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Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

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Regional Marine Protected Area Petitions Meeting (Del Norte through Monterey Counties)

Meeting Agenda (**Corrected May 13, 2026**)*

April 21, 2026

8:00 a.m.

**San Mateo Elks Lodge #1112
229 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403**

Join us in person in San Mateo to provide public comment or observe the meeting.

Options for Remote Public Comment via Zoom or Phone

To join the meeting remotely via Zoom (video and audio), click directly on the meeting link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82732570855>. You may access instructions for joining by phone or Zoom by clicking [here](#) or visiting the Commission meetings webpage at fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2026; for instructions on how to join by phone (audio only), refer to Option 3.

The Commission will make a reasonable effort to provide the public additional opportunities to observe or provide comment in the meeting through the Zoom webinar platform by computer, mobile device, or telephone connections. However, the Commission cannot guarantee the accessibility or functionality of the remote connection options. Should technical issues affect remote attendee access or webinar quality, an attempt will be made to resolve them; however, the meeting will continue with in-person attendees.

Option for Remote Observation Without Public Comment

To watch or listen only on the day of the meeting visit <http://www.fgc.ca.gov> (link is on the right side of the page). The Commission will make a reasonable effort to live-stream the meeting to allow the public to observe the meeting from a remote location without providing comments. However, the Commission cannot guarantee the accessibility or functionality of the webcast.

***This agenda has been corrected to remove the word 'red' from the description of Agenda Item 3B – Petition 2023-14MPA: Request to allow commercial take of sea urchins in Double Cone Rock SMCA, and Stewart's Point SMCA**

Meeting Goals, Expectations, and Format

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is holding this meeting as one of three regional meetings (April 21, May 5-6, and May 19) to consider recently evaluated marine protected area (MPA) petitions. We expect to hear comments from people with varied perspectives and deeply held values about California's ocean and coastal places. In these meetings, the Commission is committed to supporting an environment where everyone can safely participate, while also protecting free speech. Meeting goals, expectations, and format information have been created to support a respectful, constructive environment where all voices are heard; we share them here to enhance transparency for regional meeting participants.

Regional Meeting Goals

- Provide a safe and inclusive environment for sharing knowledge, experiences, and perspectives.
- Uphold the Commission's [Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JEDI\) Policy](#) and goals, including centering principles of environmental justice and access for underserved communities; recognizing and honoring the perspectives and traditional knowledge and practices of California tribes and tribal communities; and working from a shared understanding of key JEDI-related [definitions and terms](#).
- Ensure all commissioners can hear and participate in petition dialogue in real time.
- Receive overview of petitions, ask questions, and discuss petitions and evaluations.
- Daylight areas of agreement or disagreement, as well as potential modifications and compromises.
- Gather input to inform Commission recommendations or make requests for additional information for future consideration.
- Deliberate on petition content without making final decisions, which will occur at later publicly noticed Commission meetings; real-time negotiation or resolution may not be possible within the meeting time.

Regional Meeting Expectations: Commitment to a Respectful Environment and Free Speech

We acknowledge that regional meeting participants care deeply about California's marine and coastal places and public trust resources. These meetings are intended to provide space to openly and respectfully share relevant information and perspectives on MPA petitions. The following content is intended to set expectations and tone for these meetings.

The Commission is committed to creating and maintaining an environment where all participants feel safe, respected, and able to contribute meaningfully. It therefore strongly discourages personal attacks, intimidation, harassment, hateful expressions (including racial or other identity-based comments), or other conduct that targets individuals rather than issues. These comments can diminish the quality of public dialogue, discourage community participation, and potentially reduce the likelihood that commissioners will give weight to comments delivered in this manner.

The Commission upholds the right to free speech. All individuals possess this right and are entitled to use their full speaking time to express their views, including critiques, alternative perspectives, and disagreement. However, disruptions to the meeting will not be tolerated. Profanity, obscenity, personal threats or attacks on members, staff or other commenters, references to protected characteristics, offensive speech, yelling, interruptions, audible and disruptive reactions, or disputing another speaker during their speaking time may constitute a disruption to the meeting, depending on the circumstances.

The Commission may restrict an individual's right to speak when necessary to avoid disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting. In these cases, the presiding commissioner may gavel or mute a speaker's microphone. If the disruptive behavior continues, after a call for decorum and a warning, the person or people disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting may be removed from the meeting, the meeting may be suspended, and the room may be cleared.

Regional Meeting Participation Logistics: Day of Engagement and Written Comments

Participating in Person, on Zoom, or by Phone

All meetings are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and open to the public. Participation and comment are available in person, via Zoom webinar, or by phone; meetings are also live streamed for listening or viewing only. The presiding commissioner will explain how to indicate your interest in speaking and time limits. Staff are available to answer logistical questions. Audio and video archives are posted to the Commission website after each meeting.

To speak on an agenda item in-person, please complete a "speaker card" and provide it to the designated staff member before the agenda item is announced. Please complete one speaker card per agenda item. Cards will be available near the entrance of the meeting room. In-person speakers will be identified in groups; please line up when your name is called.

To speak on an agenda item via Zoom or phone, please "raise" your hand either through the Zoom function or by pressing *9 once on your phone when prompted at the beginning of the agenda item. Speakers on Zoom or phone will be identified by your display name or the last three digits of your phone number; listen closely for when your name or number is called.

Visual Presentations: Slides, Videos, and Graphics

All electronic presentations must be submitted by the Supplemental Comment Deadline and approved by the Commission executive director before the meeting.

- Electronic presentations must be provided by email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov. If the file is too large to send via email, contact staff to identify an alternative method for submitting the file.
- Specify to which meeting date and petition/geography it pertains to.
- All electronic formats must be Windows PC compatible.
- If presenting at the in-person meeting location, it is recommended that you bring a print copy of your presentation in case of technical difficulties.
- Approval is at the discretion of the presiding commissioner and is not guaranteed.

Persons with Disabilities or Accommodation Needs

Individuals with disabilities and/or needing reasonable accommodation to participate in Commission meetings may contact the Civil Rights Office (CRO) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at civilrights@wildlife.ca.gov. Requests for facility or meeting accessibility and requests for American Sign Language interpreters should be submitted at least 72 hours before the meeting to help ensure that the requested accommodation can be met. If an accommodation is no longer needed, please notify CRO immediately.

Individuals relying on an interpreter are entitled to at least twice the allotted speaking time pursuant to Government Code Section 11125.7(c), and are asked to provide at least 72 hours' notice. Additional time for other accommodation needs may be granted at the presiding commissioner's discretion to ensure equal opportunity to address the Commission.

Written Public Comments and Submission Deadlines

The public is encouraged to submit written comments on any agenda item. Written comments can be more detailed than what you may have the opportunity to share with commissioners in verbal comments made during the meeting. If written comments are received before the deadline, they will be shared with Commissioners before the meeting; you may wish to refer to your full written comments during your verbal testimony during the meeting.

Submit written comments by one of three methods:

- E-mail to fgc@fgc.ca.gov
- Mail to California Fish and Game Commission, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
- Deliver to California Fish and Game Commission, 715 P Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (call at least one business day in advance to arrange delivery).

| Meeting Date | Comment Deadline* | Supplemental Comment Deadline** |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| April 21, 2026 | April 13, 8:00 AM | April 17, 12:00 PM |
| May 5-6, 2026 | April 22, 5:00 PM | April 30, 12:00 PM |
| May 19, 2026 | May 6, 5:00 PM | May 14, 12:00 PM |

* Written comments received at the Commission office by the **Comment Deadline** will be made available to the Commissioners prior to the meeting, made available to the public, and may be posted online with meeting materials.

** Written comments received at the Commission office by the **Supplemental Comment Deadline** will be made available to Commissioners at the meeting, but not posted online.

After these deadlines, written comments may be delivered in person to the meeting. Please bring twelve (12) copies of written comments and hand them to the designated staff member just prior to speaking.

Regional Meeting Expectations: Agenda and Format

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda outlines the planned sequence of items, during which presentations, discussion, and public comment will occur. Each meeting includes a designated public comment period for each agenda item, as well as a “general public comment” agenda item for topics not on the agenda.

Meeting Format

For each regional meeting, the Commission will discuss from four to seven MPA petitions (with eight to fifteen proposed actions). Information on which petitions will be heard at which regional meetings are available in the [petition distribution tables available here](#).

In regional meetings, each MPA petition agenda item will follow the same general format:

- Petitioners will present for 10-12 minutes, depending on whether a petition is tribally led or co-led and the number of nested actions within the petition. Presentations will include:
 - Regulatory actions requested
 - Purpose of requested action
 - Updates since petition was submitted in November 2023 or since amended in March 2025
 - A focus on regionally or locally relevant components, especially if petition spans multiple regions
- Commission staff re-cap of evaluation recommendations
- Commissioner questions
- Ceded speaker time
- Public comment and Commission discussion

Regional Meeting Expectations: Guidelines on Speaker Time

Under Commission procedures, the presiding commissioner allocates a maximum speaking time (typically one to three minutes, with exceptions) for each agenda item. For the regional MPA petition meetings, the Commission aims to support a more flexible, conversational dialogue whenever possible, to reflect the spirit of the Marine Resources Committee meetings. The Commission understands that many participants travel long distances or rearrange commitments to attend, whether in person or remotely.

That said, the Commission expects the regional meetings to be well-attended, potentially with large numbers of speakers. The Commission is committed to hearing all scheduled petitions, while also maximizing the amount of information and number of viewpoints shared by attendees.

To balance these goals, the presiding commissioner will seek to ensure discussions are focused, respectful, and efficient, and that as many voices as possible can be heard. In that

spirit, the presiding commissioner will specify a target maximum speaking time for those wishing to speak on a petition.

Tools the Presiding Commissioner May Use to Maximize Viewpoints Shared

To help participants prepare for regional meetings, we share here proposed speaker time guidelines, as well as other tools the presiding commissioner may use to manage large numbers of speakers on any given petition. Note that at any time, the presiding commissioner may choose to use these or other tools to focus comments and/or maximize participation. Please keep these guidelines in mind as you prepare your public comments.

- **If there are 25 or fewer speakers:** Speakers may be asked to speak for no more than **two to three minutes** each.
- **If there are more than 25 speakers:** Speakers may be asked to speak for no more than **one minute** each.

If there are large numbers of speakers for any petition: The presiding commissioner may also choose to rely on group sentiment tools to allow participants to indicate their views, when there is not enough time for all individuals to speak. These tools are strategies to broaden participation, not to limit viewpoints.

- **Levels-of-Support Checks:** Quick indicators such as “I like it,” “I can live with it,” or “I cannot support it”
- **Group Sentiment Capture:** Hand-raising or digital reactions when not everyone can speak individually
- **Time Management Adjustments:** Modifying pacing, structure, or feedback tools so all petitions can be addressed during the meeting

Additional Time for Speakers with Ceded Time

A speaker may be approved to speak for up to **three minutes if five or more** participants cede their time to them. This allows a group to designate spokespersons to provide comment on a specified MPA petition agenda item. Participants ceding their time:

- must be present (in person or on Zoom) when the agenda item is called; and
- forego their own opportunity to speak on that agenda item.

If you plan to cede time:

- **In-person:** the five participants ceding their time must complete speaker cards and approach the staff table with the spokesperson before the agenda item begins so staff can confirm the presence of those ceding time.
- **Remote (via Zoom or phone):** participants who wish to cede their time must notify the Commission at fgc@fgc.ca.gov by the Supplemental Comment Deadline and include the name of the individual to whom they are ceding time. All individuals ceding time must also be present on Zoom or phone during the agenda item.

Considerations for Giving Effective Public Comment

- When addressing the Commission, please give your name and the name of any organization you represent.
- Respect the meeting environment, other speakers, staff, and commissioners, as outlined above.
- Treat all participants with courtesy and recognize diverse experiences.
- Listen respectfully; one person speaks at a time.
- Avoid personal accusations, stereotyping, or deliberate misinformation.
- Come prepared and keep comments centered on the topic.
- Focus on clear, concise contributions that support productive dialogue.
- If there are several speakers with the same concerns, you are encouraged to appoint a spokesperson and avoid repetitive comments.
- Treat disagreements as shared problems to solve.
- When offering critique, propose alternative ideas when appropriate.
- To help first-time participants organize comments, it may be helpful to focus on:
 - Do you support or oppose the petition and why?
 - Why is it important to you, your community, or your work?
 - What action(s) would you like the Commission to consider?

Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

1. Consider Approving Agenda and Order of Items

General Public Comment

2. General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Receive public comment regarding topics within the Commission's authority that are not included on the agenda.

Note: The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting (sections 11125 and 11125.7(a), Government Code).

Discussion and Action Items

3. Marine Protected Area (MPA) Petitions

(Pursuant to Section 662, Title 14, California Code of Regulations)

For each MPA petition, the Commission will receive presentations from the petitioner(s), followed by public comment and discussion. The Commission may develop recommendations for consideration at a future meeting. No formal action will be taken today.

To view MPA petitions and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) petition evaluations with recommendations, visit the Department's [Bin 2 MPA Petition Evaluations StoryMap](#).

To watch a recording of the Department's presentation of MPA petition evaluations and recommendations given during the April 15-16, 2026 Commission meeting, visit the [CAL-SPAN Network](#).

- (A) **Petition 2023-21MPA:** Request to modify Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to remove recreational take of surf smelt, and continue current tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee ni' Nation
- (B) **Petition 2023-14MPA:** Request to allow commercial take of red sea urchins in Double Cone Rock SMCA, Sea Lion Cove SMCA, and Stewart's Point SMCA
- (C) **Petition 2023-16MPA:** Request to reclassify Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve (SMR) and Bodega Head SMR to SMCAs and allow commercial take of salmon
- (D) **Petition 2023-32MPA:** Request to reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and expand the northern and southern boundaries
- (E) **Petition 2023-33MPA_AM1:** Request to expand the boundaries of Natural Bridges SMR and designate a new SMR off Pleasure Point, in Santa Cruz County
- (F) **Petition 2023-23 MPA_AM1:** Request to reclassify Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA, Edward F. Ricketts SMCA, and Carmel Bay SMCA as SMRs; designate one new SMR in Monterey County at Tanker's Reef; and make various changes related to kelp restoration in the three reclassified SMRs, Point Lobos SMR, and the new SMR.

4. **Future Meetings and New Business**

Review logistics and agenda items for the next Commission meetings (May 5-6 and May 19). Consider any changes to previously approved meeting dates or locations and introduce any new business for inclusion on a future meeting agenda.

Adjourn

California Fish and Game Commission Meeting Schedule

Note: As meeting dates and locations can change, please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for the most current list of meeting dates and locations. All Commission meetings will include a webinar/teleconference option for attendance, and every effort will be made to ensure that committee meetings include the same.

| Meeting Date | Commission Meeting | Committee Meeting |
|------------------|---|--|
| May 5-6, 2026 | <p>Klamath River Basin and Central Valley Sport Fishing and Marine Protected Area Petitions (San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara counties, including the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island)</p> <p>Hilton Garden Inn Santa Barbara/Goleta 6878 Hollister Avenue Goleta, CA 93117</p> | |
| May 14, 2026 | | <p>Wildlife Resources Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p> |
| May 19, 2026 | <p>Marine Protected Area Petitions (Los Angeles through San Diego counties, including Santa Catalina Island)</p> <p>Holiday Inn Express 35 Via Pico Plaza San Clemente, CA</p> | |
| June 17-18, 2026 | <p>Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p> | |
| July 16, 2026 | | <p>Marine Resources Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p> |
| August 11, 2026 | | <p>Tribal Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p> |

| Meeting Date | Commission Meeting | Committee Meeting |
|----------------------|--|---|
| August 12-13, 2026 | Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 | |
| September 10, 2026 | | Wildlife Resources Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| October 14-15, 2026 | Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 | |
| November 12, 2026 | | Marine Resources Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| December 15, 2026 | | Tribal Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| December 16-17, 2026 | Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 | |

Other Meetings of Interest

Meetings listed here are organizations for which the Commission: (1) is a member, or (2) takes action based upon regulations developed by that organization.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- September 13-16, 2026 – Lancaster, PA

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- June 11-16, 2026 – Spokane, WA
- September 17-22, 2026 – Vancouver, WA
- November 13-18, 2026 – Garden Grove, CA
- December 31, 2026 – Location TBD

Pacific Flyway Council

- August or September 2026 – Date and location TBD

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- June 1-5, 2026 – Boise, ID

Wildlife Conservation Board

- May 28, 2026 – Sacramento, CA
- August 27, 2026 – Sacramento, CA
- November 19, 2026 – Sacramento, CA