

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

# MEMORANDUM

Date: March 20, 2026

To: Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
California Fish and Game Commission

From: Craig Shuman  
Marine Regional Manager

**Subject: CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluations for the Ten Non-Tribally-led Petitions**

At its February 14-15, 2024, meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) referred 20 Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review, evaluation, and recommendation. Throughout 2024, CDFW implemented a [3-phased approach](#) to evaluate MPA petitions which was supported by the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and approved by CFGC in April 2024. The MRC considered CDFW's recommendations on 5 petitions (Bin 1) at the November 6-7, 2024, MRC meeting and CFGC adopted [the recommendations](#) at the December 11-12, 2024, CFGC meeting.

At the March 13, 2025, MRC meeting, CDFW presented the proposed timeline and process for the remaining 15 petitions (Bin 2). This included the development of an evaluation framework for the Bin 2 petitions and sorting the petitions into groups to facilitate subsequent petition discussions. CFGC approved the proposed timeline and process at their April 16-17, 2025, meeting. CDFW, with support from staff at CFGC and the Ocean Protection Council, developed the draft 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework for the MRC's consideration at the July 16-17, 2025, meeting, which was approved by CFGC at their August 2025 meeting with minor modifications. CDFW has completed the Evaluations and Recommendations for the ten non-Tribally-led petitions (Attachments 2-11) as listed below. CDFW's recommendations on the ten non-Tribally-led petitions are based on petitions and amendments received as of March 2025. **Additional changes, amendments and interested party engagements completed by petitioners after that date have not been considered as part of the evaluation and recommendations.** CDFW recognizes that new information on these petitions may be available for CFGC consideration.



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- **2023-14MPA:** Modify take in 9 SMCAs to Allow Commercial Take of Sea Urchins
- **2023-15MPA-AM:** Reclassify Footprint, Gull Island, and Santa Barbara Island SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Take of Highly Migratory Species
- **2023-16MPA:** Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Commercial Salmon Trolling
- **2023-18MPA:** Modify Allowed Uses at Several Santa Barbara Channel MPAs and Special Closures: Vandenberg SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, and San Miguel and Anacapa Island Special Closures
- **2023-23MPA-AM:** Modify Allowed Uses in Four Monterey Area MPAs, Create a New MPA, and Other Requests
- **2023-24MPA-AM:** Expand Boundaries of Laguna Beach No-take SMCA
- **2023-27MPA-AM:** Amend Existing Anacapa Island SMCA or Special Closure to Protect Eelgrass
- **2023-32MPA:** Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries
- **2023-33MPA-AM:** Expand Boundaries of Cabrillo, Natural Bridges, Point Conception, South Point, and Gull Island SMRs, Point Dume SMCA, and Add a New SMCA at Pleasure Point
- **2023-34MPA:** Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

CDFW also prepared a 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine Protected Area Petition Evaluation Companion Document (Companion Document; Attachment 1). The Companion Document should be read in advance of the petition evaluations as it includes supplemental information and additional context that is relevant for all the evaluations. The Companion Document includes a summary of CDFW's outreach to California Native American tribes and engagement with Tribally-led petitioners. CDFW plans to provide an update on the Tribally-led petitions at the Tribal Committee meeting on April 14, 2026.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at [r7regionalmgr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:r7regionalmgr@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment 1: CDFW's 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine Protected Area Petition Evaluation Companion Document

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- Attachment 2: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-14MPA:**  
Modify take in 9 SMCAs to Allow Commercial Take of Sea Urchins
- Attachment 3: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-15MPA-AM:**  
Reclassify Footprint, Gull Island, and Santa Barbara Island SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Take of Highly Migratory Species
- Attachment 4: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-16MPA:**  
Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Commercial Salmon Trolling.
- Attachment 5: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-18MPA:**  
Modify Allowed Uses at Several Santa Barbara Channel MPAs: Vandenberg SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, and San Miguel and Anacapa Island Special Closures
- Attachment 6: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-23MPA-AM:**  
Modify Allowed Uses in Four Monterey Area MPAs, Create a New MPA, and Other Requests
- Attachment 7: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-24MPA-AM:**  
Expand Boundaries of Laguna Beach No-take SMCA
- Attachment 8: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-27MPA-AM:**  
Amend existing Anacapa Island SMCA or Special Closure to Protect Eelgrass
- Attachment 9: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-32MPA:**  
Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries
- Attachment 10: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-33MPA-AM:**  
Expand Boundaries of Cabrillo, Natural Bridges, Point Conception, South Point, and Gull Island SMRs, Point Dume SMCA, and Add a New SMCA at Pleasure Point
- Attachment 11: CDFW Evaluation and Recommendations for **2023-34MPA:**  
Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

ec: Meghan Hertel, Director  
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