

Staff Summary for May 5-6, 2026

6. Marine Protected Area (MPA) Petition 2023-34MPA**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receive a presentation from the petitioner, followed by public comment and discussion for Petition 2023-34MPA: *Request to change the classification of Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to a State Marine Reserve (SMR).*

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Received 20 MPA petitions; referred to the Marine Resources Committee and the Department for review December 2023; February 2024
- Granted or denied all individual actions in the 5 “bin 1” MPA petitions December 2024
- Received Department bin 2 petition evaluations for 10 non-tribally led or co-led petitions April 15-16, 2026
- Received petitioners’ presentations and discussed region-specific petitioned actions in bin 2 MPA petitions, from Del Norte through Monterey counties April 21, 2026
- **Today, receive petitioners’ presentation and discuss region-specific petitioned actions in bin 2 MPA petitions, from San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara counties, northern Channel Islands, and Santa Barbara Island** **May 5-6, 2026**
- Receive petitioners’ presentation and discuss region-specific petitioned actions in bin 2 MPA petitions, from Los Angeles through San Diego counties and Catalina Island May 19, 2026
- Receive Department bin 2 evaluations for 5 tribally led or co-led petitions Date to be determined

Background

In November 2023, the Commission received Petition 2023-34MPA (Exhibit 1), alongside 19 other petitions proposing changes to the state’s MPA network and management program. In February 2024, the Commission referred all MPA petitions to the Department for its evaluation and recommendation, while developing and updating guidance over time.

For detailed background information and key documents related to the process leading to this stage — including the companion document to the Department’s evaluations for non-tribally led or co-led petitions, the Department’s evaluations presentation, and a letter from the California Ocean Protection Council providing input to complement the Department’s evaluations — see the [Introduction to Bin 2 MPA Petitions and Evaluations](#).

Petition Amendments

Bin 2 petitioners were provided until March 2025 to submit formal amendments to their original petitions for inclusion in the Department’s evaluation. This petition was not formally amended by the March 2025 deadline.

Staff Summary for May 5-6, 2026

Overview of Actions in Petition 2023-34MPA Relevant to This Region

This petition, submitted by Environment California and Azul, proposes to reclassify one SMCA and modify allowed uses at two other SMCAs; one of these sites is located in this region (action number is included for reference):

- Action 1. Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA, which currently allows commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore, to an SMR to prohibit all take.

Stated Intent

The petitioners state that the proposed change is motivated by low compliance with existing Point Buchon SMCA/SMR regulations and by concerns that the current level of protection is insufficient in the face of “growing threats related to climate change, increased human use, new ocean uses, and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind and aquaculture.” They believe reclassification will improve both compliance and the level of protection. See Exhibit 1 for more details.

Public Comments

The Commission has received public comments on MPA petitions continuously since petitions were submitted in late 2023. Staff has compiled into a single packet the comments received for this petition that were included in committee or Commission meeting binders or supplemental handouts from the December 2023 through April 2026 Commission meetings (Exhibit 2). Comments received after the April 2026 Commission meeting but before this meeting’s comment deadline are included as exhibits to this staff summary.

Petition Evaluations

On March 20, 2026, the Department publicly released its [evaluations and recommendations for the ten petitions that were not tribally led or co-led](#), including for Petition 2023-34MPA (Exhibit 3). The Department also released a [companion document](#), to offer essential context that is intended to be reviewed before the individual petition evaluations.

In addition, on March 20, 2026 the [California Ocean Protection Council \(OPC\), in its role as policy lead for the MPA network, sent a letter to the Commission](#) outlining its overarching perspectives on the MPA petitions, including the tribally led and co-led petitions (see [OPC news release, dated March 20, 2026](#)). OPC indicated that it plans to provide more detailed input on the bin 2 petitions using a policy lens, intended to complement the Department’s evaluations. OPC now anticipates transmitting its evaluation for consideration at the June 2026 Commission meeting.

Today’s Meeting

Today, the petitioners will present Petition 2023-34MPA and describe any proposed changes since the March 2025 amendment deadline. This meeting provides petitioners with an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Commission alongside robust public participation.

All meeting participants are encouraged to review the [Regional Meeting Expectations and Guidelines](#) (included in the agenda) as a reference for engaging in today’s meeting.

Staff Summary for May 5-6, 2026

Significant Public Comments

1. The Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association (VCCFA) is opposed to the petition. The organization identifies several concerns, including the lack of comprehensive socioeconomic analysis and the absence of a meaningful evaluation of fishing effort displacement and its impact on surrounding open fishing areas. VCCFA urges the Commission to deny the petition or to require socioeconomic, effort-displacement, and economic-impact analyses before proceeding. (Exhibit 4)
2. A recreational angler and diver from northern California who frequently recreates along the central California coast urges the Commission to deny the petition because they desire allowance for low impact pelagic take wherever possible (Exhibit 5).

Recommendation

Commission staff: Based on the day's discussion, consider what additional information, if any, will be needed to inform a Commission decision on the petition.

Department: Deny, for the reasons detailed in Exhibit 3. In summary:

- The proposed reclassification of Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR would not improve MPA design or function within the Network and would create unnecessary socioeconomic impacts.
- Scientific review shows that additional No-take protections would not increase habitat representation, ecological function, or connectivity beyond what the existing SMR/SMCA cluster already provides.
- Compliance concerns raised in the proposal are not supported by enforcement data, which indicate generally low citation levels and improving trends.
- Maintaining recreational and commercial salmon and albacore fishing aligns with the original design intent of the SMCA and balances conservation with community needs.

Exhibits

1. [Petition 2023-34MPA](#), received November 30, 2023
2. [Packet of comments](#), received November 2023 through April 17, 2026
3. [Department evaluation of Petition 2023-34MPA](#), received March 20, 2026
4. [Letter from David Colker, Executive Director, Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association](#), received April 21, 2026
5. [Email from Rick Duenas](#), received April 22, 2026

Motion (N/A)



Tracking Number: (2023-34MPA
)

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: Environment California Research and Policy Center and Azul**
Name of primary contact person: Laura Deehan, Environment California Research and Policy Center
Address: 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 385, Los Angeles, CA, 90010
Telephone number: (415) 420-4710
Email address: Ideehan@environmentcalifornia.org
- 2. Rulemaking Authority (Required)** - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205(c), 265, 399, 1590, 1591, 2860, 2861 and 6750, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 36725(a) and 36725(e), Public Resources Code..
- 3. Overview (Required)** - *Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:* In order to advance the goals of the California Marine Life Protection Act and better protect our ocean and coastal resources into the future, this joint petition submitted by Environment California RPC and Azul seeks to increase the level of protection and help to improve enforceability for three state MPAs. We request that the CA Fish & Game Commission: 1) upgrade Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to a no-take State Marine Reserve (SMR) to streamline and enhance enforcement and compliance and increase protection in the face of future stressors, and 2) modify the regulations of Farnsworth Onshore SMCA and Farnsworth Offshore SMCA to allow only recreational spearfishing within their boundaries, in order to better protect this highly sensitive, rare, and valuable ecosystem. There may be additional state MPAs in need of similar action, and we encourage the state to do its own analysis to identify existing MPAs in need of enhanced biodiversity conservation, streamlined enforcement, and increased ease of compliance.



4. **Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: According to law enforcement updates and the [California Compliance Forums](#) convened by the MPA Collaborative Network, compliance with [Point Buchon SMCA/SMR](#) and [Farnsworth Onshore/Offshore SMCA](#) regulations is very low. The Compliance Forums found that compliance is particularly compromised in areas with confusing regulations, boundaries, or jurisdictions, and these MPA clusters are prime examples. The offshore/onshore boundary divisions of these MPA clusters, along with the extremely complicated regulations for both Farnsworth SMCAs, make it difficult for stakeholders to understand the two most important compliance-related questions: where is the MPA, and what does it allow?

In addition, since the California MPA network’s creation, extensive peer-reviewed research has underscored the differences in outcomes between strongly and lightly protected marine areas. With coastal and marine ecosystems facing growing threats related to climate change, increased human use, new ocean uses, and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind and aquaculture, significant improvements to the existing MPA network are warranted to better protect our ocean and coastal resources into the future. The regulation changes proposed herein seek to improve conservation outcomes for California SMCAs with compliance issues and low levels of protection.

See attached Petition Narrative for full rationale and site-specific information.

Primary contact info:

Laura Deehan, Environment California Research and Policy Center, (415) 420-4710,

ldeehan@environmentcalifornia.org

Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Azul, mar@azul.org

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** 11/29/2023

6. **Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: MPAs, Section 632.

7. **The proposal is to:** (To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)

Amend Title 14 Section(s): [Westlaw regulations](#).

Add New Title 14 Section(s):

Repeal Title 14 Section(s):

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**

9. Or Not applicable.



10. **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: As soon as is practicable for the State of California.
11. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:
 - a. Petition Narrative
 - b. Appendix A - Letters of support
 - i. Petitioner's letter of support
 - ii. Letter from Assemblymember Dawn Addis
 - iii. Joint letter from 9 leading scientists and co-authors of The MPA Guide
 - iv. Joint letter from 27 scientists, researchers, and educators
 - v. Joint letter from 20 NGOs
 - vi. Letter from Environmental Action signed by 2,487 member of the public
 - vii. Letter signed by 214 CALPIRG students
 - viii. Letter from 5 California college student leaders
 - ix. Petition signed by over 7,000 members of the public
12. **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:

The Point Buchon SMCA currently allows for the recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore. While it is possible there may be very minor short-term economic impacts associated with closing the area, depending on the level of albacore fishing conducted within the existing SMCA, they are expected to be negligible. Salmon fishing is presently closed for all state waters, and the extremely poor status of salmon stocks no longer appear to support specific allowances in the state's MPA network. In addition, we argue that the long-term benefits provided by an increased level of protection and streamlined enforceability for this area will outweigh the short-term costs, especially in the face of climate change, increasing ocean uses and competition, and potential impacts from offshore wind development.

We acknowledge that the proposed regulations change to the Farnsworth SMCAs to may have some impact on the commercial market squid fishery and recreational sportfishing. However, the risk of damage to this highly sensitive ecological area is too high to allow even for pelagic fishing activities, which can result in bottom disturbance and bycatch. For instance, party boat patrons have often been observed dropping weighted lines that interact with bottom habitat in the Onshore SMCA (pers. comms with local recreational fisher wishing to remain anonymous). Further, these proposed regulation changes strongly align with and help to promote the high intrinsic and recreational value of the area, improving the safety and quality of recreation for divers, underwater photographers, and spearfishers.

13. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only



Date received: 11/30/2023

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

**Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement
for Several California State MPAs**

Joint Submission by Environment California and Azul

PETITION NARRATIVE

Overview

In order to advance the goals of the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and better protect our ocean and coastal resources into the future, this petition seeks to increase the level of protection and help to improve enforceability for three state MPAs. We request that the CA Fish & Game Commission: 1) upgrade Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to a no-take State Marine Reserve (SMR) to streamline and enhance enforcement and compliance and increase protection in the face of future stressors, and 2) modify the regulations of Farnsworth Bank Onshore SMCA and Farnsworth Bank Offshore SMCA to allow only for recreational spearfishing to take place within their boundaries, in order to better protect this highly sensitive, rare, and valuable ecosystem. There may be additional state MPAs in need of similar action, and we encourage the state to do its own analysis to identify existing MPAs in need of enhanced biodiversity conservation, streamlined enforcement, and increased ease of compliance.

Enforcement & compliance within California MPAs

The success of any MPA relies on effective enforcement and community support and understanding of regulations. A global synthesis of MPA outcomes identified being well-enforced as one of the five essential features predicting MPA success around the world (Edgar et al. 2014). Further, one of the explicit goals of the MLPA is to “ensure California’s MPAs have...adequate enforcement” (Goal 5, California MLPA).

However, despite laudable investment in enforcement, outreach, and education from the state, there is a high level of illegal fishing and other FGC violations occurring in and near some of California’s MPAs (California Statewide Compliance Forum 2022). The MPA Collaborative Network held over 15 virtual and in-person public fora gathering over 500 stakeholders from 2019 to 2020 to discuss MPA compliance concerns and to brainstorm ideas to address those concerns. The Forums found that compliance is particularly compromised in areas with confusing regulations, boundaries, or jurisdictions. Public awareness and understanding of MPA regulations is crucial for compliance, and confusing regulations and a lack of understanding of restrictions can contribute to unintentional violations. While some of California’s State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) have limited take allowances and provide a relatively high level of conservation value to most species, other SMCAs currently have extensive and confusing regulations, and several are paired with onshore no-take State Marine Reserves (SMRs) to form an MPA cluster – making it even more difficult for stakeholders to understand the two most

important compliance-related questions for MPAs: where are they, and what do they allow?¹ Proposed stakeholder solutions include potential regulatory changes for fishing and other activities along the coast, as well as greater investment in education and outreach.

Complicated regulations also make it exceedingly difficult for law enforcement officers or the public monitoring these areas to visually assess whether a vessel's occupants are complying with on-the-water regulations. For instance, if an officer sees a vessel in an SMCA using rod and reel gear where fishing for some pelagic species is allowed but fishing for other species is prohibited, it is virtually impossible for that officer to tell whether the boaters are complying without boarding the vessel to assess the boaters' catch. This only increases the amount of time, resources, and dollars necessary to ensure compliance in these areas, as California's enforcement officers also contend with limited staffing and budgets (Murray and Hee 2019). The same is true around the world – in fact, research has shown that areas with a mixture of partial and full protection are up to twice as expensive to manage than a simpler, fully protected area (Ban et al. 2011).

Higher levels of protection lead to greater benefits

Since the California MPA network's creation, extensive peer-reviewed research has underscored the differences in outcomes between strongly and lightly protected marine areas. We now know that highly and fully protected areas – those where little to no extractive or destructive activities are permitted – provide the greatest ecological and conservation benefits (Grorud-Colvert et al. 2021). For instance, one meta-analysis of global MPAs found that fish biomass in fully protected (“no-take”) MPAs is 343% higher than in partially-protected MPAs (Sala & Giakoumis 2018). Another global analysis found that weakly regulated areas showed minimal ecological benefits, while highly to fully protected areas showed higher abundance and biomass of commercially important species (Zupan et al. 2018). Similarly, a 24-year long timeseries of catch data in Kenya found that per-person daily catches increased 25 times faster in waters around fully protected MPAs than in areas that regulated fishing gear only (McClanahan 2021). In addition, fully protected areas have been shown to provide stronger climate adaptation and resilience benefits than lightly protected areas (Roberts et al. 2016). Finally – and importantly – an assessment of ecological effectiveness and social perceptions of MPAs in southern Australia found that partially protected areas had no more fish, invertebrates, or algae than unprotected areas; were poorly understood by coastal users; were not more attractive than unprotected areas; and were not perceived to have better marine life than unprotected areas. In addition, the fully protected areas were not only more effective ecologically, but were perceived more positively by local communities and visitors and assigned a higher value by local communities and visitors (Turnbull et al. 2021).

¹ The MPA Collaborative Network's Vetted Regulation Recommendations cite many instances where confusing boundaries and regulations are leading to unintended violations or accidental poaching in SMR/SMCA complexes. For examples, see lines 22, 37, 43, 47, 50, 51, 54, 55, 58, 62, 63, 65, 66, 71, 87, 90, 92, 97, 99, 104, 133, 145, 146, 148, 154, 155, and 165.

With coastal and marine ecosystems facing growing threats related to climate change, increased human use, new ocean uses, and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind and aquaculture, significant improvements to the existing MPA network are warranted to better protect our ocean and coastal resources into the future. Governor Newsom recently set the goal of protecting 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030 ('30x30'), which was codified with the passage of SB337 in 2023. However, the area protected within the statewide MPA network represents far below 30% of our state waters. Only 12% of state waters are covered in highly to fully protected areas, and an additional 4% is covered in lightly protected areas that allow considerable human impacts within their boundaries. In total, only 16% of state waters are currently protected within an MPA. As the state works to achieve its 30x30 goal, the FGC and other agencies should consider where increases in the level of protection offered by existing California MPAs are warranted, to ensure the network is able to provide the best ecological and social outcomes possible.

Proposed regulation changes for California SMCA with compliance issues and low levels of protection

Point Buchon SMCA

Point Buchon SMCA is located eight miles south of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. It is part of an onshore-offshore pair of adjoining MPAs covering almost 19 square miles of rocky reefs, sandy seafloor and beaches, kelp forests, rocky intertidal areas, and offshore pinnacles. The adjoining no-take marine protected area, Point Buchon State Marine Reserve, covers the inshore portion of the MPA complex from the mean high tide line to the halfway point between the coast and the state waters limit. Point Buchon SMCA sits offshore of the SMR and encompasses more than 12 square miles of waters that range from about 200 to 400 feet deep.

Compliance with Point Buchon's regulations appears to be very low. The California Compliance Forum in San Luis Obispo cited "a high level of illegal offshore fishing and squid boats in the Point Buchon MPAs", and the Decadal Management Review revealed Point Buchon SMCA had the third highest number of violations for MPAs in Central Coast region over past decade ([DMR Report](#)). In 2022, it was listed among the top 10 MPAs with the highest MPA violations across the entire state ([Committee Staff Summary for July 20, 2023 MRC Meeting](#)).

At the same time, the potential for non-fishing impacts to the area are increasing. The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) lies in the federal waters just outside of the Point Buchon SMCA, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently issued two leases for offshore wind development in the Morro Bay WEA. These offshore wind farms are anticipated to transmit power via undersea cables that connect with onshore power terminals, potentially at the nearby Diablo Canyon Power Plant located just outside the southern boundary of Point Buchon SMR. Offshore wind construction and operations are expected to impact the marine environment through increased ocean noise, the introduction of electromagnetic fields, alterations to existing habitats and hydrodynamics, and the possible release of contaminants (NOAA Fisheries). While the state of California is working closely with the federal government to minimize environmental

impacts, the region, and the Point Buchon SMR/SMCA complex, will experience some level of impact related to the development of heavily industrialized renewable energy projects. By minimizing ecosystem stressors, fully protected areas provide maximum resilience and greater opportunity to identify the cause of ecosystem impacts (Grorud-Colvert et al. 2021).

Current regulations

Point Buchon SMCA currently allows for recreational and commercial salmon and albacore fishing within its boundaries. The current regulations read as follows:

“It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, EXCEPT:
Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore is allowed.”

California’s salmon fishery has experienced significant challenges due to the proliferation of dams, the loss of wetlands and estuaries, and recently, prolonged drought and increased warming that affects freshwater habitat. As a result, the entire fishery was closed in 2023. Sport fishing for albacore is largely centered from the California Channel Islands south to Ensenada. Given these circumstances, converting the Point Buchon SMCA into an SMR would provide full no-take protection for this important area with de minimis impacts to fishing activity.

In addition, the boundary between the SMCA and SMR is oriented as a diagonal line that runs parallel to the coastline. The headlands of Point Buchon hide the southeast corner of the SMCA/SMR complex from view from the north, allowing for poaching to occur more easily in the SMR. Enforcement officers patrolling the busier, more heavily trafficked waters to the north of the point aren’t able to see fishing boats that enter the SMR via the southeast corner of the SMCA, and unless enforcement officers take the time to cross the point to patrol this area specifically, vessels are able to fish in the SMR without being detected.

Proposed regulation change

We propose merging the Point Buchon SMR/SMCA complex into a single State Marine Reserve, creating a more enforceable protected area able to confer greater conservation benefits consistent with its intended role as an “anchor” protected area in the Central Coast region. The new, proposed regulations would reflect those of Point Buchon SMR, and would read as follows:

“It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.”

We also strongly recommend the state revisit installing a camera near the flagpole looking south at Point Buchon. A camera or the M2 radar system could inform officers and help address offshore poaching regularly occurring there.

Socioeconomic impacts

As mentioned above, the Point Buchon SMCA currently allows for the recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore. While it is possible there may be very minor short-term economic impacts associated with closing the area depending on the level of albacore fishing conducted within the existing SMCA, they are expected to be negligible. Salmon fishing is presently closed for all state waters, and the extremely poor status of salmon stocks no longer appear to support specific allowances in the state's MPA network. In addition, we argue that the long-term benefits provided by an increased level of protection and streamlined enforceability for this area will outweigh the short-term costs, especially in the face of climate change, increasing ocean uses and competition, and potential impacts from offshore wind development.

Historical context and intent

The Point Buchon SMR/SMCA complex was placed near the Diablo Canyon Power Plant to align with the no-fishing zone already surrounding the power plant, thereby limiting the negative socio-economic effects on the local fishing community. The state decided to split the Point Buchon MPA into an onshore SMR and an offshore SMCA to minimize the impacts on recreational fishing in the area, allowing for recreational salmon fishing within the SMCA.

One of the objectives of the Point Buchon SMR/SMCA complex is to "Protect ecosystem structure, function, integrity and ecological processes...from disturbances both natural and human induced". In light of increased impacts from nearby offshore wind development areas, stronger protections are warranted for this MPA complex to continue meeting stated objectives.

Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs

The Farnsworth Onshore/Offshore SMCA complex is located on the windward side of Santa Catalina Island, a little more than 20 miles south-southwest of the Southern California mainland. This SMCA complex protects a series of pinnacles and underwater mountains known as Farnsworth Bank, which is one of only four known locations of a rare purple hydrocoral and is a well-known, exceptional location for advanced SCUBA diving and underwater photography. Farnsworth Onshore SMCA also provides critical habitat for the endangered black abalone, which dwells in the intertidal zone, and the endangered white abalone, which inhabits the deeper, subtidal zone. The full SMCA complex protects the unique cooler water, wave-exposed portions of the "east islands" bioregion and includes a high diversity of productive, relatively high-exposure habitats, productive nearshore reefs and a wider shelf than found on the leeward side of Catalina Island.

Both SMCAs allow for several gear types and species to be targeted, with some slight differences between the two areas. The regulations themselves and also the regulation differences are challenging to understand, creating confusion and unintentional regulation violations. Commercial passenger fishing vessels (also known as "party boats") are also often

seen illegally fishing in Farnsworth Onshore SMCA, moving out if they see a patrol boat approaching ([MPA Collaborative Network's Vetted Regulation Recommendations](#) lines 146 & 147).

Current regulations

These SMCAs are currently “minimally protected” according to the MPA Guide framework (Grorud-Colvert et al. 2021), due to the substantial number of gear types allowed and species targeted. The regulations for Farnsworth Onshore SMCA are currently as follows:

“It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, EXCEPT:

Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net; white seabass and pelagic finfish (northern anchovy, barracudas, billfishes, dorado (dolphins), Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, blue shark, salmon shark, shortfin mako shark, thresher shark, swordfish, tunas, Pacific bonito, and yellowtail) by spearfishing; and marlin, tuna and dorado by trolling is allowed.

Commercial take of coastal pelagic species (northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and market squid) by round-haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon is allowed (no commercial take of marlin is allowed). Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.”

The regulations for Farnsworth Offshore SMCA are currently as follows:

“It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, EXCEPT:

Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net; white seabass by spearfishing; pelagic finfish (northern anchovy, barracudas, billfishes, dorado (dolphins), Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, blue shark, salmon shark, shortfin mako shark, thresher shark, swordfish, tunas, Pacific bonito, and yellowtail) by hook-and-line or spearfishing, and marlin, tuna and dorado by trolling is allowed.

Commercial take of coastal pelagic species (northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and market squid) by round-haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon is allowed (no commercial take of marlin is allowed). Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.”

The difference between the two is almost impossible to detect, leading to confusion about what is and isn't permitted, increasing chances of accidental violations, and possibly acting as a disincentive for law enforcement officers to enforce these MPAs and/or prosecutors to pursue these cases.

Proposed regulations

To simultaneously streamline regulations, increase the level of protection for this ecologically significant site, and honor the original intent of the SMCA complex to allow for recreational use, we propose adjusting the regulations for both SMCAs to allow only for recreational take via spearfishing. Spearfishing is a relatively low-impact activity that, with close attention to buoyancy and best practices, has a low likelihood of interaction with bottom habitat. The new, proposed regulations for both SMCAs (effectively merging them into one) would read as follows:

“It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, EXCEPT:

Recreational take of white seabass and pelagic finfish (northern anchovy, barracudas, billfishes, dorado (dolphinfish), Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, Pacific bonito, and yellowtail by spearfishing.”

Socioeconomic impact

We acknowledge that closing this area to non-recreational spearfishing may have some impact on the commercial market squid fishery and recreational sportfishing. However, the risk of damage to this highly sensitive ecological area is too high to allow even for pelagic fishing activities, which can result in bottom disturbance and bycatch. For instance, party boat patrons have often been observed dropping weighted lines that interact with bottom habitat in the Onshore SMCA (pers. comms with local recreational fisher wishing to remain anonymous). Further, these proposed regulation changes strongly align with and help to promote the high intrinsic and recreational value of the area, improving the safety and quality of recreation for divers, underwater photographers, and spearfishers.

Historical context and intent

This area has been protected since 1973, when the California Fish and Game Commission designated Farnsworth Bank an ecological reserve. During the MLPA planning process, a much larger SMR protecting Farnsworth Bank was proposed in order to fully protect Farnsworth Bank and a variety of other ecologically important features nearby, such as the deep water squid spawning habitat. While CDFW’s Feasibility Analysis deemed that this historical proposal met feasibility criteria, the state decided upon the smaller onshore/offshore SMCA complex currently in place, with the intent of balancing conservation with recreational and commercial use. This pair of SMCAs are considered “backbone MPAs” for the backside of Catalina Island.

Relevance to MLPA Goals and DMR Recommendations

The changes proposed in this petition strongly align with [Goals 1, 2, and 5 of the Marine Life Protection Act \(MLPA\)](#). Notably, the first finding of the MLPA is: "2851. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following: (a) California’s marine protected areas (MPAs) were established on a piecemeal basis rather than according to a coherent plan and sound scientific guidelines. Many of these MPAs lack clearly defined purposes, effective management measures and enforcement. As a result, the array of MPAs creates the illusion of protection while falling far short of its potential to protect and conserve living marine life and habitat." Ten years later,

California's MPA network is no longer piecemeal, yet current MPAs with unduly complicated regulations risk this very same problem.

By increasing the level of protection for several minimally and lightly protected MPAs, the state will enhance the protection of marine life as well as the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems, and will enhance these MPAs' ability to sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those that are commercially valuable. By streamlining regulations for these SMCAs, the state will help to ensure that California's MPAs are adequately enforced.

In addition, this petition helps to advance DMR Recommendation 4.b.) "Identify and utilize best science-based approaches to inform potential changes to the MPA Network in order to enhance Network performance." Since the creation of the MPA network, a decade of scientific peer-reviewed research from around the world has shown that highly to fully protected areas provide the greatest benefits for biodiversity conservation, and that partially protected areas only hinder enforcement, public understanding, and conservation outcomes.

In the face of growing threats related to climate change and increased human use, the state has the opportunity now to improve and enhance our MPA network to better protect our ocean and coastal resources into the future for generations to come.

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

November 30th, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

Environment California Research & Policy Center has one mission that drives everything we do: to protect our natural world. We envision a better, greener California: one that protects and restores more places where all life can thrive and offers us and our children the opportunity to live healthier, more enriching lives.

Azul is a grassroots organization working to conserve marine resources. We treasure the life-sustaining force of the ocean, as well as the physical and spiritual nourishment it provides us. We are a Gente powered and led effort, focused first on celebrating our rich Latino conservation traditions and connecting them to current solutions. Our work is based in authentic engagement, community building, and collaboration.

That's why we welcomed the goal set by Governor Newsom and his Administration of protecting 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030 ('30x30'), which was codified with the passage of SB337 this Fall. This goal reflects the new scientific consensus that humanity must set aside much more of the ocean to sustain healthy marine life populations and ecosystems.

The State of California's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), created by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), has demonstrated that area-based marine protection works: during the state's recently completed Decadal Management Review (DMR), scientific analysis showed that the network has generally succeeded in protecting ocean habitats, increasing biomass of fishery-targeted species, and enhancing the climate resilience of California's coastal ecosystems.

However, the amount of coastal waters currently protected within the statewide MPA network falls far below the state's 30% goal. Only 12% of California state waters are covered in highly to fully protected areas – the types of protected areas known to provide the best conservation outcomes – and an additional 4% is covered in lightly protected areas that allow considerable human impacts within their boundaries. In total, 16% of state waters are currently protected within an MPA.

We must do more. Coastal and marine ecosystems face growing threats related to climate change and increased human use, as well as emerging threats from new ocean uses such as offshore wind and aquaculture. In the face of these threats, now is the time to make significant improvements to the existing MPA network via an adaptive management process to better protect our ocean and coastal resources in the future.

That is why we are submitting two petitions for rulemaking intended to strengthen the network's ability to conserve critical habitat types and better manage the network. Each of the two petitions stands on their own and are based on new and updated science that were not available to policymakers at the time of designating the original network. The areas we have proposed for expansion or strengthening are prime examples of where California's ocean life stands to benefit through new or updated permanent, area-based protections created under the MLPA.

The areas we are proposing are likely not the only areas that would fit the criteria for enhanced protection laid out in our petitions, nor are our criteria the only ecological criteria that could be used to systemically strengthen the existing network in line with the state's new 30x30 goal. We urge the Fish and Game Commission and all relevant state agencies to conduct analyses that will highlight the habitat types, species, and regions underserved by the current network, with an eye toward building a state MPA network that is resilient in the face of rising ocean temperatures, emerging threats, and continued pressure on endangered and threatened species.

Californians can be proud that we have led the way in ocean conservation over the past decades. It's time to take up the mantle of leadership once again, globally and nationally, not only to create a better future for the amazing life off of our own coasts, but also to inspire other decision makers to do so along every coastline, in every part of the ocean.

With your leadership, our groundbreaking marine protected area network can take its next leap forward.

Sincerely,

Laura Deehan
Director
Environment California Research & Policy Center

Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Founder / Executive Director
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DISABILITIES

VICE CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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

November 28th, 2023

Re: Strengthening and Expanding California's Marine Protected Area Network

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

As an Assemblymember and advocate for the health and vitality of California's coastal ecosystems, I write to express my support for the expansion of the state's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to include the expansion and strengthening of Point Buchon SMCA and Natural Bridges SMR. Protecting specific habitat areas, including the remaining areas of stable kelp forests, and increasing the rigor of existing marine protected areas are crucial steps in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of the ecosystems off our shores.

The state of our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade.¹ Pollution, overfishing, offshore drilling and other human activities are threatening ocean habitat and marine species, while the changing climate increases the risk of extreme weather events and puts even greater stress on ocean ecosystems.^{2,3}

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

¹ Meredith McPherson et. al, [Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave](#), Communications Biology, March 5, 2021

² James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "[New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild](#)," Environment America Research and Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 2021.

³ Arafah-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), One Earth 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.⁴ California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth-anniversary last year, and the state's decadal management review showed that marine life in existing reserves better withstood recent marine heatwaves, and reserves across the state had higher biomass of commercially caught fish than areas lacking protection.⁵ Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a leader, both nationally and globally, in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

That's why I urge you to expand our state's network of MPAs within the adaptive management process of the Decadal Management Review. In particular, I am writing in support of the strengthening and expansion of Point Buchon SMCA and Natural Bridges SMR off the coast of my community.

We, as Californians, have a deep love for our ocean and feel a profound responsibility to participate in decisions that impact our state's coastal waters. Our ocean is not just a source of clean air, wildlife, and natural beauty but also a mystery that beckons exploration and discovery. It is our moral imperative to lead the nation and the world in taking bold actions to preserve the sea in our own backyard, ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you, Honorable Commissioners, to expand California's MPA network to encompass areas of persistent kelp, with a particular focus on safeguarding the strengthening and expansion of Point Buchon SMCA and Natural Bridges SMR.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our ocean and for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Addis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Addis".

DAWN ADDIS
Assemblymember, 30th District

⁴ James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "[New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild](#)," Environment America Research and Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 2021.

⁵ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. [California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review](#). 2022.

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

November 29, 2023

Re: Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

We, the undersigned scientists with expertise in marine conservation and the area-based management of marine ecosystems, are writing to express our support for the petition put forth by the Environment California Research & Policy Center seeking to increase the level of protection conferred to California marine ecosystems by the state's marine protected areas (MPAs).

Decades of global peer-reviewed research has shown that, when key enabling conditions are met, highly to fully protected areas that minimize or eliminate all destructive and extractive human activities confer the greatest ecological and biodiversity conservation benefits compared to lightly or minimally protected areas. When well-designed, strongly protected, and well-enforced, MPAs can increase the biomass, abundance, and size of species within their boundaries, enhance nearby fisheries when commercially-targeted species "spill over" into surrounding areas, promote the persistence of important habitat types, provide incredible opportunities for recreation and non-consumptive uses by local communities, and so much more. The larger sizes of animals inside these MPAs also makes a disproportionately large contribution to the reproductive output of the entire population. We have seen first-hand the types of outstanding outcomes that these protected areas can deliver. As co-authors and supporters of *The MPA Guide*, a scientific framework to identify different types of MPAs and connect these types of MPAs with the outcomes they are expected to achieve, we strongly endorse efforts to increase the level of protection conferred by California's MPAs.

Additionally, strong enforcement and compliance are critical for realizing conservation benefits. Where regulations are too weak or confusing, MPAs can fail to conserve the important ocean life and ecosystems they are intended to protect. Several of California's MPAs should be improved with streamlined regulations, amended boundaries, and the removal of allowances for certain gear types that have since proven too damaging for certain habitats or target species that have since experienced extreme declines.

Scientific guidance published over the last decade since the California MPA network was put in place has made it ever clearer what makes for a successful MPA. Updating the network to incorporate this new science within the adaptive management process will uphold the goals of the MLPA and ensure that California continues to lead on area-based marine protection, nationally and globally.

Thank you for your ongoing ocean conservation leadership and tireless efforts to protect California's ocean heritage.

Sincerely,

Alan Friedlander, Ph.D.
Senior Director of Research, Pristine Seas, National Geographic Society
Researcher, Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawai'i

Enric Sala, Ph.D.
Explorer in Residence, National Geographic Society
Executive Director, National Geographic Pristine Seas

Lance Morgan, PhD
President, Marine Conservation Institute

Sarah Hameed, PhD
Blue Parks Director & Senior Scientist, Marine Conservation Institute

Peter J. Auster, PhD
Senior Research Scientist, Mystic Aquarium
Research Professor Emeritus of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut

Beth Pike, M.E.M.
Marine Protection Atlas Program Director, Marine Conservation Institute

Dawn Murray, PhD
Professor Environmental Studies, Antioch University Santa Barbara

Nur Arafah Dalmau, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University
Honorary Fellow the University of Queensland

Carolina Olguín-Jacobson, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University

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

November 30th, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

As scientists, researchers, and educators who work to understand our changing oceans and inspire the next generation of ocean stewards, we write to express our support for the expansion and strengthening of California's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to help safeguard the state's diverse marine ecosystems and ensure the long-term resilience of our ocean habitats.

Globally, the ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. California's coastal ecosystems have not been spared these global trends: Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade.¹ Only an average of 55 Pacific leatherback turtles are now found foraging off California's coast every year, a notable decrease from the yearly average of 128 Pacific leatherbacks observed in the region from 1990 to 2003.² Marine heatwaves have doubled over the last 30 years and have become more intense and longer in duration, putting stress on California's marine species and ecosystems.³

Now, California has a unique opportunity to take bold, effective and science-based action to conserve its marine biodiversity by expanding its groundbreaking network of state MPAs. MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from destructive human activities that can damage the integrity of marine ecosystems. Globally and in California, strongly protected and well-enforced MPAs have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate

¹ Meredith McPherson et. al, [Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave](#), Communications Biology, March 5, 2021

² Benson, Scott R., Karin A. Forney, Jeffrey E. Moore, Erin L. LaCasella, James T. Harvey, and James V. Carretta. ["A Long-Term Decline in the Abundance of Endangered Leatherback Turtles, Dermochelys Coriacea, at a Foraging Ground in the California Current Ecosystem."](#) *Global Ecology and Conservation* 24 November 2020.

³ IPCC (2021). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte VP, Zhai A, Pirani SL, Connors C, Péan S, et al. (Eds.)].;

change on our oceans.⁴ Well-designed and well-implemented reserves better preserve natural interactions within ecosystems, allowing for greater resiliency in the face of rising global temperatures and changing environmental conditions.⁵

California's network of MPAs, established through the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act, celebrated its tenth anniversary last year. The state's recent Decadal Management Review (DMR) analyzed a decade of monitoring data and showed that the MPA network has generally been effective at protecting ocean habitats and increasing fisheries-targeted species' biomass.⁶ Now, in the face of increasing threats, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a national and global leader in the effort to protect our ocean habitats.

That's why we, as scientists, researchers, and educators, urge you to expand and strengthen our state's network of MPAs via the adaptive management process of the DMR.

Specifically, we support the expansion of the MPA network to include additional protections for California's most resilient kelp forests. While these vital and iconic ecosystems have faced declines statewide in recent years, kelp forests in some areas have persisted or bounced back quickly in the face of marine heatwaves and other disturbances.⁷ By expanding protections for these resilient forests under the MLPA, the state can minimize direct human impacts in these relatively healthy areas, helping to ensure their continued persistence and enhancing the effectiveness of restoration efforts for declining kelp ecosystems nearby. Globally, kelp restoration has been most successful in places adjacent to/contiguous with healthy kelp forest ecosystems.⁸

It is also vital that existing California MPAs are able to achieve their stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health. We encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected, especially in places where weaker or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. Research has shown that highly and fully protected areas, where few if any destructive or extractive activities are allowed, provide greater ecological benefits than lightly or minimally protected areas.⁹ The

⁴ James Horrox, Kelsey Lamp and Steve Blackledge. [New Life for the Ocean: How Marine Protections Keep Our Waters Wild](#). Environment America Research & Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 3, 2021

⁵ Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**, eabf0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

⁶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review.;

⁷ Arafeh-Dalmau *et al.*, [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), *One Earth* 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁸ Eger, A.M., Marzinelli, E.M., Christie, H., Fagerli, C.W., Fujita, D., Gonzalez, A.P., Hong, S.W., Kim, J.H., Lee, L.C., McHugh, T.A., Nishihara, G.N., Tatsumi, M., Steinberg, P.D. and Vergés, A. (2022), Global kelp forest restoration: past lessons, present status, and future directions. *Biol Rev*, 97: 1449-1475.

⁹ Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**, eabf0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

state's network currently protects 12% of state waters in highly- or fully-protected MPAs, as defined by Grorud-Colvert et al. (2021), which leaves 4% of the network lacking the most effective conservation protections.¹⁰ By expanding the level of protection to areas already identified as ecologically important, we can ensure that the area's vulnerable marine resources have the chance to recover and flourish.

Our ocean is not just a source of clean air, wildlife, and natural beauty but also a mystery that beckons exploration and discovery. It is our moral imperative to lead the nation and the world in taking bold actions to preserve the sea, ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners, you have a chance to take up this imperative and champion the expansion and strengthening of California's network of Marine Protected Areas. By doing so, you will leave a lasting legacy of marine stewardship that will keep California at the forefront of ocean conservation, nationally and globally.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our ocean and for considering this urgent matter. Together, we can ensure a healthier, more abundant future for the unique marine ecosystems that define California.

Sincerely,

Michael Akresh
Faculty
Antioch University

Alice Alldredge
Professor Emeritus
University of California, Santa Barbara

Steven Allison
Professor
University of California, Irvine

Anupa Asokan
Ocean advocate

Peter Auster
Senior Research Scientist & Research Professor
Emeritus
Mystic Aquarium & University of Connecticut

Nevé Baker
PhD Candidate
University of California Santa Cruz

Leocadio Blanco Bercial
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University - Bermuda Institute of
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Cuesta College

¹⁰ Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**,0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

Michelle María Early Capistrán
Postdoctoral Scholar
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Rikki Eriksen
Director Marine Spatial Ecology
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Paul Faulstich
Emeritus Professor of Environmental Analysis
Pitzer College

Sarah Hameed
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Marine Conservation Institute

Brett Holland
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Flora Lu
Professor of Environmental Studies
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Kathy Ann Miller
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Herbarium, University of California

Lisa Murphy
co-founder, primary researcher and educator
Gold Country Bat Project

Dawn Murray
Professor
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Jacquelin Mutter
National One Water Planning Lead
HDR

Erin Naegle
STEM Dean of Instruction
Cuesta College

Hannahrose Nevins
Seabird Ecologist
Seabird Consultant

Gretchen North
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Carolina Olguin Jacobson
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Gorka Sancho
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Joanna Tang
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Charles Zender
Professor of Earth System Science
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California Fish and Game Commission
 715 P Street, 16th floor,
 Sacramento, CA 95814

November 30th, 2023

RE: Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

Our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Only 50 Pacific leatherback turtles are now found foraging off California’s coast, a notable decrease from the 178 Pacific leatherbacks observed from 1990 to 2003.¹ Marine heatwaves have doubled over the last 30 years and have

¹ Benson, Scott R., Karin A. Forney, Jeffrey E. Moore, Erin L. LaCasella, James T. Harvey, and James V. Carretta. [“A Long-Term Decline in the Abundance of Endangered Leatherback Turtles, Dermochelys Coriacea, at a Foraging Ground in the California Current Ecosystem.”](#) *Global Ecology and Conservation* 24 (November 2020).

become more intense and longer in duration, putting stress on California's marine species and ecosystems. ²

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.³ By providing areas that serve as buffers against climate change, fully protected MPAs adapt to changing environmental conditions because they better preserve natural interactions within ecosystems, allowing for greater resiliency.⁴

California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, and the state's decadal management review showed that MPAs effectively protect ocean habitats and increase fishery-targeted species' biomass. Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a national and global leader in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

Protecting specific habitat areas and increasing the rigor of existing marine protected areas are crucial steps in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of our ocean environments.

It is vital that existing California MPAs are able to achieve their stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health. We encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected, especially in places where weaker or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. We are proposing stronger protections for Point Buchon SMCA and the Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs. Research has shown that highly and fully protected areas, where few if any destructive

² Teri E. Nicholson, Karl A. Mayer, Michelle M. Staedler, Jessica A. Fujii, Michael J. Murray, Andrew B. Johnson, M. Tim Tinker, Kyle S. Van Houtan, [Gaps in kelp cover may threaten the recovery of California sea otters](#), *Ecography, a Journal of Space and Time in Ecology*, (February, 2018).

García-Reyes, Marisol, Andrew Leising, Rebecca Asch, Steven Bograd, and Tessa M Hill. Rep. Indicators of Climate Change in California, ["Coastal Ocean Temperature"](#), *California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*, 2022.

³ Arafeh-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), *One Earth* 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁴ Jankowska, Emilia, et al. ["Climate Benefits from Establishing Marine Protected Areas Targeted at Blue Carbon Solutions."](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 119, no. 23, 2022.

or extractive activities are allowed, provide greater ecological benefits than lightly or minimally protected areas.⁵

Enhancing the protection of California's critical ocean habitats strongly aligns with Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the MLPA by preserving natural diversity, sustaining marine life populations, protecting marine habitats for their intrinsic value, and improving recreational and educational opportunities while minimizing human disturbance.⁶ Safeguarding and further protecting critical marine habitats will ensure critical habitat preservation for diverse marine species, including endangered sea otters and commercially valuable fish.

In summary, we encourage you, Fish and Game Commissioners, to actively support strengthening and expanding California's Marine Protected Areas.

We appreciate your steadfast dedication to our ocean's well-being and consideration of this pressing issue. Working together, we can secure a more robust future for California's distinctive marine ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California Research and Policy Center

Tomas Valadez
CA Policy Associate
Azul

Robert Vergara
Roger Arliner Young (RAY) Ocean Conservation Fellow
Natural Resources Defense Council

Clara Castronovo
Board Chair
CALPIRG Students

Keith Shattenkirk
Program Officer, Healthy Lands and Waters

⁵Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**, eabf0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

⁶“Marine Life Protection Act.” CDFW. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA>.

Patagonia

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Krista Rogers
Program Manager
Save Our Shores

Chelsea Tu
Executive Director
Monterey Waterkeeper

Janet Cox
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Pauline Seales
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Megan Shumway
Member
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The Climate Reality Project California State Coalition

Robert Gould, MD

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San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

Esperanza Vielma

Executive Director

Environmental Coalition for Water Justice

Daniel Chandler

Steering Committee Member

350 Humboldt

Andria Ventura

Legislative and Policy Director

Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

Daniel Gluesenkamp

Executive Director

California Institute for Biodiversity

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

November 28th, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

In solidarity with the shared responsibility for the well-being of our planet, particularly the oceans and coastlines we hold dear, we are reaching out as college students to express our firm support for the amplification and extension of California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. Understanding the critical importance of maintaining stable kelp ecosystems and safeguarding conserved ocean areas, we are committed to ensuring the prolonged vitality of our oceans and the myriad marine species that inhabit them.

The state of our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade.¹ Only 50 Pacific leatherback turtles are now found foraging off California's coast, a notable decrease from the 178 Pacific leatherbacks observed from 1990 to 2003.² Marine heatwaves have doubled over the last 30 years, and have become more intense and longer in duration, putting stress on California's marine species and ecosystems.³

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

¹ Meredith McPherson et. al, [Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave](#), Communications Biology, March 5, 2021

² Benson, Scott R., Karin A. Forney, Jeffrey E. Moore, Erin L. LaCasella, James T. Harvey, and James V. Carretta. ["A Long-Term Decline in the Abundance of Endangered Leatherback Turtles, Dermochelys Coriacea, at a Foraging Ground in the California Current Ecosystem."](#) *Global Ecology and Conservation* 24 (November 2020).

³ García-Reyes, Marisol, Andrew Leising, Rebecca Asch, Steven Bograd, and Tessa M Hill. Rep. Indicators of Climate Change in California, ["Coastal Ocean Temperature"](#), *California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*, 2022.

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.⁴ By providing areas that serve as buffers against climate change, fully protected MPAs adapt to changing environmental conditions because they better preserve natural interactions within ecosystems, allowing for greater resiliency.⁵

California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, and the state's Decadal Management Review (DMR) showed that MPAs effectively protect ocean habitats and increase fishery-targeted species' biomass. The DMR found that the older the MPA, the larger the increase in the biomass of fished species. Some ecological communities like kelp forests and rocky intertidal ecosystems within MPAs appeared more resilient and recovered more quickly after marine heatwaves than similar habitats outside MPAs.⁶ Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a national and global leader in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

We support the expansion of the MPA Network to include critical, resilient kelp forests along California's coastline. While these vital and iconic ecosystems have faced declines statewide in recent years, kelp forests in some areas have persisted or bounced back quickly in the face of marine heatwaves and other disturbances.⁷ By expanding protections for these resilient forests under the MLPA, the state can minimize direct human impacts in these relatively healthy areas, helping to ensure their continued persistence and enhancing the effectiveness of restoration efforts for declining kelp ecosystems nearby.

It is also vital that existing California MPAs are able to achieve their stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health. We encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected, especially in places where weaker or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. Research has shown that highly and fully protected areas, where few if any destructive or extractive activities are allowed, provide greater ecological benefits than lightly or minimally protected areas.⁸

As college students, we keenly feel the urgency to address the environmental crises, particularly along California's coast. Having grown up witnessing the impacts of climate change, it's clear

⁴ Arafteh-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), One Earth 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁵ Jankowska, Emilia, et al. "[Climate Benefits from Establishing Marine Protected Areas Targeted at Blue Carbon Solutions](#)." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 119, no. 23, 2022.

⁶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review.

⁷ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review.

⁸ Ibid Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**, eabf0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

that action is needed to limit harm to the environment. That's why we urge the Fish and Game Commission to make significant changes in preserving and protecting our vast ocean habitats, ensuring a meaningful and lasting impact for generations to come.

Our ocean is not just a provider of fresh air, diverse wildlife, and breathtaking scenery; it's also an enigma that calls us to explore and uncover its secrets. As college students, we believe it's our duty to be at the forefront of national and global efforts, taking bold steps to safeguard the ocean. This commitment ensures its future and the welfare of communities dependent on it for survival and prosperity.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you, Fish and Game Commissioners, to champion the expansion and fortification of California's network of Marine Protected Areas, with a particular focus on safeguarding kelp forests and reinforcing the protection of existing MPAs. By doing so, you will leave a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our ocean and for considering this urgent matter. Together, we can ensure a healthier, more abundant future for the unique marine ecosystems that define California.

Sincerely,

Clara Castronovo
Board Chair
CALPIRG Students

Brandi Sanchez
President
Ecology Behavior and Evolution Club at UC San Diego

Brandi Sanchez
President
Pollinator Club at UC San Diego

Aiden Ledbetter
President
Davis College Democrats

Hannah Hughes
President
5C Plant-Based Mission at the Claremont Colleges



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

November 29, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

CALPIRG Students is a statewide, student-run, and student-funded organization that works to protect the environment, make college affordable, and promote civic engagement. We have over 20,000 dues-paying members across the UC system and have been on campus for almost 50 years advocating for students on issues that students care about most. As part of our ongoing efforts to win better protections for California's ocean, we are submitting 214 signatures from our supporters on campuses across the state in support of Environment California Research & Policy's petitions for rulemaking in the state's adaptive management process for the California marine protected area network.

Each of the 214 people signed the following letter:

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Sea otters bobbing in the surf. Whales diving deep to feed. Seabirds flying above. Our state's coastline is home to wildlife, large and small. As students and young people, we are proud to live in a state that has taken steps to protect this ocean heritage for future generations. California's network of marine protected areas are places that, just like state parks on land, help protect and restore ocean life.

I urge you to strengthen this network through the Decadal Management Review in line with your important goal of protecting 30 percent of our state waters by 2030. Specifically, I urge you to expand the network to protect the state's last remaining kelp forests, critical homes to fish and sea otters, and to strengthen existing areas that don't yet provide high levels of protection to ocean life.

With your support, California can expand this network of ocean parks to create a brighter future for the ocean life that calls our state home, and hopefully inspire others across the country and around the world to follow our lead.

As young people, we are working everyday to tackle the most pressing problems facing our ocean, our climate and our communities. That's why we are heartened to see state leaders like



Governor Newsom and the state legislature set bold and ambitious goals to protect more of our coastline.

But goals need to be followed by action to ensure the future health and abundance of our ocean wildlife and wild places. That's why our student members have been campaigning for better ocean protections, and why we are excited to have this opportunity in the Decadal Management Review to push our state's groundbreaking network of MPAs forward. An expanded, strengthened network will make our coasts more resilient in the face of climate change and give our ocean life a chance to thrive.

Thank you for this opportunity, and we look forward to working with you to continue to create a better future for California's coasts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clara Castronovo".

Clara Castronovo
State Board Chair
CALPIRG Students

CALPIRG

Students

Camellia Cartland, Alhambra, CA
Mary Ann Gutierrez, Alhambra, CA
Jaylene Madrid, Apple Valley, CA
Ainsley Wilkin, Apple Valley, CA
TREINA LE, Baldwin Park, CA
Erika Alfaro, Berkeley, CA
Erik Beahrs, Berkeley, CA
Sophia Brodie-Weisberg, Berkeley, CA
Julissa Esparza, Berkeley, CA
Ellen Franzen, Berkeley, CA
Olivia Hom, Berkeley, CA
Kaki Li, Berkeley, CA
Ryan Montis, Berkeley, CA
Stachi Thockchom, Berkeley, CA
Minqi Wang, Berkeley, CA
Caroline Yee, Berkeley, CA
Erinne Yoo, Berkeley, CA
Erik Hart, Bonny Doon, CA
Kofi Addo, Buena Park, CA
Taylor Keppel, Burbank, CA
Monica Wiesener, Calabasas, CA
Radha Jujare, Campbell, CA
Adrian Contreras, Capitola, CA
Jane Giza, Carmichael, CA
Eduardo Angel Hurtado, Chula Vista, CA
Roxanna Braganca, Chula Vista, CA
Rachel Burnett, Concord, CA
Alexis Hammond, Coronado, CA
Mark Danilak, Cupertino, CA
Marea Ayala, Davis, CA
Aster Basnick, Davis, CA
Harriet Chilton, Davis, CA
ReJenai Cloy, Davis, CA
Rena Cohen, Davis, CA
Olivia Lim, Davis, CA
Seth Marshall, Davis, CA
An Nguyen, Davis, CA
Trevor Ottoson, Davis, CA
Madelyn Parker, Davis, CA
Caitlin Perea, Davis, CA
Emmalie Perez, Davis, CA
Aaron Saint John, Davis, CA
Samuel Saxe-Taller, Davis, CA
Percival Singson, Davis, CA
Avery Thau, Davis, CA
Josue Velasquez, Davis, CA
Mackenna Weems, Davis, CA
hiliary wang, Diamond Bar, CA
Ariadne meza-lopez, Diamond Springs, CA
Ria Dadia, Dublin, CA
Aziz Abdulahad, El Cajon, CA
Claire Wang, El Cajon, CA
Eythana Miller, Emeryville, CA
Rosina Miranda, Fair Oaks, CA
Michael Assmus, Fairfax, CA
julie park, Fountain Valley, CA

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Students

Jasmine Avila Soria, Fremont, CA

Bao tran Nguyen, Fremont, CA

Alex Sanchez, Fresno, CA

Kelalani Luong-Kha, Garden Grove, CA

Toby Ngo, Garden Grove, CA

Ariaeli Hernandez, Gilroy, CA

Nathan Carbajal, Goleta, CA

Ana Cardenas Gasca, Goleta, CA

Kittamet Chanchaiworawit, Goleta, CA

Lizzie Harding, Goleta, CA

Lluvia Medina, Goleta, CA

Mariana Morton, Goleta, CA

Joanna Tang, Goleta, CA

joanna tang, Goleta, CA

Bradley Thomas, Goleta, CA

Henry Lindhurst, Granite Bay, CA

Peter Le, Hawthorne, CA

adriana zapotitla, Indio, CA

Kimberly Torres, Industry, CA

Andy Fleischer, Irvine, CA

Rhianna Heaster, Irvine, CA

Anisa Johnson, Irvine, CA

Nathaniel Jordan, Irvine, CA

Hudson Lee, Irvine, CA

Henson Ning, Irvine, CA

Ash Quan, Irvine, CA

Lucie Villata, Irvine, CA

Karen Yan, La Jolla, CA

Charlee Marlinga, La Quinta, CA

Gianna Wright, La Quinta, CA

Nathaniel Friedman, Lafayette, CA

Emma Contreras, Lemon Grove, CA

Samikshaya Auanthakrisknan, Lincoln, CA

Elina Dern, Lincoln, CA

Jennifer Gonzalez-Espinoza, Lindsay, CA

Kristi Copeland, Long Beach, CA

Liam Williams, Long Beach, CA

Lexi Crilley, Los Altos Hills, CA

Hoque Akter, Los Angeles, CA

Kimberly Barrueta, Los Angeles, CA

Gabby Ebrahimi, Los Angeles, CA

Bahar Farzaneh, Los Angeles, CA

Janine Fischer, Los Angeles, CA

Tyler Holmes, Los Angeles, CA

Kieran Johnson, Los Angeles, CA

Lucy Kaff, Los Angeles, CA

Daniel Lamas Sanchez, Los Angeles, CA

Dean Lewis, Los Angeles, CA

Kainoa MacDonald, Los Angeles, CA

Darla Marie Duffy, Los Angeles, CA

Alayah Marshall, Los Angeles, CA

Mireya Mondragon, Los Angeles, CA

Lilia Naylor, Los Angeles, CA

Alina Orendain-Calderon, Los Angeles, CA

Shannon Park, Los Angeles, CA

Owen Pogue, Los Angeles, CA

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Students

Lizbeth Rivera, Los Angeles, CA
Alondra Roque, Los Angeles, CA
Jonas Shladovsky, Los Angeles, CA
madelyn spence, Los Angeles, CA
Anita Theng, Los Angeles, CA
Nataly Villasenor, Los Angeles, CA
Rujin Yu, Los Angeles, CA
Jonathan Giang, Monterey Park, CA
Sam Strieter, Moreno Valley, CA
Samantha Strieter, Moreno Valley, CA
Lizzie Su, Mountain House, CA
Angel Parra, Murrieta, CA
Eleanor Vo, Oakland, CA
Alonzo Canete, Ontario, CA
Lori Shen, Ontario, CA
Jacqueline Barnes, Palo Alto, CA
Alicia Acevedo, Perris, CA
Morgen Guzman, Petaluma, CA
Ruth Simon, Placentia, CA
Danae Delgado-Diaz, Pomona, CA
Rachel Lucine, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Kurubel Tesfay, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Cassidy Creighton, Redwood City, CA
Ren Romero, Redwood City, CA
Nicole Castillo, Richmond, CA
Lida Halilovic, Riverside, CA
Ryan LaCasse, Riverside, CA
Hannah Kae Monson, Riverside, CA
Katharine Pan, Riverside, CA
Paige Smith, Riverside, CA
Laurel Tennant, Riverside, CA
Esteban Torres, Riverside, CA
Jennifer Vo, Riverside, CA
Sage Prudente, Rocklin, CA
Olivia Teich, Rohnert Park, CA
Panka Kernacs, Sacramento, CA
Megyn Horton, San Anselmo, CA
Nox Keel, San Clemente, CA
Yingqi Cao, San Diego, CA
Mekayli Claros, San Diego, CA
Avamarie Fromm, San Diego, CA
Camila Gonzalez, San Diego, CA
Benjamin Greenstein, San Diego, CA
Xiaoyu Gui, San Diego, CA
Anne Huynh, San Diego, CA
Michael Iter, San Diego, CA
Katrina Mai, San Diego, CA
Lizard Merrick, San Diego, CA
Ava Ramirez-Brown, San Diego, CA
Dhruv Sehgal, San Diego, CA
Sarah Song, San Diego, CA
Isabella Wagner, San Diego, CA
Lucy Yang, San Diego, CA
Rachel , San Diego, CA
Nadia Nehme, San Francisco, CA
Caroline Sykes, San Francisco, CA

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Students

Tatiana Aguilera, San Leandro, CA

Anjuli Oey, San Leandro, CA

Lilly Wolf-Hoy, San Marcos, CA

Elise Won, San Mateo, CA

Yahir Alexis Leal, Santa Ana, CA

Belen Cordova, Santa Cruz, CA

Chaitan Butte, Santa Monica, CA

Nikolas Brandt, Sebastopol, CA

Natalie Bai, Stanford, CA

Sofia Perez, Temecula, CA

Elena Picinich, Temecula, CA

Jiovanni Esteveec, Temple City, CA

Brent Pitts, Torrance, CA

Eva Pullen, Truckee, CA

Audrey Robertson, Tustin, CA

samael yang, Union City, CA

Emily Arana, Vacaville, CA

melissa fryar, Vacaville, CA

Taylor Arrington, Vallejo, CA

Natalie Rodriguez, West Covina, CA

Sara Morris, Whittier, CA

Claire Griffiths, Yorba Linda, CA

Neilyn Alvarez-Rodriguez, CA

Diana Cardova, CA

Anna Chuang, CA

Dharma Gutierrez Romero, CA

Wafaa Lawai, CA

Markus Mantyvaara, CA

Nayeli Orozco, CA

Kenya Santamaria, CA

Maia Boell, Carroll, IA

Charlie Cronenwett, Leawood, KS

Michael Basmajian, Somerville, MA

Miranda Sih, Minneapolis, MN

Julianna Evinski, Linwood, NJ

John Dunn, Morristown, NJ

Benito Morales, , WA

Ava Png, Weston, WI

Shashank Uma Deepak

Titouan Faure,

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

November 29, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

Environmental Action was founded in 1970, on the first Earth Day, as a community of grassroots environmental activists working for a cleaner, greener world. We are submitting the following 2,487 signatures in support of Environment California Research & Policy Center's petitions for rulemaking in the state's adaptive management process for the California Marine Protected Area network.

Each of the 2,487 people signed the following letter:

Dear Governor Newsom,

Sea otters bobbing in the surf. Whales diving deep to feed. Seabirds flying above. Our state's coastline is home to wildlife, large and small. As Californians, we've taken steps to protect this ocean heritage by creating a network of marine protected areas that, just like state parks on land, help protect and restore ocean life.

I urge you to strengthen this network through the Decadal Management Review in line with your important goal of protecting 30 percent of our state waters by 2030. Specifically, I urge you to expand the network to protect the state's last remaining kelp forests, critical homes to fish and sea otters, and to strengthen existing areas that don't yet provide high levels of protection to ocean life.

With your support, California can expand this network of ocean parks to create a brighter future for the ocean life that calls our state home, and hopefully inspire others across the country and around the world to follow our lead.

Sincerely,

As a group that works to protect our most amazing and at risk wildlife across the country, we know that preserving and restoring habitats will be critical to seeing our ocean life thrive. Whether it's a return of sea otters to more of the coastline or more abundant seabirds flying above our heads, expanding and strengthening California's network of marine protected areas will create a more hopeful future for the wild animals that call the state's coastline home.

But the decisions made on California's coast will not only impact the state's wildlife: as with many environmental issues, California's actions here have the potential to reverberate far and wide. If the state acts with ambition during this adaptive management process to fulfill the state's 30 by 30 commitment, it can set the national standard for ocean conservation, leading the country and the globe forward to a better future for our oceans.

Sincerely,



Patrick Kelly-Fischer
Board Member
Environmental Action

Cathy Crum, Agoura Hills, CA
Roger Ewing, Agoura Hills, CA
Debra Lichstein, Agoura Hills, CA
Brian Jeffery, Aguanga, CA
Geraldyn Gulseth, Alameda, CA
David Howard, Alameda, CA
Mike Kehl, Alameda, CA
Jamie Le, Alameda, CA
Andrew Mueckenberger, Alameda, CA
Donna Pedroza, Alameda, CA
Mana-Jean Wagnon, Alameda, CA
Michael Grant White, Alameda, CA
Joseph Woodard, Alameda, CA
Connie Diernisse, Alamo, CA
Ehren Mierau, Alamo, CA
Ana Black, Albany, CA
Lill D, Albany, CA
Christopher Hamilton, Albany, CA
Michael Sullivan, Albany, CA
Lisa Wenzel, Albany, CA
Barbara Williamson, Albany, CA
Dobby Sommer, Albion, CA
Annemarie Weibel, Albion, CA
Tom Atha, Alhambra, CA
Araceli Aviles, Alhambra, CA
Anjanette Caron, Alhambra, CA
David Gallardo, Alhambra, CA
Angel Orona, Alhambra, CA
Christine Sirias, Alhambra, CA
Laurie Barre, Altadena, CA
Vic Bostock, Altadena, CA
Timothy Callahan, Altadena, CA
G Devine, Altadena, CA
Beth Herndobler, Altadena, CA
Jennifer Herstein, Altadena, CA
Venetia Large, Altadena, CA
Annamarie Jones, Alturas, CA
Thomas McCombs, American Canyon, CA
Robert Raven, American Canyon, CA
Nora Coyle, Anaheim, CA
Shauna Gonzalez, Anaheim, CA
Penelope Harms, Anaheim, CA
Jane Iacovetti, Anaheim, CA
Karen Malley, Anaheim, CA
Tim Maurer, Anaheim, CA
Natalie Blasco, Anderson, CA
Sharon Lieberman, Annapolis, CA
Melissa Brooks, Antelope, CA
Jessica Mitchell-Shihabi, Antelope, CA
John Nadolski, Antelope, CA
Leslie Clement, Antioch, CA
Lindsey Kalfsbeek, Antioch, CA
Dennis Cajas, Apple Valley, CA
Julia Deasley, Apple Valley, CA
Val Wren, Apple Valley, CA
Carol Easton, Aptos, CA
Michele Faia, Aptos, CA
Bonnie Gessler, Aptos, CA
Blaise Brockman, Arcadia, CA
Jana Harker, Arcadia, CA

Penn Patton, Arcadia, CA
Richard Wightman, Arcadia, CA
Jeannie Gunn, Arcata, CA
Connie Lindgren, Arcata, CA
Rudy Ramp, Arcata, CA
Sophie Rocheleau, Arcata, CA
Jane Spini, Arcata, CA
Kimberly Tays, Arcata, CA
Mary Finch, Aromas, CA
Barbara Frances, Aromas, CA
Paul Lapidus, Aromas, CA
Sherry Pennell, Aromas, CA
Mary Orcutt, Arroyo Grande, CA
Verona Rebow, Arroyo Grande, CA
Mary Simmons, Arroyo Grande, CA
Mitchell Falkenstern, Atascadero, CA
Tara Gonzales, Atascadero, CA
Helena Hernandez, Atascadero, CA
Kathleen Van Every, Atascadero, CA
Gabriele Miatkowski, Athens, CA
Marilyn Barthelow, Auburn, CA
Jana Boccalon, Auburn, CA
Kermit Carraway, Auburn, CA
Denise Redden, Auburn, CA
Shawn Jones, Avila Beach, CA
Jere Wilkerson, Avila Beach, CA
Silvia Rocha, Azusa, CA
Linda Alvarado, Bakersfield, CA
Jim Carnal, Bakersfield, CA
Jennifer Cartwright, Bakersfield, CA
Caryn Cowin, Bakersfield, CA
Maria Guzman, Bakersfield, CA
Steve Isenman, Bakersfield, CA
Judy Matusz, Bakersfield, CA
Tracy McCowan, Bakersfield, CA
Steve Sketo, Bakersfield, CA
Yolanda Berumen, Baldwin Park, CA
Jesse Calderon, Baldwin Park, CA
Khai Hang, Baldwin Park, CA
Vicki Sarnecki, Bangor, CA
Christopher Jennings, Banning, CA
Geneva Sherwood, Banning, CA
Linda Christenson, Beaumont, CA
Jon Sheehan, Bell Gardens, CA
Joan Alexander, Bellevue, CA
Yazmin Gonzalez, Bellflower, CA
Dennis Landi, Bellflower, CA
Jason Nolasco, Bellflower, CA
Andrea Kevech, Belmont, CA
Angela Gantos, Belvedere Tiburon, CA
Barbara Meislin, Belvedere Tiburon, CA
Janie Burkhart, Ben Lomond, CA
Nancy Phillips, Ben Lomond, CA
Sarah Holder, Benicia, CA
Robert Quarrick, Benicia, CA
Rudy Zeller, Benicia, CA
Mimi Abers, Berkeley, CA
Inger Acking, Berkeley, CA
Rory Alden, Berkeley, CA
Joan Andersson, Berkeley, CA

Steve Berman, Berkeley, CA
James Blakly, Berkeley, CA
Wendy Brown, Berkeley, CA
Waltraud Buckland, Berkeley, CA
Lynda Caesara, Berkeley, CA
Jenny Collins, Berkeley, CA
Janis Dairiki, Berkeley, CA
Saraswathi Devi, Berkeley, CA
Wendy Diamond, Berkeley, CA
Jonathan Eden, Berkeley, CA
Christopher Evans, Berkeley, CA
Mike Evans, Berkeley, CA
Ellen Franzen, Berkeley, CA
Rachel Gordon, Berkeley, CA
Caryn Graves, Berkeley, CA
Paul Gruber, Berkeley, CA
Stefanie Guynn, Berkeley, CA
D.H. Higgins, Berkeley, CA
Andrea Horbinski, Berkeley, CA
Kimi Hosoume, Berkeley, CA
Maggie Hughes, Berkeley, CA
Richard Huss, Berkeley, CA
Tasha Isolani, Berkeley, CA
Kate Kirkhuff, Berkeley, CA
Lola Leeman, Berkeley, CA
Robert Magarian, Berkeley, CA
Rachel Mayeda, Berkeley, CA
David Miotke, Berkeley, CA
Elaine Parker, Berkeley, CA
Dale Peterson, Berkeley, CA

Tawny Reynolds, Berkeley, CA
Bob Schildgen, Berkeley, CA
Wendy Stock, Berkeley, CA
Linda Tiffany, Berkeley, CA
Paul Vesper, Berkeley, CA
Jonathan Weinstock, Berkeley, CA
Stephanie Wellemeyer, Berkeley, CA
Suzanne Wood, Berkeley, CA
Scott Nelson, Bethel Island, CA
Michelle Arc, Beverly Hills, CA
Val Barri, Beverly Hills, CA
Suzi Beaton, Beverly Hills, CA
Meike Blanc, Beverly Hills, CA
Elizabeth Bona, Beverly Hills, CA
Verna Dentrey, Beverly Hills, CA
Antoinette Dusaid, Beverly Hills, CA
Sara Gernsbacher, Beverly Hills, CA
Sofia Hallgren, Beverly Hills, CA
Helen Hearfield, Beverly Hills, CA
Julia Ivanova, Beverly Hills, CA
Valeria Kobzak, Beverly Hills, CA
Kare M, Beverly Hills, CA
Rick Moffat, Beverly Hills, CA
Troy Munn, Beverly Hills, CA
Peter Nielsen, Beverly Hills, CA
Heather Parekh, Beverly Hills, CA
Allison Rensch, Beverly Hills, CA
Ken Rosen, Beverly Hills, CA
Craig Thompson, Big Bar, CA
Nancy Freedland, Big Bear City, CA

Karen Roseme, Bishop, CA

Barbara Inyan, Blairsden Graeagle, CA

Antonia Chianis, Blue Jay, CA

Pamela Dornfeld, Bodega Bay, CA

Robert Mizar, Bodega Bay, CA

Tina Ann, Bolinas, CA

Rene Flores, Bonita, CA

Leif Kristiansen, Bonita, CA

Cynthia McMath, Boonville, CA

Cristina Warren, Borrego Springs, CA

Ed Atkins, Boulder Creek, CA

Marivee Frayer, Boulder Creek, CA

Sally Fuess, Boulder Creek, CA

Karen Hillery, Boulder Creek, CA

Diane Knipe, Boulder Creek, CA

Kathryn St. John, Boulder Creek, CA

Ann Thryft, Boulder Creek, CA

Lynn Sentenn, Brea, CA

Donna Buessing, Brentwood, CA

Stephanie Glatt, Buellton, CA

D. Fachko, Buena Park, CA

Jennifer Jerlstrom, Buena Park, CA

Jessica Likens, Buena Park, CA

Nelson Molina, Buena Park, CA

Ruxandra Caranfil, Burbank, CA

Sandra Christopher, Burbank, CA

Chantal Dinnage, Burbank, CA

Olga D Grovic, Burbank, CA

Artineh Havan, Burbank, CA

Laura Herndon, Burbank, CA

Rhonda Kess, Burbank, CA

Lotti Knowles, Burbank, CA

Susan Magnus, Burbank, CA

Tyson Martin, Burbank, CA

William Mead, Burbank, CA

Tom Pitman, Burbank, CA

Ben Anderson, Burlingame, CA

Kendra Knight, Burlingame, CA

Amy Liebman, Burlingame, CA

Sam Morrison, Burlingame, CA

Laura Overmann, Burlingame, CA

Brent Woolsey, Burlingame, CA

Vivian Deutsch, Calabasas, CA

Beth Doshay, Calabasas, CA

Monica Wiesener, Calabasas, CA

David Burtis, Calistoga, CA

Scott Hester, Calistoga, CA

Macella O'Neill, Calistoga, CA

Susan Beil, Camarillo, CA

Grace Cunningham, Camarillo, CA

Jeanette Desmond, Camarillo, CA

Cherie Garrett, Camarillo, CA

Tim Guisinger, Camarillo, CA

Susan Kittinger, Camarillo, CA

John Randle, Camarillo, CA

Charlie Tetoni, Camarillo, CA

Allyson Dallmann, Cambria, CA

Julianne Dunkley, Cambria, CA

Janice E. Farry-Menke, Cambria, CA

Glenda Griffith, Cambria, CA

Lisa McGurrin, Cambria, CA
Katherine Bossange, Campbell, CA
Barbara Mason, Campbell, CA
Louise Perry, Campbell, CA
Anne Swanson, Campbell, CA
Judy Wang, Campbell, CA
George Steinitz, Campo, CA
Mark Giordani, Canoga Park, CA
Alan Johnson, Canoga Park, CA
Sheila Winston, Canoga Park, CA
Lynda Cook, Canyon Country, CA
Ramona Agin, Canyonville, CA
Tim Ryan, Capistrano Beach, CA
Matt Bender, Cardiff by the Sea, CA
Mercedes Benet, Carlsbad, CA
Angie G., Carlsbad, CA
Lois Ingber, Carlsbad, CA
Phyllis Lackey, Carlsbad, CA
Erica Murray, Carlsbad, CA
Alexa Pallas, Carlsbad, CA
Michael Parry, Carlsbad, CA
Avi Shaprut, Carlsbad, CA
Peter Brickey, Carmel, CA
Alyce Foster, Carmel, CA
Diana North, Carmel, CA
Lonni Trykowski, Carmel, CA
Julie Dalton, Carmel by the Sea, CA
Elizabeth Adan, Carmichael, CA
Nancy Bukowski, Carmichael, CA
Warren Hageman, Carmichael, CA

Lori Hubbard, Carnation, CA
Judith Falck-Madsen, Carpinteria, CA
Mary Wiener, Carpinteria, CA
G.Diane Matthews-Marcelin, Carson, CA
Lisa Tyree, Carson, CA
Gloria Aguirre, Castaic, CA
Michael Ames, Castro Valley, CA
Elisabeth Bathgate, Castro Valley, CA
Patricia Blackwell-Marchant, Castro Valley, CA
Glen Deardorff, Castro Valley, CA
Gina Gatto, Castro Valley, CA
Sue Hall, Castro Valley, CA
Pati Jio, Castro Valley, CA
Kerri McGoldrick, Castro Valley, CA
Reina Robinson, Castro Valley, CA
Greg Rosas, Castro Valley, CA
Pamela Sibley, Castro Valley, CA
Marci Spencer, Castro Valley, CA
Barbara Harper, Castroville, CA
John Hill, Castroville, CA
Sarah Sowambur, Caterham, CA
Phillip Cripps, Cathedral City, CA
Kelly Erwin, Cathedral City, CA
Hilary Simonetti, Cathedral City, CA
Stephanie Hagiwara, Cayucos, CA
Jon Anderholm, Cazadero, CA
Wallace Rhine, Cazadero, CA
James Costello, Ceres, CA
Marie Perry, Ceres, CA
Jon High, Cerritos, CA

Katherine Hsu, Cerritos, CA
James Lindgren, Cerritos, CA
Cristel Cruz, Chatsworth, CA
C Deguzman, Chatsworth, CA
Lynette K Henderson, Chatsworth, CA
Sarah Suhich, Chatsworth, CA
Barbara Wasserman, Chatsworth, CA
Garrett Alden, Chico, CA
Paul Belz, Chico, CA
Linda Calbreath, Chico, CA
Grace Dewar, Chico, CA
Kylee Smith, Chico, CA
Steve Wolfe, Chico, CA
Terrie Maguire, Chino, CA
Cindy Chic, Chino Hills, CA
Cyndee Gannon, Chino Hills, CA
Angela Barbee, Chula Vista, CA
John Knox, Chula Vista, CA
Alana-Patris Loyer, Chula Vista, CA
Gaby Ramirez, Chula Vista, CA
Alfa Santos, Chula Vista, CA
John Teevan, Chula Vista, CA
Carol Von Sederholm, Chula Vista, CA
Robbin Christensen, Citrus Heights, CA
Sharon Hawkinson, Citrus Heights, CA
Callie Riley, Citrus Heights, CA
Laura Riley, Citrus Heights, CA
Brandy Schumacher, Citrus Heights, CA
Robert Blackey, Claremont, CA
Robert Ellwood, Claremont, CA
Karen Lull, Claremont, CA
Tanya Nieri, Claremont, CA
Laurel Tucker, Claremont, CA
Erica Tyron, Claremont, CA
Kathleen Love, Clearlake, CA
Trina Bodine, Cloverdale, CA
John Kwiatkowski, Cloverdale, CA
Barbara Matz, Cloverdale, CA
Cara Barnhill, Clovis, CA
Gail Blank, Coarsegold, CA
Dianna Suarez, Colfax, CA
Diane Hestich, Colton, CA
Shakayla Thomas, Compton, CA
Sheila Dixon, Concord, CA
Jennie Richards Jacob Blei, Concord, CA
Eugene Jung, Concord, CA
Susan King, Concord, CA
Lisa Maker, Concord, CA
James R Monroe, Concord, CA
Lynette Ridder, Concord, CA
Scott Tipton, Concord, CA
Carlene Visperas, Concord, CA
Bonnie W, Concord, CA
Emily Wheeler, Concord, CA
Shari Wildschutte, Concord, CA
Jane Bidinian, Cool, CA
Anne Spesick, Cool, CA
Joseph White, Cool, CA
Christina G, Corona, CA
Valerie Pelletier, Corona, CA

Donna Crossman, Coronado, CA
Sanja Dimitrijevic, Coronado, CA
Rhys Atknsn, Corte Madera, CA
Jennifer Lawson, Corte Madera, CA
Abigail Millikan States, Corte Madera, CA
Elaina Caner, Costa Mesa, CA
Rachelle Cox, Costa Mesa, CA
Michelle Fay, Costa Mesa, CA
Jacqueline Gait, Costa Mesa, CA
F. Carlene Reuscher, Costa Mesa, CA
Megan Snipes, Costa Mesa, CA
Lizzie Vierra, Costa Mesa, CA
Jane Lyon, Cotati, CA
Kelley Rico, Cottonwood, CA
Amanda Felt, Covina, CA
Wendy Monterrosa, Covina, CA
Sandy Williams, Covina, CA
Elli Kimbauer, Crescent City, CA
Paul Norup, Crescent City, CA
April Quigley, Crescent City, CA
Ronald Thompson, Crescent City, CA
Susannah Baxendale, Culver City, CA
Jane Nadeau, Culver City, CA
Brian Rutkin, Culver City, CA
Vj Waks, Culver City, CA
Peg Albrets, Cupertino, CA
Robert Jardine, Cupertino, CA
Helen Graham, Cypress, CA
Patricia Rudner, Cypress, CA
Rachel Abdel, Daly City, CA
Jeff Garner, Daly City, CA
Randy Gerlach, Daly City, CA
Noah H, Daly City, CA
Ramsey Jammal, Daly City, CA
Elena Orozco, Daly City, CA
Joanne Scott, Daly City, CA
Katya Siguenza, Daly City, CA
Diana Sutton, Daly City, CA
Mark Weinberger, Daly City, CA
Cheryl McCarthy, Dana Point, CA
Rick Edmondson, Danville, CA
Ramona Williams, Danville, CA
Sabrina Wong, Danville, CA
Christine K. Adams, Davis, CA
Philip Cooper, Davis, CA
Kristen Douglas, Davis, CA
Jon Erickson, Davis, CA
Sherrill Futrell, Davis, CA
Nancy Hiestand, Davis, CA
Autumn Marr, Davis, CA
Jack Milton, Davis, CA
Diane Moore, Davis, CA
Sherri Sandberg, Davis, CA
Nicole Slaton, Davis, CA
Elizabeth Hennessy Kyle, Del Mar, CA
Carol Kerridge, Del Mar, CA
Bea Cohen, Desert Hot Springs, CA
Maureen Mcdonald, Desert Hot Springs, CA
Michael McLaughlin, Desert Hot Springs, CA
Nancy Schelling, Desert Hot Springs, CA

Sarah Sultana, Desert Hot Springs, CA
Marilyn Eng, Diamond Bar, CA
Jeffrey Jenkins, Diamond Bar, CA
Seth Picker, Diamond Springs, CA
Melissa Villarreal, Dinuba, CA
Denise Russo, Discovery Bay, CA
Valerie Victorino, Discovery Bay, CA
Dan Vasile, Dodgertown, CA
Sharon Byers, Downey, CA
Michelle Fox, Downey, CA
Ivan Llata, Downey, CA
Dean Peppard, Downey, CA
Anna Armstrong, Duarte, CA
Sarah Sismondo, Duarte, CA
Juliet Flores, Dublin, CA
Nancy Nilssen, Dublin, CA
Jean Olds, Dublin, CA
Mohan Sakhrani, Dublin, CA
Anthony Totaro, Dublin, CA
Richard Harden, El Cajon, CA
Kim Koch, El Cajon, CA
Linda Martin, El Cajon, CA
Susan Hampton, El Cerrito, CA
Paul Hughes, El Cerrito, CA
Jan Jones, El Cerrito, CA
Michael Kenney, El Cerrito, CA
Robert Naumann, El Cerrito, CA
Carole Sartenaer, El Cerrito, CA
Anne Tuddenham, El Cerrito, CA
Cory Antila, El Dorado Hills, CA
Mary Foley Foley, El Dorado Hills, CA
Karen Miner, El Dorado Hills, CA
Dorothy Pasquinelli, El Granada, CA
Susie Rose Tempesta, El Granada, CA
Terry Blount, El Segundo, CA
Matthew Lubs, El Segundo, CA
Stacy Smith, El Segundo, CA
Bruce Wimberley, El Segundo, CA
Martha Booz, El Sobrante, CA
Garth Casaday, El Sobrante, CA
Dan Cooley, El Sobrante, CA
Natasha Kaluza, El Sobrante, CA
Marsha Lowry, El Sobrante, CA
John Carroll, Elk Grove, CA
Donna Giddens, Elk Grove, CA
Shannon Kemena, Elk Grove, CA
Sumita Khanna, Elk Grove, CA
Carol Leuenberger, Elk Grove, CA
Vivian Leung, Emeryville, CA
Kaylah Sterling, Emeryville, CA
Tara A. Birnbaum, Encinitas, CA
June Evans, Encinitas, CA
Shawn Johnson, Encinitas, CA
Barbara Mintz, Encinitas, CA
Felicia Chase, Encino, CA
Lucy Hart, Encino, CA
Hillary Ostrow, Encino, CA
Andrew Russell, Encino, CA
Michael Tullius, Encino, CA
Brenda Bergstrom, Escondido, CA

Dale Crawford, Escondido, CA

Cindy Dupray, Escondido, CA

Candace Galvez, Escondido, CA

Deborah Iannizzotto, Escondido, CA

John Pasqua, Escondido, CA

Erika Porter, Escondido, CA

Peter Randolph, Escondido, CA

Ken Sanford, Escondido, CA

Joanne Tenney, Escondido, CA

Andy Tomsy, Escondido, CA

Rena Zaman-Zade, Escondido, CA

Kevin Goodwin, Eureka, CA

Mary Hurley, Eureka, CA

Edward Macan, Eureka, CA

Lynda McDaniel, Eureka, CA

Karynn Merkel, Eureka, CA

Gina Ness, Eureka, CA

Davin Peterson, Eureka, CA

Anne Pierson, Eureka, CA

Graciela Ramirez, Eureka, CA

Karen Steele, Eureka, CA

Susan Tatro, Eureka, CA

Beti Webb Trauth, Eureka, CA

Don W, Eureka, CA

C Emerson, Fair Oaks, CA

Dean Griswold, Fair Oaks, CA

Steven Holzberg, Fair Oaks, CA

John J McLaughlin Jr, Fair Oaks, CA

Sheila Nason, Fair Oaks, CA

James Sherrel, Fair Oaks, CA

Jeanne Carlson, Fairfax, CA

Cindi Darling, Fairfax, CA

Kathleen Jackson, Fairfax, CA

Gary Mononi, Fairfax, CA

Vakila ter Veld, Fairfax, CA

Samuel Durkin, Fairfield, CA

Mark Edgren, Fairfield, CA

Veronica Michael, Fairfield, CA

Jean Riehl, Fairfield, CA

Todd Musto, Fallbrook, CA

Alice Kelly, Felton, CA

Jim Franzi, Fiddletown, CA

S. Johnson, Fillmore, CA

David Brooks, Folsom, CA

Jessica Dardarian, Folsom, CA

Joan Normington, Folsom, CA

Julie Osborn, Folsom, CA

Benjamin Billhardt, Fontana, CA

James Kawamura, Fontana, CA

Trina Aurin, Foothill Ranch, CA

Janet Ju, Foothill Ranch, CA

Bob Flagg, Forestville, CA

Robert Harrison, Forestville, CA

Gilia Humrich, Forestville, CA

Eric Johnson, Fort Bragg, CA

Bill Lundeen, Fort Bragg, CA

Gary Warner, Fort Jones, CA

Dave Lyons, Fortuna, CA

Ray Bartlett, Fountain Valley, CA

Moktar Salama, Fountain Valley, CA

Mary Brooks, Frazier Park, CA

Catherine Stansell, Frazier Park, CA

Monique Soares, Freedom, CA

Elaine Chung, Fremont, CA

Lacey Hicks, Fremont, CA

Jennifer King, Fremont, CA

Janet Klein, Fremont, CA

David Lanker, Fremont, CA

Vince Lindain, Fremont, CA

Charles Modjeski, Fremont, CA

Meera P, Fremont, CA

Sharon Rodrigues, Fremont, CA

Christopher Ware, Fremont, CA

Christine Anderson, Fresno, CA

Michael Bordenave, Fresno, CA

Kyla Esqueda, Fresno, CA

Britani German, Fresno, CA

Robert Glover, Fresno, CA

Evelyn Johnson-Todd, Fresno, CA

Andrew Jones, Fresno, CA

Francine Keohi, Fresno, CA

Shawn Martinez, Fresno, CA

Nancy McCormick, Fresno, CA

John Poss, Fresno, CA

Jacquelyn Riley, Fresno, CA

Haidie Simonet, Fresno, CA

Monica Yonangitti, Fresno, CA

John Ayala, Fullerton, CA

Donna Grampp, Fullerton, CA

Melodi Gulsen, Fullerton, CA

Lynn Hoang, Fullerton, CA

Winifred Hopkins, Fullerton, CA

Jaclyn Joy Lewis, Fullerton, CA

Evan McDermit, Fullerton, CA

Kent Morris, Fullerton, CA

Christine Doyka, Garberville, CA

Evelyn Ahumada, Garden Grove, CA

Laurie Kinnings, Garden Grove, CA

Dana May, Garden Grove, CA

Carol Tennyson, Garden Grove, CA

Deborah Burge, Garden Valley, CA

Suellen Carroll, Garden Valley, CA

Jennifer Walters, Gardena, CA

Deb Conant, Gilroy, CA

Lynne Long, Gilroy, CA

Carol Stafford, Gilroy, CA

Eleanor Decker, Glen Ellen, CA

Alejandro Artigas, Glendale, CA

A C, Glendale, CA

Carole Cooper, Glendale, CA

Barbara Cunningham, Glendale, CA

Lisa Deines, Glendale, CA

Claudia Hasenhuttl, Glendale, CA

Susi Higgins, Glendale, CA

Peter Hogan, Glendale, CA

Anita Liao, Glendale, CA

J. D. Lombardi, Glendale, CA

Jenette Paisley, Glendale, CA

Jeff Pollak, Glendale, CA

Victoria Shepherd, Glendale, CA

Rebecca Barker, Glendora, CA

Larissa Shen, Glendora, CA

Adriene Stutrud, Glenhaven, CA

Michael Beickel, Goleta, CA

Catherine Dishion Dishion, Goleta, CA

Amanda Heinrich, Goleta, CA

Martin Henderson, Goleta, CA

Kathy Kosinski, Goleta, CA

Patricia Moreno, Goleta, CA

Randall Parada, Goleta, CA

Z. Reisz, Goleta, CA

Joanna Tang, Goleta, CA

Dennis Hammermeister, Granada Hills, CA

Lisa Hammermeister, Granada Hills, CA

John Shell, Granada Hills, CA

Berna & Mark Nitzberg, Granite Bay, CA

Evette Andersen, Grass Valley, CA

Susanne Bader, Grass Valley, CA

Bonny Davis, Grass Valley, CA

Anna Drummond, Grass Valley, CA

John Everett, Grass Valley, CA

Steven Millard, Grass Valley, CA

Patricia Phillips, Grass Valley, CA

Robin Resovich, Grass Valley, CA

James Yonts, Graton, CA

Dixie Brown, Greenbrae, CA

Gordon Ehrman, Greenbrae, CA

Dennis McVey, Greenbrae, CA

Jill Mistretta, Greenbrae, CA

Joan Smith, Greenbrae, CA

Mark Escajeda, Gualala, CA

Querido Galdo, Gualala, CA

Teresa Bowden, Guerneville, CA

Russell Burke, Guerneville, CA

Kimo Cochran, Guerneville, CA

Andrea Kaufman, Guerneville, CA

Marilyn Wolters, Guerneville, CA

Arleen Zuniga, Guerneville, CA

Charles Elliott, Hacienda Heights, CA

Jean Howe, Hacienda Heights, CA

Michael Wisniewski, Hacienda Heights, CA

Debby Dernberger, Half Moon Bay, CA

Mariaelena Springsted, Half Moon Bay, CA

Amy Squires, Hawthorne, CA

Kelly Andrada, Hayward, CA

Gregory Fite, Hayward, CA

H. Gray, Hayward, CA

Rev. Jonathan Tan, Hayward, CA

Maria Daverede, Healdsburg, CA

Tessa Kraft, Healdsburg, CA

Elizabeth Rue, Healdsburg, CA

Ernst Mecke, Helsingfors, CA

Teresa Hensley, Hemet, CA

Larry LaPointe, Hemet, CA

Lily Mejia, Hemet, CA

Diane Schnitzer, Hemet, CA

Debra Shaw, Hemet, CA

Carson Yu, Hercules, CA

William Briggs, Hermosa Beach, CA

Margaret Harrell, Hermosa Beach, CA

Linda Monosmith, Hermosa Beach, CA
Tammyfa Fait, Hesperia, CA
Julie Knutson, Hesperia, CA
Annie Phillips, Hesperia, CA
Shanna Rojas, Hesperia, CA
Juanita Westberg, Hesperia, CA
P Perry, Hidden Valley Lake, CA
Linda Albarran, Highland, CA
Vanessa Kong, Hillsborough, CA
Michael Henderson, Huntington Beach, CA
Vicki Hughes, Huntington Beach, CA
Audrey Mannolini, Huntington Beach, CA
Michael McMahan, Huntington Beach, CA
Polly D Pitsker, Huntington Beach, CA
Fred Schloessinger, Huntington Beach, CA
Sheila Shane, Huntington Beach, CA
Enel Taylor, Huntington Beach, CA
Stacie Umetsu, Huntington Beach, CA
Elijah L., Huntington Park, CA
Sylvia Cardella, Hydesville, CA
Jaimy Sprissler, Imperial Beach, CA
Jayne Cerny, Inverness, CA
Terri Mckown, Inyokern, CA
Lorena Cox, Irvine, CA
Sarah Hoenicke, Irvine, CA
Lisa Paynemiller, Irvine, CA
Tracy Shortle, Irvine, CA
Shana Van Meter, Irvine, CA
Teresita Vanderdys, Irvine, CA
Robin Weirich, Irvine, CA

Kelli Zusho, Irvine, CA
Mary Adams, Jackson, CA
J Cole, Joshua Tree, CA
Cody Dolnick, Joshua Tree, CA
Rob Barnes, Junction City, CA
Keith Christy, Jurupa Valley, CA
Vanessa Aguiar, Kelseyville, CA
Janet Parks, Kensington, CA
Greg Nowell, Kenwood, CA
Meghan Behm, Kings Beach, CA
Gil Gaus, Kings Beach, CA
Tom Feldman, La Canada Flintridge, CA
John Hale, La Canada Flintridge, CA
LouAnne Insprucker, La Canada Flintridge, CA
Lisa Gee, La Crescenta, CA
Heather Parker, La Crescenta, CA
Barbara Poland, La Crescenta, CA
Linda Triplett, La Honda, CA
Susan Mc Candless, La Jolla, CA
Suzi McCandless, La Jolla, CA
Elizabeth Oliver, La Jolla, CA
Winke Self, La Jolla, CA
Jenn Crum, La Mesa, CA
Jacoba Dolloff, La Mesa, CA
Judith Edwards, La Mesa, CA
Arthur Fink, La Mesa, CA
Steve Gross, La Mesa, CA
Dan and Lilly Kittredge, La Mesa, CA
Deborah Lancman, La Mesa, CA
Cynthia McHugh, La Mesa, CA

Barbara Speidel, La Mesa, CA

Michael LaNoue, La Mirada, CA

Terrance Hutchinson, La Quinta, CA

Claudia Monahan, La Quinta, CA

Melissa Williams, La Quinta, CA

Susan Steube-Nordine, La Verne, CA

Jean Dimler, Ladera Ranch, CA

Katie Yu, Ladera Ranch, CA

Lisa Brahney, Lafayette, CA

Aaron Chan, Lafayette, CA

Nancy Hartman, Lafayette, CA

Lucinda Henderson, Lafayette, CA

Torunn Sivesind, Lafayette, CA

Blake Wu, Lafayette, CA

Patricia Appel, Laguna Beach, CA

Jo Baxter, Laguna Beach, CA

Suzy Capano, Laguna Beach, CA

Tiffany Casler, Laguna Beach, CA

Stacy Cornelius, Laguna Beach, CA

Anne Earhart, Laguna Beach, CA

Mirjam Luthe, Laguna Beach, CA

Robert Reed, Laguna Beach, CA

Sally Sanders, Laguna Beach, CA

Gila Wdowinski, Laguna Beach, CA

Connie Loveland, Laguna Hills, CA

Patti Mickelsen, Laguna Hills, CA

Lynne Jeffries, Laguna Niguel, CA

Erik Kemper, Laguna Niguel, CA

Melissa Waters, Laguna Niguel, CA

Maria Faur, Laguna Woods, CA

Richard Miller, Laguna Woods, CA

Kevin O'Brien, Laguna Woods, CA

Miriam Adler, Lake Balboa, CA

Travis Benneian, Lake Elsinore, CA

Kathy Engstrom, Lake Elsinore, CA

Kathy Monteleone, Lake Elsinore, CA

Julie Pearce, Lake Forest, CA

Linda Schulz, Lake Hughes, CA

Patrick Bernardino, Lakeside, CA

Mary Hicklin, Lakeside, CA

Irene Roos, Lakeside, CA

Michael Broad, Lakewood, CA

Leslie Gombrich, Lakewood, CA

Brenda Lee, Lakewood, CA

Margaret Tollner, Lakewood, CA

Kae Bender, Lancaster, CA

Suzanne Marcella Camarillo, Lancaster, CA

Stephanie Dennis, Lancaster, CA

Julia Ritter, Larkspur, CA

Valerie Nordeman, Laytonville, CA

Sharon Paltin, Laytonville, CA

Charlotte Randolph, Lee Vining, CA

Cynthia Brooks-Fetty, Lemon Grove, CA

Ked Garden, Lemon Grove, CA

Lisa Avila, Lincoln, CA

Nicole Fountain, Lincoln, CA

Sandy McFarlin, Lincoln, CA

Paula Cavagnaro, Livermore, CA

Jean King, Livermore, CA

Caroline Ko, Livermore, CA

Sally Marone, Livermore, CA

Todd Matz, Livermore, CA

Mary Perner, Livermore, CA

Laurie Sargent, Livermore, CA

Sarah Ryan, Liverpool, CA

Mari Dominguez, Lodi, CA

Elizabeth Eisenbeis, Lodi, CA

Kris Cordova, Loma Linda, CA

John Waller, Lompoc, CA

Donna Apodaca, Long Beach, CA

Kevin Bigelow, Long Beach, CA

Ian Bixby, Long Beach, CA

Frederick Cliver, Long Beach, CA

Erlinda Cortez, Long Beach, CA

Kurt Cruger, Long Beach, CA

Marie DiMassa, Long Beach, CA

Lee Eames, Long Beach, CA

Malina H, Long Beach, CA

Brenda Haig, Long Beach, CA

Rebecca Hanna, Long Beach, CA

Douglas Herrera, Long Beach, CA

Diana Kliche, Long Beach, CA

Andrew Kort, Long Beach, CA

Linda Lloyd, Long Beach, CA

Charles Lotstein, Long Beach, CA

Jane Mitchell, Long Beach, CA

Greg Perkins, Long Beach, CA

Melissa Rondilla, Long Beach, CA

Janice Sampson, Long Beach, CA

Lance Smith, Long Beach, CA

Michele Souza Zimmerman, Long Beach, CA

Melinda Taylor, Long Beach, CA

Daniel Wilkinson, Long Beach, CA

Marion Barry, Loomis, CA

Dawn Forcier, Loomis, CA

Jennifer Brooks, Los Altos, CA

Kinshuk Govil, Los Altos, CA

R. Marks, Los Altos, CA

James Patton, Los Altos, CA

Stephanie Reader, Los Altos, CA

Steven Acosta, Los Angeles, CA

Judith Antin, Los Angeles, CA

Valerie Apple, Los Angeles, CA

Soraya Barabi, Los Angeles, CA

Ann Bein, Los Angeles, CA

Jon Benneian, Los Angeles, CA

Adam Bernstein, Los Angeles, CA

Vicki Bingo, Los Angeles, CA

Paula Block-Levor, Los Angeles, CA

Deirdre Boland, Los Angeles, CA

Fabienne Bouville, Los Angeles, CA

Andrea Boyle, Los Angeles, CA

Jason Brock, Los Angeles, CA

Damon Brown, Los Angeles, CA

Robert Burk, Los Angeles, CA

Frank Burke, Los Angeles, CA

Ariel Chapman, Los Angeles, CA

William Cleary, Los Angeles, CA

Amber Cohn, Los Angeles, CA

John Crahan, Los Angeles, CA

Joseph Dadgari, Los Angeles, CA
Diana Davidson, Los Angeles, CA
Ellen Davis, Los Angeles, CA
Lesly Derbyshire, Los Angeles, CA
John DesJardin, Los Angeles, CA
Laura Divenere, Los Angeles, CA
Robert Drummond, Los Angeles, CA
Isabelle Du Soleil, Los Angeles, CA
Chris Eaton, Los Angeles, CA
Jason Eric, Los Angeles, CA
Gail Farina, Los Angeles, CA
Aixa Fielder, Los Angeles, CA
Alexander Fierro-Clarke, Los Angeles, CA
Thomas Fitzgerald, Los Angeles, CA
Sara Flamm, Los Angeles, CA
Reanna Flores, Los Angeles, CA
Darren Frale, Los Angeles, CA
Mark Gallegos, Los Angeles, CA
Kay Gallin, Los Angeles, CA
Julie Garcia, Los Angeles, CA
Enrica Gaspari, Los Angeles, CA
Patricia Gavigan, Los Angeles, CA
Janna Gelfand, Los Angeles, CA
Karen Ruth Getchell, Los Angeles, CA
Mary Glazer, Los Angeles, CA
Prisca Gloor, Los Angeles, CA
Luna Gooding, Los Angeles, CA
Carol Gordon, Los Angeles, CA
Steve Graff, Los Angeles, CA
Susan Grant, Los Angeles, CA
emma-louise hayley, Los Angeles, CA
Carla Holguin, Los Angeles, CA
Celeste Hong, Los Angeles, CA
Ted Hume, Los Angeles, CA
Elizabeth Johansen, Los Angeles, CA
Saran K., Los Angeles, CA
Kaija Keel, Los Angeles, CA
Sabrina Kemeny, Los Angeles, CA
Schuyler Kent, Los Angeles, CA
Mha Atma S Khalsa, Los Angeles, CA
Leslie Klein, Los Angeles, CA
Shirlee Kong, Los Angeles, CA
Anita Kuhn, Los Angeles, CA
David Kurz, Los Angeles, CA
Diane Lamont, Los Angeles, CA
Edward Landler, Los Angeles, CA
Kenneth Lapointe, Los Angeles, CA
Seth Laursen, Los Angeles, CA
Yolanda Leaird, Los Angeles, CA
Barbara Leake, Los Angeles, CA
Patricia Lewis, Los Angeles, CA
Andrea Lieberman, Los Angeles, CA
Adrian Loeb, Los Angeles, CA
Alexandria Luostari, Los Angeles, CA
John-Allan Macunovich, Los Angeles, CA
Pamela Magathan, Los Angeles, CA
Eugene Majerowicz, Los Angeles, CA
Stephen Markel, Los Angeles, CA
Tina Markowe, Los Angeles, CA
Patricia Marlatt, Los Angeles, CA

Mary McAuliffe, Los Angeles, CA

Alexandra McCardell, Los Angeles, CA

Karen McCaw, Los Angeles, CA

Robert Meier, Los Angeles, CA

Myron Meisel, Los Angeles, CA

Tony Mendoza, Los Angeles, CA

Barbara Mesney, Los Angeles, CA

Helen Miller, Los Angeles, CA

Deimile Mockus, Los Angeles, CA

Maria Molund, Los Angeles, CA

Erica Munn, Los Angeles, CA

Joan Murray, Los Angeles, CA

Melvyn Nefsky, Los Angeles, CA

Frank Ortiz, Los Angeles, CA

Maaya Ota, Los Angeles, CA

Attilio Pandolfo, Los Angeles, CA

Margaret Phelps, Los Angeles, CA

Patti Pimento, Los Angeles, CA

Samuel Popailo, Los Angeles, CA

Kalpana Pot, Los Angeles, CA

Louis Priven, Los Angeles, CA

Brianda Puig, Los Angeles, CA

Sara Rabbani, Los Angeles, CA

Joseph Rinaldo, Los Angeles, CA

Araeia Robinson, Los Angeles, CA

Candace Rocha, Los Angeles, CA

Roni Rogers, Los Angeles, CA

Flora Rosas, Los Angeles, CA

Rina Rubenstein, Los Angeles, CA

Nicholas Rulli, Los Angeles, CA

Susan Ryan, Los Angeles, CA

Dalia Salgado, Los Angeles, CA

Antoinette Samardzic, Los Angeles, CA

Tom Sanchez, Los Angeles, CA

Benjamin Schlau, Los Angeles, CA

Mariam Shah-Rais, Los Angeles, CA

Joshua Stamberg, Los Angeles, CA

Mark Stannard, Los Angeles, CA

Neal Steiner, Los Angeles, CA

Audrey Stern, Los Angeles, CA

Stephen Stone, Los Angeles, CA

Patricia Strauss, Los Angeles, CA

Laura Strom, Los Angeles, CA

Amy Sullivan, Los Angeles, CA

Janice Tanaka, Los Angeles, CA

Tevet Tee, Los Angeles, CA

Cathy Thornburn, Los Angeles, CA

Glenna Traiger, Los Angeles, CA

Ivy Tran, Los Angeles, CA

Tia Triplett, Los Angeles, CA

Craig Tyron, Los Angeles, CA

Kimberly Uchida, Los Angeles, CA

Alexandra Vese, Los Angeles, CA

Virginia Watson, Los Angeles, CA

Lynne Weiske, Los Angeles, CA

R Wells, Los Angeles, CA

Neil Withnall, Los Angeles, CA

Chris Withrow, Los Angeles, CA

Amy Wolfberg, Los Angeles, CA

Kelly Wright, Los Angeles, CA

Mark Yackley, Los Angeles, CA

Kyle Yaskin, Los Angeles, CA

Anita Youabian, Los Angeles, CA

Esther Zepeda, Los Angeles, CA

Jan Albertie, Los Banos, CA

Judy Dutil, Los Gatos, CA

Thomas Ferrito, Los Gatos, CA

Rea Freedom, Los Gatos, CA

Lisa Gherardi, Los Gatos, CA

Theresa Gonzalez, Los Gatos, CA

Ron and Sandra Harder, Los Gatos, CA

Steven Hayashi, Los Gatos, CA

Rick Koury, Los Gatos, CA

Angela LaPlante, Los Gatos, CA

Joyce Schellenberg, Los Gatos, CA

Katie Franklin, Los Osos, CA

Susan S. Jones, Los Osos, CA

Leslie Spoon, Los Osos, CA

Kevin Branstetter, Lotus, CA

Lori White, Lower Lake, CA

Judy Madigan, Loyalton, CA

Yves DeCargouet, Lucerne, CA

Grace Bell, Mablethorpe, CA

Angela Price, Madera, CA

Deborah Collodel, Malibu, CA

Kelly Kessl, Malibu, CA

Lynne Miller, Malibu, CA

Rob Seltzer, Malibu, CA

Louis Spirito, Malibu, CA

Jimmy Tallal, Malibu, CA

Kelly Tiefen, Malibu, CA

Loretta Tiefen, Malibu, CA

Patricia Savage, Mammoth Lakes, CA

D.G. Sifuentes, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Thomas Conroy, Manhattan Beach, CA

Karla Devine, Manhattan Beach, CA

Dan Esposito, Manhattan Beach, CA

Kathleen Goldman, Manhattan Beach, CA

Marisa Landsberg, Manhattan Beach, CA

Alice Neuhauser, Manhattan Beach, CA

Jennifer Yamamoto, Manhattan Beach, CA

James Liu, Manteca, CA

Jim Ricketts, Manteca, CA

MaryAnn Bomarito, Marina, CA

Creda Markham, Marina, CA

Susanne Cumming, Marina Del Rey, CA

Alexander Dunaev, Marina Del Rey, CA

Renee Klein, Marina del Rey, CA

Amanda Skerski, Marina del Rey, CA

Benjamin Teitelbaum, Marina Del Rey, CA

Judith Turner, Marina del Rey, CA

Bobbie Cavazos, Mariposa, CA

Gabriel Sheets, Mariposa, CA

Burney Stephens, Mariposa, CA

Scott Mason, Martinez, CA

Charlotte Sines, Martinez, CA

Betty Mello, Marysville, CA

Denise Comiskey, McKinleyville, CA

Robin Hamlin, McKinleyville, CA

Francesca Ciancutti, Mendocino, CA

Raven Deerwater, Mendocino, CA
John Wozniak, Mendocino, CA
Susan Alpern, Menifee, CA
Rob Gallinger, Menifee, CA
Pam Overholtzer, Menifee, CA
Michael Braude, Menlo Park, CA
Rebecca Eliscu, Menlo Park, CA
Connie Habash, Menlo Park, CA
Vickie Rozell, Menlo Park, CA
Carol Ohsiek, Middletown, CA
Alex Levine, Mill Valley, CA
Liz Marshall, Mill Valley, CA
Roberta Newman, Mill Valley, CA
Norman Pacula, Mill Valley, CA
Marilyn Price, Mill Valley, CA
Leonie Terfort, Mill Valley, CA
Gisella Castelluccio, Millbrae, CA
Jan Castle, Millbrae, CA
Richard Reale, Millbrae, CA
Mary Maher, Milpitas, CA
Denise Henyard, Mira Loma, CA
Rose Kabir, Mira Loma, CA
Rosa Strayer, Mira Loma, CA
Peggy Skomal, Mission Hills, CA
Denise Meadow, Mission Viejo, CA
Rochelle Phillips, Mission Viejo, CA
Carolyn Rhazi, Mission Viejo, CA
Robin Loewen, Modesto, CA
Linda Pemberton, Modesto, CA
Michelle Setaro, Modesto, CA

Christy Bolle, Monrovia, CA
Angela Galgocz, Monrovia, CA
Robert Ricewasser, Monrovia, CA
Heather Crow, Montague, CA
Samuel Dickson, Montara, CA
Jeanette Leinweber, Monte Rio, CA
Kristen Beck, Monterey, CA
Zoe Edington, Monterey, CA
Deb Federin, Monterey, CA
William Hubick, Monterey, CA
Patrick Maiorana, Monterey, CA
Shirley Tofte, Monterey, CA
Fiona Webb, Monterey, CA
Dave Whipple, Monterey, CA
Steve Tuttle, Monterey Park, CA
Karen Drake, Montrose, CA
Cheri Bly, Moorpark, CA
Thomas Filip, Moorpark, CA
Susie Gutowitz, Moorpark, CA
Marti Jurick, Moorpark, CA
Erica Ponce, Moorpark, CA
Art Stclair, Moorpark, CA
Kathryn Choudhury, Moraga, CA
Heidi Groom, Moreno Valley, CA
Christian Reyes, Moreno Valley, CA
Ilya Turov, Moreno Valley, CA
Greg Winton, Moreno Valley, CA
J.T. Averre, Morgan Hill, CA
Daniel Lebus, Morgan Hill, CA
Nannette Morgan, Morgan Hill, CA

Anita Manley, Morro Bay, CA

Tina Wener, Morro Bay, CA

Michelle Santy, Moss Beach, CA

Jim Curland, Moss Landing, CA

Greg D, Mount Shasta, CA

Cynthia Marconi, Mount Shasta, CA

Bill Wood, Mount Shasta, CA

Charles Fletcher, Mountain Center, CA

Caroline Bering, Mountain View, CA

Cyril Bouteille, Mountain View, CA

Christopher Cain, Mountain View, CA

Kermit Cuff, Mountain View, CA

Karin Jeffery, Mountain View, CA

Victoria Keoleian, Mountain View, CA

Ben Martin, Mountain View, CA

Rosa Bravo, Murrieta, CA

Dawn Burrell, Murrieta, CA

Daniel Davis, Murrieta, CA

Loan Nguyen, Murrieta, CA

Arianna Walsh, Murrieta, CA

Janet Wheeler, Murrieta, CA

Elizabeth Woodward, Murrieta, CA

Jan Gates, Napa, CA

Catherine George, Napa, CA

Charesa Harper, Napa, CA

Kathy Linale, Napa, CA

Robyn Little, Napa, CA

Katharine Mawer, Napa, CA

Barry Schwartz, Napa, CA

Evelyn Trevethan, Napa, CA

Susan Wheaton, Napa, CA

Ree Whitford, Napa, CA

Jim Wilson, Napa, CA

Dana Monroe, National City, CA

Micki Besancon, Nevada City, CA

Terry Charonnat, Nevada City, CA

Joan Griffin, Nevada City, CA

Judie Rae, Nevada City, CA

Glenn Smith, Nevada City, CA

Maureen Fry, Newark, CA

John Hawkins, Newbury Park, CA

Percy Hicks-Severn, Newbury Park, CA

Nemo Howton, Newbury Park, CA

Rodney Love, Newbury Park, CA

Joyce McIntire, Newbury Park, CA

Beth Merrill, Newbury Park, CA

Nicole Mikals, Newbury Park, CA

Matthew Page, Newbury Park, CA

Kathleen Pierce, Newbury Park, CA

Tracey Sands, Newbury Park, CA

Cindy Stein, Newbury Park, CA

Heidi Taylor, Newbury Park, CA

Jill Wiechman, Newbury Park, CA

Paula Willebrands, Newbury Park, CA

Kathrine Fegette, Newcastle, CA

Joan Peter, Newhall, CA

Alan Yamamoto, Newhall, CA

Elizabeth Edwards, Newport Beach, CA

Steve Iverson, Newport Beach, CA

Vic Paglia, Newport Beach, CA

Stephanie Aston, North Hills, CA

Janice Baxter, North Hills, CA

Christopher Geukens, North Hills, CA

Marian Gould, North Hills, CA

Jim Leske, North Hills, CA

Heidi Miller, North Hills, CA

Natalie Aharonian, North Hollywood, CA

Marilyn Carney, North Hollywood, CA

Kathleen Culp, North Hollywood, CA

Tracy Elliott, North Hollywood, CA

Fred Granlund, North Hollywood, CA

Larry Jasper, North Hollywood, CA

Cathy Kraus, North Hollywood, CA

Michael Marciano, North Hollywood, CA

Stu Nichols, North Hollywood, CA

Manuela Rollins, North Hollywood, CA

Grace Silva, North Hollywood, CA

Judith Vogelsang, North Hollywood, CA

Roslyn Jones, North Palm Springs, CA

Robert Chirpin, Northridge, CA

Lori Dixon, Northridge, CA

Ann Dorsey, Northridge, CA

Gail Camhi, Novato, CA

Mike Cass, Novato, CA

Hillary Davis, Novato, CA

Ian Dogole, Novato, CA

Gary Dowling, Novato, CA

Bonnie Grossman, Novato, CA

Toni Kim, Novato, CA

Lisa Moreno, Novato, CA

H. S. Nadler, Novato, CA

Robert Ortiz, Novato, CA

Thomas Ray, Novato, CA

Jay Rice, Novato, CA

Sheri Rollison, Novato, CA

Arlene Van Craeynest, Novato, CA

Marilyn Wada, Novato, CA

Greg Mull, Oak View, CA

Tree Wright, Oak View, CA

Claire Chambers, Oakdale, CA

John Fitzpatrick, Oakhurst, CA

Dee Allen., Oakland, CA

Jane Armbruster, Oakland, CA

Clara Bargellini, Oakland, CA

Rachel Beck, Oakland, CA

Richard Behrman, Oakland, CA

Julia Benson, Oakland, CA

Esther Boyd, Oakland, CA

Mary Ann Cramer, Oakland, CA

Judith E, Oakland, CA

Stan Fitzgerald, Oakland, CA

Dr A G, Oakland, CA

Rick Gaston, Oakland, CA

Rogelio Giron, Oakland, CA

Ruby Giron-Carson, Oakland, CA

MaryAnne Glazar, Oakland, CA

John Golding, Oakland, CA

Christiana Hart, Oakland, CA

Susan Herting, Oakland, CA

Sterling Hollins, Oakland, CA

Monika Holm, Oakland, CA

Kuanmei Huang, Oakland, CA

Allison Jones, Oakland, CA

Sara Katz, Oakland, CA

Paul Koehler, Oakland, CA

Laakea Laano, Oakland, CA

Jesus M. Maldonado, Oakland, CA

Heather McHugh, Oakland, CA

Caephren McKenna, Oakland, CA

Vasu Murti, Oakland, CA

April Parkins, Oakland, CA

Nancy Paskowitz, Oakland, CA

Rashid Patch, Oakland, CA

Nora Privitera, Oakland, CA

Christine Ranney, Oakland, CA

Ken Rice, Oakland, CA

Evelyn Riche, Oakland, CA

Clifford Robinson, Oakland, CA

Kate S, Oakland, CA

Rondi Saslow, Oakland, CA

Roberta Schear, Oakland, CA

Lesley Schultz, Oakland, CA

Ellen Schwartz, Oakland, CA

Karin Seid, Oakland, CA

Judith Smith, Oakland, CA

Leslie Smith, Oakland, CA

Martin Snapp, Oakland, CA

Madeline Stacy, Oakland, CA

Maria Steinmann, Oakland, CA

Kathleen Tandy, Oakland, CA

Nancy Taylor, Oakland, CA

Michele Tusinac, Oakland, CA

Pablo Voitzuk, Oakland, CA

Kim Walker, Oakland, CA

David Wasley, Oakland, CA

Gwen Weil, Oakland, CA

John Wills, Oakland, CA

Amy Zink, Oakland, CA

James TRUE, Oakland, CA

Molly Mendez, Oakley, CA

Robert Spotts, Oakley, CA

Longwillow Fudemberg, Occidental, CA

Sharon Mulkey, Oceano, CA

Charles Alger, Oceanside, CA

Kelly Brannigan, Oceanside, CA

Sarada Cleary, Oceanside, CA

Cynthia Davenport, Oceanside, CA

Darcy Duval, Oceanside, CA

Andrea Ferrari, Oceanside, CA

Tina Garner, Oceanside, CA

Cathy Gentry, Oceanside, CA

Holly Gilzow, Oceanside, CA

Alexis Grone, Oceanside, CA

Ronnie Huber, Oceanside, CA

Charlene Kerchevall, Oceanside, CA

Sherry Marsh, Oceanside, CA

Tamara Taunt, Oceanside, CA

Paula Thompson, Oceanside, CA

Carol Wanat, Oceanside, CA

Lisa Adair, Ojai, CA

Janine Comrack, Ojai, CA
Donna Freiermuth, Ojai, CA
Kathleen Medina, Ojai, CA
Valerie Shideler, Olivehurst, CA
Kelly Ayers, Ontario, CA
Valerie Carrick, Ontario, CA
Claudia Cook, Ontario, CA
Ron P, Ontario, CA
Lynn Baldini, Orange, CA
Ms Courtney, Orange, CA
Alexis Merz, Orange, CA
Raven Davis-King, Orangevale, CA
Nancy Polito, Orangevale, CA
Lucy Henderson, Orinda, CA
Patricia Moloney, Orinda, CA
Lori Bates, Oxnard, CA
Lynne Boyle, Oxnard, CA
Peggy Brown, Oxnard, CA
Angela C Embree, Oxnard, CA
Maree Penhart, Oxnard, CA
Barbara Piszczek, Oxnard, CA
April Toller, Oxnard, CA
Carolyn Boydston, Pacific Grove, CA
Gary Goetz, Pacific Grove, CA
Melissa Hutchinson, Pacific Grove, CA
Melissa Lippincott, Pacific Grove, CA
Celia Stauty Luis, Pacific Grove, CA
Jane Crist, Pacific Palisades, CA
Jake Gutman, Pacific Palisades, CA
Shannon Rhoades, Pacific Palisades, CA

Beth Schlaff, Pacific Palisades, CA
Ian Silverstein, Pacific Palisades, CA
Kathy Bede, Pacifica, CA
Brian Casey, Pacifica, CA
Ana Herold, Pacifica, CA
Deanna Nielsen, Pacifica, CA
Dita Ã. . Â kaliÃ., Â• , Palm Desert, CA
Alexia Valdora, Palm Desert, CA
Sandra Kanela Barton, Palm Springs, CA
Michael Biers, Palm Springs, CA
Vito Degrigoli, Palm Springs, CA
Wayne Fellabaum, Palm Springs, CA
FranÃf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf Ãf
f Ãf Ãf May, Palm Springs, CA
Bill McCarthy, Palm Springs, CA
Bill Munce, Palm Springs, CA
Maryellen Redish, Palm Springs, CA
Vivian Vaught, Palm Springs, CA
Mario Magpale, Palmdale, CA
Therese Ryan, Palmdale, CA
Karen Weston, Palmdale, CA
Debra Y, Palmdale, CA
Jaye Bergen, Palo Alto, CA
Jordan Briskin, Palo Alto, CA
Edward Cavasian, Palo Alto, CA
Ana Chou, Palo Alto, CA
Sheila Gholson, Palo Alto, CA
Nancy Leech, Palo Alto, CA
Marilyn Levine, Palo Alto, CA
Mary Lou Meeks, Palo Alto, CA

David Perry, Palo Alto, CA

Sara Van Dusen, Palo Alto, CA

Jan Gardner, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

Tajie Major, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

Sonia Noemi Cross, Paradise, CA

Marcie Ligammari, Paradise, CA

Joan Aebi, Pasadena, CA

Claude Alexander, Pasadena, CA

Cheryl Auger, Pasadena, CA

Linda B., Pasadena, CA

Catherine Beauchamp, Pasadena, CA

Darrell Clarke, Pasadena, CA

Linc Conard, Pasadena, CA

Richard Kornfeld, Pasadena, CA

Frances Liau, Pasadena, CA

Diane Miller, Pasadena, CA

Allison Moffett, Pasadena, CA

Jacqueline Pineda, Pasadena, CA

Charles Roth, Pasadena, CA

Pete Sloman, Pasadena, CA

Geoffrey Symcox, Pasadena, CA

Erinn Todd, Pasadena, CA

Susan Walp, Pasadena, CA

Joan Wickham, Pasadena, CA

Molly Bennett, Paso Robles, CA

Gail Ryland, Pebble Beach, CA

Mike Pasner, Penn Valley, CA

Jamie Sawtell, Penn Valley, CA

James Woods, Penn Valley, CA

Ernesto Marquez, Perris, CA

Chanda Scelsi, Perris, CA

M. Atkinson, Petaluma, CA

Arlene Baker, Petaluma, CA

Stephanie Charles, Petaluma, CA

Jerry Cook, Petaluma, CA

Stacey DeGooyer, Petaluma, CA

Wendy Denny, Petaluma, CA

Patti Fink, Petaluma, CA

Jamila Garrecht, Petaluma, CA

Diane Gentile, Petaluma, CA

Phoenix Giffen, Petaluma, CA

Elfi Gilford, Petaluma, CA

Michelle Letellier, Petaluma, CA

Ingeborg MacKay, Petaluma, CA

Annette Raible, Petaluma, CA

Chris Rose, Petaluma, CA

Gabrielle Swanberg, Petaluma, CA

Dennis Zerbo, Petaluma, CA

Barbara Wright, Phelan, CA

Susan Hathaway, Pico Rivera, CA

Philip Patino, Pico Rivera, CA

Peggy Holmes, Pinole, CA

Joan Nygaard, Pinole, CA

Carol Oller, Pinole, CA

Bob Leppo, Pismo Beach, CA

Randall Voss, Pismo Beach, CA

Dennis Young, Pismo Beach, CA

Annette Benton, Pittsburg, CA

Candy Bowman, Placerville, CA

Mike Rolbeck, Placerville, CA

Paulette Doulatshahi, Playa Del Rey, CA

Yvonne Fisher, Playa del Rey, CA

Barrett Braun, Pleasant Hill, CA

Mike Cluster, Pleasant Hill, CA

Joan Merrill, Pleasant Hill, CA

Francesca Rago, Pleasant Hill, CA

Deborah Santone, Pleasant Hill, CA

Renee Snyder, Pleasant Hill, CA

Barbara Norton, Pleasanton, CA

Daniel O'Brien, Pleasanton, CA

Urmila Padmanabhan, Pleasanton, CA

Vicki Tomola, Point Arena, CA

Twyla Meyer, Pomona, CA

Jenny Perez, Pomona, CA

Roxann Schaubhut, Pope Valley, CA

Veronica Goode, Porter Ranch, CA

Linda Bresnan, Portola Valley, CA

Karin Eckelmeyer, Portola Valley, CA

Mike Davis, Posey, CA

Joyce Heyn, Poway, CA

Kim Yirak, Poway, CA

Faith Strailey, Quincy, CA

Laura Bagley, Ramona, CA

Tammy Bullock, Ramona, CA

Don Miller, Ramona, CA

Nancy Hunter, Rancho Cordova, CA

Miriam Baum, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Linda Bourg, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Frederick Hamilton, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Heidi Palmer, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Judy Bradford, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Melina Paris, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Lin Penrose, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Linda Webb, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Andrea Abney, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

Alison Bassell, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

Jack Schwartz, Recceda, CA

Cherie Gans, Redding, CA

Michael Koterba, Redding, CA

Harriet Miller, Redding, CA

Wayne Steffes, Redding, CA

Marianna Vanderklift, Redding, CA

Andrea Dixon, Redlands, CA

Carol Lynne Eyster, Redlands, CA

Sean Hagstrom, Redlands, CA

Doug Bender, Redondo Beach, CA

Laurel Cameron, Redondo Beach, CA

Michael Cavanaugh, Redondo Beach, CA

Maria Corvalan, Redondo Beach, CA

F. R. Eguren, Redondo Beach, CA

Glenn Embrey, Redondo Beach, CA

Stephane Ernoux, Redondo Beach, CA

Richard Esposito, Redondo Beach, CA

Kris Gata, Redondo Beach, CA

Amrit Khalsa, Redondo Beach, CA

M Montenegro, Redondo Beach, CA

Alie Rowen, Redondo Beach, CA

Anne M. Van Alstyne, Redondo Beach, CA

Jeri Fergus, Redway, CA

Erin Gellman, Redway, CA

Juliann Berman, Redwood City, CA

Michael House, Redwood City, CA

Lisa Jensen, Redwood City, CA

Tom Johnson, Redwood City, CA

Judith Kirk, Redwood City, CA

Thalia Lubin, Redwood City, CA

Chris Ouedec, Redwood City, CA

Robert Page, Redwood City, CA

Audrey Quintero, Redwood City, CA

Rush Rehm, Redwood City, CA

Margaret Rogers, Redwood City, CA

John West, Redwood City, CA

Joleen Siebert, Reedley, CA

Jl Angell, Rescue, CA

Rosa Baeza, Reseda, CA

Silvana Garcia, Reseda, CA

Carlos Nunez, Reseda, CA

Rachel Perlman, Reseda, CA

Tracy Gilbert, Rialto, CA

Vincent Bausano, Richmond, CA

Michael Eichenholtz, Richmond, CA

Melanie Hassel, Richmond, CA

Gail Jarocki, Richmond, CA

Kris Johnson Michiels, Richmond, CA

Peggy Mocine, Richmond, CA

Anne Oklan, Richmond, CA

Christine Peterson, Richmond, CA

Christine Peterson, Richmond, CA

Susan Archibald, Ridgecrest, CA

Penelope LePome, Ridgecrest, CA

Mary Loyd Shell, Ridgecrest, CA

Nancy Robinson, Ridgecrest, CA

Cheryl Davis, Rio Linda, CA

Tina Arnold, Rio Vista, CA

Susan Worden, Rio Vista, CA

Bonnie Arbuckle, Riverbank, CA

Sherry Fatzinger, Riverside, CA

Carolann Johnson, Riverside, CA

Harry Knapp, Riverside, CA

Abraham Oboruemuh, Riverside, CA

Henry Rosenfeld, Riverside, CA

Natacha Lascano, Rocklin, CA

Daniel McKeighen, Rocklin, CA

Vanessa Quintero, Rodeo, CA

Jeannie Boyd, Rohnert Park, CA

Elaine Cook, Rohnert Park, CA

Shannon Montoya, Rohnert Park, CA

Kyle Young, Rosamond, CA

Bob McCleary, Roseville, CA

Kevin Pierson, Roseville, CA

Lisa Steele, Roseville, CA

Julie Stinchcomb, Roseville, CA

Pat Thompson, Roseville, CA

Sandra Thompson, Roseville, CA

Dee Warenycia, Roseville, CA

Ann Wasgatt, Roseville, CA

Vicki L Smith, Running Springs, CA

James Adams, Sacramento, CA

Wayne Anderson, Sacramento, CA

Judith Anshin, Sacramento, CA

James Ashcraft, Sacramento, CA
Jennifer Bair, Sacramento, CA
Mark Allan Barath, Sacramento, CA
M Bennett, Sacramento, CA
Robert Boughton, Sacramento, CA
Maureen Burness, Sacramento, CA
Kimberly Carona, Sacramento, CA
Brendan Chan, Sacramento, CA
Sandy Commons, Sacramento, CA
BethAnn Coombs, Sacramento, CA
Deborah Cosentino, Sacramento, CA
Jim Deneff, Sacramento, CA
Cindy Ferguson, Sacramento, CA
Gilda Fusilier, Sacramento, CA
Camile Getter, Sacramento, CA
LuAnn Glatzmaier, Sacramento, CA
Susan Hood, Sacramento, CA
Karen Jacques, Sacramento, CA
Linda Karp, Sacramento, CA
Lily Lau-Enright, Sacramento, CA
Rebecca Martin, Sacramento, CA
Michael McGowan, Sacramento, CA
Marshal McKitrick, Sacramento, CA
Esther Mooncrest, Sacramento, CA
Dorothea Morgenstern, Sacramento, CA
Sharon Nicodemus, Sacramento, CA
Rosalind O'Brien, Sacramento, CA
Sheri Opp, Sacramento, CA
Joyce Ownbey, Sacramento, CA
Jana Perinchief, Sacramento, CA
Judith Poxon, Sacramento, CA
Penny Redman, Sacramento, CA
Susan Riseman, Sacramento, CA
LeAne Rutherford, Sacramento, CA
Gail Ryall, Sacramento, CA
Joseph Sebastian, Sacramento, CA
Aaron Stroh, Sacramento, CA
Erh-Yen To, Sacramento, CA
Tami Trearse, Sacramento, CA
Ellen Tubbs, Sacramento, CA
Jillian Unger, Sacramento, CA
Cara Vallot, Sacramento, CA
Lori White, Sacramento, CA
Kenneth Wilcox, Sacramento, CA
Bobbie Zawkiewicz, Sacramento, CA
Elizabeth Novak Milliken, Saint Helena, CA
Gerard Sewell, Saint Helena, CA
Alfred Gonzales, Salinas, CA
Lauren Keenan, Salinas, CA
Merlin Wilson, Salinas, CA
Alison Buist, San Anselmo, CA
Loren Carjulia, San Anselmo, CA
Ilene Malt, San Anselmo, CA
Renee Schofield, San Anselmo, CA
Herman Waetjen, San Anselmo, CA
C Leonard, San Bernardino, CA
Alicia Lomeli, San Bernardino, CA
Modell McEntire, San Bernardino, CA
Pamela Rogers, San Bernardino, CA
Pam Thomas-Hill, San Bernardino, CA

Eileen Cassidy, San Bruno, CA

Luci Evanston, San Bruno, CA

Elisse De Sio, San Carlos, CA

Kate Elsley, San Carlos, CA

Sharon Gong, San Carlos, CA

George Ruiz, San Carlos, CA

Teri Yazdi, San Carlos, CA

Kevin Bissonnette, San Clemente, CA

Randall Hartman, San Clemente, CA

Suzanne Narducy, San Clemente, CA

Allie Palmer, San Clemente, CA

Matt Reola, San Clemente, CA

Beth Rumph, San Clemente, CA

Vicki Wiker, San Clemente, CA

Terri Wiley, San Clemente, CA

Janis Andersen, San Diego, CA

Steven Bal, San Diego, CA

Michael Barnes, San Diego, CA

Cheryl Berkey, San Diego, CA

Cindy Blatnik, San Diego, CA

Michele Boswell, San Diego, CA

Joanne Britton, San Diego, CA

Bonnie Burke, San Diego, CA

Nicole Cervantes, San Diego, CA

B. Chan, San Diego, CA

Christopher Chatard, San Diego, CA

Cecelia Conover, San Diego, CA

April Cordero, San Diego, CA

Bob Davis, San Diego, CA

Terri Dewhirst, San Diego, CA

Elaine Durson, San Diego, CA

Cheryl Elkins, San Diego, CA

Patricia J Flaherty, San Diego, CA

Joan Fulton, San Diego, CA

Bruce Gardner, San Diego, CA

Sharon Gaudette-Hieserich, San Diego, CA

Michelle Grimes, San Diego, CA

Dale Haas, San Diego, CA

Robin Halliday, San Diego, CA

David Haskins, San Diego, CA

Trudi Howell, San Diego, CA

Mari Huff, San Diego, CA

Michael A. Johnston, San Diego, CA

Sean Kilpatrick, San Diego, CA

Diane Krell-Bates, San Diego, CA

Lisa Kutner, San Diego, CA

Rochelle La Frinere, San Diego, CA

Stephanie Laman, San Diego, CA

Patricia Law, San Diego, CA

Paul Levesque, San Diego, CA

Lacey Levitt, San Diego, CA

Mary Jo Lindstrom, San Diego, CA

Colleen Lobel, San Diego, CA

Jimmy Long, San Diego, CA

Jimmie Lunsford, San Diego, CA

Marsha Lyon, San Diego, CA

Martin Marcus, San Diego, CA

Mara Mayfield, San Diego, CA

Andrew McGranahan, San Diego, CA

Mika Menasco, San Diego, CA

Pam Montroy, San Diego, CA

Kim Perszyk, San Diego, CA

Shirley Petersen, San Diego, CA

Scott Pham, San Diego, CA

Raffaella Pippa, San Diego, CA

Lauren Prust, San Diego, CA

Patrick Reid, San Diego, CA

Babette Rose, San Diego, CA

Melanie Ross, San Diego, CA

Conor S, San Diego, CA

Alice Savage, San Diego, CA

Barbara Schell, San Diego, CA

George Schneider, San Diego, CA

Viviane Sebert, San Diego, CA

Sid Shapiro, San Diego, CA

Skip Shaputnic, San Diego, CA

Judy Shively, San Diego, CA

Hal Slater, San Diego, CA

G.H. Soto, San Diego, CA

Allison Souza, San Diego, CA

Joan Spooner, San Diego, CA

Peggy Standley, San Diego, CA

Brian Still, San Diego, CA

Peggy Stone, San Diego, CA

Kathleen Sumida, San Diego, CA

Jeff Thayer, San Diego, CA

Elena Tillman, San Diego, CA

Ava Torre-Bueno, San Diego, CA

Gary Tourville, San Diego, CA

Dorothy Vieira, San Diego, CA

Shawn Wass, San Diego, CA

Linda Wilson, San Diego, CA

Debra Winthrop, San Diego, CA

Tansy Woods, San Diego, CA

Allen Yarowsky, San Diego, CA

Ken Young, San Diego, CA

Ray Ziegler, San Diego, CA

Sylvia De Baca, San Dimas, CA

Sandra Esparza, San Dimas, CA

Rev. Maria Riter Wilson, San Dimas, CA

Mary Ellen Gastelo, San Fernando, CA

Stef B, San Francisco, CA

Linda Bellavia, San Francisco, CA

Kathryn Bender, San Francisco, CA

Charlie Bergstedt, San Francisco, CA

Joseph Blum, San Francisco, CA

Kathleen Bouvier, San Francisco, CA

Richard Bradus, San Francisco, CA

Jonica Brooks, San Francisco, CA

Cecilia Brunazzi, San Francisco, CA

Leo Buckley, San Francisco, CA

Christine Burckhardt, San Francisco, CA

Tim Butler, San Francisco, CA

Ag Callan, San Francisco, CA

Len Carella, San Francisco, CA

Mary Chase, San Francisco, CA

Winnie Chin, San Francisco, CA

Luz Cobarrubias, San Francisco, CA

Sandi Covell, San Francisco, CA

Sarah Date, San Francisco, CA

Maia de Raat, San Francisco, CA
Christie Decker, San Francisco, CA
James DiCarlo, San Francisco, CA
Lawrence Dillard, San Francisco, CA
Glenna Dowling, San Francisco, CA
Jerilyn Downing, San Francisco, CA
Ramona Draeger, San Francisco, CA
Susan Dugger-Mathison, San Francisco, CA
Jym Dyer, San Francisco, CA
Evan Elias, San Francisco, CA
Bee Epremian, San Francisco, CA
Rita Fahrner, San Francisco, CA
Adrienne Fong, San Francisco, CA
Pamela Glintenkamp, San Francisco, CA
Stephen Gold, San Francisco, CA
Linda Gourley, San Francisco, CA
Gia Granucci, San Francisco, CA
J. Barry Gurdin, San Francisco, CA
Sharon Handa, San Francisco, CA
Sharon Hefke, San Francisco, CA
Mali Henigman, San Francisco, CA
Birgit Hermann, San Francisco, CA
Saroyan Humphrey, San Francisco, CA
Jeffrey Hurwitz, San Francisco, CA
Pauline Kahney, San Francisco, CA
Constance Kao, San Francisco, CA
Lisa Kellman, San Francisco, CA
Karen Kirschling, San Francisco, CA
Betty Kissilove, San Francisco, CA
Ellen Koivisto, San Francisco, CA
Ady Larsen, San Francisco, CA
R Dene Larson, San Francisco, CA
Peter Lee, San Francisco, CA
David Lin, San Francisco, CA
Helen Loeser, San Francisco, CA
Denise Louie, San Francisco, CA
Pamela Magers, San Francisco, CA
Mariano Marquez III, San Francisco, CA
Jon Mc Veight, San Francisco, CA
Marisa McFarlane, San Francisco, CA
Shannon Mcneil, San Francisco, CA
Anuruddh Misra, San Francisco, CA
Bianca Molgora, San Francisco, CA
William Mora, San Francisco, CA
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Gretchen Mueller, San Francisco, CA
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Mary Novasic, San Francisco, CA
Maria Nowicki, San Francisco, CA
John Oda, San Francisco, CA
Marsha Orent, San Francisco, CA
Matthew Parker, San Francisco, CA
Annalee Pineda, San Francisco, CA
Jackie Pomies, San Francisco, CA
Susan Powers, San Francisco, CA
Francesca Prada, San Francisco, CA
Jessica Pullano, San Francisco, CA
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Ivan Rhudick, San Francisco, CA
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Karin Schmidt, San Francisco, CA
Dan Schubart, San Francisco, CA
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RoseMarie Shishkin, San Francisco, CA
Carolyn Shuman, San Francisco, CA
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Tai Stillwater, San Francisco, CA
Robert Stine, San Francisco, CA
Edward Sullivan, San Francisco, CA
Sara T, San Francisco, CA
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Iris Vaughan, San Francisco, CA
Wolfgang Vermeer, San Francisco, CA
Nathan Vogel, San Francisco, CA
Linda Weiner, San Francisco, CA
Maxine Zylberberg, San Francisco, CA
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Sue Andarmani, San Jose, CA
Murielle Antoku, San Jose, CA

Thomas Arnold, San Jose, CA
Teresa Awtrey, San Jose, CA
Tim Barrington, San Jose, CA
Allan Campbell, San Jose, CA
Manou Cassel, San Jose, CA
Beng Chiu, San Jose, CA
Edward Fairchild, San Jose, CA
Mary Fedullo, San Jose, CA
Ted Fishman, San Jose, CA
Mark Galbraith, San Jose, CA
Charlene Garcia, San Jose, CA
Susan Golbetz, San Jose, CA
Elaine Gould, San Jose, CA
Michael Hazelton, San Jose, CA
Charlene Henley, San Jose, CA
Randall Herz, San Jose, CA
Tania I Redlich, San Jose, CA
Pec Indman, San Jose, CA
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Santosh Kumar, San Jose, CA
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Miriam Leiseroff, San Jose, CA
Patty Linder, San Jose, CA
Claude McDonald, San Jose, CA
Du Ng, San Jose, CA
Margaret P, San Jose, CA
Jim Petkiewicz, San Jose, CA
Jamie Pfister, San Jose, CA
Veronica Romero, San Jose, CA

Charles Smith, San Jose, CA

Singgih Tan, San Jose, CA

Susan Trivisonno, San Jose, CA

Susan Urang, San Jose, CA

Nona Weiner, San Jose, CA

Jimmie Yonemoto, San Jose, CA

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Philip Fraser, San Juan Capistrano, CA

Lucille Robustelli, San Juan Capistrano, CA

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Michael Denton, San Leandro, CA

Gloria Eive, San Leandro, CA

Linda Gee, San Leandro, CA

Roberta LaFrance, San Leandro, CA

John Moreau, San Leandro, CA

John Payne, San Lorenzo, CA

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Joseph Boone, San Luis Obispo, CA

Maryan Infield, San Luis Obispo, CA

Sharon Rheingans, San Luis Obispo, CA

Nancy Walter, San Luis Obispo, CA

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Laura Dufel, San Marcos, CA

Randy Gray, San Marcos, CA

Teri Kelly, San Marcos, CA

John Maxwell, San Marcos, CA

Joan Quinn, San Marcos, CA

Lois Ruble, San Marcos, CA

Brooke Scruggs, San Marcos, CA

Mary Ann Seltzer, San Marcos, CA

Thelma Faulkner, San Martin, CA

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Gina Colangelo, San Mateo, CA

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Linda Johnson, San Mateo, CA

Evan Josa, San Mateo, CA

Evelyn Newman, San Mateo, CA

Tom Pache, San Mateo, CA

Mark Rhynsburger, San Mateo, CA

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Mariano Svidler, San Mateo, CA

Leyza Yardley, San Mateo, CA

Leah Fagundes, San Pablo, CA

Linda Morgan, San Pablo, CA

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Molly Brent, San Pedro, CA

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Sharon Caserma, San Pedro, CA

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James Haig, San Rafael, CA

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Erika Martinez, San Rafael, CA
Diana McBride, San Rafael, CA
Elaine Mont-Eton, San Rafael, CA
Dianne Morrison, San Rafael, CA
Susan Peters, San Rafael, CA
Mary Poor, San Rafael, CA
Allegra Printz, San Rafael, CA
Peter Ring, San Rafael, CA
Jena Rose, San Rafael, CA
Philip Simon, San Rafael, CA
Ariel Spilsbury, San Rafael, CA
Deborah Temple, San Rafael, CA
Lydia Vignau, San Rafael, CA
Jenifer Wilson, San Rafael, CA
Jason Witchel, San Rafael, CA
Jeffrey Hemenez, San Ramon, CA
Charles Wieland, San Ramon, CA
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Colleen Bergh, Santa Ana, CA
Nicolas Duonn, Santa Ana, CA
Mike Honda, Santa Ana, CA
Richard Spicer, Santa Ana, CA
Marie Winter, Santa Ana, CA
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Thea Altman, Santa Barbara, CA
Debby Anderson, Santa Barbara, CA
Martha Aubin, Santa Barbara, CA

Trudy Bixby, Santa Barbara, CA
Tina Brenza, Santa Barbara, CA
Lisabette Brinkman, Santa Barbara, CA
Heather Brophy, Santa Barbara, CA
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Ronit Corry, Santa Barbara, CA
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Jenny Cushnie, Santa Barbara, CA
Gary Denny, Santa Barbara, CA
Catharine Edwardson, Santa Barbara, CA
Joel Fithian, Santa Barbara, CA
Camille Gilbert, Santa Barbara, CA
Janet Graham, Santa Barbara, CA
Madeleine Ignon, Santa Barbara, CA
Katherine Johnson, Santa Barbara, CA
Virginia Johnstone, Santa Barbara, CA
John Kay, Santa Barbara, CA
Connie Marquez, Santa Barbara, CA
Nancy Martin, Santa Barbara, CA
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Sandra Moore, Santa Barbara, CA
Lauren Murdock, Santa Barbara, CA
Edith Ogella, Santa Barbara, CA
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Wendy Simons, Santa Barbara, CA

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Judy Rees, Santa Clara, CA

Mushtaq Syed, Santa Clara, CA

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David Ross, Santa Cruz, CA

Emmanuel Ross Hartway, Santa Cruz, CA

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Sylvia Vairo, Santa Cruz, CA

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Rachel Wolf, Santa Cruz, CA

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Jerid Anderson, Santa Maria, CA

Carlos Arnold, Santa Maria, CA

Nancy Heck, Santa Maria, CA

Nancy Miller, Santa Maria, CA

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Phyllis Chavez, Santa Monica, CA

Shelley Corwin, Santa Monica, CA

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Glenn and Alexandra Garrison, Santa Monica,
CA

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J Yudell, Santa Monica, CA

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Louise Rangel, Santa Paula, CA

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Ryan Dell, Santa Rosa, CA

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Lois Look, Santa Rosa, CA

Dan McAllister, Santa Rosa, CA

Bob Miller, Santa Rosa, CA

Jane Moad, Santa Rosa, CA

Lorilie Morey, Santa Rosa, CA

Jana Mariposa Muhar, Santa Rosa, CA

Josie Peluso, Santa Rosa, CA

Daniel Podell, Santa Rosa, CA

Joe Salazar, Santa Rosa, CA

Linda Thompson, Santa Rosa, CA

Ken Wilson, Santa Rosa, CA

Pam Zimmerman, Santa Rosa, CA

Gary Beckerman, Santa Ynez, CA

Vicki Call, Santee, CA

Elizabeth McCandless, Santee, CA

Rob Roberto, Santee, CA

Kelly Doyle, Sausalito, CA

Evan Jane Fletcher, Sausalito, CA

Evan Jane Kriss, Sausalito, CA

Patricia Pigman, Sausalito, CA

Lonna Richmond, Sausalito, CA

Greg Thomson, Sausalito, CA

Gerald Cummings, Scotts Valley, CA

Rob Dun, Scotts Valley, CA

Kay MacDonald, Seal Beach, CA

Bernadette Meltzer, Seal Beach, CA

Natalija Sale, Seal Beach, CA

Brent Spencer, Seal Beach, CA

Enrico Verga, Seal Beach, CA

Scott Ames, Sebastopol, CA

Felicia Bander, Sebastopol, CA

Corey Barnes, Sebastopol, CA

Stacie Charlebois, Sebastopol, CA

Sharron Fisher, Sebastopol, CA

Kris Hall, Sebastopol, CA

Katharine Kehr, Sebastopol, CA

Deborah Kermodé, Sebastopol, CA

Constance Miles, Sebastopol, CA

Kenneth Mooney, Sebastopol, CA

Lilith Rogers, Sebastopol, CA

Sharon Sadler, Sebastopol, CA

Julie Sicaud, Sebastopol, CA

Susan Stover, Sebastopol, CA

Lisa Salazar, Shasta Lake, CA

Reuben Allen, Sherman Oaks, CA

Gene Arias, Sherman Oaks, CA

Carol Becker, Sherman Oaks, CA

Hilarey Benda, Sherman Oaks, CA

Stephanie Colet, Sherman Oaks, CA

Jeffrey Jones, Sherman Oaks, CA

Jodi Milstein, Sherman Oaks, CA

Patrick Pade, Sherman Oaks, CA

Patricia Ritter, Sherman Oaks, CA

Mox Ruge, Sherman Oaks, CA

Sheila Desmond, Shingle Springs, CA

Karen Neumeier, Shingle Springs, CA

John Lamb, Sierra Madre, CA

Marguerite Shuster, Sierra Madre, CA

Carol Hewitt, Signal Hill, CA

Patti Barto, Silverado, CA

Derek Beauchemin, Simi Valley, CA

Christina Ciesla, Simi Valley, CA

Justin Duso, Simi Valley, CA

Frances Emanuel, Simi Valley, CA

James Johnson, Simi Valley, CA

Mary Ann Lowe, Simi Valley, CA

Madison Mitchell, Simi Valley, CA

Pam Morarre, Simi Valley, CA

Brad Parsa, Simi Valley, CA

Chuck Rocco, Simi Valley, CA

Jack Rollens, Simi Valley, CA

Diana Shycoff, Simi Valley, CA

Kelsey McCann, Sloughouse, CA

Laurie Neill, Smith River, CA

Christy Bulskov, Solana Beach, CA

Natasha Weaver, Solana Beach, CA

Debra Hunt, Solvang, CA

Carol Lake, Solvang, CA

Andy Philpot, Solvang, CA

Michelle Sparks-Gillis, Solvang, CA

Sheila Silan, Somerset, CA

Joy Pratt, Somis, CA

Renee Darner, Sonoma, CA

John Feissel, Sonoma, CA

Penny Hartman, Sonoma, CA

Patricia Locks, Sonoma, CA

Helen Mehl, Sonoma, CA

June Osbourn, Sonoma, CA

Michael R. Watson, Sonoma, CA

Brad Squires, Sonoma, CA

Michelle Allison, Sonoma, CA

Leslie Kowalczyk, Sonoma, CA

Stephen Foltz, Soquel, CA

Sonia King, Soquel, CA

Gary Landgrebe, Soquel, CA

Pamela Machutt, Soquel, CA

Marianna Mejia Contact, Soquel, CA

Sallye Steiner Bowyer, Soquel, CA

Diana Swisher, Soquel, CA

Hunter Wallof, Soulsbyville, CA

Arturo Beyeler, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Anne Roos, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Francie Stone, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Scott Jung, South Pasadena, CA

Yuliya Rudnik, South Pasadena, CA

Liz Ibarra, South San Francisco, CA

Ron Parsons, South San Francisco, CA

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Jennifer Bradford, Spring Valley, CA

Patricia Hadsall, Spring Valley, CA

Theodora Moriarty, Spring Valley, CA

Terrie Smith, Spring Valley, CA

Toni Watson, Spring Valley, CA

Joyce Kolasa, Springville, CA

Carol Ruth, Stanford, CA

Nikki Larkins, Stanton, CA

Stu Greenburg, Stevenson Ranch, CA

Michelle Montano, Stockton, CA

Alisha Nickols, Stockton, CA

Barb Varellas, Stockton, CA

Andra Eisen, Studio City, CA

Ines Glorian, Studio City, CA

Genevieve Guzman, Studio City, CA

Susan Lea, Studio City, CA

Ellen Little, Studio City, CA

David Norrell, Studio City, CA

Natalia Spornik, Studio City, CA

Inga Stanelun, Studio City, CA

James Roberts, Sugarloaf, CA

Robin Van Tassell, Summerland, CA

Chris Hernandez, Sun Valley, CA

Gerald Shaia, Sun Valley, CA

Katharine Warner, Sunland, CA

Scott Barlow, Sunnyvale, CA

Ernest Boyd, Sunnyvale, CA

John Cremin, Sunnyvale, CA

Krista Dana, Sunnyvale, CA

Marilyn Hall, Sunnyvale, CA

Rose Linn, Sunnyvale, CA

Richard Payne, Sunnyvale, CA

John Robbins, Sunnyvale, CA

Laura Robichek, Sunnyvale, CA

Marcia Sherman, Sunnyvale, CA

Vira Confectioner, Sunol, CA

Sandra Hendricks, Sutter Creek, CA

Sally Lambert, Sutter Creek, CA

Theo Dawson, Sylmar, CA

Chad Johnson, Sylmar, CA

Margarita Perez, Sylmar, CA

Charles Wolfe, Sylmar, CA

Carol p, Tahoe Vista, CA

El. Pe., Talmage, CA

Nilofar Amier, Tarzana, CA

Louise Bianco, Tarzana, CA

Theresa Bucher, Tarzana, CA

Monica Freedman, Tarzana, CA

Roger Hollander, Tarzana, CA

Ken Bailey, Taylorsville, CA

Gail Roberts, Tecate, CA

Missie Smith, Tehachapi, CA

Wendy Allen, Temecula, CA

Richard Blain, Temecula, CA

Holly Hall, Temecula, CA

Jena Hallmark, Temecula, CA

Deborah McIntosh, Temecula, CA

John Peterson, Temecula, CA

Janet Rhodes, Temecula, CA

Linda Skorheim, Temple City, CA

Cassie A. Murphy, Templeton, CA

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Lexie Cataldo, Thousand Oaks, CA

Elaine Edell, Thousand Oaks, CA

Stephen Fitch, Thousand Oaks, CA

Mariana Mellor, Thousand Oaks, CA

Gary Raymond, Thousand Oaks, CA

Joanne Sulkoske, Thousand Oaks, CA

Gerry Williams, Thousand Oaks, CA

Rochelle Adelman, Three Rivers, CA

Lyndell Pritchett, Three Rivers, CA

Lulu LaRocca, Toluca Lake, CA

Isabel Freeman, Topanga, CA

Jed Fuhrman, Topanga, CA

Kenneth Miller, Topanga, CA

Jaime Nahman, Topanga, CA

Julie Ries, Topanga, CA

Penelope Ward, Topanga, CA

Kristina Wunder, Topanga, CA

Sherrie King, Torrance, CA

Joyce M Campbell, Torrance, CA

Jeff Pierce, Torrance, CA

Faye Ryan, Torrance, CA

Lynn Ryan, Torrance, CA

Diana Waters, Torrance, CA

Shelley Zagars, Torrance, CA

Elissa Babiuk, Trabuco Canyon, CA

Jinx Hydeman, Trabuco Canyon, CA

Douglas McCormick, Trabuco Canyon, CA

Theresa Hundchen, Tracy, CA

Deborah Frame, Trinidad, CA

Jen Gavin, Trinidad, CA

Ron Melin, Trinidad, CA

C E Mone, Trinidad, CA

Glenn Ross, Trinidad, CA

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Simone Boudriot, Tujunga, CA

Probyn Gregory, Tujunga, CA

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Perry Gx, Tustin, CA

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Beverly Tiner, Twentynine Palms, CA

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James McArdle, Ukiah, CA

Tom McDonough, Ukiah, CA

Eileen Mitro, Ukiah, CA

Judi Walsh, Ukiah, CA

Mark Winkler, Ukiah, CA

George Wood, Ukiah, CA

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Ernest Walters, Union City, CA

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Christine Hayes, Upland, CA

Jay Jones, Upland, CA

Jo Mandrell, Upland, CA

Yvonne Smith, Upland, CA

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Nicole Antonelli, Vacaville, CA

Denice Eldridge, Vacaville, CA

Lorraine Lowry, Vacaville, CA

Debra Reuter, Vacaville, CA

Janice Boyd, Valencia, CA

Sara Fogan, Valencia, CA

Jane Casey, Vallejo, CA

Suzanne Connors, Vallejo, CA

Victoria Humphrey, Vallejo, CA

Alicia Jackson, Vallejo, CA

Carmen Klucsor, Vallejo, CA

Nikki Nafziger, Vallejo, CA

Kathleen Powell, Vallejo, CA

Lana Touchstone, Vallejo, CA

Florence Litton, Valley Center, CA

Laura Diffenbaugh, Valley Springs, CA

Gail Krieger, Valley Springs, CA

Monica Smith, Valley Springs, CA

Amy Fleiss, Valley Village, CA

Cindee H, Valley Village, CA

Darynne Jessler, Valley Village, CA

Kim Nicholson, Valley Village, CA

Jennifer Wilson, Valley Village, CA

Dudley and Candace Campbell, Van Nuys, CA

Reed Fenton, Van Nuys, CA

Agnieszka Gocek, Van Nuys, CA

Janet Laur, Van Nuys, CA

Stephanie Proctor, Van Nuys, CA

Ken Windrum, Van Nuys, CA

Karen Brodtkin, Venice, CA

Jesse Croxton, Venice, CA

Linda Eberle, Venice, CA

Richard Horne, Venice, CA

Kenneth Howard, Venice, CA

Nan Lamb, Venice, CA

Deborah Rumens, Venice, CA

Ruth Seroussi, Venice, CA

Titiphan Vutiprichar, Venice, CA

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Kathleen Applen, Ventura, CA

Sherry Berry, Ventura, CA

David Cotner, Ventura, CA

Tim Covey, Ventura, CA

Barbara Dincau, Ventura, CA

Jamie Green, Ventura, CA

Mabel Gulovsen, Ventura, CA

Ms. Lilith, Ventura, CA

Nina Minsky, Ventura, CA

Kenneth Pennington, Ventura, CA

Sherry Schafer, Ventura, CA

Karen Socher, Ventura, CA

Mary Stanistreet, Ventura, CA

Melissa Vasconcellos, Ventura, CA

Barbara Whyman, Ventura, CA

Simone Fonseca, Victorville, CA

Paula Lopez, Victorville, CA

Carol Wiley, Victorville, CA

Laurie Gorman, Visalia, CA

Arlene Shayer, Visalia, CA

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Jennifer Ball, Vista, CA

Barbara Bernatovich, Vista, CA

Tamara Bond, Vista, CA

Ad Clayton, Vista, CA

Angela Clayton, Vista, CA

Tyler Fitzgerald, Vista, CA

Mary Gilman, Vista, CA

Chad Kapusta, Vista, CA

Marilyn Baldwin, Volcano, CA

Erfin Hartojo, Walnut, CA

Jackie Samallo, Walnut, CA

Richard Saretsky, Walnut, CA

Rita Thio, Walnut, CA

Ana Belle, Walnut Creek, CA

Constantine Bogios, Walnut Creek, CA

Colleena Brazen, Walnut Creek, CA

Thomas Brustman, Walnut Creek, CA

Colleen Dowd, Walnut Creek, CA

Dale Drouin, Walnut Creek, CA

Ruth Felix, Walnut Creek, CA

Julia Fuller, Walnut Creek, CA

Madelaine Georgette, Walnut Creek, CA

Marsha Goodman, Walnut Creek, CA

Janicedotherighthing Greenberg, Walnut Creek,
CA

Barbara Greenwood, Walnut Creek, CA

Helen Hays, Walnut Creek, CA

Barb Linc, Walnut Creek, CA

Michele Dawn Sanderson, Walnut Creek, CA

Karen Savelich, Walnut Creek, CA

J. Schaffell, Walnut Creek, CA

Andrea Schauer, Walnut Creek, CA
David Wendt, Walnut Creek, CA
Suzanne Nevins, Warner Springs, CA
Paul Cheney, Watsonville, CA
Michael Craib, Watsonville, CA
Mary Doane, Watsonville, CA
Monica Gordon, Watsonville, CA
Valerie Justus-Rusconi, Watsonville, CA
Sarah Peck, Watsonville, CA
Michael C. Ford and Richard B. Marks,
Watsonville, CA
Celeste Stanik, Watsonville, CA
Shireen Nickel, Weed, CA
Diana Sottana, Weed, CA
Maria Fraga, West Covina, CA
Georgina Perez, West Covina, CA
Consuelo Rovirosa, West Covina, CA
Jeanne Schuster, West Covina, CA
Shari Becker, West Hills, CA
Rebecca Clark, West Hills, CA
Linda Howie, West Hills, CA
Pilar Zorrilla, West Hills, CA
David Aronovitch, West Hollywood, CA
Abbie Bernstein, West Hollywood, CA
Howard H. Holmes, West Hollywood, CA
Susan Mathison, West Hollywood, CA
Tameka Murrain, West Hollywood, CA
Christina Nillo, West Hollywood, CA
Paul Stanley, West Hollywood, CA
Agnew Wilson, West Hollywood, CA
Signe Wetteland, West Sacramento, CA
Barbara E., Westlake Village, CA
Stacey Keller, Westlake Village, CA
Heather Kovach, Westlake Village, CA
Theron Akers, Westminster, CA
David Cristini, Westminster, CA
Brandon Lowentrou, Westminster, CA
Tina Colafranceschi, Whitethorn, CA
Walter Huitema, Whittier, CA
Vanessa Leal, Whittier, CA
Michael Allen, Willits, CA
Stacey Rohrbaugh, Willits, CA
Sally Wieland, Willits, CA
Matthew Culmore, Windsor, CA
Claudia Piaseckyj, Winnetka, CA
Charles Raines, Winnetka, CA
Bita Edwards, Woodacre, CA
Susan Pelican, Woodland, CA
Bronwen Hughes, Woodland Hills, CA
Stephanie Larro, Woodland Hills, CA
Debra Lawrence, Woodland Hills, CA
Jollee Saphier, Woodland Hills, CA
Eva Thomas, Woodside, CA
Dianne Ostrow, Wrightwood, CA
C Rivera, X, CA
Susan Wayne, Xxx, CA
Marilyn Adams, Yorba Linda, CA
Kathleen Fernandez, Yorba Linda, CA
Barry Lovinger, Yorba Linda, CA
Gabriel Graubner, Yountville, CA

Charles Heinrichs, Yreka, CA

Linda Freeman, Yuba City, CA

Ashley Millard, Yuba City, CA

Norm Wilmes, Yuba City, CA

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

November 30th, 2023

Re: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests; Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

From the foothills of the Sierras to the seaside of the Central Coast, Californians care about our ocean and the life that calls it home. That's why we are submitting the attached 7,549 signatures in support of our petitions for rulemaking in the Decadal Management Review adaptive management process.

Each of the 7,549 people signed the following letter:

Dear Governor Newsom,

California's coastline is home to stunning beaches, amazing wildlife, and is a true treasure for everyone who lives in or visits our state. That's why we've invested in protecting this ocean heritage through the creation of our state network of marine protected areas. Just like state parks on land, these areas help protect and restore ocean life.

Now we have an opportunity to strengthen this network through the Decadal Management Review. I urge you to use this process to advance your important goal of protecting 30% of our state waters by 2030. Specifically, I urge you to expand the network to protect the state's last remaining kelp forests, critical homes to fish and sea otters, and to strengthen existing areas that don't yet provide high levels of protection for ocean life.

With your leadership, California can expand this network of ocean parks to create a brighter future for our state's ocean life and continue to lead the country in ocean conservation.

Sincerely,

By expanding the state's MPA network to better protect areas of stable kelp and by strengthening protections for areas not currently achieving their conservation outcomes due to weak or confusing regulations, the state can help our coasts adapt and thrive in the face of rising temperatures and emerging threats.

With your leadership, we can create a better future for California's coastal ecosystems and the wildlife that calls them home.

Sincerely,

Laura Deehan
Director
Environment California
Environment California Research & Policy Center



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California Fish and Game Commission



Compilation of Public Comments on Petition 2023-34MPA

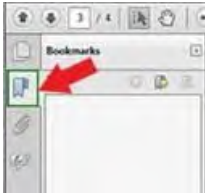
This PDF file compiles public comments that were included as exhibits in meeting materials and supplemental handouts for Commission and Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meetings since November 2023. Additional exhibits and supplemental handouts will be added after each Commission meeting, including those received by the public comment deadline, until the Commission takes final action on the petition.

Note: Commission meeting materials include a representative selection of comments, rather than a comprehensive suite of all related comments received. Given the large volume of public comments received, the Commission has directed staff to summarize comments and provide a representative selection in meeting materials to reflect the range of perspectives shared. Commissioners are able to review a diversity of perspectives while still having access to all individual comments submitted, which are part of the Commission's administrative record. Members of the public may contact staff for access to any written comments not included in this document.

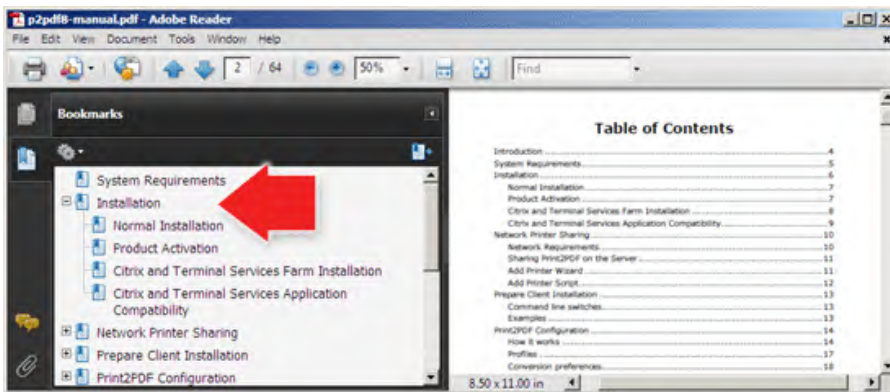
Last updated: through April 21, 2026 FGC


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2. If a bookmark panel does not automatically appear on either the top or left side of the screen, click/tap on the “bookmark symbol” located near the top left-hand corner.



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7. Do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions or would like assistance.

From: Aubrie Fowler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:12 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Ashcraft, Susan@FGC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Calla Allison <[REDACTED]>; Claire Arre <[REDACTED]>; Jamie Blatter <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FGC Meeting Binder Submission

Hi Susan and Commission staff,

Please see the attached exhibit (saved as a PDF and Excel sheet, whichever formatting is preferred) to please be added to the meeting binder for the February Fish and Game Commission meeting on 2/14-2/15/2024.

The link to the Google sheet can be found [here](#) as well; this was the format that the MPA Collaborative Vetted Regulation Recommendations was previously shared with Commission and Department staff.

Please let me know if there's more context you need from me.

Thank you,
Aubrie

Aubrie Fowler (she/her)
South Coast Specialist
[MPA Collaborative Network](#)
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County	MPA	Current Regs Summarized	Compliance concerns and/or management problem identified	Regulation Recommendation for Adaptive Management	Consensus?	Justification	Supporting Management Suggestion	Petitioner Lead	Contact Information	Recommendation Category	Designation Change?
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Onshore and offshore hook and line fishing, collecting sand crabs as bait, kayak fishers, violations from boaters registered in both CA and OR	Remove allowance for surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Change to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni'	Yes	Smelt is culturally important species to Tolowa and No Take designation will be clearer to public, reducing violations	Signs being vandalized, ripped out. Outreach to gain compliance needed (Guardian Watchmen)	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation		Take Allowance Change	Yes, from SMCA to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Elk Valley Rancheria is interested in exploring the possibility of being included in exempt status	Add Elk Valley Rancheria to exempt Tribes if requested by Tribal Council	Yes	Elk Valley Rancheria has ancestral ties to the area				Take Allowance Change	
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Boundary is in Oregon	Change northern boundary to align with recognized California/Oregon state line	Yes	Original boundary used a mapping system that does not align with on-the-ground state line.		Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation		Boundary Change	
Del Norte	Point St. George Offshore Reef SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap. Elk Valley and Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt		No change	Yes						
Del Norte	Sea Lion Rock Special Closure	300'	No data	No change	Yes						
Del Norte	Castle Rock Special Closure	300'	Poke poling at Preston Island and Battery Point and Hook Finger Point during extremely low tides. Kayaks near closure	No change	Yes						
Del Norte	False Klamath Rock Special Closure	300' from 3/1-8/31	Low flyovers by US Coast Guard helicopter. Kayaks near closure, kaking kelp. Dogs off leash	No change	Yes		Signs needed at Wilson Creek. Potential site for CoastSnap to crowdsource changes around rock				
Humboldt	Reading Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Trinidad, Resighini and Yurok exempt	Hook and line fishing and take of sand crabs regularly occur, especially at southern boundary Gold Bluffs beach traditional smelt camp Track amount of surf smelt taken (25 lbs current limit). Hawaiian Type throw net inappropriate	Work with California Tribes and indigenous people to change "Hawaiian type throw net" to a term that is more reflective of Indigenous Californian net based take methods	Yes	Reference to Hawaiian nets when indigenous terms exist for this take type is inappropriate and disrespectful	Monitor Surf smelt as a part of state monitoring plan.			Language Change	

Humboldt	Reading Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Trinidad, Resighini and Yurok exempt		Recommend implementing limits on commercial take of surf smelt	Yes	Culturally important species				Take Allowance Change	
Humboldt	Reading Rock SMR	No Take	Drifting commercial crab pots	No change	Yes						
Humboldt	Samoa SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Wiyot exempt	Difficult to determine boundaries	Work with California Tribes and indigenous people to change "Hawaiian type throw net" to a term that is more reflective of Indigenous Californian net based take methods	Yes	Reference to Hawaiian nets when indigenous terms exist for this take type is inappropriate and disrespectful	Monitor recreational and commercial (through landing/block reports) take of salmon by troll and surf smelt by dip net and assess effect on population; Signs with you are here map at Mad River			Language Change	
Humboldt	South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	No Take except waterfowl may be taken. Wiyot exempt	Invasive grasses, loss of eelgrass, general threats to habitat. Non Tribal members clamming. Difficult to identify boundaries within South Humboldt Bay	Determine reason it does not extend to southern water's edge and extend if no reason	Yes	Clearer for outreach purposes to say from southern end of bay to 2nd hunter pull out	Direct enforcement to look for unlawful clamming			Boundary Change	
Humboldt	Sugarloaf Island Special Closure	300'		No change	Yes						
Humboldt	South Cape Mendocino SMR	No Take	Minimal patrol	No change	Yes		Develop a plan for evaluating remote area MPAs to determine impact, such as temporary M2 radar/drone surveillance; support southern Humboldt patrol by LED				
Humboldt	Steamboat Rock Special Closure	300' 3/1-8/31	Confusion on when it is open to swim out to and when it is closed	No change	Yes		Sign that highlights special closure and closure dates				
Humboldt	Mattole Canyon SMR	No Take	Minimal patrol. Some commercial crab pots observed during USCG flyover	No change	Yes		Develop a plan for evaluating remote area MPAs to determine impact, such as temporary M2 radar/drone surveillance; support southern Humboldt patrol by law enforcement division				
Humboldt	Sea Lion Gulch SMR	No Take	Backpackers harvest mussels along entire Lost Coast Trail; people getting too close to new elephant seal colony. No cell connectivity to determine boundaries of MPA	Move southern boundary south to Cooskie Creek	BLM support but need fisher input	Creek is more identifiable feature for land based outreach to fishers hiking the Lost Coast Trail				Boundary Change	

Humboldt	Big Flat SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap. Multiple Tribes exempt	Backpackers harvest mussels along entire Lost Coast Trail; surf fishing occurs at Miller Flat. No cell connectivity to determine boundaries of MPA	No change	Yes		More outreach needed for fishers hiking lost coast. Include more detailed information in BLM Lost Coast map				
Mendocino	Double Cone Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap	Unknown. Limited patrol. Report of excessive urchin and need for grazer suppression.	Reassess restoration policy in SMCAs impacted by climate change/kelp loss	Yes	Loss of kelp habitat needs to be addressed in this SMCA	Allow for restoration work/grazer suppression to address urchin barrens (reds and purples)	California Sea Urchin Commission - allow for commercial take of urchin		Other	
Mendocino	Vizcaino Rock Special Closure	300' 3/1-8/31		No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Ten Mile SMR	No Take	Primary concern is shore-based fishing (rod and reel at seaside creek beach). Recreational fishers take rockfish and lingcod, crab pots "walk themselves" into MPA at southern boundary. Dogs off leash	No change	Yes		OK/boundary sign needed at northern boundary. Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	Ten Mile Beach SMCA	Rec take of Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. Many Tribes exempt	Unlawful take of fish (rockfish, lingcod); dogs off leash in snowy plover habitat. Potential sand dump site south side of Ten Mile Beach	No change	Yes		Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	Waterfowl may be taken. Many Tribes exempt	Limited access for fishers	No change	Yes		Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	MacKerricher SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	Multiple violations occur daily since closest to Fort Bragg city center (general fish and game code violations). North boundary (Laguna Point) hotspot for intertidal take	Add protection for intertidal zone, per State Parks, in support for protection of the resource and ease of enforcement/outreach	Many in support but no full consensus	There are limited areas in the county to lawfully take intertidal animals such as mussels, turban snails, limpets, etc.	More enforcement support needed due to limited State Parks personnel. Focus on tidepool education. Intertidal specific take signs are needed	State Parks pending review		Take Allowance Change	
Mendocino	Point Cabrillo SMR	No Take	Lighthouse sees lots of boats fishing offshore of Frolic Cove on northern end of Point Cabrillo SMR or inside	No change	Yes		OK boundary signs would be beneficial on both boundaries for kayak fishing				
Mendocino	Russian Gulch SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	General fish and game code violations	No change	Yes						

Mendocino	Big River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of surfperch by hook and line from shore only and Dungeness crab by hoop net or hand. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	Increased use for swimming and recreation has led to safety concerns, including close calls between swimmers and hunters. Swimmers mixing with motorized boats may lead to accidents	Hunting should be prohibited due to high public use/public safety issues, per State Parks	Yes	Community reported incidents of near misses between hunters/boaters and swimmers		State Parks pending review		Allowed Activity Change	
Mendocino	Big River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of surfperch by hook and line from shore only and Dungeness crab by hoop net or hand. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	Can MPA restrict motorized vessels if not ecological reserve?	Restrict all motorized vessels with allowance for public safety, per State Parks	Yes, with clarification that motorized vessels are only restricted going east (up river)	West access from launch should be allowed for boaters going out to ocean	Data on crab fishery is needed to determine whether allowance is sustainable. Need clear signage restricting snare traps. Pick up after dog signs needed	State Parks pending review		Allowed Activity Change	
Mendocino	Van Damme SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	Overtake and take of undersize fish	No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Navarro River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of salmonoids by hook and line. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	People illegally breach sandbar (but outside MPA?)	No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Point Arena SMR	No Take	Fishing in SMR reported by lighthouse manager	No change	Yes		OK boundary signs needed				
Mendocino	Point Arena SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear		No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Sea Lion Cove	Rec and commercial take of finfish	Urchin barrens	Reassess restoration policy in SMCAs impacted by climate change/kelp loss	Yes		Allow for restoration work/grazer suppression to address urchin barrens (reds and purples)	California Sea Urchin Commission - allow for commercial take of urchin		Other	
Mendocino	Saunders Reef SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and urchin	Citations issued for people diving and taking at Schooner Gulch; illegal shore fishing from Hearn Gulch	No change	Yes		Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Sonoma	Del Mar Landing SMR	No Take	Fishing at north end	No change	Yes		Trail pamphlets with MPA information				
Sonoma	Stewarts Point SMR	No Take	Poaching at 3 mile line. Difficult for fishers to determine where 3 mile line is and difficult to enforce from land	Allow for trolling of salmon. Change to SMCA?	No. Discussed with no strong opposition but more info needed	Impact to commercial salmon fishing can be addressed with minimal impact to other resources	More signage needed at public access points			Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change SMR to SMCA. No consensus
Sonoma	Stewarts Point SMCA	Rec take from shore only of marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish by hook and line, surf smelt by beach net, species authorized by hand-held dip net	Tribal based MPA	Prohibit all take and add Kashia Pomo to Tribal exemptions to make affirmative rights of Tribal Members re: collection, harvesting, and research	Yes	MPA is only accessed by Kashia Tribal members from shore (owned by Tribe) so would be same protection while acknowledging Tribal rights				Take Allowance Change	Yes, change from SMCA to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption

Sonoma	Salt Point SMCA	Recreational take of abalone and finfish allowed	Take of abalone during closure; poaching of intertidal species. Confusion regarding intertidal take	No change	Yes		Needs more signage on collecting/take of shellfish and other non finfish				
Sonoma	Gerstle Cove SMR	No Take	Excessive intertidal take. Rec fishers fishing the line	No change	Yes		Need for good tidepooler rules signs to address harmful tidepooling				
Sonoma	Russian River SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Marine mammal disturbance occurring. County of Sonoma needs to conduct restoration work as part of management plan	Allow for restoration work in SMRMA	Yes	Restoration will not impact haul out sites, marine mammals or birds				Other	
Sonoma	Russian River SMCA	Rec take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net. Commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Illegal onshore and offshore fishing; seal disturbance "seal selfies" near Goat Rock. Trash/dogs off leash	No change	Yes		More outreach for out of town fishers/permanent signage				
Sonoma	Bodega Head SMR	No Take	Take of rockfish and trolling for salmon; fishing on northern boundary off rocks Difficult "fan" shape and hard to identify northern boundary makes enforcement difficult	No change	Yes	Would require new outreach					
Sonoma/Marin	Bodega Head SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll fishing gear and round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Take of rockfish and trolling for salmon; fishing on northern boundary off rocks Difficult "fan" shape and hard to identify northern boundary makes enforcement difficult	No change	Yes						
Sonoma/Marin	Estero Americano SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Confusion as to boundary "high tide line" and who manages strip of beach between ocean and estuary that is often closed; Difficulty identifying eastern boundary. No way to see boundary from shore	No change	Yes		More signs needed at access points here to address compliance concerns				
Marin	Estero de San Antonio SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Some take (animal remains) and illegal fishing	No change	Yes						
Marin	Point Reyes SMR	No take	Sand dollar and fossil take, rod and reel fishing from vessels, party boats troll for salmon; violations are limited offshore	No change	Yes		Signage and more enforcement needed, especially at Drakes Beach and Coast Guard Station. Consolidated mixed messaging signs, with dog information.				

Marin	Point Reyes SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap	Commercial crabbers set coonstripe shrimp traps on top of crab traps; Boundaries in MPA cluster hard to identify; NPS jurisdiction limited to	No change	Yes						
Marin	Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 1000 feet seaward	Recreational vessels fishing in summer; Disturbance spiked in 2020; USFW continues to monitor this area	No change at this time	Yes	Might need to revisit making adjustments in the future if data shows changes/increases in disturbance					
Marin	Estero de Limantour SMR	No take	Difficult to determine boundary between SMR and Drakes Estero SMCA makes enforcement difficult. There are suspicions that poaching of clams occurs in the SMR from people on kayaks from Drakes Estero	Extend SMR designation all the way into Drakes Estero	Yes	NPS in support of expanding SMR because federally designated wilderness, major harbor seal haul out, and critical nursery habitat for leopard shark and bay rays		EAC Marin with NPS letter of support		Boundary Change	
Marin	Drakes Estero SMCA	The recreational take of clams is allowed	Difficult to determine boundary line between Drakes Estero SMCA and Estero de Limantour SMR leading to poaching. Cows accessing/pooping from NPS ranch leased land	Prohibit clamming in Drakes Estero SMCA. Merge with Estero de Limantour SMR.	Yes	SMCA designation was originally due to oyster farm that is no longer there. NPS in support of making into a SMR due to federally designated wilderness area	Give people direction/ outreach materials on where they CAN clam safely	EAC Marin with NPS letter of support		Take Allowance Change	Yes, change from SMCA to SMR
Marin	Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of rock	Seabird flushing by vessels. USFW monitoring area.	No change	Yes	GFNMS thinks current regulations are good, very important to their mission and public outreach					
Marin	Double Point/Stormy Stack Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of rock	Seabird flushing by vessels and surfers, who enter harbor seal rookery. Increased visitation due to people hiking to Alamere Falls	No change	Yes	GFNMS thinks current regulations are good, very important to their mission and public outreach and don't want to extend to shore to allow shore access	Put signs with regulations and text about importance of special closure at trailhead; more outreach to boaters about special closures needed				

Marin	Duxbury Reef SMCA	Recreational take of finfish from shore and abalone* is allowed	Difficult to enforce and outreach about why you can take finfish but not invertebrates. Beach Watch data at this site for 30 years show slight decrease in activities in last 10 years, but take of invertebrates has been observed, and the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent has provided information about the need to consider additional conservation measures at Duxbury Reef. Maria Brown (NMS) submitted a letter saying Duxbury Reef would benefit from increased protection of unique and important habitat of entire reef (largest shale reef in N. America). EAC MPA Watch data shows	Change to SMR because of difficulty of interpretation and enforcement. Extend southern boundary further out to sea (south) and northern boundary to Double Point to fully cover reef	No	No agreement on extending boundaries to cover the reef and changing to SMR. More research needed on benefits of changing existing ribbon from SMCA to SMR; Might be important fishing access point for public	More signs needed and more support for onsite education and enforcement from CDFW to agate beach and land-side terrestrial Duxbury	EAC Marin	Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change SMCA to SMR. No consensus
Marin	Duxbury Reef SMCA	Recreational take of finfish from shore and abalone* is allowed	Heavy use and impacts, intertidal take – buckets and tools (e.g., crow bars, tire jacks) used to take black turban snails and purple urchin that are nestled into cracks. People need to break the reef to get to purple urchin	Potential compromise would be to add specific tidepool protections, similar to OC	TBD	NMS would like to continue conversation to explore potential compromises	Research other tidepool docent programs in MPAs with mixed use of allowed fishing/tidepool protections		Language Change	
San Francisco	North Farallon Islands SMR	No Take	Commercial crab case here	No change	Yes	More data needed for this MPA cluster	Increase CDFW LED patrols during peak months. Need for CCFRP program here			
San Francisco	North Farallon Islands Special Closure	No vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 1000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of North Farallon Island, or to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the remaining three southern islets		No change	Yes					

San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands SMR	No Take	Small recreational boats. A number of encroachments occur into SMR during better weather months	No change	Yes		Increase patrols from LED and consider M2 radar at this location				
San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands SMCA	Recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon by troll fishing gear	Salmon fishers use salmon gear to fish for halibut	No change	Yes						
San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands Special Closure	Closed 300 feet seaward year-round, except Fisherman's Bay to East Landing, southeastern tip of the island and southeastern side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, which is closed from December 1 through September 14. 5 mile per hour speed limit 1000 ft seaward of mean lower low tide of any shoreline Exhaust system requirements for commercial dive boats	Boats cut across the special closure	No change	Yes		Precedes MLPA process, careful consideration went into crafting special closure regulations				
San Mateo	Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure	A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of any of the three rocks comprising Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock; Transit in between the rock and the mainland between these points is prohibited at any time.	Reported violations include fishing boats inside boundaries and low flying aircraft/drones	Change name to "Devil's Slide Special Closure"	Yes		Egg rock is no longer a name used/recognized locally. Devil's Slide is more appropriate and simpler for outreach				Language Change
San Mateo	Montara SMR	No Take	A top cited MPA in Central Coast, highest in San Mateo; fishing offshore and tidepool take; Difficulty interpreting southern boundary	Move Montara SMR onshore southern boundary to current Pillar Point SMCA southern boundary (north end of Maverick's Beach), then extending out to current offshore southern SMR boundary point	Yes		Easier for enforcement and makes SMR boundaries consistent with Fitzgerald Marine Reserve boundaries				Boundary Change

San Mateo	Pillar Point SMCA	The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll or round haul net Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net is allowed.	Unclear boundary leads to poaching in intertidal Difficult for local law enforcement to ensure compliance of tidepool take regulations due to high volume of consumptive visitors	Extend southern SMCA boundary further south to edge of harbor jetty, extending out to existing offshore southern point. Onshore northern boundary would be same as Montara SMR onshore southern boundary	Yes	Would cover entire reef in MPA for ease of allied agency outreach and enforcement.				Boundary Change	
San Mateo	Pillar Point SMCA	The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll or round haul net Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net is allowed.		Change regulations to allow for recreational hook and line take of finfish from shore and take of mussels, crabs, snails and seaweeds for equity and access purposes	Yes	Allowing for shore based hook and line and some intertidal take maintains access for consumptive users while applying some protection for a heavily impacted habitat				Take Allowance Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Año Nuevo SMR	No Take	Unlawful take of snails; fishing; wildlife disturbance. Boats driving squid out of MPA. Confusion because sign at top of trail to Greyhound Rock says fishing beach but must go left at bottom to legally fish	Move southern boundary line to have whole of Greyhound Rock in SMR	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and San Mateo Collaborative meetings	Clearer boundary makes enforcement easier	Ensure sign with map at bottom of trail. Utilize social/digital/traditional media for public outreach	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Greyhound Rock SMCA	Rec take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon. Other finfish by hook and line only from shore. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, salmon and market squid	Take of mussels at southern boundary Confusion with Año Nuevo SMR boundary/whether fishing is allowed at Greyhound Rock Split between 2 counties	Move northern boundary line to have whole of Greyhound Rock outside of SMCA and in SMR; Move southern boundary south to beginning of Scott Creek bridge	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and San Mateo Collaborative meetings	Reef should be fully protected or fully open. Preference to cover reef but either way will have clearer boundary for outreach/enforcement. Move of southern boundary would cover reef to address intertidal impacts	Need for sign with map at Scotts Creek	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Greyhound Rock SMCA	Rec take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon. Other finfish by hook and line only from shore. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, salmon and market squid	Confusing regulations	Replace comma with semi-colon in regulations after "giant kelp by hand harvest only", or otherwise edit	Yes	Clearer language needed to clarify you are not required to catch salmon and squid by hand harvest only		State Parks pending review		Language Change	Section 100 change
Santa Cruz	Natural Bridges SMR	No Take	Hard to identify boundaries; safety concerns with fishers and swimmers at Natural Bridges State Park beach	Shift both boundaries south to more identifiable features (4 mile point and Natural Bridge)	Yes	State Parks would like SMR to cover the beach at Natural Bridges SP for public safety reasons	Need for interpretive signs with maps/good tidepooler rules, why MPAs, etc.	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
Santa Cruz	Soquel Canyon SMCA	Rec and commercial take of pelagic finfish	Split between 2 counties	No change	Yes						

Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMR	No Take	Fishing occurs regularly at Kirby Park pier/dock, was originally built for fishers with disabilities with SFRA grant. Inconsistent enforcement.	Move northern boundary south of Kirby Park pier/dock. Shift entire MPA to maintain size	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and Monterey Collaborative meetings	Opens fishing area as originally intended to limit poaching; supports increased enforcement presence in area	If Kirby is open, must be concerted cross-jurisdictional effort to enforce shore waste of fish/debris and other F&G Code violations. Need for good fishing practices outreach	Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Boundary Change	
Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMCA	The recreational take of finfish by hook and line only and clams is allowed. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area [subsection 550(a)].	Difficult to determine where SMR/SMCA boundary is (i.e., where kayak fishers can no longer fish).	Move SMR line to bird watching platform (eastern side)	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and Monterey Collaborative meetings	Bird watching platform provides a clear boundary for shore and kayak fishers and would maintain size of SMR with shift off Kirby		Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Boundary Change	
Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMCA	The recreational take of finfish by hook and line only and clams is allowed. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area [subsection 550(a)].	Clamming disturbs sea otter rafts. Huge amounts of trash (fishing receptacles full)	Removing allowance for clamming to address impact to otters and human health considerations	Maybe?	Need more info on impact to recreational clambers and safety of consuming clams	Need for more trash receptacles/removal	Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Take Allowance Change	
Monterey	Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve	No take	Some access on eastern end. Agricultural influence. Elkhorn Slough NERR in support of no change	No change	Yes						
Monterey/Santa Cruz	Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish is allowed	Many violations, especially illegally set crab traps (commercial) and rockfish take (recreational). Whale disturbance. More impact due to depth restrictions lifted	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish is allowed	Many violations, especially rockfish take (recreational). Whale disturbance	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Fishing debris from Coast Guard pier. Abalone and other intertidal poaching at breakwater	Explore regulations to limit fishing gear loss from Coast Guard pier (such as requiring use of breakaway leaders or no braided line)	Yes	Fishing gear loss impacts wildlife, habitat, and safety of divers due to entanglement	Partner with MBNMS on outreach of litter/delict fishing gear			Language Change	
Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	New regulations may restrict fishing for rockfish from boat close to shore after October 1	Change to SMR and join with Lovers Point Julia Platt SMR	Maybe	No strong opposition but no fishing reps present		Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR

Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand		Allow restoration/urchin culling without requiring SCP	No	May lead to destruction of healthy urchins		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) - applies to Ed Ricketts, PG Gardens, and Carmel Bay SMCAs, and will include suggestion for buoys on sites		Other	
Monterey	Lovers Point- Julia Platt State Marine Reserve	No Take	Fishing off Lovers Point rocks, undersize and immature fish, spearfishers and fishing boats catch halibut, illegal tidepool take; confusion around northern boundary line	Move southern boundary line so Lovers Point is either all in or all out (with preference for all in reserve)	No	Disagreement about where to move line	Boundary marker or fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed if boundary doesn't change			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Lovers Point- Julia Platt State Marine Reserve	No Take		Move southern boundary to end of Lovers Point, splitting point equally in half	Yes	Fishing/No fishing arrow signs would make sense/be more accurate	Fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed at Lovers Point			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Spearfishing violations, especially from kayaks and dinghies; illegal take of scallops and crustaceans; undersize and immature fish taken Point Pinos is key oystercatcher nesting habitat	Move both boundary lines so Lovers Point and Point Pinos are all out of SMCA and in SMRs because both are key oystercatcher nesting sites	No	Rock outcropping and buoy at Point Pinos (southern boundary) are currently good boundary indicators for boaters				Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand		Move northern boundary to end of Lovers Point	Yes	Fishing/No fishing arrow signs would make sense/be more accurate	Fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed at Lovers Point and Point Pinos			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	New regulations may restrict fishing for rockfish from boat close to shore after October 1	Change to SMR, join with Lovers Point SMR	Maybe	No strong opposition but no fishing reps present		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR
Monterey	Asilomar State Marine Reserve	No Take	Onshore and offshore fishing common, hook and line from nooks and crannies; harmful tidepooling, tidepool take; wildlife disturbance common Northern boundary at Point Pinos is confusing, splits rocks in half	No change	Yes		Fishing/No Fishing arrow signs needed at Point Pinos				
Monterey	Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve	No Take	Offshore violations common	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Intertidal take common, including abalone and mussels. Golf balls go into MPA and are not collected. Some kelp take at Stillwater Cove	No change	Yes		Work with Pebble Beach on reducing golf ball litter either through requiring biodegradable balls at key holes or ensuring balls are collected by divers				
Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Reserve	No Take	Take occurs. Boundaries are confusing	No change	Yes						

Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Reserve	No Take		Allow restoration/urchin culling	No	Difficult for enforcement/interpretation in no-take area		Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Other	
Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of salmon and albacore and the commercial take of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn is allowed		No change	Yes						
Monterey	Point Sur State Marine Reserve	No Take	Violations common between SMR and SMCA, southern corner is hard to enforce. Abalone case reported	Encompass the whole coastline of Point Sur in MPA	No	Keep boundaries as is				Boundary Change	
Monterey	Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore		Add bluefin tuna to list of species allowed for take	No	Lessens protection				Take Allowance Change	
Monterey	Big Creek State Marine Reserve	No Take	L-shape of SMR within SMCA is confusing	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of salmon and albacore. Commercial take of salmon, albacore	Potential unlawful fishing off Marine Lab	No change	Yes						
San Luis Obispo	Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve	No take	Missing signs. Onshore fishing violations (poaching mussels at Point Sierra Nevada). Wildlife disturbance. Extreme angle makes kayak fishers look like they are fishing in SMR	No change	Yes		Use boundary images on signs to help reference angle at pullout.				
San Luis Obispo	Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore	Occasional poaching observed. Fishing for rockfish. No albacore, limited salmon observed by fishers/wardens	No change	Yes						
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	Harmful tidepooling occurring throughout MPA. Difficult to message good tidepooler rules without designated protections	Add tidepool protection language similar to Crystal Cove and Dana Point SMCA	Yes	Would make it easier to message about responsible tidepooling and reduce inadvertent take	Tools for existing SP tidepool docent program needed here, such as Natural Bridges State Park tidepool cart	State Parks pending review; Environment California?		Take Allowance Change	
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	Boundary between Cambria SMCA and White Rock SMCA is confusing, leading to accidental poaching by kayak fishers putting in at boundary at Wedgewood	Shift White Rock SMCA northern boundary to end of neighborhood at Lampton Park. Shift southern boundary south 1/2 mile accordingly to not lose any protection and cover some kelp habitat	Yes	Maybe some pushback from commercial live rockfish fishery for southern shift but recreational anglers in support		Environment California?		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	No commercial take allowed but there is an existing kelp lease?	Remove kelp lease 209 OR clarify that lease holder cannot harvest within Cambria SMCA	Yes	Commercial harvest of kelp is incompatible with MPA regulations that allow recreational take only		Environment California?		Other	

San Luis Obispo	White Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease	Boundary between Cambria SMCA and White Rock SMCA is confusing, leading to accidental poaching of kayak fishers putting in at boundary at Wedgewood	Shift White Rock SMCA northern boundary to end of neighborhood at Lampton Park. Shift southern boundary south 1/2 mile accordingly to not lose any protection	Yes	May be some pushback from commercial live rockfish fishery for southern shift but recreational anglers in support		Environment California?		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	White Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease		Prohibit commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease and change to an SMR	Yes	Original intent was a reserve but there was existing kelp lease. Current lease holder is fine with relinquishing/ disallowing take of kelp		Environment California?		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area	Waterfowl hunting allowed. Recreational take of finfish north of line at Pasadena Point. Aquaculture allowed	Poaching occurs at southern side that does not allow take of finfish. Line is confusing and unclear on maps and outreach materials. Illegal invertebrate take (e.g., sea stars at jetty, ghost shrimp at Windy Cove). Signs needed at blue pier	Shift no fishing boundary 150 yds north to public access at Pasadena Park (between Santa Ysabel and Baywood Way)	Yes	Makes it easier for county to manage and educate more accurately about fishing/no fishing line	Signs needed, especially at Blue Pier. County can install sign at Pasadena Park			Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area	Waterfowl hunting allowed. Recreational take of finfish north of line at Pasadena Point. Aquaculture allowed	Hunting "within" a bird sanctuary (City of Morro Bay) is confusing, safety concerns for paddlers with increased visitors who are unaware hunting is allowed. Concern about safety issues around hunting around neighborhoods. Trampling of plants occur on shoreline in Baywood Park.	No change to regulations at this time	Yes	Important hunting area. Confusion should be addressed through outreach	Overlay hunting map on SMRMA for outreach purposes Mixed message signs/more education needed about estuary impacts/erosion: "tread lightly" in Los Osos				
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Reserve	No Take	Some hunting violations, hugging line; Boardwalks work to protect birds! Might be good to have one at Baywood Park at 1st Street	No change (reluctantly)	Yes	Some desire to extend SMR west and into bottom part of bay beneath Baywood Peninsula but do not want to impede on aquaculture	More education and outreach needed				
San Luis Obispo	Point Buchon State Marine Reserve	No Take	Regular poaching offshore, trolling, and stopping to drop a line in water. Busiest MPA in SLO, most violations observed/cited	Move northern boundary to actual Point Buchon	Yes	Clearer boundary for fishers coming from Port San Luis	Boundary marker needed here. Make "flagpole" more visible (hang flag?) if boundary doesn't change	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore allowed	Regular poaching, rockfish and lingcod, maybe some squid boats?	No change	Yes						

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Vandenberg SMR	No Take	Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) allows active-duty officers, their dependents/families, and guests to fish off Vandenberg. Leads to confusion since officially a no-take area. Regulations should match take allowed. Petition has been submitted by City of Lompoc to allow shore fishing at Surf Beach	Change designation to SMCA that allows hook and line for finfish from shore only	Yes	Would increase actual protection due to past 5 Base Commanders' decision to allow all legal take on base and would address equity concerns by allowing access for non-military at Surf Beach		Greg Helms to propose intertidal ribbon		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMR to SMCA
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Vandenberg SMR	No Take		Reevaluate MOA with VSFB that is being interpreted as allowing for full military recreational take in a no-take SMR	No, not needed if designation is changed to SMCA	Vandenberg conservation officer will enforce updated take regs on military personnel				Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Point Conception SMR	No Take	Recent groundfish case. Difficult for enforcement to access from land through Dangermond Preserve. M2 radar at Pt. Conception shows a lot of boating activity, may	No change	Yes		Provide continued support for M2 radar with ground truthing and continued coordination/info sharing between agencies				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Kashlayit SMCA	Rec take of finfish, invertebrates (except rock scallops and mussels) and giant kelp by hand harvest. Santa Ynez band of Chumash exempt	Illegal and dangerous access down the bluffs on Gaviota. Fishing without a license. Access issues for pier fishers with Gaviota pier closed. Difficult to interpret	Reword regulations for clarity of outreach: "Recreational take of finfish, invertebrates, and giant kelp allowed"	Yes	Simpler regulations will make outreach easier, increasing compliance, with minimal impacts to the resources	Have FGC/State push for pier repair at Gaviota Pier (SB County/State Parks) for safety/access reasons	State Parks pending review/Greg Helms		Language Change	Section 100 change
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Naples SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand or mechanical harvest. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exempt	Hook and line fishing and access issues occur here, and most days there are at least two vehicles for fishing or surfing parked near Naples. Impact to hook and line fishers	Add hook and line to allowed method of take	No	Numbers/impact/level of take different between hook and line and spearfishing. Would drastically reduce protection				Take Allowance Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Campus Point No-Take SMCA	No Take	Onshore and offshore hook and line fishing continues to be observed	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		Greg Helms		Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Goleta Slough No-Take SMCA	No Take	Trespassing (e.g., illegal swimming, dogs). People occasionally use nets to fish here and/or fish off bridges at the finger boundaries of the slough. Dumping of sediment still occurs in Goleta Bay	Consider water quality designation for Goleta Bay	Yes	Goleta Bay is between two MPAs and there is a need to address impacts of sediment dumping to subsistence fishers off Goleta Pier		Greg Helms		Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Goleta Slough No-Take SMCA	No Take		Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		Greg Helms		Other	

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Richardson Rock SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	San Miguel Island Special Closure	Allowance for sea urchin divers between Castle Rock and Judith Rock SMR western boundary (Point Bennet) between 3/15-4/30 and 10/1-12/15.	Commercial urchin poaching. Purpose to reduce disturbance to pinniped populations. Is closure still necessary? Point Bennet has one of the largest pinniped (six species) rookeries on the West Coast of North America	Reevaluate need for special closure (SC); Clean up language to address confusion between 300 yards describing SC and 100 yards keeping boats from whole Island 102 A.1.(a)	Yes		M2 radar at NMFS marine mammal station	Greg Helms		Language Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Harris Point SFMR	No Take	CDFW sees some fishers that are taking from shore, although it is not common	No change	Yes		Use land-based range markers (e.g., O & K) to mark boundaries				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Judith Rock SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes		Use land-based range markers (e.g., O & K) to mark boundaries				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Carrington Point SMR	No Take	Confusing angle relative to pier	No change	Yes	NPS outreach on angle has been good	More permanent boundary markers/signage is needed				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Skunk Point SMR	No Take	Difficult to determine how far offshore boats are (in or out)	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	South Point SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Painted Cave SMCA	Rec take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish	People are taking non-pelagic fish species, rockfish, California sheephead, and live fish	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Gull Island SFMR	No Take		Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Scorpion SFMR	No Take	Fishing/take in little coves at eastern boundaries. Lobster traps	No change	Yes		More on-island enforcement presence needed				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island Special Closure	No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep. Brown Pelican closure from Portuguese Rock to Frenchy's Cove 1/1-10/31	Brown pelican area makes it difficult for Island Packers and others to land legally at Frenchy's	Add exemption to allow access/landing Frenchy's Cove	Yes	Intent was to allow landing at Frenchy's Cove but aligning brown pelican closure with SMR/SMCA boundary closed off access to safe landing		Greg Helms		Allowed Activity Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island Special Closure	No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep. Brown Pelican closure from Portuguese Rock to Frenchy's Cove 1/1-10/32	Depth hard to enforce due to sheer drop off from island	Reassess need for Special Closure and consider removing if not justified	Yes	May only need brown pelican closure rather than full island special closure to protect seabirds		Greg Helms		Allowed Activity Change	Yes, would remove special closure

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island SFMCA	Rec take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of spiny lobster. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exempt	Confusion regarding what "pelagic" means may lead to unlawful take	No change	Yes		Outreach needed around pelagics				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island SFMR	No Take	Violations for unlawful take	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Footprint SFMR	No Take	Lots of violations. Boats drift in because they cannot anchor	Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Begg Rock SMR	No Take	The MPA violations here are commercial and come from experienced	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Santa Barbara Island SFMR	No Take	Osborne Bank. CPFV/commercial lobster poaching. Overlapping jurisdictions	Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed	M2 radar needed to monitor remote MPA			Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Santa Ynez band exempt	Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	Delete allowance for commercial take of Swordfish by harpoon	Yes	Swordfish fishing does not occur that close to shore	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed	State Parks pending review; Heal the Bay		Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Santa Ynez band exempt		Allow hook and line fishing for allowed method of take of white seabass and pelagic finfish	No	Lessening of protection/unclear impacts				Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMR	No Take	Angle of eastern boundary is confusing/extends due west and is close to shore	No change	Yes		Use of surveyed boundary images in outreach can help address confusion with eastern boundary at Paradise Cove				
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Vicente No-Take SMCA	No Take	Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	No change	Yes		Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Vicente No-Take SMCA	No Take	Confusion of significance of purple designation	Keep allowance for maintenance but change color from purple to red for ease of public interpretation	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	

Los Angeles (Mainland)	Abalone Cove SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat	Harmful tidepooling impacts/take from tidepools. Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	Delete allowance for commercial take of swordfish by harpoon	Yes	Swordfish fishing does not occur that close to shore	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed	Heal the Bay		Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Abalone Cove SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat		Allow hook and line fishing for allowed method of take of white seabass and pelagic finfish	No	Lessening of protection/unclear impacts				Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Arrow Point to Lion Head Point SMCA	All rec and commercial take allowed. Take of invertebrates prohibited	Poaching lobster and abalone. Hoop nets. Difficult to identify 1,000 feet from shore at Indian/Endemic Rock	No change	Yes		Need for a locally managed (research) buoy to mark 1,000 feet point				
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Blue Cavern Onshore No-Take SMCA	No Take. No anchor area in original refuge boundaries	Fishing/using hoop nets close to shore at Big Fisherman Cove. Poaching at Yellowtail Point and Bird Rock; Confusion around no anchor zone	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes, only if all current maintenance/access activities are still allowed	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR	Need for some boundary marker at Yellowtail Point. MPA Watch transect would help identify use/ compliance issues here			Other	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Blue Cavern Offshore SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line and spearfishing and white seabass by spearfishing and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of pelagic finfish by hook and line and swordfish by harpoon	Take via illegal gear types	No change	Yes						
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Long Point SMR	No Take	Trolling through MPA occurs. Misconception that MPA is only close to shore. Rental boats go past Long Point and fish	Make a distance from shore rather than lat/long for ease of outreach. Cut off corner and flip and move west (offshore) to maintain size	Yes	Clearer outreach to trollers to stay certain distance from shore, IF maintains size				Boundary Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Lover's Cove SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from the Cabrillo Mole is allowed. Feeding fish allowed	Fishing from shore at the ramp near the Mole. Angle is difficult at eastern boundary. Food torpedoes are shot from tourist subs to attract fish to windows	Remove allowance for feeding of fish	Yes	Against intent of MLPA, affecting behavior of fish/habitat; public safety issue as fish become more aggressive and bite				Allowed Activity Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Casino Point No-Take SMCA	No Take. Feeding fish allowed	Boundaries don't match dive park buoys. Feeding fish may be incompatible use. 40-50' depth at MPA line.	Remove allowance for feeding of fish.	Yes	Against intent of MLPA, affecting behavior of fish/habitat; public safety issue as fish become more aggressive and bite	Might need to utilize a weaning off process for fish used to being fed			Allowed Activity Change	

Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Casino Point No-Take SMCA	No Take. Feeding fish allowed		Change purple to red for outreach purposes for outreach	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Farnsworth Onshore SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; marline, tunas and dorado by trolling and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon, coastal pelagics by roundhaul net, brail gear and light boat	More difficult to assess whether poaching is occurring on the backside. Challenging/confusing for fishers	No change	Yes				More outreach to fishers needed on why deep habitat/fish are protected here		
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing; white seabass by spearfishing; marlin, tunas and dorado by trolling and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon, coastal pelagics by roundhaul net, brail gear and light boat	CPFVs (party boats) are seen illegally fishing in Farnsworth Offshore SMCA, moving out if they see the CDFW patrol boat approaching. Regs restricting take of rockfish can be confusing for fishers/challenging to prove rockfish on board was taken outside	No change	Yes						
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Cat Harbor SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing, market squid by hook and line, and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea cucumbers by diving only and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Aquaculture of finfish	Some take of undersized fish	No change	Yes						
Orange	Bolsa Bay SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs	Potentially combine Bolsa Bay with Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs?	No	State Lands requirement to have fishing				Boundary Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR. No consensus
Orange	Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Water management infrastructure is failing - needs management and repairs. Shoaling and potential closing of inlet - need cost effective alternative to dredging and \$ to implement. Could ultimately change boundaries of MPAs	MPA should cover all waters in ecological reserve. Move northeastern boundary to Graham	Yes	Makes enforcement easier so CDFW can cite for unlawful fishing using 632 instead of no trespassing		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Boundary Change	
Orange	Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPA regulations and whether take is allowed. Bridge inconsistency	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	

Orange	Upper Newport Bay SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Ecological Reserve and MPA overlapping jurisdiction. Fishing from floats by PCH bridge and using gill nets at Jamboree	No change	Yes		Harbor and estuary signs needed at Newport Dunes. Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Orange	Crystal Cove SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat	Harmful tidepooling and undersized lobster. Nighttime poaching. Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat	Yes	"Area encompassing the rocky pools" is confusing, makes it sounds like it is only the pools, not intertidal zone when dry	Night vision for State Parks officers to address nighttime poaching	State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Crystal Cove SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat		Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Laguna Beach SMR	No Take	Poaching in gated/private communities; angle is difficult at northern boundary	No change	Yes		More enforcement needed in private community. Bring back community scientist/anglers (i.e., CCFRP) to OC				
Orange	Laguna Beach No-Take SMCA	No Take. Maintenance allowed	Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR	Produce map that has layer that shows allowed maintenance/artificial structures and scientific take	OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	
Orange	Dana Point SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected	Fishing without a license. Night poaching at 3 Arch. Take of limpets at north end. Shift in fishing pressure. Angle is difficult at southern boundary. Harmful tidepooling	Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Dana Point SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected		Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat or utilize a different term.	Yes	Tidepools are specific to pools but intertidal habitats protected can be free of pools in some cases. "Area encompassing the rocky pools" is unclear whether all rocky intertidal habitat is included here.		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
San Diego	Batiqitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Confusion between ecological reserve regulations west of 5 and MPA regulations east of 5	Expand SMCA west of I-5 bridge to encompass all of ecological reserve	No	Expands MPA size, unclear on impacts to recreational fishing				Boundary Change	

San Diego	Baticuitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change to blue SMCA with designated fishing areas	Maybe	If does not reduce fishing opportunities under I-5 and 101 bridges, or lessen existing protections				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from No-Take SMCA to SMCA
San Diego	Baticuitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change purple to red for outreach purposes if boundaries remain the same	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	Swami's SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from shore and rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish	Harmful tidepooling, especially at Seaside reef. Enforcement for take of lobster is hard at southern boundary since it splits 2 jurisdictions and the reef (hard to know where they are actually taking from and who is responsible for enforcing what.)	Move southern boundary to jurisdictional boundary between State Parks and City of Solana Beach for full tidepool protection of reef	No	Increases size of MPA, reducing fishing access, and may impact take of halibut				Boundary Change	
San Diego	Swami's SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from shore and rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish		Shift entire shape south (lifeguard tower to state/Solana Beach line to cover tidepool on south side)	Yes	Compromise. Keeps same size MPA but covers impacted tidepool area on southern boundary. Lifeguard tower clear boundary at north end		State Parks pending review; Wildcoast		Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Elijo Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Lots of people fishing at entrance to San Elijo lagoon under bridge and in channel	Move boundary to west side of the bridge (prohibiting fishing under the bridge) as long as accommodations are allowed for dredging	Yes	Signs are currently posted on west side of bridge to prohibit people from entering the San Elijo Lagoon. Makes outreach clearer		State Parks pending review; Wildcoast		Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Elijo Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Confusion between ecological reserve boundaries and regulations and MPA boundaries and regulations. Speculation that extent of water has changed since restoration. Original intent of 632 was to align with 630 in overlapping waters. Non-MPA areas are more restrictive which leads to confusion	Have MPA cover all water within ecological reserve.	Need more information	Check with Joint Power authority because would lessen protections if SMCA (that allows fishing) is expanded to all state waters	Sea level rise impacts should be considered			Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA	Rec take of coastal pelagic species, except market squid, by hook and line only	Harmful tidepooling. People using gear types for fishing for species other than coastal pelagics but gear type cannot assume intent. Makes enforcement difficult. Also safety concerns with surf casters into high use swim/surf area	Add, "except from shore" to prohibit surf hook and line	Yes	Surf fishing from shore causes safety concerns (hooks getting caught on surfers/swimmers). Still allows kayakers to fish for bait fish on way out, which was original intent				Take Allowance Change	

San Diego	Matlahuayl SMR	No Take	Harmful tidepooling. Kayak fishing. Caves are being defaced/graffitied	Add place name (La Jolla) to traditional Kumeyaay name (Matlahuayl)	No	Keep Kumeyaay name only for Tribal acknowledgement. Would also add confusion between other La Jolla MPAs	More focused patrols on caves in La Jolla to address littering/defacement of MPA			Language Change	
San Diego	South La Jolla SMR	No Take	Most highly cited MPA. Poaching of lobster and offshore fishing. Harmful tidepooling. Challenges of parking and access (coastline related challenges due to sea level rise, climate disturbance)	No change	Yes	Focus on local management/outreach/enforcement	Need for more focus on tidepools (outreach/enforcement). More staff for allied agencies to help enforce. Encourage city to maintain safe accessways and deal with coastal erosion problems. More education on marine mammal disturbance				
San Diego	South La Jolla SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line only		No change	Yes						
San Diego	Famosa Slough No Take SMCA	No Take	Homeless encampments. Construction run-off. Dogs and cats disturbing birds	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	Cabrillo SMR	No Take	Harmful tidepooling. Offshore boats but NPS unable to contact other than through megaphone	Work with Kumeyaay to rename MPA to traditional Kumeyaay name	Yes	Kumeyaay name exists for this location. Need to confirm spelling	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed			Language Change	
San Diego	Tijuana River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of coastal pelagic species, except market squid, by hand held dip net. Commercial take of coastal pelagics, except market squid by round haul net	Difficult take regulations to interpret in the field and take by hand held dip net not really occurring, per Imperial Beach lifeguards	No change							

Cell: K138

Note: was not sure about this categorization

-MPA Collaborative

From: Devin O'Dea <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 04:10 PM

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

Cc: Mark Smith <[REDACTED]>; Wayne Kotow <[REDACTED]>; Keely Hopkins <[REDACTED]>; California Chapter <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear Commission Staff,

Please accept the attached comment letter on behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, the Coastal Conservation Association of California, and the Congressional Sportsman's Foundation pertaining to Discussion Item 10 at the upcoming Fish & Game Commission meeting.

Thank you,



Devin O'Dea | Western Policy & Conservation Manager

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

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**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
CALIFORNIA**



February 1, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the numerous petitions under consideration at the February meeting of the California Fish & Game Commission, and we offer the perspective of the many hundred thousand supporters of our organizations to the Commission. We express grave concerns regarding several of the proposals to eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast and argue that many of the petitions lack adequate scientific support and documentation to substantiate their positions.

The Decadal Management Review (DMR) of the Marine Protected Area Network (MPA) has offered important insights for MPA managers to help shape the adaptive management of MPA regulations, including promising research that MPAs may increase biomass and provide resiliency against the impacts of a changing climate for some species. The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and overfishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale or the acknowledgement of regulatory mechanisms already in place such as those established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act working through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Fish & Game Commission, and the additional state/federal laws and agencies dedicated to this task. Simply put, many of the petitions referenced below seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Anglers and consumptive users will often be the first and loudest voices to advocate for restrictions or even closures to ensure the sustainability of a fishery, as evidenced by the numerous fishing groups and organizations advocating for the closure of the 2023 salmon season following the data and dismal projections provided by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and CDFW. However, a Californian

constitutional right to fish seems to stand in conflict with the presumption that restriction of access is permissible where there is a lack of scientific evidence or data to justify the closure. Section 1, Article 25 of the California Constitution states, “the people shall have the right to fish upon and from the public lands of the State and in the waters thereof,” and the courts in re Quinn (1973) defined “public lands of the state” referenced in this article to include “access to fish in the inland streams and coastal waters of the state.”

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California’s diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state’s many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups. We feel that these considerations are in line with the California Natural Resources Agency’s Outdoors for All initiative and its commitment in the Pathways to 30x30 document to “implement projects that do no further harm or pose unintended consequences to historically marginalized communities.”¹ Specifically, we wish to highlight this issue with regards to the expansion of California’s MPA network which restricts shore-based diving, foraging, and fishing access for all Californians – especially historically marginalized communities, communities of color and Native American tribes. From California’s Constitutional Right to Fish:

Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities. Moreover, fishing opportunities offer physical and psychological benefits to disadvantaged communities, not just access to fish as food.²

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to take the following actions with regards to the petitions they have received.

Petition 2023-14MPA: *Allow commercial take of red sea urchins in nine state marine conservation areas (SMCAs)*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-15MPA: *Reclassify three northern Channel Islands state marine reserves (SMRs) to SMCAs and allow take of highly migratory species, pelagic finfish, and/or coastal pelagic finfish*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation, but are encouraged by the proposal and the potential opportunity to gather more data on limited take MPAs and long-term MPA monitoring at the Channels Islands.

¹ https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/30-by-30/Final_Pathwaysto30x30_042022_508.pdf

² Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. “CALIFORNIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH.” *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

Petition 2023-16MPA: *Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs and allow commercial take of salmon.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-18MPA: *Modify allowed uses for four marine protected areas (MPAs) in Santa Barbara Channel and eliminate two special closures.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-19MPA: *Designate new "Chitqawi" SMCA near Morro Bay for California-Chumash co-management*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-20MPA: *Reclassify and rename Point Buchon SMR to "Chumash SMCA" for co-management with tribal take exemption.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-21MPA: *Modify Pyramid Point SMCA to remove recreational take of surf smelt and allow tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-22MPA: *Define "rocky intertidal zone," add research, monitoring, restoration and education allowance, and clarify protections in several Orange County MPAs.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-23MPA: *Reclassify three SMCAs to SMRs, designate one new SMR in Monterey, and make various changes related to kelp restoration.*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner's intent to restore kelp forests and ecosystem integrity at tankers reef and in the surrounding waters is laudable, this broadly proscriptive petition would unnecessarily restrict access for anglers where there is no clear scientific rationale. In fact, the petitioner submitted a very similar petition seeking to close access for groundfish along a large stretch of the coast in this region in 2023 which the Department of Fish & Wildlife rejected citing a lack of scientific evidence to support the claim. We support the ongoing efforts to restore kelp forests through urchin culling and other means, however we oppose reclassifying these SMCAs to SMRs and the establishment of a new SMR in Monterey.

Petition 2023-24MPA: *Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA southward to border of City of Laguna Beach and modify Dana Point SMCA boundaries*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose this petition on the basis that it lacks scientific documentation or justification to eliminate fishing access in the proposed area. The petitioner argues primarily for administrative ease that the no-take closure be extended to the edge of city limits. During the implementation of the MLPA, MPAs were sited utilizing careful selection criteria based on habitat type, proximity from other MPAs, impact to communities and more. The petitioner argues that all beaches within the City of Laguna Beach should be no-take MPAs in order to streamline enforcement and that homeowners “feel that it is not equitable to have only the north and central beaches protected.” It should be noted that the petitioner also states clearly in the Economic or Fiscal Impact section of the petition that “estimated resident property values gain an increase of 20% from proximity to a fully protected MPA” which may explain more robust support from the city and homeowners.

The petitioner also cites kelp forest health as justification for eliminating fishing access, however the 100 + page report included with the petition doesn't reference fishing pressure or boat activity with regards to kelp forest health and instead focuses on water temperature, nutrients, wave height, upwelling, rainfall and other stressors. As such, we recommend the Commission deny this petition since there is no scientific documentation to support its claims, and it would only negatively impact anglers who would be forced to travel further to reach fishing grounds.

Petition 2023-27MPA: *Reclassify a portion or all of Anacapa SMCA to an SMR to protect eelgrass*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation. We recognize the value of eelgrass beds for overall ecosystem health and habitat; however, it should be noted that many recreational anglers who target pelagic fish do not anchor and instead prefer to drift fish or troll instead which would have zero impact on the bottom habitat and eelgrass.

Petition 2023-28MPA: *Designate a new SMR at Point Sal, or designate as an SMCA with a tribal take exemption based on tribal consultation*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner takes time to identify the important habitat types, larval transport zones, and cultural significance of the Point Sal area, and they reference potential threats to the region from coastal development and industry, they fail to elaborate in any substantive way why fishing access should be removed from this wild and iconic central coast fishing destination. The petitioner states: “current [commercial] fishing in the proposed area is limited, likely due to its considerable distance from nearest port areas of Morro Bay and Santa Barbara.” They also admit that they have no data or analysis with regards to recreational fishing and state, “our request to CDFW for recreational fishing data from this area was being processed at time of submission; we will evaluate the potential impact to recreational fishers and submit it to the state following receipt of the requested data.”

A limited google search of “Point Sal fishing” also uncovers a large number of recreational fishing blogs and videos detailing the remote and adventurous hike to fish this area from a diverse population of anglers. In 2023 one blogger wrote, “had a great time hiking miles and miles and miles to fish Point Sal with Martin Mansera from Mansera Outdoors... It's such a remote location and so difficult to access, it

makes for a really rad adventure.” Recreational fishing trips to the area by boat are also common, and fishing is noted in nearly every travel guide or city/county website that talks about visiting Point Sal.

Regarding access and disadvantaged communities, the petitioner writes, “the California Environmental Protection Agency identifies the adjacent city of Guadalupe as “disadvantaged” under CA Senate Bill 535, and their synthesis of environmental and socioeconomic indicators further reveals that Guadalupe – alongside Santa Maria and Lompoc – are underprivileged communities that experience significant cumulative impacts from pollution. Given these communities’ close proximity to Point Sal, implementing an SMR at the proposed site could enhance access for disadvantaged populations to valuable coastal resources and fishing opportunities.”

To justify this confounding claim that removing fishing access could somehow *enhance fishing opportunities* for disadvantaged communities, the petitioner cites a study of commercial lobster fishing and the concept of “spillover.” They write, “California’s MPAs have been shown to increase the biomass of fishery-targeted species and promote “spillover” into nearby coastal areas, benefitting nearby fishing grounds.”

Spillover and the positive impacts to fisheries located in waters adjacent to MPAs are often referenced in association with the MPA network, and the limited, initial science has demonstrated some positive correlations with spillover of invertebrates like lobsters to adjacent fishing grounds in select study areas and commercial fishing for tuna in Hawaii. However, there remains an opportunity to further study this hypothesis and to promote scientific research that successfully documents spillover of targeted finfish across the MPA network in California. Some data from MPA monitoring along the Central California Coast indicated limited evidence of spillover from targeted finfish that were tagged and recaptured at a later point during the study period as evidenced from the Starr et al study: Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters:

As of July 2014, a total of 251 individual tag recaptures have been reported (Table 8). Tagged fishes were recaptured by commercial and recreational hook-and-line fishermen, commercial trap fishermen, SCUBA divers, and during our fishing surveys. Of all the tagged fishes recapture and reported, 71% were recaptured in the same site and grid cell as they were released, and 22% of recaptured fishes were caught within the same site but outside the original grid cell where they were released. Only 18 fish, or 7% of the recaptured fishes, were recaptured beyond the boundaries of the MPA or REF site in which they were released. The mean net distance moved by eight of nine species recaptured was less than half the length of the MPAs we studied.³

While we do not seek to draw conclusions regarding the overall merits of spillover to adjacent fisheries from the results of one study, we do encourage additional research to evaluate the impacts that MPAs have on local fisheries and fisheries as a whole, especially within the context of varied siting and disparate habitat types evidenced across the MPA network. As the Forcada study indicated, “We conclude that spillover effects are not a universal consequence of siting MPAs in temperate waters and they are related to the distribution of habitats inside and around MPAs.” (Forcada et al., 2009).

Due to the limited scientific understanding of spillover as it relates to the Marine Protected Area Network as a whole, especially with regards to finfish which would be the primary target of recreational shore and

³ 4 Starr RM, Wendt DE, Barnes CL, Marks CI, Malone D, et al. (2015) Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters. PLOS ONE 10(3): e0118502. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0118502>

boat-based anglers at Point Sal, we disagree with the petitioner’s logical assumptions and the argument as a whole. In fact, when considered in the context presented from the *Constitutional Right to Fish* article, the discussion is turned on its head entirely. “Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities.”⁴

With the two large no-take SMRs located just South of this newly proposed MPA (Vandenberg SMR & Point Conception SMR) and Point Buchon to the North, it would seem the opportunities to fish and forage the coast for residents of Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Maria are already few and far between. In fact, in 2022 the City of Lompoc petitioned the Fish & Game Commission to allow for shore-fishing access along a ½ mile stretch of beach with in the Vandenberg SMR, citing a lack of access to historic fishing grounds for the local communities.

We share the petitioner’s concerns regarding habitat disruption from off-shore energy production and the associated infrastructure, however, we note the likely establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation which would effectively curtail any development or offshore energy production in this region. Planning for the CHNMS has included fishing access as a key component of the proposed designation.

As a result, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-29MPA: *Designate a new SMCA with a tribal take exemption for and co-management with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in Santa Barbara*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose the petitioner’s request to designate a new, no-take SMCA in Carpinteria for several reasons. First, the petitioner argues that spacing and connectivity is a key concern in this location with the distance between the Campus Point and Point Dume SMCAs at 64 nautical miles (nm) instead of the recommended 54 nm to ensure ecological connectivity. When this request is examined within the broader context of MPA siting, it is clear that the target spacing between MPAs could be easily achieved by moving the Campus Point SMCA South or the Point Dume SMCA North, since both are located well-within the recommended 54nm from adjacent MPAs on either side.

Additionally, the petitioner cites the location as important nursery habitat for juvenile great white sharks as justification for establishing a no-take SMR. They write, “Research conducted in the Southern California Bight has found that fisheries bycatch is likely the main source of mortality for JWS.” However, the article they cite to support this claim, John F. Benson et. al., discloses that for great white sharks they captured and tagged, “mortality risk was substantially greater off the coast of Baja, Mexico compared with California.” Importantly, the research paper also states, “that incidental gillnet capture continues to be the primary source of mortality for juveniles. The lower mortality risk we documented in California waters suggests that full closure of gillnet fishing close to shore is a more effective management strategy than simply banning targeted fishing to reduce mortality risk due to bycatch.”⁵

⁴ Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. “CALIFORNIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH.” *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

⁵ Benson JF, Jorgensen SJ, O’Sullivan JB, et al. Juvenile survival, competing risks, and spatial variation in mortality risk of a marine apex predator. *J Appl Ecol*. 2018; 55: 2888–2897. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13158>

As the petitioner is undoubtedly aware, gillnet fishing is banned in state waters and therefore the proposed MPA would have no impact on the gillnet fishery or likely the mortality risk to great white sharks.

The petitioner notes the location's popularity with recreational lobster divers and the likely opposition from stakeholders who would oppose the additional loss of access. The mortality risk to great white sharks from the recreational lobster fishery is zero, similar to the risk from spearfishing, yet the petitioner seeks to eliminate access entirely without providing any scientific rationale for the closure. As a result, we request that the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-31MPA: *Reclassify Drakes Estero SMCA to an SMR and combine with Estero de Limantour SMR as a single SMR:*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but encourage the Commission to maintain access for clamming unless there is a clear threat to the fishery or surrounding ecosystem.

It is worth noting that the National Park Service mentions in their comment letter that the area is now Congressionally Designated Wilderness and that "recreational take of shellfish appears to be very rare, [and] requires long kayak trips in wilderness area." Just because something is difficult doesn't mean it should be illegal.

Petition 2023-32MPA: *Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA as an SMR and expand northern and southern boundaries*

We recommend that the Commission deny or refer this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but emphasize maintaining fishing access for local communities at Duxbury Reef. The vast majority of complaints regarding Duxbury reef are related to enforcement and compliance, rather than a scientific justification for eliminating access. Shore fishing is an important past-time for the diverse communities that comprise the North Bay Area, and removing access to a popular fishing destination should not be justified simply based on the actions of a few bad apples.

Petition 2023-33MPA: *Expand the boundaries of five SMRs and one SMCA, and designate a new SMR off Pleasure Point, in Santa Cruz*

We recommend that this petition be denied or referred to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation due to its broad scope and complexity. The petitioner seeks to enhance protections for kelp forests, but does so with an overly broad brush. Rather than advocating for reducing fishing pressure for predators of kelp grazers, like lobster and sheepshead, the petition advocates for the closure of all fishing, including the harvest of grazer species like urchins that have been documented to decimate kelp forests.

The petitioner argues that eliminating fishing pressure within the proposed MPA areas would somehow bolster kelp populations, but the claim is not well documented by scientific research in this petition. A noteworthy case study, by comparison, is the ongoing Tanker's Reef kelp restoration project, where volunteers have been culling purple urchins within study plots and tracking kelp recovery within the study area and a control site nearby. The initial data for the last three years shows a clear correlation between the removal of purple urchins and kelp recovery in the study plot with no kelp recovery in the adjacent control where urchins were not removed. Fishing is permitted in the Tanker's reef area, however, in adjacent MPA's that have not permitted active restoration and where fishing is not allowed, urchin barons persist and kelp recovery remains minimal.

Kelp forest health and resiliency is a complex and multi-variable equation that can be impacted by numerous factors including water temperature, disease, pollution, algal blooms, wave energy, commercial harvest and more. We support efforts to restore kelp forests across the coast and recognize the role they play in the overall ecosystem health of fisheries, especially the abalone fishery that remains closed until 2026. We urge caution, however where broad fishing closures are enacted in the attempt to solve a problem that requires a more nuanced and carefully crafted multidisciplinary approach.

It should also be noted that the petitioner indicates support for recreational hook and line fishing and spearfishing as an acceptable alternative in several of the MPAs referenced in the petition.

Petition 2023-34MPA: *Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to only allow recreational spearfishing.*

We recommend that the Commission deny this petition and we emphasize the substantial impacts to current fishing access. The petitioner argues that since the salmon season was closed in 2023 it will likely be closed in perpetuity, which would justify eliminating salmon and albacore fishing access at the Point Buchon SMCA. Salmon populations often decrease during drought years and can rebound with increased precipitation or water allocation as was the case in 2008 and 2009 when the fishery was closed and then reopened. We are cautiously optimistic that the salmon numbers will once again bounce back following the increased precipitation received over the past two years.

In the draft Pathways to 30x30 document, the CNRA writes: “It should be noted that limited-take State MPAs provide an excellent model for other jurisdictions looking to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable well-managed commercial and recreational fishing.” We feel that reclassifying the Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR and eliminating fishing in this area would be inappropriate; however, we support any attempts to improve enforcement and compliance with existing regulations.

Furthermore, the proposal to modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs would disproportionately impact a broad variety and collection of user groups who may not be physically able or inclined to spearfish. For this reason and the lack of concrete scientific data to justify the additional restrictions, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Sincerely,

Devin O’Dea
Western Policy & Conservation Manager
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Wayne Kotow
Executive Director
Coastal Conservation Association California

Keely Hopkins
Western States Manager
Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation

From: Rick Duenas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:41 AM
To: FGC
Subject: Public comment on several 2023-MPA petitions

Dear Members of the Commission,

My name is Rick Duenas. I reside in Pacifica, CA but recreate up and down the coast. I write to you as an avid angler and spearfisherman expressing concern and opposition regarding several of the 2023 MPA petitions that impact areas for which I am both a consumptive stakeholder and steward. Many of these petitions will exclude and alienate consumptive stakeholders from participating in the MPA network, whether through designation changes or boundary expansions. I urge you to please reject petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-27MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, 2023-33MPA, and 2023-34MPA for the reasons enumerated below.

- **2023-23MPA:** This petition will effectively ban fishing and spearfishing from the entire north side of the Monterey Peninsula by converting existing SMCAs to no-take SMRs. These SMCAs provide important nearshore opportunities for various consumptive stakeholders. The petitioner, as they attempted in a prior petition rejected by FGC (petition 2023-02), incorrectly claims eliminating finfish take will benefit kelp. In fact, the literature cited by the petition itself even states "[population and mean biomass responses] in the Central Coast MPAs were highly variable" and "kelp canopy monitoring from Landsat remote sensing did not detect a strong effect of MPA protection on average kelp canopy area." (Carr, et al.) This petition is not grounded in scientific reasoning or sound fisheries management and should be rejected.
- **2023-24MPA:** This petition will effectively ban fishing, spearfishing, and all other take in the entirety of Laguna Beach. The petitioner cites ease of enforcement and anecdotal overharvesting and substrate degradation as rationale. This is unfair to consumptive stakeholders, essentially saying "it is too hard for city enforcement to learn the different regulations between different areas, so we want to impose a blanket ban on all consumptive stakeholders rather than addressing the root problem of educating the public." Frankly, this petition proposes lazy, non-adaptive management and should be rejected.
- **2023-26MPA:** This petition aims to protect intertidal habitat and simplify enforcement but will effectively ban lobster diving from the productive reef at the southern end of Cardiff State Beach. This petition should be rejected and the petitioner advised to propose a smaller, intertidal-take-specific MPA in its place if that truly is the concern.
- **2023-27MPA:** This petition aims to protect eel grass against anchor and lobster trap damage by converting Anacapa SMCA to a no-take SMR but will effectively ban consumptive take on the entire northern side of Anacapa Island. Why not simply address these threats via regulation change instead of designation change? This petition should be rejected and the petitioner advised

to propose a regulation change that prohibits lobster trapping and anchoring shallower than 20 meters; this will allow anglers and divers to drift through or swim in, the intention of the original regulations.

- 2023-29MPA: This petition will effectively ban all take off Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. This is a popular and important nearshore access opportunity for lobster diving, which is limited to shallow reefs like those found here. This petition should be rejected or revised to make an exemption for low impact take like lobster diving and shore angling.
- 2023-32MPA: This petition will severely limit shore angling opportunities off the Marin coastline. This is an equity issue in that shore-based anglers cannot simply motor to other areas in boats. This petition should be rejected in favor of public education and outreach.
- 2023-33MPA: This petition will severely limit consumptive stakeholder opportunities in several important kelp forests in Southern and Central California, kelp forests that provide equitable access to nearshore activities like angling, lobster diving, and spearfishing. It is inappropriate for a single petition to propose changes to seven unrelated areas; this petition should be split into seven distinct petitions to weigh stakeholder input for each specific area. These expansions are unnecessary in that they target kelp forests that have done particularly well the last decade without MPA intervention. The petition cites warm water events and pollution as threats to kelp forests, yet expanding MPA areas do nothing to mitigate these threats. It is also important to manage these areas in the status quo to serve as a scientific control to compare the efficacy of other MPAs against. This petition should be rejected. Particularly egregious proposals therein:
 - Expanding Cabrillo SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to 100% of nearshore reefs and kelp in San Diego.
 - Expanding South Point SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to 50% of the south coastline of Santa Rosa Island.
 - Expanding Natural Bridges SMR (and intertidal-focused MPA) to 3nm offshore will eliminate large swaths of groundfish and salmon opportunity from anglers, completely unrelated to the inshore kelp.
 - Designating the Pleasure Point SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to important inshore reefs and kelp in eastern Santa Cruz County.
- 2023-34MPA: This petition aims to ease enforcement and compliance by converting Point Buchon SMCA to a no-take SMR. Again, this is throwing the baby out with the bath water. Moreover, the petitioner justifies prohibiting take of salmon because there is a temporary statewide salmon closure, leaving no room for this to change in the future with better recruitment conditions. This petition should be rejected in favor of public education, outreach, and increase enforcement emphasis on the existing MPA.

In summary, the aforementioned petitions alienate and restrict opportunity for a large cohort of consumptive stakeholders across the state in an uncompromising and blanket manner. These petitions should be rejected and the petitioners advised to re-group and bring to the table more specific solutions that address root causes to the compliance, enforcement and protection gaps identified as rationale.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rick Duenas

From: Michael Eberhardt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:33 AM
To: FGC
Subject: Subject: Opposition to Proposed MPAs - Petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA

Michael Eberhardt

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.4.24

Fish and Game Commission

715 P Street, 16th floor,

Sacramento, 95814

Subject: Opposition to Proposed MPAs - Petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the series of Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions currently under consideration, specifically 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA. These proposed changes, I believe, are not only detrimental to the rights and

interests of consumptive stakeholders but are also lacking in scientific rationale, equitable enforcement strategies, and fail to directly address the purported environmental concerns.

****2023-23MPA**** seeks to convert existing State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) on the north side of the Monterey Peninsula into no-take State Marine Reserves (SMRs), effectively banning all fishing and spearfishing activities. This proposal disregards the importance of these areas for consumptive users and is based on the unfounded claim that prohibiting finfish take will benefit kelp forests. This approach is not supported by scientific evidence and overlooks the need for sound fisheries management practices.

****2023-24MPA**** proposes a complete ban on fishing, spearfishing, and all other take activities in Laguna Beach. The justification for this sweeping prohibition—citing enforcement difficulties and anecdotal evidence of overharvesting—overlooks the fundamental issue of public education on existing regulations. This blanket approach unfairly penalizes law-abiding stakeholders and is an example of regulatory overreach based on convenience rather than necessity.

****2023-26MPA**** aims to protect intertidal habitats at Cardiff State Beach but in doing so would unjustly prohibit lobster diving in one of the area's most productive reefs. This proposal is an overextension of enforcement simplification that sacrifices valuable recreational opportunities without considering more targeted and reasonable restrictions.

****2023-29MPA**** seeks to eliminate all take activities off Carpinteria, impacting essential access for low-impact recreation such as lobster diving. This area is crucial for sustainable nearshore activities, and the proposed ban disregards the socio-economic benefits derived from these practices.

****2023-32MPA**** would significantly restrict shore angling and some kayak fishing opportunities off the Marin coastline by expanding the Duxbury Reef SMCA. This change is proposed under the guise of enforcement ease but in reality, would severely limit public access to marine resources without a clear environmental justification.

****2023-33MPA**** proposes broad restrictions across several key kelp forest areas in Southern and Central California. The sweeping nature of this petition fails to consider localized stakeholder input and does not effectively address the cited threats of warm water events and pollution. Instead, it would indiscriminately restrict access to valuable fishing grounds and recreational areas.

In summary, these petitions lack a balanced consideration of ecological preservation, stakeholder interests, and the socio-economic impact on local communities. They also fail to provide compelling scientific evidence to justify such extensive prohibitions. I urge the Commission to reject these proposals and to seek more targeted, science-based, and equitable solutions to marine conservation challenges.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. I trust that the Commission will make decisions that are in the best interest of both our marine ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

Sincerely,

Michael Eberhardt

From: Joe Huettl <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:12 PM
To: FGC
Subject: MPA

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Members of the Commission,

I am writing to oppose the following petitions under consideration at this month's Fish and Game Commission meeting.

2023-23MPA - Eliminating Tanker's Reef would remove an important area from a popular kayak fishing destination for rockfish, California halibut, sardines, and other fin fish. Kayak fishing has little or no impact on kelp beds. Changing three SMCAs to SMRs would also eliminate areas that are currently available and popular to catch squid recreationally. The petitioner makes statements regarding recreational fishing effects on both kelp health and diver safety that are not backed by science. The culling of urchins is listed as the primary strategy of kelp restoration and they do not make a good case for recreational fishing having much of an affect on that.

2023-33MPA - Expanding Natural Bridges SMR three nautical miles out goes far beyond the goals of the petition and severely negatively affects recreational fishing. Recreational fishing has little to no affect on kelp forests. Creating a new SMR at Pleasure Point would have a huge impact on recreational fishing with very little benefit to kelp restoration. This is a popular fishing area for non-motorized vessels and small boats. At some point these restrictions would eliminate Santa Cruz as a fishing destination, with local economic impacts to follow. In one of their letters they state that the proposed MPA is not subject to any significant commercial take. So the designation would affect sport fishing and diving for the most part.

2023-32MPA - Changing Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR will eliminate local shore fishing opportunities. Expanding the proposed SMR could have a negative affect on kayak and boat fishing.

2023-20MPA - Expanding Point Buchon North would eliminate one of the few ocean kayak fishing opportunities on the Central Coast.

Please take into account the loss of recreational fishing opportunities and their effect on local economies and morale.

This current barrage of petitions to expand the MPA network is meant to overwhelm the opposition and disregards the thousands of Californians who fish recreationally.

Sincerely,

Joseph Huettl

[REDACTED]

Walnut Creek , CA [REDACTED]

From: Rachel Lucine <rlucine@environmentcalifornia.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:19 PM
To: FGC
Cc: Laura Deehan
Subject: Supplemental Materials for Petitions 2023-33MPA and 2023-34MPA
Attachments: 2.1.24 Fish & Wildlife MPA Letter.docx; 2.14.24 Marine Protected Areas_CFGC LOS (1).pdf; Local Elected Official - CA 30x30 MPA Letter of Support.pdf; eNGO Letter of Support- Kelp Forest Petition (2023-33MPA).pdf; eNGO Letter of Support- Strengthen MPA (2023-34MPA).pdf

Hello Fish and Game Commission,

Attached are additional supplemental materials for Environment California's and Azul's petitions (2023-33MPA and 2023-34MPA). We are pleased to share letters of support from State Senators Laird and Wiener, along with signatures from 16 local elected officials. Additionally, we have garnered 25 signatures from eNGOs for petition 2023-33MPA and 28 signatures from eNGOS for petition 2023-34MPA.

We are actively gathering more support and plan to submit additional materials and updates to these numbers before the February 9th deadline. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Best regards,

Rachel Lucine (she/her)
Ocean Conservation Campaign Associate, Environment California
Phone: (707) 241-5082
rlucine@environmentcalifornia.org

[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)



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SENATOR.WIENER@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
SCOTT WIENER

威善高

ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS
CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE JEWISH CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR
COMMITTEES:
HOUSING
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
HEALTH
JOINT RULES
JUDICIARY
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
PUBLIC SAFETY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
BAY AREA PUBLIC TRANSIT
CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION
CHAIR

February 2, 2024

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

Re: **Petitions to Modify the CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections**

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

As a state senator and advocate for the health and vitality of California's coastal ecosystems, I am writing to express my unwavering support for the expansion of the state's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Implementing new highly or fully protected areas and increasing the rigor of existing marine protected areas are crucial steps in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of the ecosystems off our shores.

The state of our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade¹. Pollution, overfishing, offshore drilling and other human activities are threatening ocean habitats and marine species, while the changing climate increases the risk of extreme weather events and puts even greater stress on ocean ecosystems.²³

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast.

¹ Meredith McPherson et al, Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave, *Communications Biology*, March 5, 2021

² James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild," *Environment America Research and policy Center & Frontier Group*, February 2021

³ Arafah-Dalmau et al., Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas, *One Earth* 6, 1-19 November 17, 2023

Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.⁴

California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth-anniversary last year, and the state's decadal management review showed that marine life in existing reserves better withstood recent marine heatwaves, and reserves across the state had higher biomass of commercially caught fish than areas lacking protection.⁵

Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a leader, both nationally and globally, in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

That's why I urge you to strengthen and expand our state's network of MPAs within the adaptive management process of the Decadal Management Review. In particular, I am writing in support of the petitions calling to expand Natural Bridges SMR, Point Conception SMR, South Point SMR, Gull Island SMR, Cabrillo SMR, and Point Dume SMCA, strengthen the protections at Point Buchon SMCA and Farnsworth SMCA, and implement a new SMR at Pleasure Point.

We, as Californians, have a deep love for our ocean and feel a profound responsibility to participate in decisions that impact our state's coastal waters. Our ocean is not just a source of clean air, wildlife, and natural beauty but also a mystery that beckons exploration and discovery.

It is our moral imperative to lead the nation and the world in taking bold actions to preserve the sea in our own backyard, ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you, Honorable Commissioners, to expand and strengthen California's MPA network to encompass and protect more critical ocean habitats. By doing so, you will leave a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

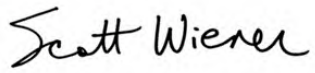
Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our ocean and for considering this proposal. Together, we can ensure a healthier, more abundant future for the unique marine ecosystems that define California.

⁴ James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild," Environment America Research and Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 2021

⁵ California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2022 California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review

President Sklar
February 2, 2024
Page 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wiener". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Wiener
Senator, 11th District

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California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1
(EDUCATION)
CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES
VICE CHAIR
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
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LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
& RETIREMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
JOINT LEGISLATIVE
AUDIT COMMITTEE

February 14, 2024

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

Subject: Petition to Increase Enhance Protections and Streamline Enforcement for Specified California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

As the Senator representing the Central Coast and the entire Monterey Bay shoreline, I am writing to express my strong support for the expansion of California's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to include the expansion of Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve, increased protection of Point Buchon State Marine Reserve/State Marine Conservation Area and the creation of a new MPA at Pleasure Point. Protecting critical marine habitat (including stable kelp forests) and increasing protections for existing MPAs are crucial steps in ensuring the long-term health of the state's treasured marine ecosystems.

Over two decades ago, the California legislature passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which facilitated the creation of MPAs in California waters. According to the Environment America Research and Policy Center, MPAs have proven highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans. California's network of MPAs celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, and the state's Decadal Management Review revealed that marine life in existing reserves exhibited increased tolerance to recent marine heatwaves, and reserves across the state produced higher biomass commercially caught fish than did areas that lack that protection.

However, the state of our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global sea surface temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced drastic declines in biomass over the past decade. Pollution, overfishing, offshore drilling, and other human activities are threatening marine habitat, and

climate change increases risk of extreme weather events and enhances stress on ocean ecosystems. In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats.

I urge you to expand California's MPA network to encompass areas of persistent kelp forests, according to the scope of the adaptive management process of the Decadal Management Review. In particular, I am writing in support of the expansion and strengthening of the Point Buchon and Natural Bridges State Marine Reserves (SMRs) off the coast of my Senate district. It is our moral imperative to lead the nation and the world in taking bold actions to preserve marine habitat, starting in our own backyard, by ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship and the welfare of our ocean. Together, we can ensure a healthier, more abundant future for the unique marine ecosystems that define California's coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

John Laird
Senator, 17th District

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

February 1, 2024

Re: Petitions to Modify the CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

As a local elected official and advocate for the health and vitality of California's coastal ecosystems, I am writing to express my unwavering support for the expansion of the state's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Implementing new highly or fully protected areas and increasing the rigor of existing marine protected areas are crucial steps in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of the ecosystems off our shores.

The state of our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade.¹ Pollution, overfishing, offshore drilling and other human activities are threatening ocean habitats and marine species, while the changing climate increases the risk of extreme weather events and puts even greater stress on ocean ecosystems.^{2 3}

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.⁴

¹ Meredith McPherson et. al, [Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave](#), Communications Biology, March 5, 2021

² James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "[New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild](#)," Environment America Research and Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 2021.

³ Arafah-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), One Earth 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁴ James Horrox, Steve Blackledge and Kelsey Lamp, "[New Life for the Ocean: How marine protections keep our waters wild](#)," Environment America Research and Policy Center & Frontier Group, February 2021.

California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth-anniversary last year, and the state's decadal management review showed that marine life in existing reserves better withstood recent marine heatwaves, and reserves across the state had higher biomass of commercially caught fish than areas lacking protection.⁵

Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a leader, both nationally and globally, in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

That's why I urge you to strengthen and expand our state's network of MPAs within the adaptive management process of the Decadal Management Review. In particular, I am writing in support of the petitions calling to expand Natural Bridges SMR, Point Conception SMR, South Point SMR, Gull Island SMR, Cabrillo SMR, and Point Dume SMCA, strengthen the protections at Point Buchon SMCA and Farnsworth SMCA, and implement a new SMR at Pleasure Point.

We, as Californians, have a deep love for our ocean and feel a profound responsibility to participate in decisions that impact our state's coastal waters. Our ocean is not just a source of clean air, wildlife, and natural beauty but also a mystery that beckons exploration and discovery. It is our moral imperative to lead the nation and the world in taking bold actions to preserve the sea in our own backyard, ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you, Honorable Commissioners, to expand and strengthen California's MPA network to encompass and protect more critical ocean habitats. By doing so, you will leave a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our ocean and for considering this proposal. Together, we can ensure a healthier, more abundant future for the unique marine ecosystems that define California.

Sincerely,

Alex Miller, Council Member, City of Seaside

Teresa Acosta, Councilmember, City of Carlsbad

Yvette Brooks, Vice Mayor, City of Capitola

Andrea Marr, Council Member, City of Costa Mesa

Joaquin Jimenez, Mayor, City of Half Moon Bay

⁵ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). [California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review](#).

Lisa Nash, Mayor, City of San Mateo

Christine Parra, Council Member, City of Santa Monica

Dan Kalmick, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach

Justin Massey, Mayor, City of Hermosa Beach

Angie Reyes English, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hawthorne

Joan Hartmann, 3rd District Supervisor, City of Santa Barbara

Joy Lyndes, Council Member, City of Encinitas

Phil Brock, Mayor, City of Santa Monica

Jose Sanchez, Mayor, City of Monterey Park

Joel Torrez, Environment Deputy, LA County, Supervisor Janice Hahn

Anissa Raja, Legislative Director, Office of Councilmember Tim McOsker



California Fish and Game Commission
 715 P Street, 16th floor,
 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 14, 2024

RE: Petition to Modify CA Marine Protected Area Network to Enhance Protections for California's Most Resilient Kelp Forests

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

Northern California has lost more than 95% of its kelp forests since 2014, and kelp forests statewide have experienced declines over the past decade.¹ California sea otters are still listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and one of the biggest barriers to this species' recovery and range expansion is increased shark bites from a lack of kelp forest cover. Marine heatwaves have doubled over the last 30 years, and have become more intense and longer in duration, putting stress on California's marine species and ecosystems.²

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.³ By providing areas that serve as buffers against climate change, fully protected MPAs adapt to changing environmental conditions because they better preserve natural interactions within ecosystems, allowing for greater resiliency.⁴

California's network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, and the state's decadal management review showed that MPAs effectively protect ocean habitats and increase fishery-targeted species' biomass. Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California's role as a national and global leader in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

Protecting specific habitat areas, including the remaining areas of stable kelp forests is a crucial step in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of our ocean environments.

We support the expansion of the MPA Network to include some of the most resilient kelp forests along California's coastline, by expanding Cabrillo State Marine Reserve, Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area, South Point State Marine Reserve, Gull Island State Marine Reserve,

¹ Meredith McPherson et. al, [Large-scale shift in the structure of a kelp forest ecosystem co-occurs with an epizootic and marine heatwave](#), Communications Biology, March 5, 2021

² García-Reyes, Marisol, Andrew Leising, Rebecca Asch, Steven Bograd, and Tessa M Hill. Rep. Indicators of Climate Change in California, "[Coastal Ocean Temperature](#)", *California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*, 2022.

³ Arafah-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), One Earth 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁴ Jankowska, Emilia, et al. "[Climate Benefits from Establishing Marine Protected Areas Targeted at Blue Carbon Solutions](#)." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 119, no. 23, 2022.

Point Conception State Marine Reserve, Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve, and by creating a new MPA around the beautiful kelp forest off Pleasure Point near Santa Cruz. While kelp forests have faced declines statewide in recent years, in these areas they have persisted or bounced back quickly in the face of marine heatwaves and other disturbances.⁵ By expanding protections for these resilient forests under the MLPA, the state can minimize direct human impacts in these relatively healthy areas, helping to ensure their continued persistence and enhancing the effectiveness of restoration efforts for declining kelp ecosystems nearby.

Enhancing the protection of California's kelp forests strongly aligns with Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the MLPA by preserving natural diversity, sustaining marine life populations, protecting marine habitats for their intrinsic value, and improving recreational and educational opportunities while minimizing human disturbance.⁶ Safeguarding resilient kelp ecosystems will ensure critical habitat preservation for diverse marine species, including endangered sea otters and commercially valuable fish.

Our ocean is a source of clean air, wildlife, and natural beauty, but also a mystery that beckons preservation and exploration. California has the opportunity to lead the nation and the world in taking bold action to preserve the sea, ensuring its future and the well-being of the communities that rely on it for their survival and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California Research and Policy Center

Tomas Valadez
CA Policy Associate
Azul

Robert Vergara
Roger Arliner Young (RAY) Ocean Conservation Fellow
Natural Resources Defense Council

Clara Castronovo
Board Chair

⁵ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review.

⁶ "Marine Life Protection Act." CDFW. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA>.

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Pauline Seales
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California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 14, 2024

RE: Petition to Increase Level of Protection and Streamline Enforcement for Several California State MPAs

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

Our ocean is at a critical juncture, with escalating global temperatures, declining biodiversity, and a growing number of endangered marine species. Only 50 Pacific leatherback turtles are now found foraging off California's coast, a notable decrease from the 178 Pacific leatherbacks

observed from 1990 to 2003.¹ Marine heatwaves have doubled over the last 30 years and have become more intense and longer in duration, putting stress on California’s marine species and ecosystems.²

In the face of these mounting threats, California has a unique opportunity to take bold and effective action to conserve ocean habitats and ensure a greater abundance of life off our coast. Over two decades ago, the state passed the groundbreaking Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), which called on the state to use one of the most powerful tools for ocean conservation: marine protected areas (MPAs).

MPAs, like state parks on land, protect unique and important ocean habitats from activities that can damage ocean life. Areas that are strongly protected have been shown to be highly effective in conserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans.³ By providing areas that serve as buffers against climate change, fully protected MPAs adapt to changing environmental conditions because they better preserve natural interactions within ecosystems, allowing for greater resiliency.⁴

California’s network of MPAs, foreseen in the MLPA, celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, and the state’s decadal management review showed that MPAs effectively protect ocean habitats and increase fishery-targeted species' biomass. Now, we need to build on this system and maintain California’s role as a national and global leader in the fight to protect more ocean habitats.

Protecting specific habitat areas and increasing the rigor of existing marine protected areas are crucial steps in safeguarding our diverse marine species and ensuring the long-term well-being of our ocean environments.

It is vital that existing California MPAs are able to achieve their stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health. We encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected, especially in places where weaker

¹ Benson, Scott R., Karin A. Forney, Jeffrey E. Moore, Erin L. LaCasella, James T. Harvey, and James V. Carretta. [“A Long-Term Decline in the Abundance of Endangered Leatherback Turtles, *Dermochelys Coriacea*, at a Foraging Ground in the California Current Ecosystem.”](#) *Global Ecology and Conservation* 24 (November 2020).

² Teri E. Nicholson, Karl A. Mayer, Michelle M. Staedler, Jessica A. Fujii, Michael J. Murray, Andrew B. Johnson, M. Tim Tinker, Kyle S. Van Houtan, [Gaps in kelp cover may threaten the recovery of California sea otters](#), *Ecography, a Journal of Space and Time in Ecology*, (February, 2018).

García-Reyes, Marisol, Andrew Leising, Rebecca Asch, Steven Bograd, and Tessa M Hill. Rep. Indicators of Climate Change in California, [“Coastal Ocean Temperature”](#), *California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*, 2022.

³ Arafeh-Dalmau et al., [Integrating climate adaptation and transboundary management: Guidelines for designing climate smart marine protected areas](#), *One Earth* 6, 1–19 November 17, 2023 ^a 2023 Published by Elsevier Inc.

⁴ Jankowska, Emilia, et al. [“Climate Benefits from Establishing Marine Protected Areas Targeted at Blue Carbon Solutions.”](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 119, no. 23, 2022.

or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. We are proposing stronger protections for Point Buchon SMCA and the Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs. Research has shown that highly and fully protected areas, where few if any destructive or extractive activities are allowed, provide greater ecological benefits than lightly or minimally protected areas.⁵

Enhancing the protection of California's critical ocean habitats strongly aligns with Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the MLPA by preserving natural diversity, sustaining marine life populations, protecting marine habitats for their intrinsic value, and improving recreational and educational opportunities while minimizing human disturbance.⁶ Safeguarding and further protecting critical marine habitats will ensure critical habitat preservation for diverse marine species, including endangered sea otters and commercially valuable fish.

In summary, we encourage you, Fish and Game Commissioners, to actively support strengthening and expanding California's Marine Protected Areas.

We appreciate your steadfast dedication to our ocean's well-being and consideration of this pressing issue. Working together, we can secure a more robust future for California's distinctive marine ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California Research and Policy Center

Tomas Valadez
CA Policy Associate
Azul

Robert Vergara
Roger Arliner Young (RAY) Ocean Conservation Fellow
Natural Resources Defense Council

Clara Castronovo
Board Chair
CALPIRG Students

⁵Kirsten Grorud-Colvert *et al.*, [The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean](#). *Science* **373**, eabf0861(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abf0861

⁶“Marine Life Protection Act.” CDFW. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA>.

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**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
CALIFORNIA



February 8, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the numerous petitions under consideration at the February meeting of the California Fish & Game Commission, and we offer the perspective of the many hundred thousand supporters of our organizations to the Commission. We express grave concerns regarding several of the proposals to eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast and argue that many of the petitions lack adequate scientific support and documentation to substantiate their positions.

The Decadal Management Review (DMR) of the Marine Protected Area Network (MPA) has offered important insights for MPA managers to help shape the adaptive management of MPA regulations, including promising research that MPAs may increase biomass and provide resiliency against the impacts of a changing climate for some species. The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and overfishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale or the acknowledgement of regulatory mechanisms already in place such as those established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act working through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Fish & Game Commission, and the additional state/federal laws and agencies dedicated to this task. Simply put, many of the petitions referenced below seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Anglers and consumptive users will often be the first and loudest voices to advocate for restrictions or even closures to ensure the sustainability of a fishery, as evidenced by the numerous fishing groups and organizations advocating for the closure of the 2023 salmon season following the data and dismal projections provided by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and CDFW. However, a Californian

constitutional right to fish seems to stand in conflict with the presumption that restriction of access is permissible where there is a lack of scientific evidence or data to justify the closure. Section 1, Article 25 of the California Constitution states, “the people shall have the right to fish upon and from the public lands of the State and in the waters thereof,” and the courts in *re Quinn* (1973) defined “public lands of the state” referenced in this article to include “access to fish in the inland streams and coastal waters of the state.”

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California’s diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state’s many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups. We feel that these considerations are in line with the California Natural Resources Agency’s Outdoors for All initiative and its commitment in the Pathways to 30x30 document to “implement projects that do no further harm or pose unintended consequences to historically marginalized communities.”¹ Specifically, we wish to highlight this issue with regards to the expansion of California’s MPA network which restricts shore-based diving, foraging, and fishing access for all Californians – especially historically marginalized communities, communities of color and Native American tribes. From California’s Constitutional Right to Fish:

Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities. Moreover, fishing opportunities offer physical and psychological benefits to disadvantaged communities, not just access to fish as food.²

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to take the following actions with regards to the petitions they have received.

Petition 2023-14MPA: *Allow commercial take of red sea urchins in nine state marine conservation areas (SMCAs)*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-15MPA: *Reclassify three northern Channel Islands state marine reserves (SMRs) to SMCAs and allow take of highly migratory species, pelagic finfish, and/or coastal pelagic finfish*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation, but are encouraged by the proposal and the potential opportunity to gather more data on limited take MPAs and long-term MPA monitoring at the Channels Islands.

¹ https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/30-by-30/Final_Pathwaysto30x30_042022_508.pdf

² Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. “CALIFORNIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH.” *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

Petition 2023-16MPA: *Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs and allow commercial take of salmon.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-18MPA: *Modify allowed uses for four marine protected areas (MPAs) in Santa Barbara Channel and eliminate two special closures.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-19MPA: *Designate new "Chitqawi" SMCA near Morro Bay for California-Chumash co-management*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-20MPA: *Reclassify and rename Point Buchon SMR to "Chumash SMCA" for co-management with tribal take exemption.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-21MPA: *Modify Pyramid Point SMCA to remove recreational take of surf smelt and allow tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-22MPA: *Define "rocky intertidal zone," add research, monitoring, restoration and education allowance, and clarify protections in several Orange County MPAs.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-23MPA: *Reclassify three SMCAs to SMRs, designate one new SMR in Monterey, and make various changes related to kelp restoration.*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner's intent to restore kelp forests and ecosystem integrity at tankers reef and in the surrounding waters is laudable, this broadly proscriptive petition would unnecessarily restrict access for anglers where there is no clear scientific rationale. In fact, the petitioner submitted a very similar petition seeking to close access for groundfish along a large stretch of the coast in this region in 2023 which the Department of Fish & Wildlife rejected citing a lack of scientific evidence to support the claim. We support the ongoing efforts to restore kelp forests through urchin culling and other means, however we oppose reclassifying these SMCAs to SMRs and the establishment of a new SMR in Monterey.

Petition 2023-24MPA: *Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA southward to border of City of Laguna Beach and modify Dana Point SMCA boundaries*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose this petition on the basis that it lacks scientific documentation or justification to eliminate fishing access in the proposed area. The petitioner argues primarily for administrative ease that the no-take closure be extended to the edge of city limits. During the implementation of the MLPA, MPAs were sited utilizing careful selection criteria based on habitat type, proximity from other MPAs, impact to communities and more. The petitioner argues that all beaches within the City of Laguna Beach should be no-take MPAs in order to streamline enforcement and that homeowners “feel that it is not equitable to have only the north and central beaches protected.” It should be noted that the petitioner also states clearly in the Economic or Fiscal Impact section of the petition that “estimated resident property values gain an increase of 20% from proximity to a fully protected MPA” which may explain more robust support from the city and homeowners.

The petitioner also cites kelp forest health as justification for eliminating fishing access, however the 100 + page report included with the petition doesn't reference fishing pressure or boat activity with regards to kelp forest health and instead focuses on water temperature, nutrients, wave height, upwelling, rainfall and other stressors. As such, we recommend the Commission deny this petition since there is no scientific documentation to support its claims, and it would only negatively impact anglers who would be forced to travel further to reach fishing grounds.

Petition 2023-27MPA: *Reclassify a portion or all of Anacapa SMCA to an SMR to protect eelgrass*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation. We recognize the value of eelgrass beds for overall ecosystem health and habitat; however, it should be noted that many recreational anglers who target pelagic fish do not anchor and instead prefer to drift fish or troll instead which would have zero impact on the bottom habitat and eelgrass.

Petition 2023-28MPA: *Designate a new SMR at Point Sal, or designate as an SMCA with a tribal take exemption based on tribal consultation*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner takes time to identify the important habitat types, larval transport zones, and cultural significance of the Point Sal area, and they reference potential threats to the region from coastal development and industry, they fail to elaborate in any substantive way why fishing access should be removed from this wild and iconic central coast fishing destination. The petitioner states: “current [commercial] fishing in the proposed area is limited, likely due to its considerable distance from nearest port areas of Morro Bay and Santa Barbara.” They also admit that they have no data or analysis with regards to recreational fishing and state, “our request to CDFW for recreational fishing data from this area was being processed at time of submission; we will evaluate the potential impact to recreational fishers and submit it to the state following receipt of the requested data.”

A limited google search of “Point Sal fishing” also uncovers a large number of recreational fishing blogs and videos detailing the remote and adventurous hike to fish this area from a diverse population of anglers. In 2023 one blogger wrote, “had a great time hiking miles and miles and miles to fish Point Sal with Martin Mansera from Mansera Outdoors... It's such a remote location and so difficult to access, it

makes for a really rad adventure.” Recreational fishing trips to the area by boat are also common, and fishing is noted in nearly every travel guide or city/county website that talks about visiting Point Sal.

Regarding access and disadvantaged communities, the petitioner writes, “the California Environmental Protection Agency identifies the adjacent city of Guadalupe as “disadvantaged” under CA Senate Bill 535, and their synthesis of environmental and socioeconomic indicators further reveals that Guadalupe – alongside Santa Maria and Lompoc – are underprivileged communities that experience significant cumulative impacts from pollution. Given these communities’ close proximity to Point Sal, implementing an SMR at the proposed site could enhance access for disadvantaged populations to valuable coastal resources and fishing opportunities.”

To justify this confounding claim that removing fishing access could somehow *enhance fishing opportunities* for disadvantaged communities, the petitioner cites a study of commercial lobster fishing and the concept of “spillover.” They write, “California’s MPAs have been shown to increase the biomass of fishery-targeted species and promote “spillover” into nearby coastal areas, benefitting nearby fishing grounds.”

Spillover and the positive impacts to fisheries located in waters adjacent to MPAs are often referenced in association with the MPA network, and the limited, initial science has demonstrated some positive correlations with spillover of invertebrates like lobsters to adjacent fishing grounds in select study areas and commercial fishing for tuna in Hawaii. However, there remains an opportunity to further study this hypothesis and to promote scientific research that successfully documents spillover of targeted finfish across the MPA network in California. Some data from MPA monitoring along the Central California Coast indicated limited evidence of spillover from targeted finfish that were tagged and recaptured at a later point during the study period as evidenced from the Starr et al study: Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters:

As of July 2014, a total of 251 individual tag recaptures have been reported (Table 8). Tagged fishes were recaptured by commercial and recreational hook-and-line fishermen, commercial trap fishermen, SCUBA divers, and during our fishing surveys. Of all the tagged fishes recapture and reported, 71% were recaptured in the same site and grid cell as they were released, and 22% of recaptured fishes were caught within the same site but outside the original grid cell where they were released. Only 18 fish, or 7% of the recaptured fishes, were recaptured beyond the boundaries of the MPA or REF site in which they were released. The mean net distance moved by eight of nine species recaptured was less than half the length of the MPAs we studied.³

While we do not seek to draw conclusions regarding the overall merits of spillover to adjacent fisheries from the results of one study, we do encourage additional research to evaluate the impacts that MPAs have on local fisheries and fisheries as a whole, especially within the context of varied siting and disparate habitat types evidenced across the MPA network. As the Forcada study indicated, “We conclude that spillover effects are not a universal consequence of siting MPAs in temperate waters and they are related to the distribution of habitats inside and around MPAs.” (Forcada et al., 2009).

Due to the limited scientific understanding of spillover as it relates to the Marine Protected Area Network as a whole, especially with regards to finfish which would be the primary target of recreational shore and

³ 4 Starr RM, Wendt DE, Barnes CL, Marks CI, Malone D, et al. (2015) Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters. PLOS ONE 10(3): e0118502. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0118502>

boat-based anglers at Point Sal, we disagree with the petitioner’s logical assumptions and the argument as a whole. In fact, when considered in the context presented from the *Constitutional Right to Fish* article, the discussion is turned on its head entirely. “Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities.”⁴

With the two large no-take SMRs located just South of this newly proposed MPA (Vandenberg SMR & Point Conception SMR) and Point Buchon to the North, it would seem the opportunities to fish and forage the coast for residents of Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Maria are already few and far between. In fact, in 2022 the City of Lompoc petitioned the Fish & Game Commission to allow for shore-fishing access along a ½ mile stretch of beach with in the Vandenberg SMR, citing a lack of access to historic fishing grounds for the local communities.

We share the petitioner’s concerns regarding habitat disruption from off-shore energy production and the associated infrastructure, however, we note the likely establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation which would effectively curtail any development or offshore energy production in this region. Planning for the CHNMS has included fishing access as a key component of the proposed designation.

As a result, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-29MPA: *Designate a new SMCA with a tribal take exemption for and co-management with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in Santa Barbara*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose the petitioner’s request to designate a new, no-take SMCA in Carpinteria for several reasons. First, the petitioner argues that spacing and connectivity is a key concern in this location with the distance between the Campus Point and Point Dume SMCAs at 64 nautical miles (nm) instead of the recommended 54 nm to ensure ecological connectivity. When this request is examined within the broader context of MPA siting, it is clear that the target spacing between MPAs could be easily achieved by moving the Campus Point SMCA South or the Point Dume SMCA North, since both are located well-within the recommended 54nm from adjacent MPAs on either side.

Additionally, the petitioner cites the location as important nursery habitat for juvenile great white sharks as justification for establishing a no-take SMR. They write, “Research conducted in the Southern California Bight has found that fisheries bycatch is likely the main source of mortality for JWS.” However, the article they cite to support this claim, John F. Benson et. al., discloses that for great white sharks they captured and tagged, “mortality risk was substantially greater off the coast of Baja, Mexico compared with California.” Importantly, the research paper also states, “that incidental gillnet capture continues to be the primary source of mortality for juveniles. The lower mortality risk we documented in California waters suggests that full closure of gillnet fishing close to shore is a more effective management strategy than simply banning targeted fishing to reduce mortality risk due to bycatch.”⁵

⁴ Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. “CALIFORNIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH.” *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570>. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

⁵ Benson JF, Jorgensen SJ, O’Sullivan JB, et al. Juvenile survival, competing risks, and spatial variation in mortality risk of a marine apex predator. *J Appl Ecol*. 2018; 55: 2888–2897. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13158>

As the petitioner is undoubtedly aware, gillnet fishing is banned in state waters and therefore the proposed MPA would have no impact on the gillnet fishery or likely the mortality risk to great white sharks.

The petitioner notes the location's popularity with recreational lobster divers and the likely opposition from stakeholders who would oppose the additional loss of access. The mortality risk to great white sharks from the recreational lobster fishery is zero, similar to the risk from spearfishing, yet the petitioner seeks to eliminate access entirely without providing any scientific rationale for the closure. As a result, we request that the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-31MPA: *Reclassify Drakes Estero SMCA to an SMR and combine with Estero de Limantour SMR as a single SMR:*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but encourage the Commission to maintain access for clamming unless there is a clear threat to the fishery or surrounding ecosystem.

It is worth noting that the National Park Service mentions in their comment letter that the area is now Congressionally Designated Wilderness and that "recreational take of shellfish appears to be very rare, [and] requires long kayak trips in wilderness area." Just because something is difficult doesn't mean it should be illegal.

Petition 2023-32MPA: *Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA as an SMR and expand northern and southern boundaries*

We recommend that the Commission deny or refer this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but emphasize maintaining fishing access for local communities at Duxbury Reef. The vast majority of complaints regarding Duxbury reef are related to enforcement and compliance, rather than a scientific justification for eliminating access. Shore fishing is an important past-time for the diverse communities that comprise the North Bay Area, and removing access to a popular fishing destination should not be justified simply based on the actions of a few bad apples.

Petition 2023-33MPA: *Expand the boundaries of five SMRs and one SMCA, and designate a new SMR off Pleasure Point, in Santa Cruz*

We recommend that this petition be denied or referred to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation due to its broad scope and complexity. The petitioner seeks to enhance protections for kelp forests, but does so with an overly broad brush. Rather than advocating for reducing fishing pressure for predators of kelp grazers, like lobster and sheepshead, the petition advocates for the closure of all fishing, including the harvest of grazer species like urchins that have been documented to decimate kelp forests.

The petitioner argues that eliminating fishing pressure within the proposed MPA areas would somehow bolster kelp populations, but the claim is not well documented by scientific research in this petition. A noteworthy case study, by comparison, is the ongoing Tanker's Reef kelp restoration project, where volunteers have been culling purple urchins within study plots and tracking kelp recovery within the study area and a control site nearby. The initial data for the last three years shows a clear correlation between the removal of purple urchins and kelp recovery in the study plot with no kelp recovery in the adjacent control where urchins were not removed. Fishing is permitted in the Tanker's reef area, however, in adjacent MPA's that have not permitted active restoration and where fishing is not allowed, urchin barons persist and kelp recovery remains minimal.

Kelp forest health and resiliency is a complex and multi-variable equation that can be impacted by numerous factors including water temperature, disease, pollution, algal blooms, wave energy, commercial harvest and more. We support efforts to restore kelp forests across the coast and recognize the role they play in the overall ecosystem health of fisheries, especially the abalone fishery that remains closed until 2026. We urge caution, however where broad fishing closures are enacted in the attempt to solve a problem that requires a more nuanced and carefully crafted multidisciplinary approach.

It should also be noted that the petitioner indicates support for recreational hook and line fishing and spearfishing as an acceptable alternative in several of the MPAs referenced in the petition.

Petition 2023-34MPA: *Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to only allow recreational spearfishing.*

We recommend that the Commission deny this petition and we emphasize the substantial impacts to current fishing access. The petitioner argues that since the salmon season was closed in 2023 it will likely be closed in perpetuity, which would justify eliminating salmon and albacore fishing access at the Point Buchon SMCA. Salmon populations often decrease during drought years and can rebound with increased precipitation or water allocation as was the case in 2008 and 2009 when the fishery was closed and then reopened. We are cautiously optimistic that the salmon numbers will once again bounce back following the increased precipitation received over the past two years.

In the draft Pathways to 30x30 document, the CNRA writes: “It should be noted that limited-take State MPAs provide an excellent model for other jurisdictions looking to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable well-managed commercial and recreational fishing.” We feel that reclassifying the Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR and eliminating fishing in this area would be inappropriate; however, we support any attempts to improve enforcement and compliance with existing regulations.

Furthermore, the proposal to modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs would disproportionately impact a broad variety and collection of user groups who may not be physically able or inclined to spearfish. For this reason and the lack of concrete scientific data to justify the additional restrictions, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Sincerely,

Devin O’Dea
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Wayne Kotow
Coastal Conservation Association California

Keely Hopkins
Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation

Rachel Fischer
National Marine Manufacturers Association

James Stone
Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsman’s Association

Larry Phillips
American Sportfishing Association

February 8, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

As an organization dedicated to ensuring our North American heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting with over 350,000 supporters, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers expresses serious concerns regarding several of the petitions currently before the California Fish & Game Commission that would eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast.

The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems, such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and fishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale.

Simply put, many of the petitions seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California's diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families at the same time. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state's many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups.

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to deny those petitions (outlined in our detailed letter to the Commission on 2/1/24) that would unnecessarily erode our longstanding coastal fishing and foraging traditions.

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2024-02-05 23:50:53.107		Bob	Nelson					US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 23:27:03.35	Mr.	Christopher	Reiger			Santa Rosa	CA	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 22:57:33.25		jeremy	mcmillin					US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 21:12:35.05	Mr.	Nick	Zagaris			Auburn	CA	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 17:43:23.39		Brian	Dotterer					US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 16:31:18.907		Shaun	Dolan			Lakewood	CA		US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 16:19:08.64		Christopher	Knutsen						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 16:03:35.96		William	Murphy						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 16:00:23.037		Blake	Anderson						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 15:55:32.103		Nicole	Nurisso						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 15:54:33.543		Matthew	Nurisso			Belmont	CA		US	Petition Signed

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2024-02-04 01:22:59.597		Jason	Fitzgibbon						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-04 01:21:34.463		Ed	Hobbs						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 23:56:53.447		Frank	Cunningham						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 22:36:47.323		Kyle	Rempe						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 22:13:07.423		Michael	Skehen			Arroyo Grande	CA		US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 18:56:03.143		Adam	Bloomer						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 18:38:07.283		John	Shimmick						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 19:15:13.213		Daniel	Silveira						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:06:32.177		Matthew	Bond						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:56:00.567		Cole	Pickford						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:55:34.027		Nick	DeFerrari						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:43:33.243		Cecilia	Giddings						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:05:26.83		Isaac	Beck						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:46:21.643		Clayton	Beaver						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:45:06.907		Travis	Craven						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:30:47.033		Eric	Tye						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:16:16.94		Benjamin	Kaslin						US	Petition Signed

2024-02-02 16:25:01.977		Matt	Rose						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 16:10:12.253		Kevin	Vella						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:56:10.45		Charlie	de la Rosa						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:55:01.117		Nicholas	Angus						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:38:15.073		Nick	Ippolito						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:34:39.867		Artin	Marootian						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:57:10.573		Sam	Narveson						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:52:04.667		Jacob	Morris						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:48:19.837		Jonathan	Hoang						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:44:36.137		Mitchell	Ward						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:40:14.187		Logan	Little						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:29:39.883		Josef	Sanchez						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:25:41.613		Leif	Bierer						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:09:39.14		JESSE	STOVALL			Fiddletown	CA		US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:09:23.547		Mike	Costello						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:03:34.583	Mr.	Hunter	Miller			Kuna	ID		US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:02:35.91		Jordan	Germyn						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:58:56.873		Gilberto	Garcia						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:58:51.957		Rod	Kazempour						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:56:33.713		Andrew	Miller						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:55:22.597		Micah	Dungey						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:51:26.967		Jacob	Weber						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:50:04.897		Chris	Chun						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:48:43.423		Jerry	Chang						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:48:06.903		Clayton	Thornton						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:47:17.947		Christopher	James						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:45:51.557		John	Phillips						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:45:40.09		James	Killiany						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:40:12.057		Richard	Owens						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:37:41.607	Mr.	Blane	Markham			Carmel	CA		US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:36:49.903		Connor	Weber						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:35:29.397		Logan	Gillingham						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:31:21.977		Dennis	Kilian						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:29:17.553		Daniel	Collins						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:23:58.117		Phillip	Sanders						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:17:26.583		Derrick	Kapalla						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:16:58.097		Craig	Simes						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:15:13.017		Valerie	Bednarski						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:14:01.07		Elijah	Black						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:12:08.623		Philip	Adornato						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:10:44.163		owen	shapiro						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:10:37.263		Steve	Dolan						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:09:39.617		Nick	Garcia						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 21:14:07.19		Keynan	Hobbs						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 19:52:19.6		Allen	Noren						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 19:31:26.837		Devin	O'Dea						US	Petition Signed

From: Patrick Spalding [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:49 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Opposition to Proposed petitions

Dear Commission,

I was born in San Francisco and have lived my entire life along the central California coast. I have been actively engaged in freedive spearfishing since 2011. Based on the current scientific research, I do not support expansion of any MPAs in California. I specifically request that the Commission deny the petitions listed below. I appreciate your consideration, and I'm grateful for your support of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Patrick Spalding

Petition 2023-23MPA

Petition 2023-33MPA

Petition 2023-34MPA

Petition 2023-29MPA:

Petition 2023-24MPA

From: California Fishermens Resiliency Association <californiafishermensresiliency@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 06:44 PM

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

Cc: [REDACTED] Steve Scheiblaue

<[REDACTED]>; Dave Colker

<[REDACTED]>; Jake Mitchell <[REDACTED]>;

Subject: MPA Petitions Support/Object

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1320
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

July 3, 2024

Re: MPA Petitions/Support/Object

Commissioners:

The California Fisherman's Resiliency Association (CFRA) expresses its support for the following Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions:

2023 - 14 MPA
2023 - 15 MPA
2023 - 16 MPA
2023 - 18 MPA
2023 - 30 MPA

Our support is based on research conducted by the University of Washington (sustainable fisheries- us.org) which exactly states that MPA's have no positive affect on threats to marine life posed by ocean acidification, global warming, coastal development, terrestrial and urban run-off and human pollution of the world environment. "Recent reviews of the extensive MPA network in California have concluded there is no evidence for a regional increase in biodiversity, or targeted fish abundance, nor is there evidence for MPA's providing climate resiliency"

We provide no support for the following MPA petitions:

2023 - 19 MPA
2023 - 20 MPA
2023 - 21 MPA
2023 - 22 MPA
2023 - 23 MPA
2023 - 24 MPA
2023 - 25 MPA
2023 - 26 MPA
2023 - 28 MPA
2023 - 29 MPA
2023 - 31 MPA
2023 - 32 MPA
2023 - 33 MPA
2023 - 34 MPA

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Ken Bates, Executive Director
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association Member Associations

Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association
Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Association
Shelter Cove Fishermen's Preservation, Inc.
Salmon Troller's Marketing Association of Noyo
Bodega Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association
Half Moon Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Cc: Dave Colker
Peter Halmay
Steve Scheiblaue
Jake Mitchell

From: Nathan Perez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:06 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Mlpa

Nathan Perez
Captain F/V Bear Flag 2
Ph: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

Hello,

My name is Nathan Perez, I participate in the commercial swordfish fishery in Southern California operating FV Bear Flag 2 and participating in the swordfish fishery for over 15 years. I am emailing today to voice my support for Petition 15MPA and call to deny or modify petition 34.

Petition 34 should be disallowed or at the very minimum allow for harpoon swordfish still inside the Farnsworth as it is just as enforceable as recreational spear.

For petition 15, allowing Highly Migratory Species limited take, especially harpoon swordfish and deep-set buoy gear, for commercial fisheries is something we can allow inside of these areas. Allowing this will still protect the nonpelagic fish that benefit more from these areas. Swordfish and other migratory fish do not benefit or provide significant benefits to these areas as they simply pass through, and there is no reason a harpoon boat should be restricted from taking a fish inside of these areas while a longline boat can operate in its entire grounds outside the EEZ, targeting the same fish I will find in the summer when the fish are coastal vs the winter/spring when they are in the longline grounds. These MPAs at the Channel Islands also expand federal and further overlap with our offshore fishery.

The proposed allowable methods for commercial swordfish are highly selective, for harpoon it is 100%, and both harpoon and buoy gear are the most sustainable methods we have for targeting swordfish. Granting selective access to these areas will also allow us to not worry about harpooned or hooked buoy fish swimming gear into the no-take areas which always seems to happen and cause an issue related to retrieving that legally taken fish. This is a problem made worse by these three areas expanding into federal water vs other MPAs that stay more nearshore, away from most swordfish grounds. We occasionally avoid looking in sections of legal water because we know if we hit a fish there the current that day will take it into the closure. That is not fair.

At a time when commercial swordfish is dying due to nets being removed and harpooners and buoy guys having to compete with international longliners and nets from other countries selling cheap fish here locally we need these areas back to be able to keep our clean, and domestic swordfish markets in operation.

Thank you,

Nathan Perez (FV Bear Flag 2)

From: Steve Weiser <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 07:48 AM

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

Subject: Mpa closure

My name is Steve Weiser, I run the FV Diva out of the Channel Islands as a harpoon swordfish boat with over 20 years of experience in the fishery. I am emailing today to voice my and my Crew's support of Petition2023-15MPA and lack of support for petition2023-34MPA concerning the possible allowance of harpoon swordfish in a few of the Channel Islands MPAs and closing of the Farnsworth SMCA to everything but recreational spearguns.

We currently have to avoid even open areas surrounding the closures because we worry risking that we hit a fish with a dart in legal water that then swims on the gear into the closure where it becomes illegal to retrieve. This problem is made worse because the Channel Islands MPAs go to 6 miles instead of 3, overlapping more of our offshore fishery. Unlike hook fisheries, a harpoon fish cannot be let go, it is a waste to not be able to retrieve a legally hit fish, so I and the rest of the fleet intentionally go further around the borders when I am fishing to give my hit fish room before possibly moving into the closure. I see the petition asks for other allowances besides harpoon swordfish but at the bare minimum harpoon should be allowed for this gear drift reason, it is a unique case.

Harpoon swordfish is the cleanest method we have for swordfish in the state and after nets are gone, will be only one of the two remaining ways these fish can be commercially targeted along with DSBG. These closures around the islands do little to nothing for swordfish nor does the swordfish have a massive impact on the small ecosystems these MPAs are trying to conserve. Allowing take with harpoon will not affect any of your stated goals for MPAs being meant for more abundance or biodiversity as the fishery takes so little compared to others fished internationally on the same stock of fish as they travel the eastern Pacific Ocean. Additionally, your Master Plan for MPAs specially asks for areas that allow pelagic or highly migratory species to be targeted like swordfish. We do not see any of these areas around the Channel Islands in any place pelagic fish even are. Over 90% of these islands is outright no-take and the two pelagic areas are on the northern side of the islands above Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands, opposite of the warm water southern side where pelagic species actually are.

These areas on the south or the islands are not any better than anywhere else for swordfish or other HMS on the southern side of the islands, the fish follow the current and the breaks, plain and simple. Some days they will be in there, some days they will not be, but having the option to look in there should be considered as these areas are doing nothing for the

fishery as “spillover” is not a thing for species that travel many time the distance of an MPA per day.

In regard to petition2023-34MPA, I personally believe that the petition should just be rejected because pelagic species, which hare the only species you can take in the Farnsworth besides seabass, are not affecting that area or its local ecosystems like a fish that lives in there protected forever. Any argument that it is an enforcement problem can just be seen in the other half of the MPAs that are limited take zones and have perfect enforcement. What makes Farnsworth different from these other areas? Nothing. Now, if there really was an enforcement problem, which I do not believe there is, enforcing recreational spear is probably more difficult that enforcing commercial harpoon swordfish which is currently allowed in the Farnsworth and should still be allowed regardless of any modification made to the area. Petition 34’s final result should be its dismissal or, at the at the very least, still allowing harpoon swordfish with spear as that is simply the commercial equivalent and just as enforceable.

Thank you,

Steve Weiser and Don Gillispie
F/V Diva

Woodland Construction
23622 Calabasas RD #337
Calabasas, CA 91302

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Matthew Bond <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 8:11 AM

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

Cc: Tonie Bangos <[REDACTED]>; Devin O'Dea

<[REDACTED]>; Christopher Killen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Comment Regarding MPA Petitions for the February 11-12, 2026 Commission Meeting

Dear members and staff of the California Fish and Game Commission,

Please find attached our letter representing the voice of a broad coalition of individuals, organizations, businesses, and scientists with opinions and related rationale on each of the Bin 2 MPA petitions.

Thank you for your time and service,

Matt Bond

Allwaters Protection and Access Coalition

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions



Santa Barbara Freedivers



GET HOOKED



January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

To the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),

This letter serves as a joint comment, representing a mass consensus reached by the undersigned groups and individuals representing tens of thousands of stakeholders from recreational, commercial, and scientific backgrounds on all of the Bin 2 MPA petitions. While some of us may submit our own individual comments in addition, or have already, we would like the FGC and CDFW to understand that this diverse community of statewide stakeholders are all united regarding the following comments on these petitions. We all would like to share our common beliefs outlined in the below letter to you as this united group. With the adaptive management process of our MPA network underway, we ask to please take the below input deeply into account when determining the outcomes of the following bin 2 MPA petitions.

Petition2023-14MPA – Accept

Petition 14 proposes the allowance of commercial urchin take inside of a group of SMCAs that already have allowable limited-take restrictions, with the exception of one no-take SMCA. This petition has not been amended since submission. We believe this petition's rationale to have enough merit to warrant its acceptance in part or in full.

At a time where there are mass interests in helping kelp forests regrow, allowing sea urchin take in areas already partially open to other fisheries is a minimally invasive step we can take, especially in SMCAs that already allow some forms of take. By being allowed to harvest and remove sea urchins that are currently protected in these areas, we allow the kelp the chance to grow back. While we cannot locally control global factors affecting kelp growth such as water temperature or swell meaningfully, we can still promote regrowth of kelp by being allowed to at least remove one of kelp's largest predators, the sea urchin.

Per SeaSketch, we may accept this petition whilst also maintaining the same relative level of protection (LOP) in six of the eight total SMCAs in the proposal: Double Cone, Salt Point, Stewarts Point, Sea Lion Cove, Naples, and Anacapa. This means any MPA connectivity benefits will be maintained as is in the current network. For the Point Dume and Point Vicente SMCAs, while the MPA LOP does drop, we believe the allowance of sea urchin take in these SMCAs will greatly benefit the entire area through restored kelp growth, and additional workable area for local urchin divers. However, we understand if a loss in connectivity for these two areas is something the commission is against, that just these two MPA be excluded. At a minimum, this petition should be granted for the SMCAs where the network as a whole does not lose any existing connectivity benefits.

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Petition2023-15MPA-AM2 – Accept

Petition 15 proposes allowing limited take of pelagic or highly migratory species at three joint State-Federal MPAs at the Channel Islands. The petition was amended twice, and proposes several possible options for limited-take of pelagic finfish or highly migratory species (HMS). The petition brings forward three gear types: hook-and-line, spear, and harpoon swordfish; additionally, it includes possible nearshore-offshore MPA options to mitigate bycatch in the more biodiverse nearshore areas and maintain high MPA LOPs for network connectivity. While it is up to the commission and department to determine what the best combination of choices may be, we all believe this petition should be accepted under a preferred option that retains a high LOP for these MPAs, maintaining existing ecosystem level protection/connectivity, that consists of an offshore SMCA and nearshore SMCA or SMR.

The petition is founded on a longstanding scientific basis and MLPA goals that the MPAs in our network are primarily intended to benefit our nearshore waters and non-pelagic species the most. This has been established since the MLPA MPA Master Plan (MMP) in 2008 where MPA benefits to pelagic species were explained to be weak at best, rather focusing the network toward non-pelagic species that benefit the most from MPAs per the MMP documents. This led to the coastal network outside of the Islands process allowing some form of pelagic access in over 40% of our existing MPAs, and no-take in the remaining 60%. Of the currently 60% of MPAs that are no-take, most areas are nearshore, cover predominantly shallow water, and would not provide much pelagic benefits if they were even partially open. The approximately remaining 40% of the network that is limited take, most of which is pelagic take, are set in areas where pelagic effort is reasonable enough to avoid any nearshore or bottom interactions, or does not allow hook-and-line, just spear.

This sets a clear precedent, based on the science, that we can allow reasonable pelagic fishing access in the areas where it makes sense to allow it, and fully protect areas where pelagic fishing is less realistic or interferes too much with nearshore areas. This precedent was again reiterated in the 2016 MMP in a regional objective that explicitly states to allow for forms of pelagic take across the network in all bioregions, something the coastal MPA phases included but the Channel Islands network specifically lacks. The commission then upheld this mass precedent in 2020 when it denied a petition to create an MPA for white sharks, citing specifically that MPAs in our network are not meant for highly migratory or pelagic species, they are for ecosystem level protections, which can still exist in pelagic allowed MPAs. We simply ask that this precedent continue to be upheld for the MPAs that can reasonably allow for pelagic or HMS take and network maintain connectivity. This has no better use case to be applied than at the Channel Islands. That region of the network was designated prior to all of the primary MPA guiding documents, covers mostly offshore waters, and provides the least pelagic access of all the MPA designation regions, a clear case of adaptive management.

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Because the Channel Islands MPA network is the oldest region in the modern network, designated now over 20 years ago in 2002, it pre-dates the coastal MLPA implementation phases, the MLPA LOP frameworks, both MPA Master Plans, and all other frameworks and processes that established this pelagic allowance elsewhere during the 4 coastal phases. In the early 2000s during the Channel Islands process, the primary concerns driving the island MPAs involved groundfish species and recovering their overfished populations. This fact was a main driver in justifying the federal sections of the island MPAs, as the federal expansions cover deep water rocky bottom or reefs where groundfish frequent. Today, federal outlooks of no-take MPAs are almost non-existent. With the exception of the Channel Islands, federal protected areas off the west coast only protect non-pelagic bottom dwelling species (groundfish), and allow pelagic fishing access, aligning exactly to what the petition proposes.

We believe this to be an adaptive management case of modernizing MPAs that predate all guidance documents, and updating them to better align to these well established frameworks in the same way the rest of the network already has. In the case of pelagic access, this shift is clearly seen as the more-modern coastal MPAs allow significantly more pelagics access (40%), compared to the Channel Islands MPAs (3%). In the case of The Footprint MPA specifically, it is the only MPA in the State that is disconnected from land, is entirely deeper than 50m, and has no limited take allowance for pelagics. The Channel Islands MPAs as a whole are justifiably the most equipped to handle pelagic allowance in them, especially offshore, due to the depths covered allowing a massive buffer between pelagic fisheries in the mid to upper water column and non-pelagic fisheries on the bottom. Any take beyond State waters in the federal portions of these MPAs would affect the nearshore region even less than already existing State pelagic allowances present in the current coastal network. Most of the federal portions of these MPAs are well over 1000 feet in depth, and in some cases over 4000 ft in depth.

Per SeaSketch, LOP tiers from the original MLPA state pelagic take maintains MPA connectivity due to the take allowance's high LOP in offshore waters. At the islands specifically this is seen as only allowing hook-and-line take in waters deeper than 50 meters (164ft), with harpoon or spear gears allowed anywhere due to their high selectivity and lack of any bycatch. A high LOP can be maintained and connectivity still upheld if the petition is accepted with the proposed "nearshore" SMCAs or SMRs at Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island that restrict nearshore hook-and-line, along with any SMCA option in The Footprint and the proposed "offshore" sections of Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island. With all of this precedent and SeaSketch LOP information in mind we believe there is more than sufficient rationale, federal and state evidence, and MLPA/MMP support to allow for this adaptive management change.

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Petition2023-16MPA – Modify then Accept

Petition 16 requests the allowance of the commercial take of salmon by troll in two SMRs in the northern bioregion, Bodega Head and Stewarts Point, making them SMCAs. The petition argues similarly to petition 15, on the lack of interference allowed pelagic access would cause. While we do stand by this petition's core arguments, we also believe that this allowance should be accompanied with a similar recreational allowance of salmon by troll in these MPAs too.

Recreationally or commercially the salmon troll fisheries mirror each other with similar gear use, lack of gear conflicts with unintended species, and lack of interactions with the bottom environment due to the nature of the troll gear always moving and being in the upper section of the water column. There are no reasons to not allow recreational troll access in these areas as well because of this. This is further supported by the bordering and nearby pelagic allowed SMCAs in the area giving both recreational and commercial allowance for salmon trolling. A joint allowance would also help to solve any possible confusion on the water of only a specific group being able to troll in the area while others may not, reducing any possible enforcement problems.

Per SeaSketch, the LOPs of these areas as SMCAs allowing any kind of salmon trolling retains existing MPA protections for their respective connectivity benefits. While these MPAs in the northern bioregion are more-modern of MPAs, coming after initial MMPs, MPA frameworks, and processes, unlike those in Petition 15, we see this change allowance as reasonable for consideration. With the recreational troll allowance added to this petition, we see its arguments as more equitable and in-line with existing MPAs in the surrounding northern bioregion of the network.

Petition2023-18MPA – Accept

Petition 18 makes several requests across the Santa Barbara Channel to 6 MPAs in total, and some requests were non-regulatory requests. We support all of the prescribed changes in the petition to better regulatory language, provide better MPA regulation clarity through color corrections, and to make fine tune changes to better the overall MPA network. Of all the requests in petition 18, the most controversial is the creation of a shore region SMCA in the Vandenburg SMR. This would be called the Vandenburg SMCA and would allow shoretake of finfish. This case of a shore allowance is a unique case for our MPA network, as the bordering military base with the SMR allows shore fishing already anyway. This shoretake allowance would clear up any enforcement confusion by the public for the SMR and give some access back to the public in general. We believe this petition's regulatory and non-regulatory requests should be accepted in full.

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Petition2023-19MPA – Reject or Modify

Petition 19 requests the creation of a tribal co-managed SMCA at Morro Bay that only allows for the recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels by hand harvest, also including a tribal take exemption within the SMCA. We believe the petition should be either rejected or amended to allow for more general recreational and commercial take as well.

We believe tribal co-management to be a great step forward in managing California's waters and should be present in all MPAs; however, creating a new MPA that restricts exclusively commercial groups and most recreational fishing access from such an essential area should not be warranted. The commercial blocks overlapping the proposed SMCA account for 6.2% of Morro Bay's landing revenue alone. More specifically, these blocks represent 25% of the area's squid landings, 8.8% of the groundfish landings, and 15% of the area's salmon landings, per the MFDE. While not an exact correlation, recreational access in the area is likely comparable (with the exception of squid) and will likely be equally affected in the MPA regions, as this petition affects all fisheries not involving direct hand harvesting.

Additionally, there is concern that the proposed offshore wind energy program has its proposed electrical lines connecting the Morro Bay power bank stations to the offshore array crossing through the SMCA. If passed, this would need to be addressed and an additional allowance added.

Petition2023-20MPA – Reject Nearshore and Clarify/Accept Offshore

Petition 20 requests changes to the MPA cluster, the nearshore and offshore MPAs, at Point Buchon. The petition requests the offshore SMCA allow the hand harvest of finfish and invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels, allow the maintenance of artificial structures under the correct permits, and provide a tribal take exemption for federally recognized tribes. However, it is unclear if these requested allowances to the offshore SMCA at point Buchon are replacing or adding to existing recreational and commercial allowance for the take of albacore and salmon. Pursuant to the allowances being additive and not replacing the existing take allowances in the offshore MPA we support the request for the offshore region of the MPA cluster to have the added take allowances. This example in the offshore region is a clear example of how tribal components can be added to the existing network, not requiring creation of more MPAs to involve tribes.

Regarding the petitioner's request to the nearshore SMR being expanded, we believe this request should be rejected. The expansion of only the SMR section of the Point Buchon nearshore/offshore cluster would unnecessarily remove all access from the added area. The justification for this addition comes from MPA Collaborative meetings citing enforcement concerns, stating that moving the northern boundary to the physical

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

point will provide a better reference for enforcement. The core reason the existing MPA does not go to the physical point on land is because the nearest whole decimal degree value was used as the northern boundary instead, following MLPA guidelines. This usage of a round Lat/Long number for an MPA that does not experience much shore fishing opportunity is supported by the MLPA MPA design criteria to explicitly help, not hurt, enforcement. The current northern boundary gives those fishing beyond shore an easy to understand GPS reference point to know where the boundary is. Additionally, expanding only the nearshore SMR may cause further enforcement problems with the offshore SMCA remaining its original size. The expansion of the nearshore only leads to a case of an unevenly sized MPA in the nearshore and offshore regions.

Petition2023-21MPA – Accept

Petition 21 requests the Pyramid Point SMCA in the northern bioregion be modified to remove its existing recreational allowances for take of surf smelt and give additional tribal exemption to the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation on top of its existing tribal exemption. The petition also requests the border of the MPA be moved south to the true CA-OR state boundary line, slightly shrinking the MPA.

While this petition does remove some recreational access to take surf smelt, that access was already relatively limited and small scale. The change to the border to shrink the SMCA to align to the actual state border clears up any possible confusion or issues the overlap currently causes. Overall we are supportive of this change, and addition of another Tribal component to the existing Pyramid Point SMCA.

Petition2023-23MPA-AM1 – Reject or Modify

Petition 23 requests multiple changes to 3 existing SMCAs, the Carmel Bay SMCA, Pacific Grove SMCA, and the Edward F. Ricketts SMCA, requesting all three SMCAs become closed to take of finfish during “active kelp restoration permits” and to create a new SMR at Tankers Reef, the area of this SMR was reduced during amendments.

We believe the petition has reasonable goals, restoring kelp, but goes about this in the incorrect way. Regarding the specific MPA changes requested, we believe this petition should be rejected or modified. Acceptance would come at the additional loss of recreational fishing access to these SMCAs. Fishing has no significant impact on kelp restoration compared to environmental factors (e.g., water quality, water temperature, swell) and would be closed when a “kelp restoration permit is active.” This also raises further enforcement concerns as regulations would effectively be in constant flux depending if a permit is active or not, there would need to be new paths created to inform all on the water when said permit is active or not. Additionally, existing restoration efforts at Tankers Reef would immediately stop if an SMR is designated there for the lack of allowable take inside of an SMR, even the reduced in size SMR.

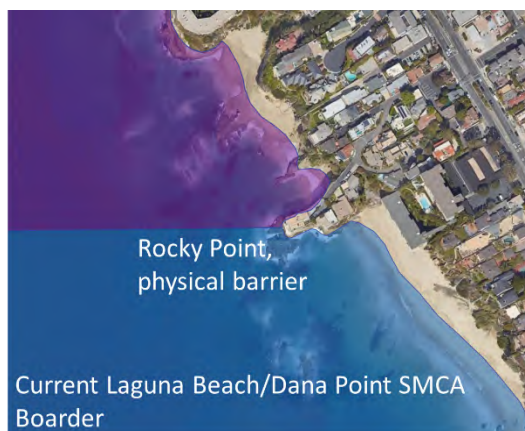
January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

If the petitioner wishes to accomplish the outstanding goals of this petition, then a similar approach to that in Petition2023-14MPA should be considered. Such an approach could consist of keeping the 3 SMCAs as SMCAs with the same allowable take regulations, but only adding a new allowance for the recreational and commercial take of sea urchins, removing the finfish closures during “active permits.” Regarding Tankers Reef, we believe no MPA, SMR or SMCA, should be designated there as existing restoration efforts would be able to continue there without requiring any closures or special allowances be made inside of a new MPA. Leaving Tankers Reef as is will also allow any future restoration methods to be deployed at the location without having to modify the SMCA allowances again as we continue to learn how to restore our kelp forests.

Petition2023-24MPA – Reject

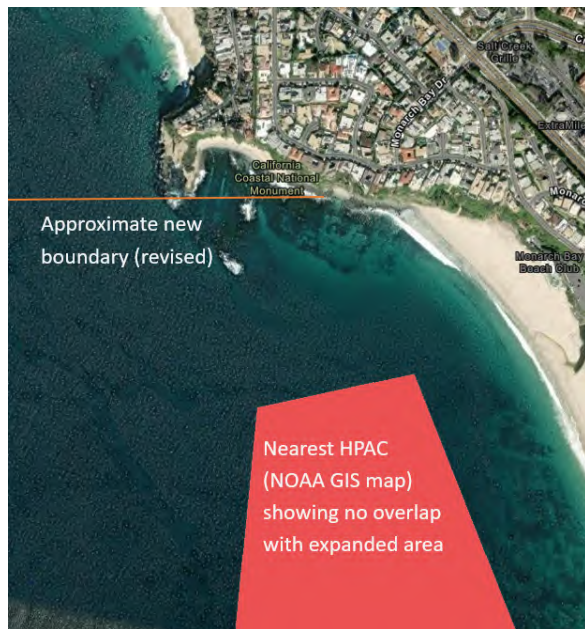
Petition 24 requests expanding the existing Laguna Beach SMCA into the Dana Point SMCA. We believe Petition 24 should be rejected for several reasons. Petition 24’s core argument claims enforcement concerns of the MPAs by lifeguards, when in fact, the primary enforcement of the MPAs is warden officers. Wardens are the only individuals that may issue citations for MPA compliance and are most notably, not bound by city limits. The idea of moving this border to allow for better enforcement will only create more of an enforcement problem due to where the proposed border lies versus the existing one. The existing border of the Laguna SMCA and Dana Point SMCA is a rocky point, a physical barrier between two areas. This allows the border to be clear as it is marked by an obvious, physical landmark, this is a guiding objective of the MLPA in MPAs that justifiably have a large shore fishing presence. The proposed new border would sit along the mean high tide line in the middle of a rocky beach. Simply put, removal of a physical barrier landmark to an invisible line on a public beach would only create more of an enforcement compliance problem, not reduce it along shore. (See Below images)



January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

The petition then cites the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 and its 2002 update where essential fish habitats (EFH) and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs) were designated along the west coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.



Essential fish habitats (EFHs) are defined by NOAA as areas where specific fish species, including groundfish, pink salmon, king salmon, coho salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species, can feed, spawn, or grow to maturity. These habitats are extensive, the three EFHs overlapping the proposed expansion area—groundfish, CPS, and HMS—cover the entire coast of California, Washington, and Oregon. Because of their broad geographical scope, EFHs alone do not indicate a need for MPAs off the coast, or this proposed expansion.

Habitat areas of particular concern (HPACs), as the name implies, are sections of the EFH that are more important in providing the ecological functions that the general EFHs offer. These are more selective in their designation and display highlighted areas of concern within the EFHs. While these areas are more important in participating in these biological processes, the petitioner's proposed MPA expansion does not overlap with any existing HPACs (see above image). The arguments of the petition involving any EFHs or HPACs to protect this additional area are irrelevant for these reasons.

The petition additionally presents a rationale similar to that of Petition 2023-33 regarding the protection of kelp beds. It claims that conserving these areas is essential for the health of kelp forests. However, like the counterarguments we will see in Petition 2023-33, it is important to note again that fishing effort and so-called “anchor drag” does not significantly reduce kelp biomass; rather, factors such as water temperature, water quality, and swell conditions primarily drive changes in the kelp population. Additionally, any concerns raised in the petition about “anchor drag” damaging kelp beds would equally apply to non-consumptive vessels, not just fishing boats.

The petition references the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) concerning potential marine mammal entanglements from lobster traps in the area. While recreational and commercial lobster fishing occurs in the region, there have been little to no reported entanglement incidents involving whales or dolphins locally, showing in reality there is little need for concern. While it's important to acknowledge the possibility of such events, the absence of previous occurrences suggests that the likelihood of entanglements is extremely low. Furthermore, if the area were to be protected, lobster traps would simply be relocated, meaning the risk of entanglement would persist

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

regardless of where the traps are ultimately placed. Lastly, the adoption of ropeless fishing technologies, such as those developed by Sea Sonics, indicates a future where entanglement issues could be further mitigated.

Concerning the MLPA itself, it should be noted that the proposed expanded area would give the MPA an “L-shape.” This shape is specifically called out in the MLPA as a poor MPA design for enforcement and is just another reason we have concerns for this petition.

Petition2023-27MPA-AM1 – Reject

The original petition 27 and its amendments only look at lobster taken from the Anacapa SMCA. We believe this request should be rejected. Petition 27, similar to petitions calling for protections to increase kelp beds, calls for additional protections at the Anacapa Island SMCA, the difference being that 2023-27’s focus is on eelgrass, not kelp. While a trap sitting on the bottom does have a larger footprint than a pelagic hook and line configuration which is also allowed in the SMCA, traps fished in the area are not significantly impacting eelgrass beds due to there already being a 20 foot depth closure for traps around Anacapa in its Special Closure. This area contains already a large amount of the existing eelgrass beds as the SMCA and special closure overlap making the key rationale of this petition redundant as protections are effectively already in effect.

Petition2023-28MPA-AM1 – Reject

Petition 28 requests the establishment of a new MPA around Point Sal. This MPA would significantly impact local fisheries, recreational and commercial, despite the petitioner's claim that the effects would be minimal. For this primary reason we believe the petition should be rejected, even as amended to allow for shore based take of finfish.

The petition includes an economic analysis of the proposed area but overlooks the devastating local impacts this MPA would have economically. While the petition accurately states that the overlapping commercial fishing blocks contribute to 1.1% of the central coast's total landings by value, it fails to consider the actual local implications of that 1.1% and what it represents. Using the same time range (2012 to 2022) on the MFDE, the local port nearest to the proposed MPA, Port San Luis/Avila, derived 28.12% of its total commercial revenue from the overlapping blocks 631 and 632. More specifically, 25.92% of the port's groundfish revenue and 57.79%, over half, of its crab revenue came from these areas. If recreational effort even somewhat mirrors commercial effort in the area, not only is Point Sal relevant commercially, but recreationally too offshore. Establishing an MPA at Point Sal will significantly harm the community of Avila and other nearby ports, threaten local businesses, harm or remove

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

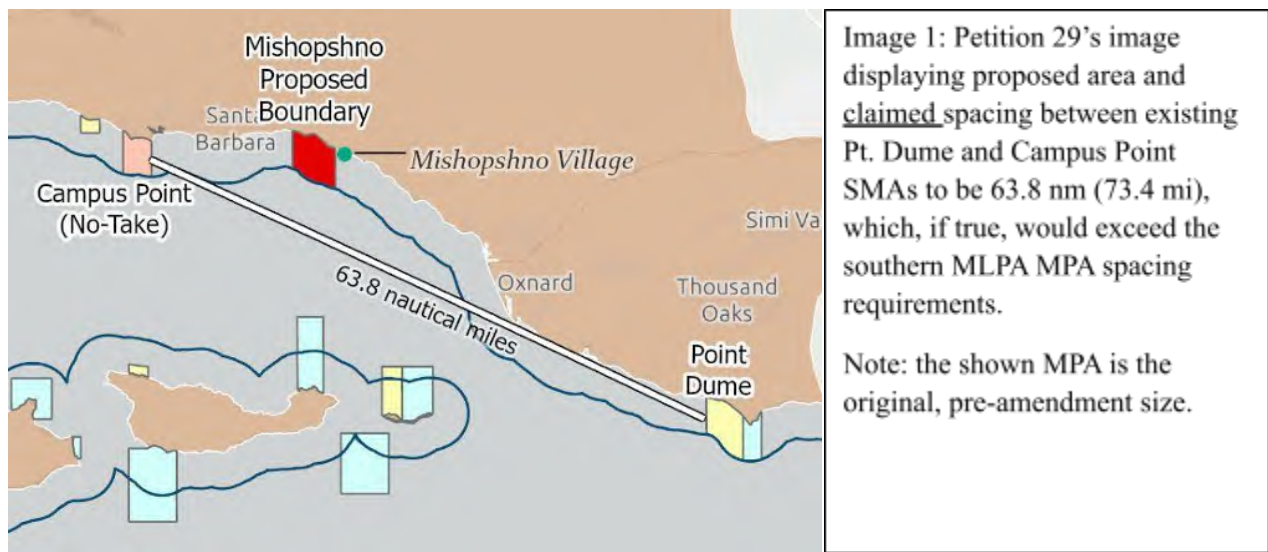
people's sources of income, and remove recreational and subsistence access to the area by boat.

Providing shore based take of finfish would allow for beach anglers to continue fishing as they have been, but would do so at the loss of all offshore activity. More notably, this also results in a drop of the LOP of the SMCA to moderate-low. This LOP ranking per the MLPA fails any connectivity requirements making the final proposed SMCA a protected area that does not add to total MPA network connectivity. This brings into question the main argument of the petitioner to add this MPA in order to maintain MPA connectivity, as the final amended SMCA would not accomplish this.

Petition2023-29MPA-AM1 – Reject

Petition 29 requests a new MPA be created at Carpinteria. This MPA would be a tribally allowed SMCA that would be closed to non-federally recognized tribal fishing (general recreational and commercial fishing); the petition was amended to reduce its overall size and allow shore-based take of finfish. The petition’s three primary arguments for the new SMCA are to meet habitat connectivity/MPA spacing requirements, to protect habitat surrounding juvenile white shark grounds, and to allow for tribal access. While tribal co-management of all California MPAs should be considered, we believe for the following reasons this specific MPA proposal should be rejected.

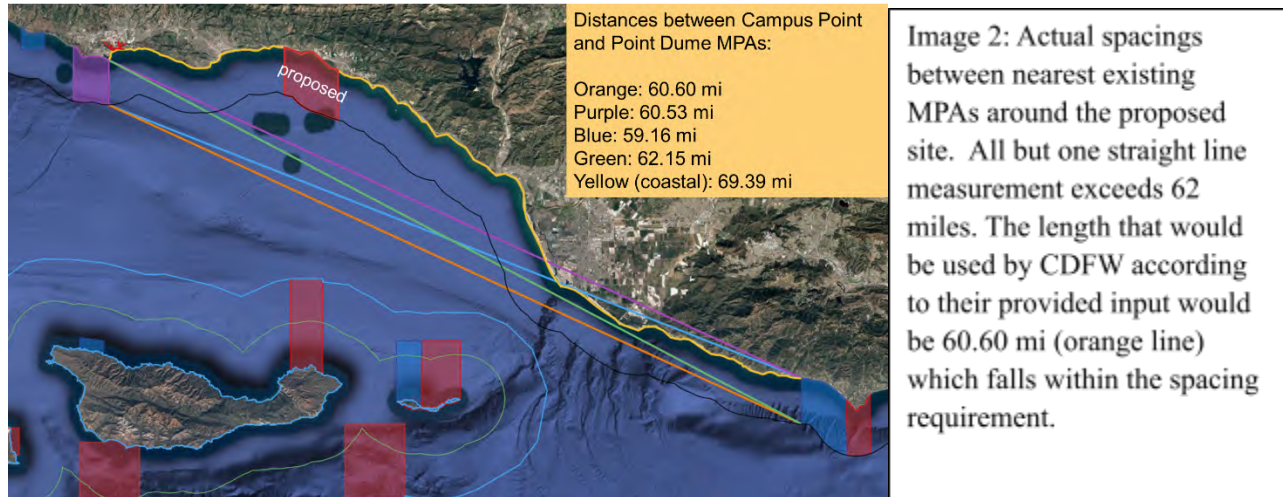
Regarding habitat connectivity, the petition asserts that the spacing of the existing MPA network exceeds the recommendations set by the MLPA scientific advisory team, which suggests a minimum spacing of 31 to 62 miles. The petition argues that the nearest coastal MPAs, Campus Point and Point Dume, are too far apart, claiming they are separated by 63.8 nautical miles or 73.4 miles (Image 1).



January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Discussions with the CDFW clarified that MPA spacing is measured by the, “shortest distance over water between two MPAs.” When measuring the distance between Campus Point and Point Dume, we find that it is in fact less than 62 miles, indicating that the current spacing distribution is adequate along the coast (see below Image 2).



Following the CDFW and MLPA guidelines, the shortest water distance between the two existing MPAs is ~60.60 miles, viewable by the orange line. This distance falls within the 31–62-mile MLPA spacing requirement. None of the provided measurements, including a measurement along the coastline (yellow) exceeded 73.4 miles of separation as the petitioner claims, again bringing into question the purpose for the new MPA if connectivity is already met.

In addition, the provided shore based take of finfish does allow for some form of recreational take but this now raises connectivity concerns. As mentioned in previous petitions, allowance of shore fishing of finfish reduces an MPAs LOP to moderate-low, losing its MPA connectivity with the network, this is confirmed by SeaSketch. Connectivity was a major reason for this MPAs proposal. With connectivity now lost due to these allowed take methods begs to question the purpose for this implementation in the first place if its foundational goals are not even accomplished. The LOP chart for the southern bioregion, moderate low protection is provided below.

Mod-low	SMCA SMP	Shore fishing (H&L, hoop net); kelp bass, barred sand bass, lingcod, cabezon, and rockfish (H&L, spearfishing); sheephead (H&L, spearfishing, trap); spotted sand bass and halibut (H&L); lobster (trap, hoop net, diving); urchin (diving); rock crab and Kellet's whelk (trap); catch and release (H&L-general) In water depth <10m: Catch and release (H&L-single barbless hooks and artificial lures) In water depth <50m at islands and <30m on mainland: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (H&L);
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Regarding the protection of juvenile white shark nursery grounds, a similar petition was submitted in 2020 (Petition 2020-012 AM1) to close off a smaller section of beach at Carpinteria for the same purpose. Like Petition 29, this earlier petition aimed to protect

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

juvenile white sharks within the currently proposed area. This 2020 petition was rejected by the Department and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC), which stated that MPAs are designed to protect nearshore ecosystems rather than individual species, especially highly migratory species like white sharks. Given that this issue was previously addressed at the same location just four years ago, the same arguments against the current petition apply today regarding white sharks.



Lastly, regarding the tribal access portions of the petition, while tribal access and co-management should be explored across the entire MPA network, current access to the area by tribes is not limited in any way. Regardless of a tribal MPA designation or not, federally recognized tribes will have access in the area just like the public. Closing this area off to all groups except those of the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians would have the additional side effect of restricting any non-federally recognized tribes, as the petition does mention. In addition to the above counter reasons of the petition's primary claims, there exists additional effects to be considered at the proposed MPA site. The proposed area was considered during the MLPA for the southern section but was

traded off for two other SMCAs on the coast, Naples and Kashtayit that were present in different MPA alternatives that Carpinteria was not in. If allowed, the new MPA would essentially break the agreements struck during the MLPA. Lastly, the pre- and post-amended boundaries overlap existing oil infrastructure that is maintained year round, no existing exemptions or conversations have been had regarding this infrastructure overlap. For these reasons we believe the petition should be denied.

Petition2023-32MPA – Reject

Petition 32 requests expanding the Duxbury Reef SMCA north, south and converting the SMCA into an SMR. The petition cites apparent drops in biodiversity in the areas, confusion on take regulations, and, as a result, high incidence of accidental poaching.



We believe this petition to be well intentioned but do not believe it should be accepted. The petition's claims that there was a local drop in biodiversity are all based on local surveys on no actual data displaying a measurable drop in the biodiversity in the area.

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Observations by MPA Watch on potential MPA violations comes from observers seeing “anyone with buckets,” citing even children with buckets counting as a possible violation. While it is understandable to ascertain data this way, we would like the commission to understand that someone simply with a bucket on one of the most popular beaches in the area does not mean they are violating MPA take regulations. This method of data collection possibly is why the self-reported values of possible violations at Duxbury are so high, when actual enforcement reports show infractions at Duxbury being so low they do not even make it to the yearly MRC report. Enforcement reports on MPAs from the yearly March MRC give insight into MPA violations in the state, of which Duxbury Reef never was in the top MPAs in violation (top 35) or top 5 in the northern region specifically in 2024 or 2025. Letters from partner agencies such as state and national parks as well as national marine sanctuaries all cite possible issues with the SMCA, all requesting it expand, but no agency goes so far as to support making the area an SMR. No hard data whatsoever has been provided to demonstrate a need to expand the SMCA to include these highly inaccessible areas in the north or south as well. The petitioner’s claim that visitors walking through the existing southern border with legal catch from outside the SMCA is merely speculative. Access to the reef in this southern section is blocked by an inside channel except during extreme low tides, making further regulatory protection unnecessary and a niche case at best.

Regarding the original MPA expansion proposals, and even specifically the southern expansion (image above), the new covered area has a very asymmetric shape. This goes directly against MLPA guidelines for designating MPAs which state that MPAs with odd-asymmetric shapes are difficult to enforce and confusing to the public, possibly even adding to the confusions the petitioner claims is present at Duxbury. At the bare minimum, this border must be modified in a way that adheres to the MLPA MPA design guidelines before even being considered for final action. Because any possible additional area included or removed from the proposed expansion needs to be considered by all stakeholders, we must see what this final border actually is before providing further input. In December 2025, the petitioner did submit an informal request (“informal” was tagged by FGC staff) to change the border post-petition deadline, which could solve this odd shape issue. It is currently not known whether amendments like this can be considered. If the informal request is ultimately considered, the existing counter arguments still exist with exception of course of the expansion border shape.

Petition2023-33MPA – Reject

Several groups and individuals have expressed opposition to this petition, and we all stand by the majority of their comments, even after the limited number of amendments to certain MPAs in petition 33. While there are various pathways for kelp restoration, the establishment of new or larger MPAs is not one of them. It is widely accepted that the growth and abundance of kelp are dependent on water quality and temperature. Even under ideal growing conditions, a large swell can damage kelp forests, ripping the

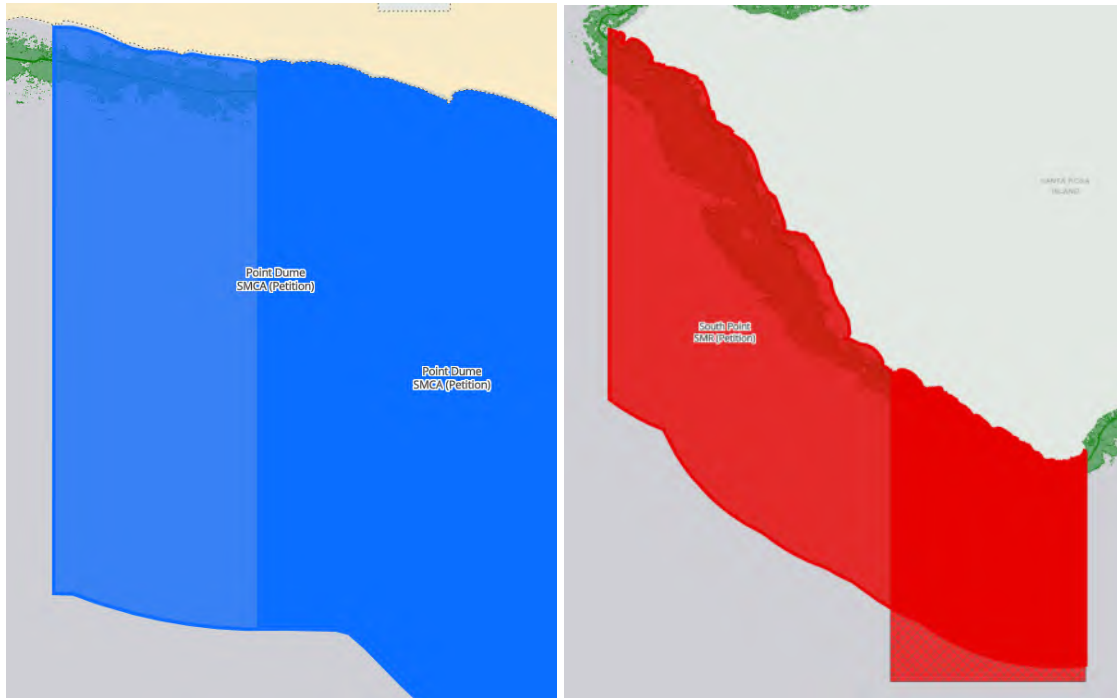
January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

largest, most buoyant, stalks off the seafloor. Fishing activities have little to no impact on kelp health as seen by thriving kelp populations throughout history pre-dating even the MLPA when fishing access was less restrictive. It is well documented how we came to this spot in the first place for our kelp, the rolling El Ninos in the mid-2010s removed a substantial amount of our state's kelp forests, not fishing, and fishing restrictions are not what it will take for the forests to regrow. The creation or expansion of MPAs resulting from this petition will have a negligible effect on the recovery of kelp forests, but a permanent and lasting effect on those that have a livelihood on the water or those that want to simply fish and enjoy a day on the water. In some instances, such expansions may hinder restoration efforts by obstructing human interventions aimed at encouraging kelp growth, such as seeding areas or urchin barren removal efforts.

Furthermore, the petition does not adequately explain why most of the proposed expansion areas cover waters that are simply too deep for kelp to grow. All but one of its expansions (Gull Island) have this problem, covering waters well beyond kelps natural growing depth. Many of the proposed expansions extend to the state line, covering areas with depths exceeding 1,000 feet when kelp cannot grow any deeper than 150ft. For a petition focused on kelp restoration, this deepwater coverage is illogical and appears to be an attempt to limit area access to our already managed fisheries while protecting an area outside of the scope of the petition. Below are some of the petition's proposed expansions on SeaSketch with the kelp max extent per landsat and flyovers enabled (green layer under proposed expansions). This shows most of the expansion area does not even cover the absolute maximum kelp could grow. Any justifiable MPA expansions regarding kelp recovery at the bare minimum should be more targeted, covering specifically areas kelp can grow, not mass areas covering mostly water kelp cannot grow.

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions



Lastly, the added amendments only pull back on one expansion, the Cabrillo SMR, and add in shore based take of finfish and general spearfishing of finfish at the proposed Pleasure Point SMCA and Point Dume SMCA. As mentioned previously, the shorebased allowance would reduce Pleasure Point and Point Dume to moderate-low levels of protection per the MLPA, losing their local MPA connectivity, making the proposed expansions weaken MPA connectivity rather than strengthen them. Specifically for Point Dume, that MPAs connectivity appears centrally important under the SeaSketch model and should be maintained. While the reduction in size at the Cabrillo expansion is a positive, we still believe any expansion in the first place is not warranted, especially for kelp restoration purposes.

Petition2023-34MPA – Reject

Petition 34 requests the redesignation of one offshore SMCA to a no-take SMR, merging it with the nearshore SMR at Point Buchon to make one no-take SMR. The petition also requests combining the nearshore and offshore SMCAs at Farnsworth into a single SMCA that would permit only pelagic finfish spearfishing, removing various pelagic fishing allowances existing there. The primary justification for these changes is enforcement concerns. Enforcement has effectively managed the existing MPA network without significant issues which already contains nearly 40% limited take SMCAs. The situations at Farnsworth and Point Buchon are similar to several other MPAs along the coast that successfully integrate nearshore and offshore components. The concept of allowing pelagic finfish targeting offshore—where interactions with the MPA's intended

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

protections are minimal—has been recognized since the first and second MPA Master Plans where it explicitly states the lesser effect pelagic fish have on themselves and the MPA ecosystem, and to allow for areas that have pelagic take respectively. Pelagic fishing should be permitted in MPAs that overlap with offshore waters, provided that fishing practices minimize interactions with local and nearshore species, which they inherently do. Additionally, if enforcement was truly the only concern, commercial harpoon at Farnsworth is just as enforceable, if not easier to enforce than recreational spear methods, and should be left in as an allowance in the SMCA. This petition also conflicts with Petition 20 and its requests at Point Bucheon.

The two MPA systems at Farnsworth and Point Bucheon are no different from other nearshore/offshore configurations, so-called “MPA clusters”, and we see no compelling reason to change them specifically. Both MPA clusters currently meet regional sizing guidelines for the total cluster area and LOP requirement to count them both for connectivity as is, with their current access. For these reasons, we believe this petition should be rejected.

Thank you,

AllWaters - AWPAC *(recreational)*

-Chris Killean (President)

-Matt Bond (Board Member)

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara - CFSB *(commercial)*

-Chris Voss (President)

-Ava Schulenberg (Assistant Director)

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers - BHA *(recreational)*

-Devin O’Dea (Western Policy & Conservation Manager)

Coastal Conservation Association California - CCA Cal *(recreational)*

-Chris Arechaederra (Executive Director)

-Tonie Bagnos (Assistant Director)

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association - VCCFA *(commercial)*

-Dave Colker (Executive Director)

-Jason Woods (President)

-Eric Hodge, Mike Kenny, Tim Athens (Board Members)

LA Rod and Reel Club *(recreational)*

-John Ballotti (President)

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association *(commercial)*

-Chris Pavone (President)

Santa Barbara Sportfishing Club *(recreational)*

-Whitney Uyeda (President)

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries *(recreational/commercial)*

-Alan Alward (Co-Chair)

San Diego Fishermen's Working Group *(commercial)*

-Pete Halmay (President)

Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization *(commercial)*

-Bill Blue (President)

-Tom Hafer (Secretary)

The Tuna Club Foundation *(recreational)*

-Chase Offield (Board Member)

Santa Barbara FreeDivers Club *(recreational)*

-Dave Huebner (President)

-Bradley Pirmen (Chair)

BD Outdoors *(recreational business)*

-Ali Hussainy (President)

The California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains *(commercial)*

-Tim Petrick (President)

Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching *(recreational)*

-Donna Kalez (Co-Owner)

Santa Barbara Landing and Stardust Sportfishing *(recreational business)*

-Jamie Diamond (CEO/owner)

Monterey Bay Tritons *(recreational)*

-Brandon Burke (President)

NorCal Underwater Hunters *(recreational)*

-Matt Mattison (President)

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Fathomiers (*recreational*)

-Paul Romanowski (Conservation Officer)

The Catalina Seabass Fund (*recreational/commercial*)

-Jock Albright (Director)

The Laguna Maritime Alliance (*recreational/commercial*)

-Chase Offield (Chair)

Santa Cruz Kelp Stalker (*recreational*)

-Hans Haveman (Chair)

San Diego Freedivers (*recreational*)

-Ryan Moore (President)

OC Spearos (*recreational*)

-Hidenori Iwagami (president)

Long Beach Neptunes (*recreational*)

-Terry Maas (Chair)

Save Duxbury Access (*grassroots recreational/commercial*)

-Chris Martinelli (Local Lead)

American Fishing Tackle Company - AFTCO (*recreational/commercial business*)

-Bill Shedd (CEO)

-Casey Shedd (President)

Get Hooked Seafood (*commercial business*)

-Kim Selkoe and Victoria Voss (Co-Founders)

Pacific Coast Sportfishing (*recreational business*)

-Bill DePriest (Publisher / Editor)

January 2026

Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Dedicated Researchers/Scientists:

UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

-Dr. Dawn A. Murray (PhD. Ocean Sciences - UCSC)

UCSB & UCSC Conservation Scientist

-Dr. Jason Johns (PhD. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - UCSB)

UCSB Marine Scientist

-Dr. Kim Selkoe (PhD. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - UCSB)

Private Marine Scientist

-Ethan Estess (M.S. Earth Systems (Marine) - Stanford University)

Senior Marine Scientist and previous marine biologist for the Channel Islands NPS

-Derek Lerma (B.S. Biological Oceanography - Humboldt State University)



01/26/2026

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

Subject: Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Dear Melissa Miller-Henson,

Please add the San Diego County Wildlife Federation (SDCWF) to the CCA Coalition letter regarding Bin 2 MPA petitions being considered. We were unfortunately a bit late getting our logo and signature added to the letter represented below. The San Diego County Wildlife Federation represents over 20,000 sportsmen and women in San Diego County, and we are active in conserving our inland and aquatic habitats in a manner which allows both conservation protection with consumptive use of the waters of our state.

The SDCWF agrees with the recommendations of Coalition listed below.

Thank you for the work you and the Commissioners do for California outdoorsmen and women.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary F. Brennan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary F. Brennan
President, San Diego County Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 3886
Ramona, CA. 92065

Copy to: CCA California



29 January 2026

Re: Comments from Marine Conservation Institute for consideration during the February 11-12, 2026 meeting on petitions to amend the state's MPA network.

(submitted via email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

As California works to protect 30% of state waters by 2030 (30 x 30) to fight climate change, protect biodiversity, and expand access to nature for all Californians, the implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that provide tangible benefits to marine biodiversity requires an understanding of effective conservation and knowledge of which MPAs meet that threshold.

Since 2012, Marine Conservation Institute's Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas) has brought a focused lens to the quality of marine protections in MPAs around the world. MPAtlas (mpatlas.org) is the largest global repository of MPA assessments using The MPA Guide¹. The MPA Guide is a peer-reviewed scientific framework published in *Science* in 2021 that evaluates an MPA's stage of establishment and level of protection by looking at the management of mining, dredging & dumping, anchoring, infrastructure, aquaculture, fishing, and non-extractive recreational activities. Both management regulations and in situ activity data specific to each individual MPA are analyzed to determine the actual outcomes provided by a given MPA. Ecological evidence² from as recently as 2025 suggests that the best conservation outcomes are seen when MPAs are implemented or actively managed, and fully³ or highly⁴ protected from these seven activities.

Scientists from MPAtlas evaluated the 20 petitions proposing changes to California's MPA Network submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission by the public and Tribes in 2023 using The MPA Guide. Our preliminary analysis suggests that the following petitions would improve the level of protection for existing MPAs or designate new MPAs, expanding and strengthening the California State MPA Network's overall ability to achieve conservation benefits:

<u>Petition</u>	<u>Marine Protected Area</u>
2023-19MPA	Chitqawi SMCA
2023-20MPA	Point Buchon SMR
2023-23MPA-AM	Carmel Bay SMCA
	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA
	Tanker's Reef SMR
2023-24MPA-AM	Laguna Beach SMCA

2023-27MPA-AM	Anacapa Island SMCA
2023-28MPA-AM	Point Sal SMCA
2023-29MPA-AM	Mishopshno SMCA
2023-32MPA	Duxbury Reef SMR
2023-33MPA-AM	Cabrillo SMR
	Gull Island SMR
	Natural Bridges SMR
	Pleasure Point SMCA
	Point Conception SMR
	Point Dume SMCA
	South Point SMR
2023-34MPA	Farnsworth Offshore SMCA
	Farnsworth Onshore SMCA
	Point Buchon SMCA

With critical tipping points approaching ocean biodiversity, the opportunity to align California's MPA network with the best and most up-to-date understanding of MPA science is incumbent on the Commission. We urge the Commission to adopt the petitions that serve to advance conservation and keep the State of California moving forward with a world-leading example of marine conservation, creating an effective MPA network, and progressing towards the State's commitment to 30 x 30.

Sincerely,

Lance Morgan, PhD, President, Sonoma County
Nikki Harasta, Marine Conservation Scientist, Ventura County

1 Grorud-Colvert, K., et al. (2021). The MPA guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean. Science. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0861>

2 Horta e Costa, B., et al. (2025). Marine protected areas' stage of establishment and level of protection are good predictors of their conservation outcomes. Cell Reports Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsus.2025.100345>

3 No impact from extractive or destructive activities is allowed and all abatable impacts are minimized. Non-extractive activities may include recreational, traditional, cultural, or spiritual activities. Examples include minimal impact snorkeling, swimming and SCUBA, tidepooling, cultural/ceremonial gatherings, education, knowledge transmission, and motorized or non-motorized vessels associated with the previously mentioned activities.

4 Only light extractive activities are allowed that have low impact, and all other abatable impacts are minimized. If any anchoring is allowed, it is small scale and for a short duration with a low impact. If any infrastructure is allowed, it is small scale with low impact. Any aquaculture must be low impact, small scale, low density, and unfed. If fishing occurs, it is infrequent and only five or fewer gear types are used that are highly selective and low-impact. Any non-extractive activities are regulated and restricted and of low impact, low density, and small scale.

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

February 6, 2026

Re: Retraction of signature and clarification of position on California MPA petitions

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners,

I am a marine scientist and environmental studies professor advising graduate students at Antioch University and teaching undergraduate courses in the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Barbara. I work in resource management and conservation realms to protect habitats and to amplify Indigenous voices in conservation initiatives. I also work locally with NOAA on intertidal marine sampling and support locally-rooted conservation efforts, including curriculum development and weaving Indigenous and Western Scientific Knowledge into system solutions. I have worked with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) supporting the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation and Chumash cultural values, wisdom, and traditions in marine and land management practices. I currently serve on the NOAA CHNMS Advisory Committee as a Research Seat Alternate.

My research focuses on participatory conservation and co-designing conservation methods that equitably integrate local communities in multi-pronged conservation solutions. I value coalition-building, listening to and incorporating multiple perspectives in conservation planning. I work with fishermen around the world, including supporting the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA), south of Kona, Hawai'i, which includes the waters and submerged lands from the shoreline to the 100-fathom depth contour. The Miloli'i community leads the regulation creation and enforcement in their "last Hawaiian fishing village". In addition, I support the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara in their continued efforts to practice local eco-friendly, sustainable fishing, sell locally caught fish in the Saturday market to our community, promote science and monitoring, and their stewardship of our coast via numerous annual beach and island clean-ups.

Over a year ago, I was asked to add my name to a joint letter about the MPA adaptive management proposals from commercial and recreational fishermen. I did so because of my relationships with many in the California fishing community. Recently, [the letter](#) was submitted to the Fish & Game Commission. Unfortunately, I had not kept up with the revisions, updates, or additions to the letter in the last 13 months and the in-depth amendments to each MPA petition. The letter contains recommendations that I am unable to endorse due to my expertise as a marine scientist. I need to retract my signature from that letter and clarify my position.

Clarifying my current perspectives on the MPA petitions:

- I submitted a letter in November 2023 endorsing Petition 2023-33MPA, and I am a supporter of protecting California’s kelp forests because they provide invaluable ecological and environmental benefits. These dynamic and biodiverse ecosystems serve as critical nurseries for a wide variety of marine species, providing shelter and food for numerous fish, invertebrates, and marine mammals. Healthy kelp forests support thriving commercial and recreational fisheries and can help dampen the impacts of coastal erosion and storm impacts. With the declines in kelp forest cover across the Pacific West Coast, including California, from natural and human-induced factors, MPAs are a critical tool for supplying the population of recruits and supporting the resilience of kelp ecosystems in the face of these stressors.
- To achieve the stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health, I encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected as defined by The MPA Guide,¹ especially in places where weaker or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. An example of what I support are the clarifications on Kashtayit regulation language and Campus Point SMCA color coding (Petition 2023-18MPA).
- I support strengthening the MPA network through the addition of new MPAs where they would protect critical habitat and advance Tribal co-stewardship. To that end, I endorse Petition 2023-28MPA designating Point Sal SMCA, which provides an opportunity to strengthen protections within the CHNMS and offers a pathway for meaningful co-stewardship between the state and NCTC. In addition, I support Petition 2023-29MPA designating Mishopshno SMCA, which would protect a special place culturally and ecologically, and similarly offer a pathway for meaningful co-stewardship between the state, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and potentially other Tribes. I appreciate that the petitioners were responsive to feedback from the local community, including recreational and commercial fishers, cutting the size of the proposal in half.
- Finally, I do not support weakening MPA protections off the California coast in any capacity. For example, to open recreational fishing opportunities to non-Base fishers, Petition 2023-18MPA would create a narrow alongshore State Marine Conservation Area within the existing SMR that would allow all people to fish for finfish by hook and line. This change would weaken the MPA network by officially downgrading the protections within the state's largest fully protected MPA. Instead, I support the state ensuring current Vandenberg SMR restrictions are enforced and applied to Base personnel and dependents, so that it is not only non-military community members who must comply.

California’s MPA network is imperative for maintaining healthy ocean habitats, biodiversity along the California coast, and ecosystem resilience. Management of MPAs can also honor numerous knowledge systems - commercial fishers, recreational fishers, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and Western scientific knowledge systems. The adaptive management process offers a pathway to improve, and build on the successes of our globally-recognized MPA network.

¹ Grorud-Colvert, Kirsten, Jenna Sullivan-Stack, Callum Roberts, et al. 2021. “The MPA Guide: A Framework to Achieve Global Goals for the Ocean.” *Science*, ahead of print, September 10. World. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0861>.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify my position. I appreciate your leadership and your commitment to a healthy and vibrant ocean for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn A. Murray', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Dawn A. Murray
Professor Environmental Studies, Antioch University
Lecturer Environmental Studies Department, UC Santa Barbara

Hello FGC,

Our names are Ryder and Fisher Devoe. We live in both San Diego and Ventura and have been on the water around both areas participating recreationally and part-time commercially over the last 20 years in hook-and-line and free dive fisheries.

Our comment concerns the following MPA Petitions:

Petition 2023-34MPA: No Support

Petition 34 calls to close or further restrict two areas access to pelagic finfish. It is well known these species are less affected by MPAs and they should still be able to be targeted. We have areas that allow this all over the coast so calling these two areas "special" and have enforcement concerns justifying their closure is just an excuse to take more away. If enforcement does ok with all the limited take areas as they say, then there is nothing to be worried about.

Petition 2023-33MPA: No Support

Petition 33 claims by expanding MPAs and closing down fishing access we will help regrow the kelp forests. How does fishing affect kelp growth in any way? Kelp growth and kelp breaking off is totally driven swell and water temperature. If you have no swell and water in the 60s kelp will thrive, but you get a major swell and water into the low 70s kelp will all break off its anchors and float away. Plain and simple, fishing does not affect kelp. Additionally, MPAs are made for biodiversity and ecosystems, they are not for kelp rebuilding, we have other projects for that. There appears to be several articles already out about the issues specifically with his petitions and those similar to it concerning kelp or eelgrass (petitions 24 and 27).

Petition 2023-29MPA: No Support

Carpinteria reef is literally the only remaining coast reef remaining outside of MPAs between Point Conception and Point Mugu. Closing this area would effectively stop all calico bass fishing on the coast which is mainly catch and release. The petition claims the nearest MPAs are over 63 nautical miles apart (72 miles) which exceeds the 62-mile limit. Simply measuring the distance on maps shows the nearest MPAs, Campus Point and Pt. Dume are 61 miles apart and fall within the limit. This basic measurement displays the truth of this proposal, it's simply trying to take more away on top of what already was over 10 years ago. The petition also claims to be helping the White Sharks, we have already protected white sharks, and a great white will not be affected at all by a box as small as the proposal suggests due to how vast of an area they cover. Pelagic species are not affected by MPAs, especially Great Whites that travel so much.

Petition 2023-24MPA: No Support

This petition is essentially another version of petition 33 trying to close more area for kelp forests that fishing has no effect on. The surrounding area is already saturated with MPAs in the local 4 MPA cluster, this expansion would just close even more off locally. The same

counter arguments for this petition apply from petition 33. Any argument for better enforcement for city limits is incorrect as city officials do not police the MPAs state wardens do and they are bound to no cities.

Petition2023-15MPA: Support

We fully support this proposed change. Participating on a smaller vessel in the swordfish fishery this petition really matters to us. The Channel Islands are significantly oversaturated with no-take areas that extend further offshore than anywhere else in the state. Pelagic fish or highly migratory species do not have the same effect on them or the surrounding area that local species do. The apparent Master Plan highlights this and calls to have areas open to these pelagic species but we do not see them anywhere relevant around the islands. The Channel Islands MPAs came before the rest of the network so it is understandable we were over cautious and implemented so many no-take areas but now that we know and have so many pelagic allowed area elsewhere, we need to update the Channel Islands to what we see in the rest of the state, a reasonable model where no-take areas are balanced with some pelagic allowed areas where they can be targeted offshore.

Petition2023-14MPA: Support

If we are trying to rebuild kelp anywhere this petition is a great starting point. Besides water temperature and swell, urchins contribute the most to wiping out entire forests of kelp. Allowing urchin access in there areas where it is restricted is a clear step in helping to mitigate the spread or sea urchins and the allow kelp the chance to grow inside these areas again where otherwise urchins would continue to eat all of it.

Thank you,

Ryder Devoe and Fisher Devoe

SAC Letter to FGC Ref Agenda Item 2, April 15, 2026

From K Fran [REDACTED]
Date Mon 03/30/2026 05:49 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Hi Melissa,

I hope all is well. I am sure you are all working very hard.

Please find attached a letter from SAC to the FGC for the next meeting. I plan to be there in person.

Best wishes,

Ken

Ken Franke

President

Sportfishing Association of California

5060 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 165 | San Diego, CA, 92106
(619) 760-4031 | www.californiasportfishing.org





5060 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 165
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 760-4031

March 28, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC)
From: Sportfishing Association of California
Subject: Bin 2 Non-Tribal Petition analysis by the CDFW

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) is an organization whose membership includes commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) based throughout the coastal ports of California. We provide public access to over one million visitors annually for fishing, whale watching and ocean charters.

The MPA network was developed after an extensive and often extremely stressful process. Recreational anglers and related vessel service providers had to adapt to the loss of access to approximately fifty percent of their traditional fishing areas.

That was then. Now everyone has adapted to the framework after what was a painful time. It is proving to be resilient. Trust has been built as recreational anglers and vessels from the CPFV sector have been involved in the study of the MPA network.

SAC appreciates and complements the analyses of the non-tribal bin 2 2023 MPA petitions submitted in response to the Decadal Management Review recognizing the adaptive management component of the Marine Life Protection Act.

In 2023 the “draft evaluation framework (Draft Framework) was developed for the 15 Bin 2 Petitions that propose changes to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network that were received by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) and referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2023. CDFW developed the Draft Framework, with support from staff at the CFGC and Ocean Protection Council (OPC), based on the adaptive management process outlined in chapter 4 of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs. The 2016 Master Plan directs CDFW and CFGC to use the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals and mandates, MPA objectives, and design considerations as the primary basis for any action taken to make changes to the MPA Network. The Draft Framework also draws from the Decadal Management Review (DMR) and recommendations, and the MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework approved by CFGC at their August 2023 meeting, which is rooted in the DMR recommendation cornerstones of MPA Governance, MPA Management Program Activities, and MPA Network Performance.” (Evaluation Framework for 2023 Marine Protected Area Bin 2 Petitions at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=232901&inline>).

Within this framework there were 18 approved target questions, 3 of which contained follow-on components which brought the total to 21. The CDFW has diligently provided a question-by-question analysis for each proposed action within each of the 10 non-tribal bin 2 proposals. A simplified 3-column table provides a brief summary of the results of these analyses along with a concise recommendation for each action.

We appreciate and complement the Department on their having held these 21 goalposts firm in their analyses, supporting these primary objectives.

- The proposed change is consistent with the goals of the MPA, as identified in the MLPA Initiative planning process, and may help further advance these goals.
- The proposed change improves the overall design of the MPA.
- The proposed change aligns with the original intent of the MPA.
- The proposed change advances management of the MPA Network.

We support the Department's work product and recommendations. We find that the Department has exhaustively researched and cited the components of the MLPAl process which illuminate the choices and considerations within that process and used that information to guide their analyses and recommendations.

Below we provide our recommendations to the Commission for those non-tribal petitions that would have important impacts to our fleet. We consider the implications of the proposed actions that have the greatest potential to impact our ability to provide public access to the state's rich and sustainably managed marine resources, our continued economic vitality and the overall continued sustainable management of our fisheries.

Petition 2023-23MPA

This petition proposes to reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries

Deny all proposed new restrictions to take and seaward boundary expansions in concurrence with the CDFW recommendations

The CDFW notes the following: "The petitioner asserts that current regulations cause confusion and that there has been an increase in non-compliance relative to other Marin County MPAs. These claims are unsubstantiated by CDFW enforcement data. The proposed change would not result in additional regulatory protection for the rocky intertidal habitat that the current MPA was designed to protect, and it would unnecessarily eliminate established uses previously vetted during the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative planning process."

Member vessel owners and operators with the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association (GGFA a SAC affiliate member) note "Our member vessels provide access to California's public fisheries for thousands of residents and visitors each year, many of whom would otherwise have no opportunity to fish due to economic, physical, or geographic limitations. Any expansion of the Duxbury Reef MPA would further restrict access to these public trust resources and disproportionately impact underprivileged and local community members who rely on affordable and equitable access to the ocean...Further closures in areas like Duxbury Reef remove historically important fishing grounds without sufficient consideration of social, economic, and access-related impacts."

GGFA members provided this broader comment on proposals that expand the area that the public is excluded from fishing. "We are concerned that continued MPA expansion without demonstrable conservation necessity shifts the burden of protection onto working families, small businesses, and underserved communities, while failing to acknowledge the conservation

success already achieved through existing regulations. Limiting access does not equate to equity, nor does it automatically result in improved resource outcomes.”

The SAC as a whole concurs with these SAC members’ perspective.

The GGFA respects the CDFW’s support for extending the intertidal invertebrate protections within this proposal “Grant in concept.” This would allow the public’s continued access to fish from shore. Most of our clients participate in surf fishing as well. Many if not most were first introduced to the rewards and the personal gratification that comes from harvesting one’s own foods from the wild by it.

Petition 2023-24 proposal to expand the spatial extent of the prohibition of public access for fishing off the City of Laguna Beach.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

The Department found that the proposal does not “address a current or emerging MPA management challenge or align with the original intent of these MPAs as established during the MLPA Initiative planning process.” They found that the proposed action would not further the proposer’s stated objectives within their petition – ease of enforcement, kelp protection, whale entanglement risk.

We concur. We also note that the proposer’s purpose appeared contrary to providing equitable access to a public trust resource for underserved communities (fishing within the state’s submerged lands).

Rather, the intent appears to be an effort to further the relative exclusion of the public from the shorelines and coastal waters offshore of the economically exclusive community of Laguna Beach.

Our fleet out of Dana Point Harbor regularly takes the public to fish in the waters proposed for closure, a 1.3-mile stretch of some of the most scenic coastline in the state. The loss of access to fish these waters would halve the beautiful near-coastal fishing area north of Dana Point Harbor, where rocky headlands and deep secluded coves predominate.

A roughly 2.5-mile stretch immediately up-coast of the Dana Point Harbor, it is precisely these coves and headlands where the charter fleet out of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching takes organized groups of underserved youth, disabled veterans and others that are on limited time schedules or mobility challenged to experience recreational fishing in beautiful and inspiring surroundings.

Petition 2023-27 MPA-AM1 – new restrictions on anchoring within the existing Anacapa Island SMR/SMCA complex.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

There is little evidence that the current allowance of anchoring in these waters is having an enduring negative impact on seagrass beds in this area. Seagrass in the area is predominantly *Zostera Marina*, a resilient flowering plant that propagates predominantly through sub-benthic rhizomes lying buried beneath the seafloor in soft bottom substrates.

Its appearance and density above the bottom varies seasonally and season to season. Primary influences on its abundance are lighting (water clarity and depth), appropriate substrate,

surge and current strength. The impact of anchoring, should it happen to be within an area colonized by *Zostera*, is minimal and temporary. Current levels of anchoring in the area are relatively low and sea grass beds disturbed quickly recover.

Members of our fleet do fish within this SMCA and appreciate the access to coastal pelagic species there. Anchoring is part of that activity and this proposal leaves open the potential for an anchoring prohibition that would adversely impact that fishing opportunity for the public.

Petition 2023-33MPA

This petition proposes the following MPA expansions and new MPAs

- i. Cabrillo SMR - expand westward and northward by 15.2 sq mi ~9.9 sq mi**
- ii. Point Dume SMCA - expand westward by 4.6 sq mi**
- iii. South Point SMR - expand westward by 26.3 sq mi**
- iv. Gull Island SMR - expand northward by 1.8 sq mi**
- v. Point Conception SMR - expand eastward by 14.6 sq mi**
- vi. Natural Bridges SMR - expand southward by 13.7 sq mi, eastward to the edge of Natural Bridges State Beach by ~14.5 sq mi**
- vii. Pleasure Point, Santa Cruz - designate 3.2 sq mi as a new State Marine Reserve Conservation Area**

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

This petition is a bold “land grab” which proposes to turn vast areas of prime, valued rocky reef habitat, especially in waters of less than 100 meters, into marine parks that ban fishing. This habitat type is already over-represented within our MPA network as compared to its natural occurrence in state waters. These proposed actions are completely out of line with the guidance provided for adaptive management measures to be considered by the Commission, which offered that this would not be MLPA-2.

To date our award winning MPA network has shown that a larger biomass-per-area of the species that fisheries target has developed within our MPAs. This state-wide result is driven by differences observed in the southern regions.

What has not been observed within the scientific monitoring effort was a difference in fish diversity, or ecosystem resistance to change (due to the recent marine heat wave). While these kinds of benefits have been observed globally that they were not here indicates two things.

The first is if there are differences in ecosystem resilience or species diversity between waters inside and outside of MPAs in California, the scale of the difference is likely to be small.

The second is quite revealing and illuminates that the existing robust fisheries management and environmental protections are already protecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience at a very high level statewide. What’s missing is only robust protections from future industrialization. However, this is something that is provided for within the National Marine Sanctuary waters.

The petitioners proposed actions would exclude fishing from vast areas of rocky bottom habitat in waters less than 100 meters. It is precisely this habitat type that our captains most depend on to provide successful fishing for our customers.

While the proposed actions are state-wide in nature, they disproportionately cost public access from Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz harbors. In areas closed to fishing the lost fishing access has so far not been compensated for by additional public participation based on an area being closed to fishing. Fishing participation transcends physical ability, socioeconomic strata, educational levels, cultural backgrounds, creeds and colors in ways SCUBA diving and underwater photography participation commonly does not.

Petition 2023-34MPA

Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

Within their analysis the Department notes the extensive deliberations by the various stakeholders during the 2-year Southern Region MLPAL Regional Stakeholder Group process. The take allowances at the Farnsworth MPA cluster were carefully considered and vetted, resulting in the current configuration and take allowances.

These take allowances provide important public access to mobile species which largely do not benefit from spatially based protections. At the same time the cluster provides spatially based protections for demersal, sessile and resident species including *Stylaster* hydrocoral, at scale.

The Farnsworth Bank is very important to our Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor based partyboats' access to target squid, bonito, yellowtail, white sea bass and other species. The regionally famous "Farnsworth mossback yellows" are fish of legend – difficult to land once hooked but a true prize and badge of honor if successful.

The Department's analysis of these proposed actions (2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34_3) provide "...further reductions to the fishing grounds and restricting take to spearfishing only would impose socioeconomic costs without clear ecological benefit. From an MPA Network design perspective, the Farnsworth SMCAs fulfill their intended role as partial-take MPAs with a High LOP..."

The Farnsworth is a site where avid anglers desire to fish big-game -- where the challenge is elevated but so is the potential reward.

Petition 2023-29MPA, and absent CDFW recommendations,

DENY (based on the following)

Petitioners propose the establishment of a new State Marine Conservation Area off the coast of Carpinteria. This proposal is redundant, scientifically unsupported, reduces public access to all but the documented members of the Federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash. It creates an undue burden on a region already heavily impacted MPA fisheries closures.

Tribal Stewardship and Co-Management

We continue to support California's commitment to tribal sovereignty and co-management of native resources. However, we emphasize that tribal stewardship does not require the creation of new MPAs.

Tribal stewardship is currently a component of the MPA framework under the MLPA Master Plan. There are four MPA's allowing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exclusive fishing access at Anacapa SMCA, Naples Reef SMCA, Point Dume SMCA, and Kashtayit SMCA. Tribal exemptions allow traditional and ceremonial take. These examples demonstrate that the state can honor its commitment to tribal sovereignty and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by modifying current regulations without closing additional area to public access for fishing. This was most recently done at the August 22, 2018 FGC meeting.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash previously submitted a petition for Tribal Take within several existing MPA's. In 2018, after a full analysis, the FGC approved their petition. ([FGC Decision Document 08-22-2018](#)) The new petition 2023-29MPA is exclusionary in nature. The area they propose is currently open and accessible to the public and all tribal members regardless of federal recognition. If implemented this new closure would exclude access for all others, including descendants of local Chumash who also have ancestral ties to these waters but are not registered members of the Santa Ynez Band. True collaborative co-management should be explored across California's entire MPA network to ensure equitable access for all tribal members. We encourage you to prioritize collaborative management at these existing sites. Additional closures which eliminate access for non-federally recognized tribes and the public are not needed, nor appropriate.

Scientific Rationale for Denial

The scientific justifications provided in the petition are fundamentally flawed:

Connectivity: The petition argues for a new MPA to fill a gap in the network. However, official measurements show the spacing between existing MPAs at Campus Point and Point Dume is 60.60 miles, which falls within the state's recommended 31–62 mile spacing guideline, making a new designation unnecessary.

Species-Specific Protection: The petition focuses heavily on protecting juvenile white shark nurseries. The Fish and Game Commission established clear precedent in 2020 when it denied a nearly identical petition for this exact location, stating that MPAs are intended to protect entire ecosystems, not individual, highly mobile species like sharks.

The petitioner proposes allowing shore-based finfish take, which reduces the area's Level of Protection to moderate-low. Under the MLPAL SAT guidance this LOP would not support MPA connectivity goal.

Disproportionate Regional Impact

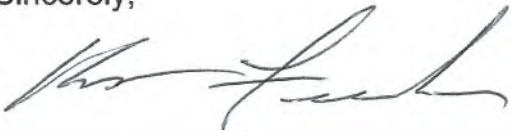
The Santa Barbara Channel is already one of the most protected regions in California With 19 MPA's. Currently, 21% of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary waters in this area are protected, significantly exceeding the state average of 16%. Furthermore, 96.41% of the Channel Islands MPA network is designated as no-take, compared to a 60% average for the

rest of the state. Closing Carpinteria would further marginalize local recreational fishermen who have already seen their traditional grounds significantly reduced.

Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the proposed MPA, is one of relatively few reef areas close to harbor for fishing. Approving this petition will be the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs. It will totally exclude opportunity for those who cannot afford or safely travel across to the Channel Islands such as skiffs, kayak fishermen and freedivers. The reefs in the protected waters of the proposed MPA are where charter boats take first timers, trips with special needs children, and our wounded warriors due to close proximity to the harbor, generally protected area from weather, and the variety of fish habitat in this zone. There is also an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition due to a lack of meaningful local outreach. The Carpinteria reef area is vital to the local community, economy, local charter businesses, and tourism. Closing this area to fishing would ignore carefully negotiated outcome for this region during the MLPAL process. It would greatly reduce access for all non-Santa Ynez Band Chumash tribal people as well as create regulatory conflicts in the planned decommissioning of oil infrastructure in the area. We respectfully urge you to deny Petition 2023-29MPA---

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts of the scientists, regulators and staff from CDFW and the CFGC for their extraordinary effort to review and communicate with the community on this important topic. We strongly feel working together we can continue to strengthen the network through research, monitoring and targeting water quality issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Franke', written in a cursive style.

Ken Franke
President

Agenda item 2 FGC April 15, MPA Bin 2 Petitions

From Jaime Diamond <info@stardustsportfishing.com>

Date Mon 03/30/2026 08:18 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Clarifying my attached letter is for agenda item 2 4/15/26

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 8:14 PM Jaime Diamond <info@stardustsportfishing.com> wrote:

Please confirm receipt of my attached comments.

--

Jaime Diamond

--

Jaime Diamond
Stardust/Coral Sea

Owner

805-259-6775

www.StardustSportfishing.com



March 28, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission

From: Stardust Sportfishing and Santa Barbara Landing

Subject: Bin 2 Petition Analysis

Dear Chair Sklar and Commissioners,

Stardust Sportfishing and Santa Barbara Landing offers sportfishing trips, whale watching, guided Channel Islands kayaking and SCUBA adventures, SCUBA instruction, kayak & jet ski rentals, fishing clinics, and a bait and tackle store located in the Santa Barbara Harbor. We are the main provider of ocean access (both consumptive and non-consumptive) to the public from Santa Barbara. Stardust Sportfishing is owned by husband and wife team Captain Jason and Jaime Diamond. We are board members of The Sportfishing Association of California, and Jaime serves as Regional Vice President of SAC.

The MPA network was developed after an extensive and traumatic process, Captain Jason was part of the regional stakeholder group for the Santa Barbara area. Recreational anglers and charter operators had to adapt to the loss of access to approximately fifty percent of our traditional fishing areas. Unfortunately, some were not able to and went out of business.

Today, we have adapted to the framework, trust has been built as recreational anglers and vessels from the CPFV sector including our vessels Stardust & Coral Sea, have been involved in the study of the MPA network. We believed what we were told, it would never happen again, that was it. Unfortunately, now, we find ourselves far down the path of MPA 2.0, despite a list of 27 adaptive management recommendations from the MPA Decadal Management Review, which would or could have offered meaningful change to improve and strengthen the network vs blanket expansions. The sportfishing industry did not submit petitions to remove any MPA's, because we respect the work that has been done, and the protections as they are.

We applaud the CDFW analyses of the non-tribal bin 2 2023 MPA petitions submitted in response to the Decadal Management Review recognizing the adaptive management component of the Marine Life Protection Act.

In 2023 the "draft evaluation framework (Draft Framework) was developed for the 15 Bin 2 Petitions that propose changes to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network that were received by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) and referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2023. CDFW developed the Draft Framework, with support from staff at the CFGC and Ocean Protection Council (OPC), based on the adaptive management process outlined in chapter 4 of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs. The 2016 Master Plan directs CDFW and CFGC to use the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals and mandates, MPA objectives, and design considerations as the primary basis for any action taken to make

changes to the MPA Network. The Draft Framework also draws from the Decadal Management Review (DMR) and recommendations, and the MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework approved by CFGC at their August 2023 meeting, which is rooted in the DMR recommendation cornerstones of MPA Governance, MPA Management Program Activities, and MPA Network Performance.” (Evaluation Framework for 2023 Marine Protected Area Bin 2 Petitions at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=232901&inline>).

We support the Department’s work product and recommendations and believe the Department has exhaustively researched and cited the components of the MLPAL process which illuminate the choices and considerations to guide their analyses and recommendations.

We offer our recommendations to the Commission for 1 tribal petition and 5 non-tribal petitions that would have a detrimental impact on our own business and the broader sportfishing community. We review the implications of the proposed actions with the greatest potential impact on our ability to provide public access to the state’s rich and sustainably managed marine resources, our continued economic vitality, and the overall continued sustainable management of our fisheries.

Petition 2023-29MPA, and absent CDFW recommendations,

DENY based on the following:

Petitioners propose the establishment of a new State Marine Conservation Area off the coast of Carpinteria. This proposal is redundant, scientifically unsupported, reduces public access to all but the documented members of the Federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash. It creates an undue burden on a region already heavily impacted MPA fisheries closures.

Tribal Stewardship and Co-Management

We continue to support California’s commitment to tribal sovereignty and co-management of native resources. However, we emphasize that tribal stewardship does not require the creation of new MPAs.

Tribal stewardship is currently a component of the MPA framework under the MLPAL Master Plan. There are four MPA’s allowing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exclusive fishing access at Anacapa SMCA, Naples Reef SMCA, Point Dume SMCA, and Kashtayit SMCA. Tribal exemptions allow traditional and ceremonial take. These examples demonstrate that the state can honor its commitment to tribal sovereignty and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by modifying current regulations without closing additional area to public access for fishing. This was most recently done at the August 22, 2018, FGC meeting.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash previously submitted a petition for Tribal Take within several existing MPA’s. In 2018, after a full analysis, the FGC approved their petition. ([FGC Decision Document](#) 08-22-2018) The new petition 2023-29MPA is exclusionary in nature. The area they propose is currently open and accessible to the public and all tribal members regardless of federal recognition. If implemented this new closure would exclude access for all others, including descendants of local Chumash who also have ancestral ties to these waters but are not registered members of the Santa Ynez Band. True collaborative co-management should be explored across California’s entire MPA network to ensure equitable access for all tribal

members. We encourage you to prioritize collaborative management at these existing sites. Additional closures which eliminate access for non-federally recognized tribes and the public are not needed, nor appropriate.

Scientific Rationale for Denial

The scientific justifications provided in the petition are fundamentally flawed:

Connectivity: The petition argues for a new MPA to fill a gap in the network. However, official measurements show the spacing between existing MPAs at Campus Point and Point Dume is 60.60 miles, which falls within the state's recommended 31–62 mile spacing guideline, making a new designation unnecessary.

Species-Specific Protection: The petition focuses heavily on protecting juvenile white shark nurseries. The Fish and Game Commission established clear precedent in 2020 when it denied a nearly identical petition for this exact location, stating that MPAs are intended to protect entire ecosystems, not individual highly mobile species like sharks.

The petitioner proposes allowing shore-based finfish take, which reduces the area's Level of Protection to moderate-low. Under the MLPAL SAT guidance this LOP would not support MPA connectivity goal.

Disproportionate Regional Impact

The Santa Barbara Channel is already one of the most protected regions in California with 19 MPA's. Currently, 21% of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary waters in this area are protected, significantly exceeding the state average of 16%. Furthermore, 96.41% of the Channel Islands MPA network is designated as no-take, compared to a 60% average for the rest of the state. Closing Carpinteria would further marginalize local recreational fishermen who have already seen their traditional grounds significantly reduced.

Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the proposed MPA, is one of relatively few reef areas close to harbor for fishing. Approving this petition will be the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs. It will totally exclude opportunity for those who cannot afford or safely travel across to the Channel Islands such as skiffs, kayak fishermen and freedivers. The reefs in the protected waters of the proposed MPA are where charter boats take first timers, trips with special needs children, and our wounded warriors due to close proximity to the harbor, generally protected area from weather, and the variety of fish habitat in this zone. There is also an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition due to a lack of meaningful local outreach. The Carpinteria reef area is vital to the local community, economy, local charter businesses, and tourism. Closing this area to fishing would ignore carefully negotiated outcome for this region during the MLPAL process. It would greatly reduce access for all non-Santa Ynez Band Chumash tribal people as well as create regulatory conflicts in the planned decommissioning of oil infrastructure in the area. We respectfully urge you to deny Petition 2023-29MPA---

Petition 2023-27MPA-AM1 – new restrictions on anchoring within the existing Anacapa Island SMR/SMCA complex.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

There is little evidence that the current allowance of anchoring in these waters is having an enduring negative impact on seagrass beds in this area. Seagrass in the area is predominantly *Zostera Marina*, a resilient flowering plant that propagates predominantly through sub-benthic rhizomes lying buried beneath the seafloor in soft bottom substrates.

Its appearance and density above the bottom vary seasonally and season to season. Primary influences on its abundance are lighting (water clarity and depth), appropriate substrate, surge and current strength. The impact of anchoring, should it happen to be within an area colonized by *Zostera*, is minimal and temporary. Current levels of anchoring in the area are relatively low and sea grass beds disturbed quickly recover.

Members of our fleet do fish within this SMCA and appreciate the access to coastal pelagic species there. Anchoring is part of that activity, and this proposal leaves open the potential for an anchoring prohibition that would adversely impact that fishing opportunity for the public.

Petition 2023-33MPA –

This petition proposes the following MPA expansions and new MPAs

- i. Cabrillo SMR - expand westward and northward by 15.2 sq mi ~9.9 sq mi**
- ii. Point Dume SMCA - expand westward by 4.6 sq mi**
- iii. South Point SMR - expand westward by 26.3 sq mi**
- iv. Gull Island SMR - expand northward by 1.8 sq mi**
- v. Point Conception SMR - expand eastward by 14.6 sq mi**
- vi. Natural Bridges SMR - expand southward by 13.7 sq mi, eastward to the edge of Natural Bridges State Beach by ~14.5 sq mi**
- vii. Pleasure Point, Santa Cruz - designate 3.2 sq mi as a new State Marine Reserve Conservation Area**

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

This petition is a bold “land grab” which proposes to turn vast areas of prime, valued rocky reef habitat, especially in waters of less than 100 meters, into marine parks that ban fishing. This habitat type is already over-represented within our MPA network as compared to its natural occurrence in state waters. These proposed actions are completely out of line with the guidance provided for adaptive management measures to be considered by the Commission, which offered that this would not be MLPA-2.

To date our award winning MPA network has shown that a larger biomass-per-area of the species that fisheries target has developed within our MPAs. This state-wide result is driven by differences observed in the southern regions.

What has not been observed within the scientific monitoring effort was a difference in fish diversity, or ecosystem resistance to change (due to the recent marine heat wave). While these kinds of benefits have been observed globally that they were not here indicate two things.

The first is if there are differences in ecosystem resilience or species diversity between waters inside and outside of MPAs in California, the scale of the difference is likely to be small.

The second is quite revealing and illuminates that the existing robust fisheries management and environmental protections are already protecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience at a very high level statewide. What's missing is only robust protection from future industrialization. However, this is something that is provided for within the National Marine Sanctuary waters.

The petitioners proposed actions would exclude fishing from vast areas of rocky bottom habitat in waters less than 100 meters. It is precisely this habitat type that our captains most depend on to provide successful fishing for our customers.

While the proposed actions are state-wide in nature, they disproportionately cost public access from Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz harbors. In areas closed to fishing the lost fishing access has so far not been compensated for by additional public participation based on an area being closed to fishing. Fishing participation transcends physical ability, socioeconomic strata, educational levels, cultural backgrounds, creeds and colors in ways SCUBA diving and underwater photography participation commonly does not.

Petition 2023-23MPA

This petition proposes to reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries

Deny all proposed new restrictions to take and seaward boundary expansions in concurrence with the CDFW recommendations

The CDFW notes the following: "The petitioner asserts that current regulations cause confusion and that there has been an increase in non-compliance relative to other Marin County MPAs. These claims are unsubstantiated by CDFW enforcement data. The proposed change would not result in additional regulatory protection for the rocky intertidal habitat that the current MPA was designed to protect, and it would unnecessarily eliminate established uses previously vetted during the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative planning process."

Member vessel owners and operators with the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association (GGFA a SAC affiliate member) note "Our member vessels provide access to California's public fisheries for thousands of residents and visitors each year, many of whom would otherwise have no opportunity to fish due to economic, physical, or geographic limitations. Any expansion of the Duxbury Reef MPA would further restrict access to these public trust resources and disproportionately impact underprivileged and local community members who rely on affordable and equitable access to the ocean...Further closures in areas like Duxbury Reef remove historically important fishing grounds without sufficient consideration of social, economic, and access-related impacts."

GGFA members provided this broader comment on proposals that expand the area that the public is excluded from fishing. "We are concerned that continued MPA expansion without demonstrable conservation necessity shifts the burden of protection onto working families, small businesses, and underserved communities, while failing to acknowledge the conservation success already achieved through existing regulations. Limiting access does not equate to equity, nor does it automatically result in improved resource outcomes."

The SAC as a whole concurs with these SAC members' perspective.

The GGFA respects the CDFW's support for extending the intertidal invertebrate protections within this proposal "Grant in concept." This would allow the public's continued access to fish from shore. Most of our clients participate in surf fishing as well. Many if not most were first introduced to the rewards and the personal gratification that comes from harvesting one's own foods from the wild by it.

Petition 2023-24 proposal to expand the spatial extent of the prohibition of public access for fishing off the City of Laguna Beach.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

The Department found that the proposal does not "address a current or emerging MPA management challenge or align with the original intent of these MPAs as established during the MLPA Initiative planning process." They found that the proposed action would not further the proposer's stated objectives within their petition – ease of enforcement, kelp protection, whale entanglement risk.

We concur. We also note that the proposer's purpose appeared contrary to providing equitable access to a public trust resource for underserved communities (fishing within the state's submerged lands).

Rather, the intent appears to be an effort to further the relative exclusion of the public from the shorelines and coastal waters offshore of the economically exclusive community of Laguna Beach.

Our fleet out of Dana Point Harbor regularly takes the public to fish in the waters proposed for closure, a 1.3-mile stretch of some of the most scenic coastline in the state. The loss of access to fish these waters would halve the beautiful near-coastal fishing area north of Dana Point Harbor, where rocky headlands and deep secluded coves predominate.

A roughly 2.5-mile stretch immediately up-coast of the Dana Point Harbor, it is precisely these coves and headlands where the charter fleet out of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching takes organized groups of underserved youth, disabled veterans and others that are on limited time schedules or mobility challenged to experience recreational fishing in beautiful and inspiring surroundings.

Petition 2023-34MPA

Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

Within their analysis the Department notes the extensive deliberations by the various stakeholders during the 2-year Southern Region MLPAl Regional Stakeholder Group process. The take allowances at the Farnsworth MPA cluster were carefully considered and vetted, resulting in the current configuration and take allowances.

These take allowances provide important public access to mobile species which largely do not benefit from spatially based protections. At the same time the cluster provides spatially based protections for demersal, sessile and resident species including Stylaster hydrocoral, at scale.

The Farnsworth Bank is very important to our Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor based party boats' access to target squid, bonito, yellowtail, white sea bass and other species. The regionally famous "Farnsworth mossback yellows" are fish of legend – difficult to land once hooked but a true prize and badge of honor if successful.

The Department's analysis of these proposed actions (2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34_3) provide "...further reductions to the fishing grounds and restricting take to spearfishing only would impose socioeconomic costs without clear ecological benefit. From an MPA Network design perspective, the Farnsworth SMCAs fulfill their intended role as partial-take MPAs with a High LOP..."

The Farnsworth is a site where avid anglers desire to fish big-game -- where the challenge is elevated but so is the potential reward.

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts of the scientists, regulators and staff from CDFW and the CFGC for their extraordinary effort to review and communicate with the community on this important topic. We strongly feel working together we can continue to strengthen the network through research, monitoring and targeting water quality issues.

Sincerely,

Jaime Diamond

Jaime Diamond

Stardust Sportfishing, Owner

Santa Barbara Landing, CEO/GM

Jason Diamond

Captain Jason Diamond

Stardust Sportfishing, Owner/Operator

Santa Barbara Landing, Partner

Marine Conservation Institute Comments on CDFW Recommendations for MPA Petitions

From Ali Rubin <ali.rubin@marine-conservation.org>

Date Tue 03/31/2026 03:02 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Marine Conservation Institute, please find attached our comments on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Evaluations and Recommendations for the ten non-Tribally-led Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions released on March 20, 2026 .

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and your continued work to advance effective marine conservation in California.

Sincerely,
Ali Rubin

Ali Rubin
Marine Conservation Scientist



ali.rubin@marine-conservation.org
marine-conservation.org





March 31, 2026

President Eric Sklar
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Submitted electronically to: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Comments from Marine Conservation Institute on petitions to amend the State's MPA network.

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

On behalf of Marine Conservation Institute, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments following the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Evaluations and Recommendations for the ten non-Tribally-led Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions released on March 20, 2026.

Marine Conservation Institute works to secure strong protection for the ocean's most important places. Through our Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas), we assess marine protected areas globally using The MPA Guide, a peer-reviewed framework that evaluates the level of protection and expected conservation outcomes of MPAs. Our work supports governments and partners, including in California, in advancing effective, science-based marine conservation and achieving 30x30 goals.

We recognize the significant effort undertaken by CDFW to evaluate these petitions based on the information available as of March 2025, and we appreciate the Department's acknowledgment that additional information may continue to inform Commission deliberations. As California works toward protecting 30% of state waters by 2030, maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the existing MPA network is essential to achieving meaningful conservation outcomes.

As part of this effort, we conducted an analysis to determine the likely biodiversity outcomes of the petitions submitted to the State using The MPA Guide framework. This approach applies a consistent, science-based method to evaluate how proposed changes would affect protection levels and conservation outcomes across California's MPA network.

We strongly support CDFW's recommendations to deny petitions that would lower protection levels within California's MPA network by allowing additional recreational or commercial take of marine life. Scientific evidence consistently demonstrates that the greatest ecological benefits such as increased biomass, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience are achieved in MPAs that are fully or highly protected from extractive activities.

We also acknowledge that localized ecological pressures, such as sea urchin overpopulation and kelp loss, may require active management. In these cases, we encourage the Commission to explore adaptive, site-specific management strategies that address these threats without reducing protection levels or opening extractive fisheries within MPAs.

In particular, we support the recommendations to deny the following petitions:

- Modify Take in 9 SMCAs to Allow Commercial Take of Sea Urchins (2023-14MPA)¹
- Reclassify Footprint, Gull Island, and Santa Barbara Island SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Take of Highly Migratory Species (2023-15MPA_AM)
- Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Commercial Salmon Trolling (2023-16MPA)
- Modify Allowed Uses at Several Santa Barbara Channel MPAs and Special Closures: Vandenberg SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, and San Miguel and Anacapa Special Closures (2023-18MPA)

1: With the exception of the Point Vicente no-take SMCA, petition 2023-14MPA does not lower the Highly Protected status of the named MPAs per our MPA Guide analysis, and may provide ecological benefits through the restoration effort of urchin culling. However, while ecosystem restoration and conservation may be complementary, they are non-substitutable actions where priority should be given to preventing the degradation of intact ecosystems.

These petitions propose changes that would reduce the level of protection in areas that currently contribute to the ecological performance of California's MPA network. Downgrading protections risks undermining biodiversity gains, weakening ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, and compromising California's leadership in marine conservation.

To advance the state's goal of protecting 30% of nature by 2030, we do believe that the following proposals will modestly strengthen the network and urge the commission to support them:

- Designate new MPA as Chitqawi SMCA (2023-19MPA)
- Redesignate Point Buchon SMCA as Chumash SMCA to support tribal co-management and take provisions; extend northern boundary of Point Buchon SMR (2023-20MPA)
- Multiple changes to Pyramid Point SMCA (2023-21MPA)
- Reclassify all or part of Anacapa Island SMR (2023-27MPA)
- Designate new MPA as Point Sal SMR (2023-28MPA)
- Add new MPA as Mishopshno SMCA near Carpinteria (2023-29MPA)
- Reclassify and expand Duxbury Reef SMCA (2023-32MPA)
- Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA and modify regulations in Farnsworth MPAs (2023-34MPA)

California's MPA network is widely recognized as a global model for science-based ocean protection. Maintaining strong protections within this network is critical not only for achieving the State's 30x30 commitments, but also for ensuring long-term conservation benefits for marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

We respectfully urge the Commission to uphold CDFW's recommendations to deny these petitions and to continue advancing policies that strengthen, rather than diminish, the effectiveness of California's MPA network.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lance E. Morgan, President

Nikki Harasta, Marine Conservation Scientist I

Alexandra Rubin, Marine Conservation Scientist I



GOLDEN GATE FISHERMANS ASSOCIATION

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association (GGFA), I write to express our strong opposition to proposed Tribal Marine Protected Area (MPA) expansions and additional fishing restrictions in the Morro Bay region, specifically Tribal MPA Petition 2023-19 (proposing a new MPA near Morro Bay), 2023-28MPA-AM (proposing a new MPA near Point Sal), and 2023-34MPA (proposing the reclassification of Point Buchon SMCA and modification of regulations within the Farnsworth MPA).

The Golden Gate Fishermen's Association represents the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) fleet from Morro Bay to the Oregon–California border. Our members rely on access to California's coastal waters to sustainably harvest species such as rockfish, salmon, halibut, and Dungeness crab. Any further reduction in available fishing grounds directly impacts the ability of our fleet to operate and remain economically viable.

While we respect the importance of cultural resources and recognize the role that Tribal communities play in the stewardship of marine ecosystems, we are deeply concerned that additional MPA designations or regulatory changes—particularly in already constrained areas like Morro Bay and along the Central Coast—will further limit access to critical fishing grounds. Over the past several years, our fleet has already endured significant regulatory restrictions, seasonal closures, and shifting management measures across multiple fisheries.

At a time when many of our members are still recovering from consecutive salmon closures and increasingly restrictive groundfish regulations, the addition of new spatial closures or further regulatory modifications will only compound the challenges facing our fleet. The proposals identified in Petition 2023-19, 2023-28MPA-AM, and 2023-34MPA represent not just isolated actions, but part of a broader trend of increasing spatial and regulatory constraints that collectively reduce viable fishing opportunities.

Each loss of fishing access reduces opportunity, increases pressure on remaining open areas, and threatens the long-term sustainability of small businesses that depend on these fisheries.

These proposed actions risk setting a precedent for continued expansion of restrictions without fully accounting for cumulative impacts to the fishing industry.

The impacts extend far beyond the vessels themselves. Harbors, fuel docks, tackle shops, processors, restaurants, and coastal tourism economies all rely on a functioning and accessible fishing fleet. When access is restricted, the economic ripple effect is felt throughout entire coastal communities.

GGFA strongly believes that any new management measures should prioritize balanced, science-based approaches that consider both conservation goals and the socioeconomic realities of working waterfronts. We urge the Commission to carefully evaluate the cumulative impacts of Petition 2023-19, 2023-28MPA-AM, and 2023-34MPA, and to avoid further restricting access to already limited fishing grounds.

We respectfully request that the Commission oppose or reconsider these proposed Tribal MPA expansions and regulatory changes in the Morro Bay, Point Sal, and Point Buchon regions that would further limit fishing access.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns, and for your continued work on behalf of California's marine resources and coastal communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Rescino
President
Golden Gate Fishermen's Association

California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s
Evaluation of 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine
Protected Area Petition:
**Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable
Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational
Spearfishing (2023-34MPA)**



I. PETITION SUMMARY

CFGC Tracking Number	2023-34MPA
Petition Contact/Affiliation	Laura Deehan, Environmental California Research and Policy Center and Azul
Number of Proposed Actions	3
Affected MPAs	Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), Farnsworth Onshore SMCA, Farnsworth Offshore SMCA
Petition Summary	Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA as a State Marine Reserve (SMR) and modify allowed uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs.
Link to StoryMap page	2023-34MPA



II. CDFW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND BRIEF JUSTIFICATION

Note: If a change to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) regulations is not needed to address the proposed change, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) did not evaluate the proposed change using the framework. However, CDFW may recommend an alternative pathway to achieving the desired outcome of the proposed change.

Petition Action ID and Proposed Action	Petitioner’s Stated Rationale and Brief Justification for Proposed Actions	CDFW Draft Recommendation and Brief Justification
<p>2023-34MPA_1 Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to SMR to prohibit take.</p>	<p>The petitioner’s stated intent for the proposed change is that compliance with Point Buchon SMCA/SMR regulations is very low and the current level of protection does not provide sufficient benefits. Change of classification will increase compliance and level of protection.</p>	<p>Deny. The proposed reclassification of Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR would not improve MPA design or function within the Network and would create unnecessary socioeconomic impacts. Scientific review shows that additional No-take protections would not increase habitat representation, ecological function, or connectivity beyond what the existing SMR/SMCA cluster already provides. Compliance concerns raised in the proposal are not supported by enforcement data, which indicate generally low citation levels and improving trends. Maintaining recreational and commercial salmon and albacore fishing aligns with the original design intent of the SMCA and balances conservation with community needs.</p>

CDFW DRAFT EVALUATION 2023-34MPA Deehan

<p align="center">Petition Action ID and Proposed Action</p>	<p align="center">Petitioner’s Stated Rationale and Brief Justification for Proposed Actions</p>	<p align="center">CDFW Draft Recommendation and Brief Justification</p>
<p>2023-34MPA_2 Change regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within Farnsworth Onshore SMCA boundaries.</p>	<p>The petitioner’s stated intent for the proposed change is that allowed take in the SMCA creates confusion and causes violations, and the current level of protection does not provide sufficient benefits. Change of regulations will increase compliance and level of protection.</p>	<p>Deny. Available information does not demonstrate that the proposed change to further restrict allowed gear types in the affected MPA would produce measurable ecological benefits to benthic species or the Network beyond current conditions. Concerns raised regarding illegal fishing are primarily related to enforcement challenges rather than regulatory confusion and are better addressed through non-regulatory measures. Longterm MPA monitoring data do not indicate declines in key protected resources, such as California hydrocoral. Implementing the proposed change would be inconsistent with the original intent of the MPAs, unlikely to advance MLPA Goals, and would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fisheries.</p>
<p>2023-34MPA_3 Change regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within Farnsworth Offshore SMCA boundaries.</p>	<p>See 2023-34MPA_2.</p>	<p>Deny. See 2023-34MPA_2.</p>

III. BIN 2 PETITION GROUPING: IDENTIFY TRIBALLY-LED PETITIONS

The 2023 MPA Petition Companion Document (Attachment 1) includes a summary of the process for identifying Tribally-led petitions, CDFW’s outreach to all California Native American tribes¹ (tribes) throughout the petitions process, and a summary of outreach and engagement with Tribally-led petitioners. Tribally-led petitions were evaluated with the CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework.

Tribal Components Questions	Answer and Explanation
<p>Was the petition submitted by a California Native American tribe, representative designated by a tribe or tribal organization, or have a tribal co-sponsor? If yes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does the proposed change explicitly aim to advance tribal co-management, subsistence harvesting, stewardship, and/or provide a tribal benefit through recognizing the cultural significance of an area? b. Is the proposed regulatory change explicitly linked to a tribe or tribes? (i.e. tribal exemption, tribal take only MPA, or new MPA for co-management). 	<p>No, this petition was not submitted by a tribe or representative designated by a tribe and does not have a tribal co-sponsor.</p>

¹ California Native American tribe is the preferred term to use per the Governor’s Office of Tribal Affairs when generally mentioning tribes of California, both federally and non-federally recognized.

IV. PETITION EVALUATION

EVALUATION NARRATIVE AND OVERVIEW FOR 2023-34MPA_1

The petitioner has requested to reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR. The proposed change aims to address the petitioner's desire to "improve conservation outcomes for California SMCAs with compliance issues and low levels of protection." The petition cites California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) law enforcement updates and outcomes from a series of compliance forums as identifying Point Buchon as a potential hotspot of low compliance (MPACN 2020a). The petitioner asserts that the perceived compliance issues could reduce the ecological benefits this MPA would otherwise provide to the Network.

The petitioner proposes merging the existing offshore Point Buchon SMCA with the adjacent onshore Point Buchon SMR to create a single, No-take MPA. The current SMCA regulations permit recreational and commercial fishing for salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) and albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). The petitioner states redesignation to an SMR would "increase the level of protection and help to improve enforceability" due to perceived low compliance and the headlands of Point Buchon allegedly obscuring the southeast corner from view, facilitating poaching (MPACN 2020a). They also cite anticipated impacts from "growing threats related to climate change, increased human use, new ocean uses, and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind and aquaculture" as reasons for "stronger protections."

The petitioner asserts the proposed action aligns with one or more goals of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). However, CDFW's evaluation finds the proposed change:

- Is inconsistent with the goal of the MPA, as defined during the MLPA Initiative planning process,
- Does not align with the original intent of the MPA,
- Would not provide measurable benefits to the MPA Network beyond what is currently offered, and
- Would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing.

Since the onset of digital citation tracking in 2016, citations within Point Buchon SMCA were fewer than 10 citations per year until 2022, where MED issued 19 citations (Table 1), which MED attributed to reductions in rockfish bag limits implemented through emergency action for that year (CFGF 2022). While No-take MPAs are generally easier to enforce than partial take MPAs, Point Buchon SMCA balances the goals of the MLPA to provide recreational opportunities while affording a High Level of Protection (LOP). To improve compliance, MED increased enforcement, as well as education and outreach in partnership with the MPA Collaborative Network (MPACN), Ocean Protection Council, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and others at Point

CDFW DRAFT EVALUATION 2023–34MPA Deehan

Buchon SMCA. Following these efforts, citations decreased to 14 citations in 2023 and none during 2024 or 2025. In addition to outreach and education, a Community Compliance Forum cited by the petitioner also recommended enhanced monitoring tools like M2 radar systems (MPACN 2020a), which CDFW supports. Reclassifying the SMCA to an SMR was not a recommended solution during these forums and is unlikely to benefit compliance more effectively than continued enforcement and outreach and education.

Point Buchon SMCA currently supports important near-port fishing opportunities for salmon and albacore when individuals of these species are present and fishing regulations allow. Prohibiting these fisheries would disproportionately affect local fishers who rely on a limited number of offshore access points along this portion of the coast without added ecological benefit. During the Central Coast MLPA Initiative planning process, inclusion of an SMCA portion within the Point Buchon cluster was intended to minimize socioeconomic impacts by allowing recreational and commercial fishing for albacore and salmon. Due to the selectivity of the fishing gear for these species, this MPA's design also met the Science Advisory Team (SAT) criteria for a High LOP. Together with the onshore SMR, the current SMCA is a backbone MPA (i.e., habitat replicate), facilitating ecological connectivity within the Network. This design aligns with MLPA Goals by balancing ecological protection with socioeconomic considerations.

Although reclassifying Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR would increase its LOP from High to Very High, this change is not expected to enhance the design of the MPA Network, as the MPA is already serving its ecological connectivity role, and is likely to provide minimal enhanced protection to salmon and albacore. Both species are migratory and their presence in the area varies on different temporal scales (e.g., seasonally, decadal), depending on a variety of atmospheric and oceanographic factors. Given the temporary presence of these species within the MPA and that compliance with MPA regulations has improved since 2022, CDFW anticipates the proposed change would have minimal ecological benefit beyond what is currently offered.

While offshore wind development areas are in the planning phase near Point Buchon, there is currently insufficient information to support the assertion that converting this partial-take MPA to a No-take MPA would increase ecological resilience or mitigate potential impacts from future infrastructure. Similarly, CDFW acknowledges the petitioner's concerns regarding other future stressors (e.g., climate change, human use, aquaculture) on California's coastal ecosystems; however, it is unlikely that prohibiting recreational and commercial fishing of salmon and albacore in Point Buchon SMCA would be more effective at increasing the MPA's resilience to these stressors than continuing education, outreach, and enforcement to ensure compliance.

CDFW DRAFT EVALUATION 2023-34MPA Deehan

In summary, the information reviewed by CDFW indicates that compliance at Point Buchon SMCA has improved since 2022 and that the proposal to convert the SMCA to an SMR is inconsistent with the original intent of the MPA, is unlikely to measurably enhance protection beyond what is currently offered, and thus, would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing opportunities for salmon and albacore. More appropriate adaptive management measures for this MPA include continuing education, outreach, enforcement, and supporting enhanced monitoring tools like M2 radar systems.

RECOMMENDATION FOR 2023-34MPA_1

Given these considerations, and the information in the evaluation questions below, **CDFW recommends California Fish and Game Commission (CFGCC) DENY 2023-34MPA_1** proposed change to redesignate Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR.

EVALUATION NARRATIVE AND OVERVIEW FOR 2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34MPA_3

The petitioner has requested to modify take regulations for Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs. The proposed changes aim to address the petitioner's overall stated problem to "improve conservation outcomes for California SMCAs with compliance issues and low levels of protection." The petition cites CDFW law enforcement updates and outcomes from a series of compliance forums as identifying these two MPAs as potential hotspots of low compliance (MPACN 2020b). The petitioner asserts that the perceived compliance issues could cause potential negative effects on the ecological benefits these MPAs would otherwise provide to the Network.

The proposal requests to reduce the take allowance at Farnsworth Onshore and Farnsworth Offshore SMCAs to only allow recreational spearfishing. The petitioner states the two MPAs "are currently 'minimally protected'... due to the substantial number of gear types allowed and species targeted." The petitioner further states that the regulatory language of the two MPAs "is almost impossible to detect, leading to confusion about what is and isn't permitted." The petition also cites MPACN reports of alleged illegal activity by commercial passenger fishing vessels targeting groundfish at Farnsworth Offshore SMCA (MPACN 2020b). The petitioner asserts that the proposed action to allow spearfishing only would increase compliance and protection and align with one or more Goals of the MLPA. They also stated a need to better protect a highly sensitive, rare, and valuable ecosystem, specifically benthic habitats that support California hydrocoral (*Stylaster californicus*) and black (*Haliotis cracherodii*) and white (*Haliotis sorenseni*) abalone. However, given the evaluation presented below, CDFW finds the proposed change:

- Is inconsistent with the MLPA Initiative-established MPA Goals, which are still relevant today,
- Does not align with the original intent of the MPAs,

CDFW DRAFT EVALUATION 2023–34MPA Deehan

- Is unlikely to provide measurable benefits to the benthic habitat or the MPA Network beyond what is currently offered, and
- Would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing.

Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs are part of a cluster of MPAs located on the windward side of Santa Catalina Island off southern California. The primary distinction in regulations between the two Farnsworth SMCAs is the take of pelagic finfish², where the Offshore SMCA allows recreational take of pelagic finfish by hook-and-line or spearfishing, and the Onshore SMCA allows recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing only. All other recreational and commercial regulations are identical in both MPAs and include recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net; white seabass by spearfishing; and marlin, tuna and dorado by trolling. The Farnsworth SMCAs also allow commercial take of coastal pelagic species³ by round-haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon.

The petitioner's claims that the affected SMCAs are currently minimally protected are based on levels of protection defined in Grorud-Colvert et al.'s (2021) MPA Guide framework. The MPA Guide was developed to provide general guidance on MPA design and a consistent approach for categorizing and comparing MPAs at a global scale. However, the more appropriate resource for determining the LOP of California's MPAs is the MLPA Initiative regional LOPs assigned by the SAT. When designing California's MPA Network, scientists in each planning region specifically assigned each MPA an LOP that reflects region-specific fisheries, gear types, and species-habitat interactions, which were then extensively vetted through the regional stakeholder process.

During the MLPA Initiative Planning Process, the key purpose identified for the Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs was to protect the unique pinnacles, habitats, and species on and around Farnsworth Bank (MLPA 2009a). The Blue Ribbon Task Force chose an MPA design that provided a High LOP while minimizing socioeconomic impacts to the commercial squid and swordfish harpoon fisheries. This was achieved by only allowing pelagic fishing and gear types, which had been assigned a High LOP by the SAT. Thus, regulations at both Farnsworth SMCAs were specifically designed to prohibit bottom-contact fishing gear to protect benthic habitats. Having met size and spacing SAT

² Albacore, bluefin, bigeye, and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus* spp.); skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*); dorado (dolphinfish) (*Coryphaena hippurus*); striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*); thresher sharks (common, pelagic, and bigeye) (*Alopias* spp.); shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*); blue shark (*Prionace glauca*); and Pacific swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

³ northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*)

guidelines (in addition to a High LOP), these MPAs were also designed as habitat replicates to facilitate ecological connectivity within the MPA Network.

The two MPAs replaced and expanded upon a previous, smaller protected area named Farnsworth Bank SMCA, which was established in 1972 by CFGC to prevent the collection and harvest of California hydrocoral. Farnsworth Bank, a high spot in the benthic topography within the SMCA, was also designated an Area of Special Biological Significance by the State Water Resources Control Board on March 21, 1974 and is widely visited by commercial diving vessels due to its pinnacles and hydrocoral densities. During the planning process, concerns about anchor damage to hydrocoral led the Blue Ribbon Task Force to recommend that CDFW evaluate and, if feasible, install a mooring system and prohibit anchoring (MLPA 2009a); however, no mooring system has been implemented, and anchoring remains allowed.

CDFW shares the petitioner's concerns regarding alleged illegal take of groundfish, indicated by vessels within Farnsworth Offshore SMCA that relocate when MED patrol vessels approach. However, the issue appears related to enforcement logistics rather than regulatory clarity, as MED has confirmed that the site's location makes intercepting violators difficult. CDFW supports non-regulatory measures to address illegal fishing, including enhanced surveillance tools like M2 radar, expanded use of geolocation applications, targeted public outreach to reduce unintentional noncompliance, and ensuring sufficient resources for enforcement.

Anchoring by diving and fishing vessels may pose a greater risk to benthic resources than alleged illegal fishing. For example, a 1981 State Water Resources Control Board water quality monitoring report identified boat anchors and chains as the primary threat to California hydrocoral at Farnsworth Bank, with additional impacts associated with scuba divers, and recommended installation of a permanent mooring or establishment of an anchor drop zone (SWRCB 1981). Just before the Farnsworth SMCAs were established, Love et al. (2010) reported light monofilament line as the most observed form of debris during four research submersible surveys at Farnsworth Bank and nearby areas, followed by anchor gear and heavy line/cable (Love et al. 2010). At present, the extent to which anchoring or illegal fishing with bottom contact gear has affected hydrocoral within the Farnsworth SMCAs since implementation is uncertain. Long-term MPA monitoring using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) shows substantial increases across bioregions in California hydrocoral (up to 455%) following the 2013–2014 marine heatwave (Wong et al. 2026). Although Farnsworth was excluded from that analysis due to baseline data limitations, surveys as of 2021 indicate hydrocoral densities at Farnsworth were comparable to or higher than other sites surveyed during the same period (Table 2). Continued monitoring is needed to better assess and distinguish among the effects of anchoring, fishing, and other drivers on sensitive habitats within

Farnsworth Bank SMCAs, including hydrocoral populations and other benthic species. Such data could also inform the need for, and spatial extent of, a future designated anchoring drop zone or permanent mooring array.

Socioeconomic impacts to the commercial squid fleet were a key consideration in the MLPA Initiative planning process (MLPA 2009a). In the northern Channel Islands alone, about 25% of regional squid catch from 1999 to early 2003 occurred in areas later closed due to the establishment of the MPA Network (CDFW 2024). The Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs continue to be important fishing areas for the commercial squid fleet, particularly Farnsworth Onshore SMCA (Figure 1), as well as to the commercial swordfish harpoon fishery. Given the California market squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) fishery's high sustainability⁴ and the fact that these areas already function as core components of the MPA Network, further reductions to the fishing grounds and restricting take to spearfishing only would impose socioeconomic costs without clear ecological benefit. From an MPA Network design perspective, the Farnsworth SMCAs fulfill their intended role as partial-take MPAs with a High LOP, while nearby No-take MPAs (Blue Cavern Onshore No-take SMCA and Long Point SMR) provide Very High LOPs. Modifying MPA regulations at Farnsworth would therefore be unlikely to improve habitat protection, connectivity, or MPA Network performance beyond what is currently offered.

In summary, available information does not demonstrate that further restricting allowed gear types in the affected MPAs would produce measurable ecological benefits beyond current conditions. Concerns raised regarding illegal fishing are primarily related to education, outreach, and enforcement challenges rather than regulatory shortcomings and are better addressed through non-regulatory measures. Monitoring data does not indicate declines in key protected resources, such as California hydrocoral, that would justify additional fishing restrictions. Implementing the proposed change would be inconsistent with the original intent of the MPAs, unlikely to advance MLPA Goals, and would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing.

RECOMMENDATION FOR 2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34_3

Given these considerations, and the information in the evaluation questions below, **CDFW recommends CFGC DENY** both petition actions:

- **2023-34MPA_2**, Change regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within Farnsworth Onshore SMCA boundaries, and

⁴ <https://www.seafoodwatch.org/stories/california-market-squid>;
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/cwpa-california-market-squid-purse-seine/>;
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/california-market-squid/seafood>

- **2023-34MPA_3**, Change regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within Farnsworth Offshore SMCA boundaries

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

2023-34MPA_1: Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to SMR to prohibit take

QUESTION 1: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE SUPPORT THE MPA NETWORK IN MEETING ONE OR MORE OF THE MLPA GOALS AND ALIGN WITH MPA MASTER PLAN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES?

The MLPA Goals and Master Plan objectives are inextricably linked and act as the foundational tools that CDFW utilizes for effective adaptive management of the MPA Network. Individual MPAs in the Network were not necessarily designed to address all six Goals of the MLPA but instead were intended to act as an important component of a functioning Network that was designed to holistically address the MLPA Goals. As such, CDFW has evaluated this action within the broader adaptive management framework and how the proposed action may or may not align with the MLPA Goals/Master Plan objectives and advance MPA Network management. See Question 1 of Attachment 1 for the MLPA Goals and Master Plan objectives.

The petitioner asserts the proposed action aligns with MLPA Goals 1, 2, and 5 related to preserving natural diversity, sustaining marine life populations, and ensuring California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.

During the Central Coast MLPA Initiative planning process, Point Buchon SMCA was designed to protect and replicate hard and soft bottom habitat, protect benthic and forage species, protect larval sources, and minimize socio-economic impacts by allowing some recreational and commercial fishing (MLPA 2006b). This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA Network component, by linking these habitats to similar habitats in other parts of the region. This summary of objectives corresponds to Goals 2-6.

Thus, reclassification of Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR would offer no change in the design of the affected MPA in terms of Goals 2 and 5. Reclassifying Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR would meet MLPA Goal 1; however, given that compliance in this SMCA has improved since 2022 and that the presence of albacore and salmon is seasonal to decadal, the actual ecological benefit of a reclassification is anticipated to be minimal.

QUESTION 2A: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ADVANCE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DECADAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW?

No. The petitioner asserts that the proposed change would:

"...advance DMR Recommendation 4.b.) 'Identify and utilize best science-based approaches to inform potential changes to the MPA Network in order to enhance Network performance.' Since the creation of the MPA network, a decade of scientific peer-reviewed research from around the world has shown that highly to fully protected areas provide the greatest benefits for biodiversity conservation, and that partially protected areas only hinder enforcement, public understanding, and conservation outcomes."

By design, Point Buchon SMCA already provides a High LOP, and together with the onshore SMR comprises part of the MPA Network backbone, facilitating ecological connectivity within the Network. Thus, the proposed change is unlikely to enhance MPA Network performance beyond what is currently provided and does not advance adaptive management recommendations in the DMR. See Question 5 for information reviewed by CDFW in this evaluation. See Question 2a of Attachment 1 for the Decadal Management Review and adaptive management Recommendations.

QUESTION 2B: IF NOT, DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ADDRESS A CURRENT OR EMERGING MPA MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE?

No. The proposed change does not address a current or emerging MPA management challenge.

QUESTION 3: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT EXISTING CFGC NON-MPA REGULATIONS, PERMITS, OR LEASES (E.G., KELP LEASES, AQUACULTURE LEASES, EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMITS)?

No. CDFW does not anticipate that CFGC would need to make conforming changes to other regulations, permits, or leases in response to the proposed change to these MPA regulations.

QUESTION 4: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT EXISTING REGULATIONS, PERMITS, LEASES, OR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF ANY OTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY?

No. The proposed change is not expected to affect existing regulations, permits, leases, or management activities of other agencies and entities.

QUESTION 5: ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION GAPS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED TO INFORM THE EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. CDFW has sufficient information to evaluate and make a recommendation on this proposal. When evaluating this petition, CDFW reviewed the information in the petition as well as information including but not limited to:

- Community Compliance Forum Reports (MPACN 2020a & 2020b),
- CDFW MED Data (Table 1), and
- MLPA Planning documents and related information (e.g., MLPA Goals and MPA Master Plan adaptive management objectives).

CDFW reviewed the available information and did not find that it supports the petitioner's assertions that "compliance with Point Buchon SMCA/SMR... regulations is very low." Furthermore, the information indicates that the proposed solution is inconsistent with the original intent of the MPA and unlikely to measurably enhance protection beyond what is currently offered, and thus, would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing opportunity.

QUESTION 6: ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT GAPS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED TO INFORM THE EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. CDFW has sufficient management information to proceed with the evaluation of this proposed change.

QUESTION 7A: WAS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSIDERED DURING THE MLPA INITIATIVE PLANNING PROCESS OR THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF MPAS AROUND THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS?

No. All MPA arrays developed by the Regional Stakeholder Group during the Central Coast MLPA Initiative planning process included an offshore SMCA adjacent to an onshore SMR at Point Buchon. All three Regional Stakeholder Group proposals included recreational and commercial take of salmon, while two of the proposed arrays also included recreational and commercial take of albacore (MLPA 2006a). Species likely to benefit from this MPA included various invertebrates, groundfish, seabirds, and harbor porpoise (MLPA 2006b). The offshore Point Buchon SMCA was intended to work in concert with the adjacent onshore Point Buchon SMR. See Question 8 for more information on the original intent of this MPA.

QUESTION 7B: IS THERE NEW INFORMATION AVAILABLE, CHANGING CONDITIONS SINCE THE MLPA IMPLEMENTATION PHASE, AND/OR INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE DMR THAT WARRANTS REEVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. There is no information that has emerged since implementation of the MPA Network to support the proposed change.

QUESTION 8: IF THE PROPOSED CHANGE AFFECTS AN EXISTING MPA, DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ALIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE MPA IDENTIFIED DURING THE MLPA INITIATIVE PLANNING PROCESS OR THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF MPAS AROUND THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS?

No. Redesignating Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR by removing recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore does not align with original intent of the MPA. During the Central Coast MLPA Initiative planning process, one stated intent was to “provide additional protection for benthic species and typical forage species (squid and pelagic finfish) while allowing fishing for salmon and albacore” (Goal 2). Another Goal (Goal 5) was to minimize the socio-economic impacts by positioning the SMR on the north side of Diablo Security Closure and to allow fishing in the offshore SMCA. The SMCA was designed to work together with the onshore SMR as an MPA cluster, with the overall intention of balancing ecological protection and connectivity with social and economic considerations. The SMCA currently provides one of the few close-to-port offshore fishing opportunities for anglers along this portion of the coast targeting salmon and albacore.

QUESTION 9: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL MPA OR MPA NETWORK DESIGN SO THAT IT BETTER ALIGNS WITH OR MEETS THE MPA SCIENCE GUIDELINES?

No. The MLPA requires that the design of individual MPAs and the statewide Network be based on the best readily available science and that MPAs be of adequate size, number, protection level, and location to meet MLPA Goals. The science guidelines developed by the SAT and outlined in the Master Plan provide this scientific foundation and serve as the starting point for evaluating alternative MPA proposals. Alignment with these guidelines depends on the LOP, which is determined by allowed take, and spatial configuration. More specifically, these guidelines require that an MPA must be at least 9 square miles and meet one of the three highest LOPs (i.e., Very High, High, or Moderate-high) to contribute to ecological goals such as habitat replication and representation.

Point Buchon SMCA, together with neighboring Point Buchon SMR, currently meets both minimum criteria (area and LOP), and thus already contributes to foundational ecological Network objectives. The proposed change would increase the SMCA’s LOP from High to Very High. However, since Point Buchon SMCA already meets both minimum criteria, this increase in protection is unlikely to measurably enhance protection beyond

the existing contribution to the Network. Therefore, implementation of the proposed change would not improve the design of the MPA Network. See Question 9 of Attachment 1 for the MPA Science Guidelines and additional context.

QUESTION 10A: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ALIGN WITH CDFW FEASIBILITY GUIDELINES?

Yes. The proposed action to reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR to prohibit take aligns with CDFW Feasibility Guidelines. The change would result in one large SMR at Point Buchon within the existing boundaries of the SMCA/SMR complex. This single MPA configuration aligns with guidance in which distance offshore should “extend from the shoreline to the three-mile state water boundary.” Additionally, the north and south boundaries are already on readily determinable latitude lines. See Question 10a of Attachment 1 for the CDFW Feasibility Guidelines.

QUESTION 10B: IF NOT, IS THERE A RATIONALE FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE OR AN ALTERNATIVE THAT COULD MEET THE INTENT BUT BETTER ALIGN WITH FEASIBILITY GUIDELINES?

Not applicable.

QUESTION 11: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE ENFORCEABILITY OF MPA REGULATIONS?

Yes. Reducing take allowances and allowed activities in this MPA could improve enforceability. In general, No-take MPAs are easier to enforce than partial take MPAs. However, although MED confirmed a period of low compliance in 2022, this was following an emergency action reducing rockfish bag limits (CFGC 2021). Compliance issues are not uncommon after regulatory changes are enacted and they typically taper off after increased outreach and enforcement. Historically, citations within Point Buchon SMCA were fewer than 10 per year prior to 2022, when 19 citations were issued. Citations have since declined, with 14 in 2023 and no citations issued in 2024 or 2025 (Table 1). MED attributes the improved compliance to additional outreach and education efforts as well as enforcement presence. Recommended solutions from Community Compliance Forums cited by the petitioner include continued education, outreach, and support for enhanced monitoring tools like M2 radar systems. Continuing outreach and education efforts and enforcement presence may be as or more effective than the proposed regulatory change.

QUESTION 12: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE SIMPLIFY REGULATORY LANGUAGE OR ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT CHANGING THE INTENT OF THE MPA?

No. Although converting the SMCA to an SMR would further simplify the regulatory language, the proposed action would change the intent of the MPA.

QUESTION 13: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE PROTECTION OF MARINE RESOURCES?

Yes. Redesignating Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR would maintain the existing protections within the MPA and could enhance protection for individuals of ocean salmon and albacore, for which recreational and commercial take is currently allowed. However, both species are migratory and their presence in the area varies on different temporal scales (e.g., seasonally, decadal), depending on a variety of atmospheric and oceanographic factors. Thus, the actual benefit the proposed change may have on these species is anticipated to be minimal. In addition, there may be benefits to other non-target species that may be incidentally taken and discarded during fishing for salmon and albacore.

QUESTION 14: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE PROVIDE MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES (E.G., FISHING, EDUCATIONAL, AND/OR OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES) FOR TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED OR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES?

See Question 14 of Attachment 1.

QUESTION 15: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT CONSUMPTIVE AND/OR NON-CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVITIES? IF SO, HOW?

Yes. The proposed action would decrease consumptive activities through eliminating commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore in this MPA.

This is one of the few areas in the region that is close to port where there are opportunities for offshore salmon and albacore fishing when they are in the area and when state and federal fishing regulations allow. Both albacore and salmon are migratory and their presence in the area varies on different temporal scales (e.g., seasonally, decadal), depending on a variety of atmospheric and oceanographic factors, which can also impact their availability.

Non-consumptive activities would likely not be affected.

QUESTION 16: IS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH THE CFGC JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY?

See Question 16 of Attachment 1.

QUESTION 17: IS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH THE CFGC COASTAL FISHING COMMUNITIES POLICY?

The following analysis was prepared by CFGC staff. See Question 17 of Attachment 1 for additional context on CFGC's response. The proposed change would reduce fishing access, particularly for commercial and recreational salmon and albacore fishery participants homeported in the coastal fishing communities of:

- Avila (Port San Luis, ~7 nautical miles (nm) away from area of proposed change), and
- Morro Bay (~7 nm away from area of proposed change).

QUESTION 18: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE INTERACT WITH OR HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT PROPOSED CHANGES IN OTHER 2023 MPA PETITIONS?

Yes. The proposed change would conflict with the Tribally-led petition submitted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (2023-20MPA), which proposes a change (2023-20MPA_4) to add a tribal exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians at Point Buchon SMCA.

2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34MPA_3: Change regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within Farnsworth Onshore & Farnsworth Offshore SMCAs boundaries

QUESTION 1: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE SUPPORT THE MPA NETWORK IN MEETING ONE OR MORE OF THE MLPA GOALS AND ALIGN WITH MPA MASTER PLAN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES?

The MLPA Goals and Master Plan objectives are inextricably linked and act as the foundational tools that CDFW utilizes for effective adaptive management of the MPA Network. Individual MPAs in the Network were not necessarily designed to address all six goals of the MLPA but instead act as an important component of a functioning Network that was designed to holistically address the MLPA Goals. As such, CDFW has evaluated this action within the broader adaptive management framework and how the proposed action may or may not align with the MLPA Goals/Master Plan objectives and advance MPA Network management. See Question 1 of Attachment 1 for the MLPA Goals and Master Plan objectives.

The petitioner asserts the proposed action aligns with MLPA Goals 1, 2, and 5 related to preserving natural diversity, sustaining marine life populations, and ensuring California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines. During the MLPA Initiative Planning Process, the two affected MPAs were designed to meet Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. Thus the proposed change would offer no change in the design of these affected MPAs.

The affected MPAs were designed to balance conservation of unique, sensitive seafloor habitat and marine life, including California hydrocoral, while preserving opportunities for recreational fishing and the commercial squid and swordfish harpoon fleets. This intent is still relevant today.

The proposed change does not align with MPA Master Plan adaptive management objectives. Available information does not demonstrate that further restricting allowed gear types in the affected MPAs would produce measurable ecological benefits beyond current conditions (see Question 9 on how these MPAs meet SAT guidelines to serve as High LOP habitat replicates and Question 13 regarding whether the change would enhance protection of marine resources). Monitoring data does not indicate declines in key protected resources, such as California hydrocoral, that would justify additional restrictions. Concerns raised regarding illegal fishing are primarily related to enforcement challenges rather than regulatory shortcomings and are better addressed through non-regulatory measures. Implementing the proposed change would therefore be inconsistent with the original intent of the MPAs, unlikely to advance MLPA Goals, and would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fisheries.

QUESTION 2A: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ADVANCE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DECADAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW?

No. The proposed change does not advance any adaptive management recommendations from the Decadal Management Review. The petition states that the proposed change would:

"...advance DMR Recommendation 4.b.) 'Identify and utilize best science-based approaches to inform potential changes to the MPA Network in order to enhance Network performance.' Since the creation of the MPA network, a decade of scientific peer-reviewed research from around the world has shown that highly to fully protected areas provide the greatest benefits for biodiversity conservation, and that partially protected areas only hinder enforcement, public understanding, and conservation outcomes."

The affected MPAs already meet the size, spacing, and LOP SAT guidelines to serve as habitat replicates, facilitating ecological connectivity within the MPA Network. Given the

Farnsworth MPAs already have a High LOP, the proposed change would not increase the LOP of these MPAs. See Question 2a of Attachment 1 for the Decadal Management Review and adaptive management Recommendations.

QUESTION 2B: IF NOT, DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ADDRESS A CURRENT OR EMERGING MPA MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE?

No. The proposed change does not address an emerging MPA management challenge. The petitioner's stated problem related to the affected MPA's current protection status is inaccurate (see Question 9 for how these MPAs meet SAT criteria to serve as habitat replicates with a High LOP). Concerns raised regarding illegal fishing are primarily related to education, outreach, and enforcement challenges rather than regulatory shortcomings and are better addressed through non-regulatory measures (see Question 11 related to compliance concerns and enforceability). Monitoring data does not indicate declines in key protected resources, such as California hydrocoral, that would justify additional fishing restrictions (see Question 13 related to the potential for the proposed action to maintain or enhance protection of marine resources).

QUESTION 3: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT EXISTING CFGC NON-MPA REGULATIONS, PERMITS, OR LEASES (E.G., KELP LEASES, AQUACULTURE LEASES, EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMITS)?

No. Farnsworth Onshore SMCA and Farnsworth Offshore SMCA both overlap with administrative kelp bed lease #105; however, neither existing nor proposed regulations include kelp harvest. Thus, the proposed change would not require CFGC to make conforming changes.

CDFW does not anticipate that CFGC would need to make conforming changes to other regulations, permits, or leases in response to the proposed change to these MPA regulations.

QUESTION 4: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT EXISTING REGULATIONS, PERMITS, LEASES, OR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF ANY OTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY?

No. While Farnsworth Offshore SMCA encompasses an existing Area of Special Biological Significance designated by the State Water Resources Control Board and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Boards, it is unclear whether the proposed change would have direct or indirect effects on the management activities of the Water Boards. CDFW does not anticipate that the Santa Catalina Island Company and Santa Catalina Island Conservancy would need to update their Farnsworth Area of Special Biological Significance Compliance Plan in response to the proposed change.

This list may not be exhaustive. The proposed change may have the potential to affect existing regulations, permits, leases, or management activities of Tribal governments, other agencies, and entities not identified here.

QUESTION 5: ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION GAPS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED TO INFORM THE EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. CDFW has sufficient information to evaluate and make a recommendation on this proposal. When evaluating this petition, CDFW reviewed the information in the petition as well as information including but not limited to:

- The status of California hydrocoral (MPA long-term monitoring data; Wong et al. 2026),
- Prior reports of benthic impacts and debris at Farnsworth Bank (SWRCB 1981, Love et al. 2010),
- The status of the market squid fishery (CDFW 2024),
- CDFW’s enforcement and compliance data, and
- MLPA Initiative planning documents and related information (e.g., MLPA Goals and MPA Master Plan adaptive management objectives).

CDFW reviewed the available information, and the proposed solution is unlikely to enhance protection beyond what is currently offered, is inconsistent with the original intent of the MPA, and would unnecessarily impact recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.

QUESTION 6: ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT GAPS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED TO INFORM THE EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. CDFW has sufficient management information to proceed with the evaluation of this proposed change.

QUESTION 7A: WAS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSIDERED DURING THE MLPA INITIATIVE PLANNING PROCESS OR THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF MPAS AROUND THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS?

No. During the MLPA Initiative Planning Process, none of the alternatives at Farnsworth were limited to spearfishing only. Take allowances at Farnsworth were heavily deliberated during the MLPA Planning Process, including several partial-take options as well as a single SMR that extended out to the three-mile state waters boundary (MLPA 2009b). This area was noted as a particular challenge due to high levels of commercial and recreational use in addition to military constraints on San Clemente Island (MLPA 2009c). The final configuration of MPAs that was adopted by CFGC balanced commercial and recreational take while protecting sensitive benthic habitat (MLPA 2009c).

QUESTION 7B: IS THERE NEW INFORMATION AVAILABLE, CHANGING CONDITIONS SINCE THE MLPA IMPLEMENTATION PHASE, AND/OR INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE DMR THAT WARRANTS REEVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE?

No. The petition states concerns with alleged illegal take of groundfish and the associated impacts to benthic habitat for California hydrocoral and abalone, as well as a lack of clarity in the existing regulations for allowable uses between Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs. As stated in Question 7a, the regulations at the Farnsworth MPAs were carefully crafted and intentionally designed to support pelagic surface activities that are less likely to negatively impact the key species of California hydrocoral and the benthic habitat. Long-term MPA monitoring data using ROVs does not indicate declines in key protected resources, such as California hydrocoral, that would justify additional restrictions (see Question 13 related to protection of marine resources).

Concerns raised regarding illegal fishing are primarily related to education and outreach and enforcement challenges and less to do with public confusion around the MPA regulations (see Question 11 related to compliance concerns and enforceability) and would be better addressed through non-regulatory methods.

QUESTION 8: IF THE PROPOSED CHANGE AFFECTS AN EXISTING MPA, DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ALIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE MPA IDENTIFIED DURING THE MLPA INITIATIVE PLANNING PROCESS OR THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF MPAS AROUND THE NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS?

No. The current regulations for both affected MPAs were designed to allow specific types of pelagic recreational and commercial fishing that minimize bottom contact and protect benthic habitat. The regulatory allowance for commercial squid and commercial swordfish by harpoon was included in these SMCAs to balance ecological objectives with socioeconomic concerns raised by the fleets.

Both MPAs, especially the Farnsworth Onshore SMCA, continue to be important fishing areas for California market squid. Commercial Fishing Block 807, which contains both MPAs, holds the highest total commercial value for market squid south of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, totaling over \$23 million from 2013-2024 (Figure 1).

QUESTION 9: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL MPA OR MPA NETWORK DESIGN SO THAT IT BETTER ALIGNS WITH OR MEETS THE MPA SCIENCE GUIDELINES?

No. The MLPA requires that the design of individual MPAs and the statewide MPA Network be based on the best readily available science and that MPAs be of adequate size, number, protection level, and location to meet MLPA Goals. The science guidelines

developed by the SAT and outlined in the Master Plan were created specifically to provide this scientific foundation and serve as the starting point for evaluating alternative MPA proposals. Alignment with these guidelines depends on level of protection, which is determined by allowed take, and spatial configuration. More specifically, these guidelines require that an MPA must be at least 9 square miles and meet one of the three highest LOPs (i.e., Very High, High, or Moderate-high) to contribute to ecological goals such as habitat replication and representation.

Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs currently meet both minimum criteria, and thus already contribute to foundational ecological Network objectives. Modifying the regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing would not change the existing High LOP. Since the proposed action would not change the size or LOP of the SMCAs, implementation would not improve the design of the individual MPAs or the MPA Network, nor would it enhance alignment with the MLPA Science Guidelines. See Question 9 of Attachment 1 for the MPA Science Guidelines and additional context.

QUESTION 10A: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE ALIGN WITH CDFW FEASIBILITY GUIDELINES?

Yes. The proposed change aligns with CDFW Feasibility Guidelines, as it would simplify the regulations, which has the potential to increase enforceability. See Question 10a of Attachment 1 for the CDFW Feasibility Guidelines.

QUESTION 10B: IF NOT, IS THERE A RATIONALE FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE OR AN ALTERNATIVE THAT COULD MEET THE INTENT BUT BETTER ALIGN WITH FEASIBILITY GUIDELINES?

Not applicable.

QUESTION 11: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE ENFORCEABILITY OF MPA REGULATIONS?

Yes. In general, reducing take allowances and allowed activities in these MPAs would enhance enforceability. It can be difficult for enforcement officers to intercept violators at Farnsworth Offshore SMCA if violators can detect and evade (e.g., dumping illegal catch overboard) patrol vessels before they arrive at the scene. However, MED has confirmed that most commercial sportfishing operations comply with the regulations. Since electronic citation tracking started in 2016, MED has issued fewer than seven citations per year in Farnsworth Offshore SMCA (with the exception of 15 citations in 2020) and fewer than three citations per year at Farnsworth Onshore SMCA (which averages to less than one per year in the 10-year span, Table 1).

Reducing the affected MPAs' take allowances to spearfishing only may address some of the petitioner's concerns with non-compliance and improve enforceability for the regulations; however non-regulatory efforts such as improved outreach and support for additional enforcement, including the use of technology like M2 radar, are alternative solutions that would support surveillance and help to address non-compliance at this site. These alternative solutions may be more effective than a regulatory change.

QUESTION 12: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE SIMPLIFY REGULATORY LANGUAGE OR ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT CHANGING THE INTENT OF THE MPA?

No. Although reducing take allowances/allowed activities in MPAs would simplify regulatory language, the proposed change to allow only spearfishing in both affected MPAs would change the intent of the MPAs to maintain other types of recreational pelagic fishing, as well as fishing for commercial squid and commercial swordfish by harpoon (see Question 8 for more information on intent of these MPAs).

QUESTION 13: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE PROTECTION OF MARINE RESOURCES?

Yes. The proposed change to allow only recreational spearfishing in the Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs would likely result in fewer hook-and-line fishery interactions with pelagic species. Although pelagic species may not be the primary species to benefit from MPAs in general, as many are highly mobile and have large geographic ranges, the proposed change may enhance protection when individuals are present in these MPAs.

During the MLPA Initiative Planning Process, the intention of both MPAs was to protect species associated with the benthic habitat; species listed as likely to benefit included rockfishes (*Sebastes* spp.), kelp bass (*Paralabrax clathratus*), scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*), giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*), sheephead (*Bodianus pulcher*), angel shark (*Squatina squatina*), lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*), rock scallops (*Crassadoma gigantea*), black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*), and white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) (MLPA 2009d). Thus, the proposed change alone is unlikely to enhance protection of these benthic species.

The proposed change would maintain the overall LOP of both MPAs. At the individual MPA level, Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs currently meet size and LOP SAT guidelines, and thus already contribute to foundational ecological Network objectives. Modifying the regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing would not change the existing High LOP.

Regarding protection of California hydrocoral, the petitioner states,

“the risk of damage to this highly sensitive ecological area is too high to allow even for pelagic fishing activities, which can result in bottom disturbance and bycatch. For instance, party boat patrons have often been observed dropping weighted lines that interact with bottom habitat...”

Anchoring is likely to pose a greater risk to benthic resources than alleged illegal groundfish take. Although the extent to which anchoring or illegal fishing with bottom contact gear has affected hydrocoral within the Farnsworth SMCAs since implementation is uncertain, long-term MPA monitoring using ROVs shows substantial increases in California hydrocoral (up to 455%) across bioregions following the 2013–2014 marine heatwave (Wong et al. 2026). Additionally, ROV surveys as of 2021 indicate hydrocoral densities at Farnsworth were comparable to or higher than other sites surveyed in the same year (Table 2). Thus, the proposed regulatory change is unlikely to enhance protection of California hydrocoral. Non-regulatory measures, such as the installation and ongoing maintenance of mooring buoys, would likely be a far more effective tool to protect California hydrocoral.

QUESTION 14: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE PROVIDE MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES (E.G., FISHING, EDUCATIONAL, AND/OR OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES) FOR TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED OR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES?

See Question 14 of Attachment 1.

QUESTION 15: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT CONSUMPTIVE AND/OR NON-CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVITIES? IF SO, HOW?

Yes. Changing the MPA regulations to allow only recreational spearfishing within the Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs is likely to pose significant impacts to commercial squid fishing (Figure 1) and commercial harpoon fishing for swordfish.

The proposed change is not expected to affect non-consumptive activities.

QUESTION 16: IS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH THE CFGC JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY?

See Question 16 of Attachment 1.

QUESTION 17: IS THE PROPOSED CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH THE CFGC COASTAL FISHING COMMUNITIES POLICY?

The following analysis was prepared by CFGC staff. See Question 17 of Attachment 1 for additional context on CFGC's response. The proposed change would reduce fishing access, particularly for commercial coastal pelagic species (including squid) and

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swordfish fishery participants, boat-based recreational anglers, and commercial passenger fishing vessel operators homeported in the coastal fishing communities of:

- San Pedro (~22-24 nm from area of proposed change),
- Ventura (~55-58 nm away from area of proposed change), and/or
- Channel Islands Harbor (Oxnard, ~53-56 nm away from area of proposed change).

There is potential to impact several fisheries currently authorized to use these MPA areas. The exemptions in this MPA cluster were carefully crafted to minimize impacts to select recreational and commercial fisheries while maintaining high levels of protection.

QUESTION 18: DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE INTERACT WITH OR HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT PROPOSED CHANGES IN OTHER 2023 MPA PETITIONS?

No. There are no potential interactions of effects on any of the other 2023 MPA petitions.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES, DATA AND INFORMATION, AND CITATIONS

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. CDFW Marine Enforcement District total citations for Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), Point Buchon State Marine Reserve (SMR), and Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs between 2016 and 2025.

MPA	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Point Buchon SMCA	2	4	9	0	1	3	19	5	0	0
Point Buchon SMR	7	7	7	17	21	3	30	7	0	2
Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	7	4	1	5	15	3	6	0	2	2
Farnsworth Onshore SMCA	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

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Table 2. Density of California hydrocoral colonies per 100m² from remotely operated vehicle (ROV) long term MPA monitoring surveys, by geographic region in California and survey location* between 2019 and 2021. High density locations provided in bold. Only locations* with hydrocoral present are included. The sampling unit is based on 10m long subsegments of ROV transects with 50% or more rocky substrate. Year and location combinations with no data indicate that surveys were not performed. Unless specified, the density reported is from pooled data of all sites (MPA status protected and unprotected) that were surveyed at each location.

Bioregion	Survey Location	ROV Survey Year		
		2019	2020	2021
North	Point St. George		0.1	0.1
	Sea Lion Gulch		102.3	291.7
	Point Arena			0.1
	Bodega Bay	6.5	3.2	
	North Farallon Islands		31.2	
	South East Farallon Islands	77.2	51.6	
Central	Portuguese Ledge	0.5		
	Cypress Point	52.2		41.1
	Point Lobos SMR	53.4		24.2
	Point Sur	14.5		13.3
	Big Creek		5.9	
	Piedras Blancas		0.1	
	Point Buchon	0.9		2.1
South	Harris Point SMR (San Miguel Island)		5.9	

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Castle Rock (San Miguel Island)	5.2	4.9
South Point SMR (Santa Rosa Island)	0.1	
Rodes Reef (Santa Rosa Island)	0.02	
Gull Island SMR (Santa Cruz Island)	0.1	
Cluster Point (Santa Rosa Island)	8.2	5.1
Catalina Island (All Sites)	16.3	19.1
Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	69	61

* Note that ROV survey locations for long-term MPA monitoring in California were originally selected based on surveying groundfish and thus, not all existing ROV survey locations for MPA monitoring include California hydrocoral habitat.

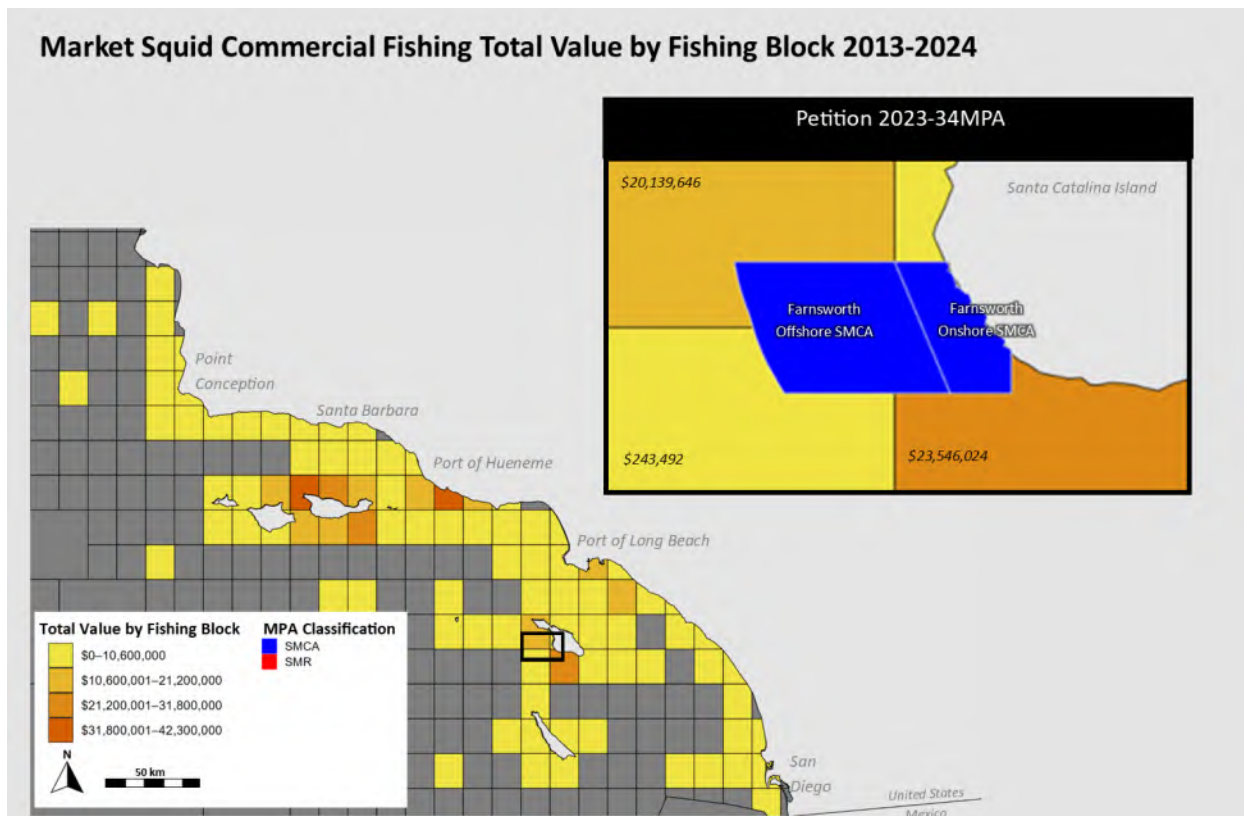


Figure 1. Total value (in millions \$US) of commercially caught California market squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) from 2013 to 2024 by California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing block for the South Coast Bioregion with reference to petitions 2023-34MPA. Actual value provided within fishing blocks that overlap with the proposed regulatory changes to Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA).

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Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

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21st April, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission

P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: **Concerns Regarding Petition 2023-34MPA – Increased Protection at Point Buchon and Farnsworth SMCAs**

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

My name is Dave Colker, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association (VCCFA). Through my role with VCCFA, I represent a growing network of commercial fishermen, industry partners, and stakeholders who are directly connected to and dependent upon access to California's coastal resources.

Our association has been actively engaged throughout the Marine Protected Area (MPA) petition process, carefully reviewing proposals, participating in meetings, and working to ensure that the voices of the commercial fishing community are heard and considered. We are committed to responsible ocean stewardship, sustainable fisheries, and collaborative management approaches that are grounded in sound science, practical application, and a full understanding of both ecological and socioeconomic impacts.

On behalf of the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association (VCCFA), I respectfully submit comments regarding Petition 2023-34MPA, which proposes increasing protections at Point Buchon SMCA and modifying allowable activities at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs.

While we recognize the intent to enhance conservation and simplify enforcement, our primary concern lies in the **lack of a comprehensive socioeconomic analysis** and the absence of a meaningful evaluation of **effort displacement and its impacts on surrounding open fishing areas**.

The petition states that economic impacts would be "very minor" or "negligible," particularly with respect to closing the Point Buchon SMCA and modifying access at Farnsworth. However, this conclusion appears to be based on a narrow interpretation of current allowable fisheries and does not reflect how fishermen actually operate across regions.

Fisheries are dynamic, and access to specific areas—such as Point Buchon and Farnsworth—is part of a broader system of seasonal movement, species targeting, and risk management. Even if direct landings from these areas appear limited, they often serve as critical options when

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conditions shift.

When access is removed or restricted, fishing effort does not disappear—it is **displaced**.

This displaced effort is then redistributed into already open areas, leading to:

- Increased competition among fishermen
- Higher congestion in remaining fishing grounds
- Increased gear conflict
- Reduced efficiency and increased operating costs
- Greater localized pressure on marine resources

These are well-understood **socioeconomic impacts**, yet the petition does not provide a substantive analysis of how fishing effort will redistribute or what the cumulative effects will be on open-access areas.

Additionally, the petition's economic discussion does not adequately address broader impacts. While it acknowledges some potential effects on fisheries such as market squid and recreational fishing, it ultimately concludes these impacts are outweighed by ecological benefits without providing a detailed economic evaluation .

There is little to no analysis of:

- The cumulative economic effect on commercial fishing operations
- Impacts to shoreside businesses such as processors, fuel docks, and suppliers
- The broader coastal economy that depends on consistent fishing access

Marine Protected Areas and regulatory changes do not operate in isolation. Expanding or intensifying restrictions without fully understanding external impacts shifts pressure onto remaining open areas and the fishermen who rely on them.

Without evaluating effort displacement and regional economic consequences, the conclusion of minimal impact is incomplete and does not provide the Commission with a full understanding of the real-world effects of this proposal.

For these reasons, VCCFA respectfully urges the Commission to carefully consider these gaps before moving forward with this petition. At a minimum, we recommend:

1. A comprehensive socioeconomic analysis reflecting real-world fishing behavior and fleet dynamics
2. A detailed evaluation of effort displacement and impacts to surrounding open areas
3. A complete economic impact assessment, including cumulative and indirect effects

We appreciate the Commission's efforts in reviewing these complex petitions and respectfully request that these critical considerations be addressed to ensure balanced and informed decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DC' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Dave Colker
Executive Director
Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association (VCCFA)

From: Rick Duenas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 09:56 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Public comment: May 5-6, 2026: Central Region Petitions

Dear President Sklar and Members of the Commission,

My name is Rick Duenas and I am a recreational angler and diver in Northern California who often recreates on the central coast. I am writing regarding the MPA petitions for San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara County including the Northern Channel Islands. I urge you to deny most of these petitions or encourage petitioners to carve out recreational access as noted below.

2023-28: **Deny.** The remoteness and aspect of this location serve as refuge as it is fishable only in calmer weather patterns already. Also, this location is already inside the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and therefore already counted in 30x30. I would prefer that any new MPAs contribute to increasing the 30x30 percentage.

2023-29: **Deny or revise.** This area provides important near-shore access for divers and small-craft anglers. I would like to see spearfishing, spiny lobster, and boat-based hook-and-line finfish take allowance. From the Tribal Committee Meeting, it was not clear to me what cultural activities would be supported by this MPA that are not already allowed. I recognize the importance of protecting submerged ancestral sites, so I would prefer that restrictions be tailored to barring the use of destructive bottom gear or anchoring instead of restricting lower impact gear types.

2023-19: **Accept with revision.** I appreciate that the petitioner allowed for the take of finfish as the location is one of the better areas for salmon and halibut trolling in the region. However, this area is also important to the commercial sector, particularly for market squid, so I would like to see commercial access with low impact gear preserved as well.

2023-20: **Accept** as clarified in Tribal Committee Meeting. I appreciate the petitioner not changing general public fishing access to salmon and albacore while allowing for tribal take and co-management.

2023-34: **Deny.** I support CDFW's recommendation. I appreciate allowance for low impact pelagic take wherever possible.

2023-33: **Deny.** I support CDFW's recommendation. The proposed actions would severely limit in-shore recreation access.

2023-18: **Deny.** I support CDFW's recommendation. I appreciate opportunities for more access but I am okay with the status quo and do not wish to trade access elsewhere in the network in order to balance this change.

2023-27: **Deny**. I dive Anacapa every fall and the amended 0-30m proposal seemed like one of the more reasonable and targeted petitions but I support CDFW's recommendation.

2023-14: **Deny**. I support CDFW's recommendation. I believe that these reserves should serve as control treatment groups relative to urchin barren mitigation being done outside of reserves.

2023-15: **Deny**. I support CDFW's recommendation. I appreciate opportunities for more access but I am okay with the status quo and do not wish to trade access elsewhere in the network in order to balance this change.

In short, please consider denying or requesting revision to the vast majority of the central region bin-2 petitions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rick Duenas