

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Petitions: Commission and Public Process for Reviewing MPA Petitions Received in December 2023

Information about MPA regulation change petitions, evaluations, public meetings, and opportunities for the public to participate (2023-2026)

Overview

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is holding three regional meetings (April 21, May 5-6, and May 19) to consider 15 marine protected area (MPA) petitions submitted by the public in 2023. Petitioners and members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Commission. No decisions will be made at the regional meetings.

On this page you can find:

- Meeting times and locations
- Which petitions will be heard at each regional meeting
- [Meetings expectations and format](#) (IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ)
- Information on the [petition process](#), links to individual [petitions](#), [comments](#), and [maps of proposed changes](#).
- Links to [petition evaluations and recommendations](#) completed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for each petition

Meeting Information

When and where are the regional meetings in 2026?

April 21 (Tuesday)	May 5 (Tuesday)	May 6 (Wednesday)	May 19 (Tuesday)
Start time: 8:00 a.m.	Start time: 8:00 a.m.	Start time: 8:00 a.m.	Start time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: San Mateo Elks Lodge 229 W. 20th Avenue San Mateo 94403	Location: Hilton Garden Inn 6878 Hollister Avenue Goleta 93117	Location: Hilton Garden Inn 6878 Hollister Avenue Goleta 93117	Location: Holiday Inn Express 35 Via Pico Plaza San Clemente 92672
<i>Covering Del Norte through Monterey counties only</i>	<i>Covering San Luis Obispo County and Mainland Santa Barbara County only</i>	<i>Covering the Northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island only</i>	<i>Covering Los Angeles through San Diego counties and Santa Catalina Island only</i>

Please refer to the Commission's [2026 Meetings Page](#) for the most up-to-date information. Additional details — including how to join a meeting and accessing meeting materials — are available on the meetings page.

Which petitions will be discussed at each meeting?

Use the tables below to find the petition or MPA that you are interested in addressing. Some petition actions in multiple regions and will appear on multiple meeting agendas. Please check the MPAs listed to determine the most appropriate meeting(s) to attend.

Note: The Commission will discuss and receive comments on the petition geographies associated with the region scheduled for each meeting, as listed in the tables.

- *Italicized MPA names* indicate locations that appear in multiple petitions.
- An asterisk (*) indicates that a petition includes proposals affecting more than one region and will appear on multiple meeting agendas.
- Each meeting will focus on the actions specific to that region.
- Evaluations for tribally led or co-led petitions have not been released; CDFW will complete and release the evaluations at a future date to be determined.

April 21: Del Norte to Monterey Counties Only

Petition #	Geographies
2023-21 (Tribally led)	Pyramid Point SMCA
2023-14*	Double Cone Rock SMCA Sea Lion Cove SMCA Stewart's Point SMCA Salt Point SMCA
2023-16	Stewart's Point SMR Bodega Head SMR
2023-32	Duxbury Reef SMCA
2023-33*	Natural Bridges SMR New - "Pleasure Point SMCA"
2023-23	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA Edward F. Ricketts SMCA Carmel Bay SMCA Point Lobos SMR New - "Tanker's Reef SMR"

May 5: San Luis Obispo County and Mainland Santa Barbara County Only

Petition #	Geographies
2023-28 (Tribally co-led)	New - SMCA near Point Sal
2023-29 (Tribally co-led)	New - "Mishopshno SMCA"
2023-19 (Tribally led)	New - "Chitqawi SMCA"
2023-20 (Tribally led)	Point Buchon SMR Point Buchon SMCA
2023-34*	Point Buchon SMCA
2023-33*	<i>Point Conception SMR</i>
2023-18*	<i>Point Conception SMR</i> Vandenberg SMR Kashtayit SMCA Campus Point SMCA (no-take)

May 6: Northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island Only

Petition #	Geographies
2023-18*	San Miguel Island Special Closure Anacapa Island Special Closure
2023-27	<i>Anacapa Island SMCA</i>
2023-14*	<i>Anacapa Island SMCA</i> Naples SMCA**
2023-15	Footprint SMR Santa Barbara Island SMR <i>Gull Island SMR</i>
2023-33*	<i>Gull Island SMR</i> South Point SMR

May 19: Los Angeles County through San Diego County and Santa Catalina Island Only

Petition #	Geographies
2023-24	Laguna Beach SMCA (no-take)
2023-14*	Point Vicente SMCA (no-take) Swami's SMCA <i>Point Dume SMCA</i>
2023-33*	<i>Point Dume SMCA</i> Cabrillo SMR
2023-34*	Farnsworth Onshore SMCA Farnsworth Offshore SMCA

Participating in Meetings

What do I need to know?

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ: [Meeting goals, expectations, and format](#) have been developed to support a respectful and constructive environment where all voices are heard. We share this information to enhance transparency for all regional meeting participants. We strongly encourage you to review this document before attending.

Meeting agendas and materials are available on the [2026 Meetings Page](#).

Written Comments

The public is encouraged to submit written comments on any agenda item. Written comments may be more detailed than what you can share during verbal public comment. Comments received before the deadlines are shared with Commissioners in advance of the meeting, so you may wish to refer back to your submitted comments when speaking.

You may submit written comments in one of three ways (only one is necessary):

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

Deadlines for Written and Supplemental Comments

Meeting Date	Written Comment Deadline*	Supplemental Written 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

After the supplemental deadline, written comments may be delivered **in person** to the meeting. Please bring **12 copies** and give them to the designated staff member just prior to speaking.

Written comments received after these deadlines will be made available to the Commission for the June 2026 Commission meeting.

MPA Petitions

- View petitions, their status, and compiled public comments (December 2023–present) by petition number: [Status of MPA Petitions for Regulation Change](#)
- Petitions overviews, maps, and visualization tools are available on the [CDFW MPA Petitions Process StoryMap](#).

MPA Petition Evaluations

CDFW Evaluations

On March 20, 2026, CDFW released its evaluations and recommendations for the ten non-tribally led petitions under review. Evaluations for the five tribally led or co-led petitions will be completed in the near future as additional guidance has been provided.

- **CDFW petition evaluations completed to date are available through CDFW’s [MPA Petition Process StoryMap](#).**
- View a Zoom recording of [CDFW’s overview of evaluations and recommendations](#) for the 10 non-tribally led or co-led petitions presented at the April 15-16, 2026 Commission meeting (Agenda Item 2); view or download a copy of [CDFW’s presentation slides](#).
- **Tribally led/co-led petitions:** View a Zoom recording of the [April 14, 2026 Tribal Committee meeting](#), including petition overviews and clarifications presented by tribal leads/co-leads and CDFW (CDFW evaluations are underway based on Commission adoption of the Tribal Committee recommendation presented April 15, 2026).

OPC Evaluations

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), in its statutory role as the state's MPA policy lead, provided a [letter to the Commission](#) on March 20, 2026, offering its perspectives on the MPA proposals to support adaptive management of California's MPA network.

OPC is completing a complementary evaluation of the petitions that will provide policy perspective alongside CDFW's technical evaluation. The OPC evaluation will be transmitted to the Commission prior to its June 17-18, 2026 meeting and will be posted at www.OPC.ca.gov.

Background: Timeline of the Process

California completed its first 10-year MPA network review in early 2023. This decadal management review assessed the performance of the MPA network and management program and identified opportunities for near- and long-term improvements. Following the review, the Commission agreed to accept proposals from the public for adaptive management changes to the network and management program. The Commission used its existing petition process for the public to submit petitions for regulation changes and set a deadline of December 2023 for receiving petitions.

Starting the Petition Process (2023)

- **August 2023:** The Commission notified the public, organizations, and agencies of the opportunity to submit MPA change petitions.
- Staff posted key historical MPA planning documents to support petitioners.
- **Initial petition deadline:** November 30, 2023.
- **December 2023:** The Commission received 20 petitions. The deadline for tribes was extended to January 2024; no additional petitions were received.

Reviewing the Petitions (2024)

- **February 2024:** The Commission referred all 20 petitions to CDFW for evaluation and recommendations.
- The Commission approved a three-phase evaluation framework that grouped petitions:
 - **Bin 1:** Five petitions for near-term review
 - **Bin 2:** Fifteen petitions, including tribally led or co-led petitions, requiring further evaluation and longer-term review

Bin 1 Petitions Review and Commission Action

- **November 2024:** CDFW presented its review and recommendations for the Bin 1 petitions to the Marine Resources Committee (MRC).

- **December 2024:** The Commission took action on the five Bin 1 petitions based on MRC recommendations; granted petitions will be scheduled for consideration through a future rulemaking (timeline to be determined).

Bin 2 Petitions Review (2025 – 2026)

- The Commission allowed amendments to Bin 2 petitions, with deadlines in January and March 2025. Six of the fifteen petitions were amended.
- **April 2025:** Commission staff published a summary table of all amended petitions.
- **July – August 2025:** The Commission approved an updated evaluation framework for Bin 2 petitions, including a new approach to discuss petitions by bioregion.
- CDFW committed to completing evaluations with a target release in **late February/early March 2026**. Evaluations were released on March 20, 2026.

Commission Action on Bin 2 Petitions (August 2026 or later; TBD)

- **June 2026:** The Commission will receive and discuss the OPC evaluation of MPA petitions and review the outcomes of the regional MPA petitions meetings held in April and May.
- The Commission will develop recommendations for the Bin 2 petitions and schedule Commission action following public feedback on those recommendations.

For questions or to provide a comment on any of the MPA petitions, please contact us at fgc@fgc.ca.gov.