	4/16-17/2025	November 2023- November 2025
2023-14MPA	11/13/2023	MPA's: Allow commercial take of urchins in nine SMCAs	Allow commercial take of urchins in nine SMCAs: Sea Lion Cove, Stewart's Point, Salt Point, Double Cone Rock, Naples, Anacapa Island, Point Dume, Point Vicente no-take, and Swami's.	Referred	2/14-15/2024	November 2023- November 2025