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# Mishopshno SMCA



Petition 2023-29MPA

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, NRDC, Environmental Defense Center

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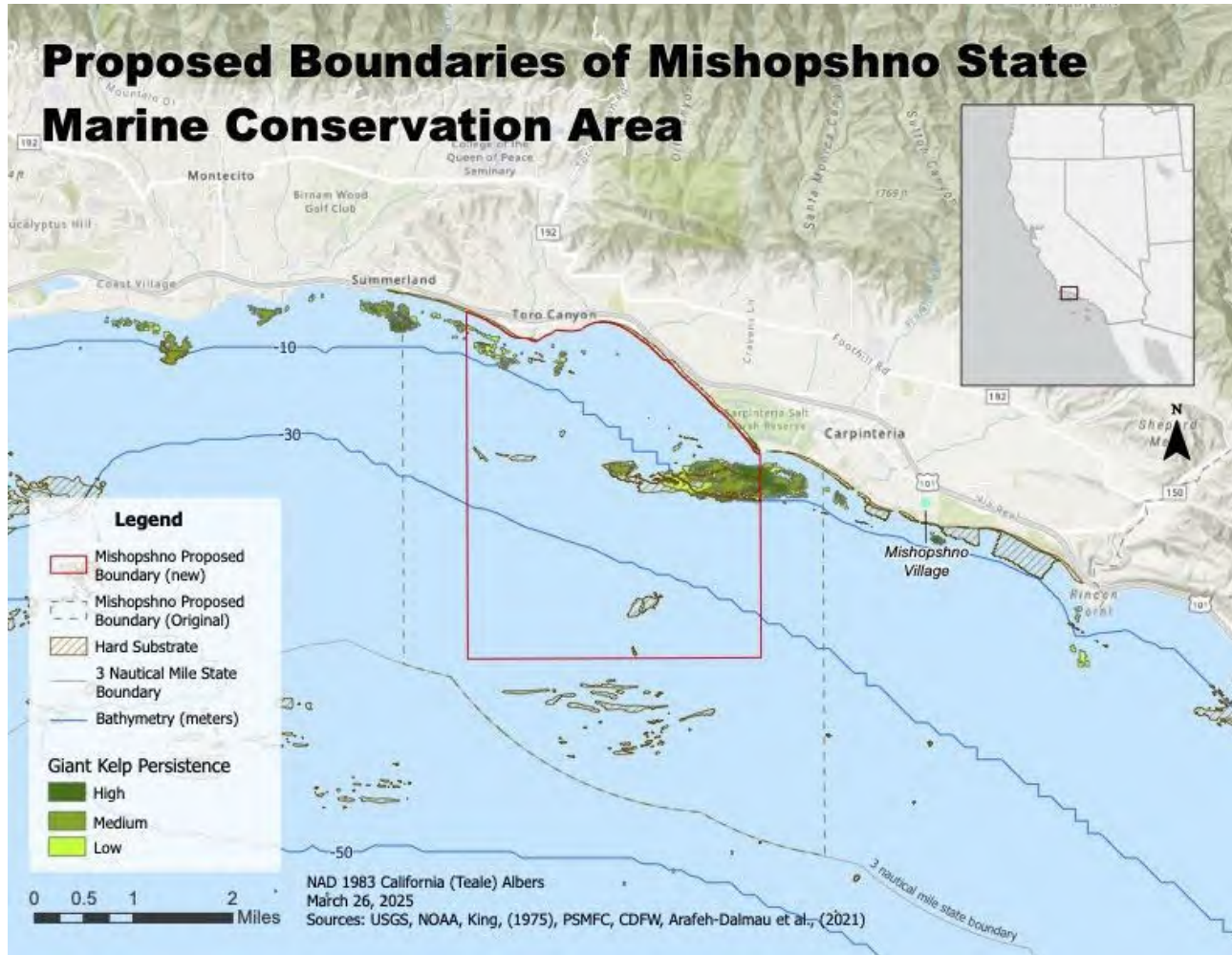
May 5th, 2026

# Mishopshno



Credit: Jordan Manning

# Proposal Details



- ❖ **Area:** 9.05 square miles
- ❖ **Alongshore distance:** 3.6 miles
- ❖ **Proposed regulations:** No-take, with the exception of
  - Recreational take of finfish from shore using hook and line
  - Tribal take for Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- ❖ Upon designation, enter into a **collaborative co-management agreement** with SYBCI

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# A Diversity of Habitats within a Small Area

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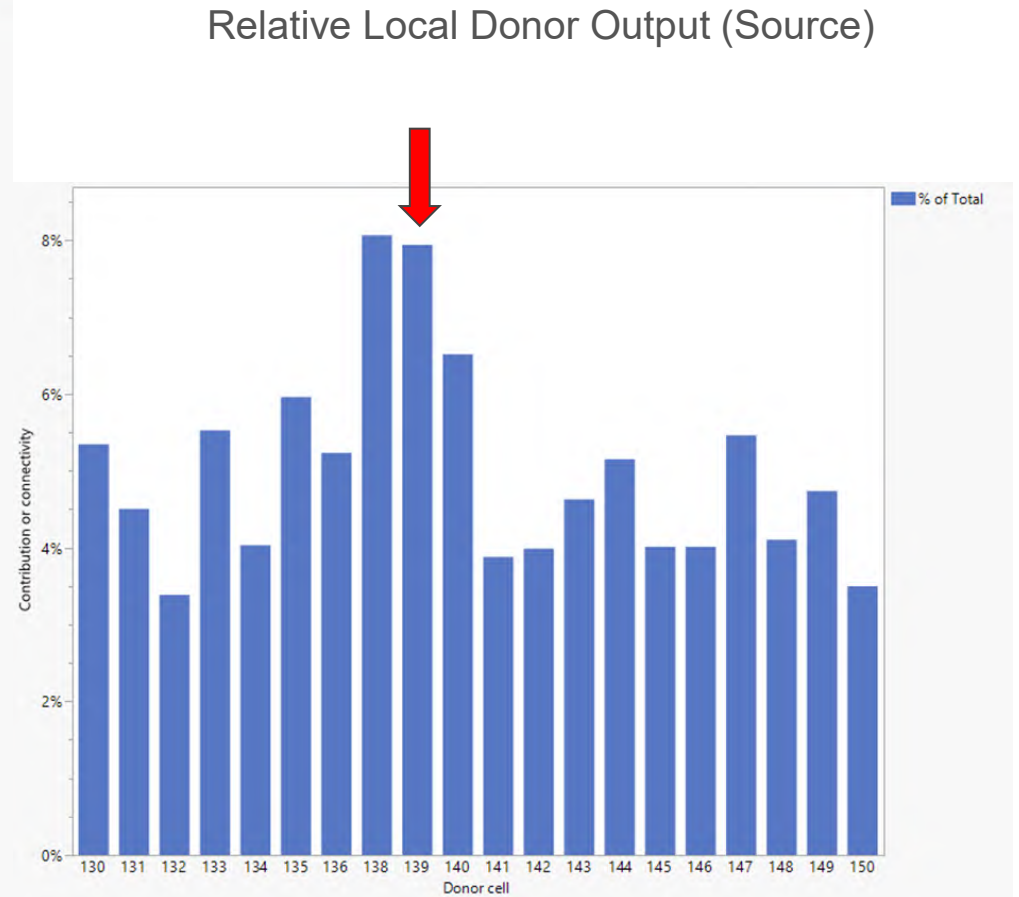
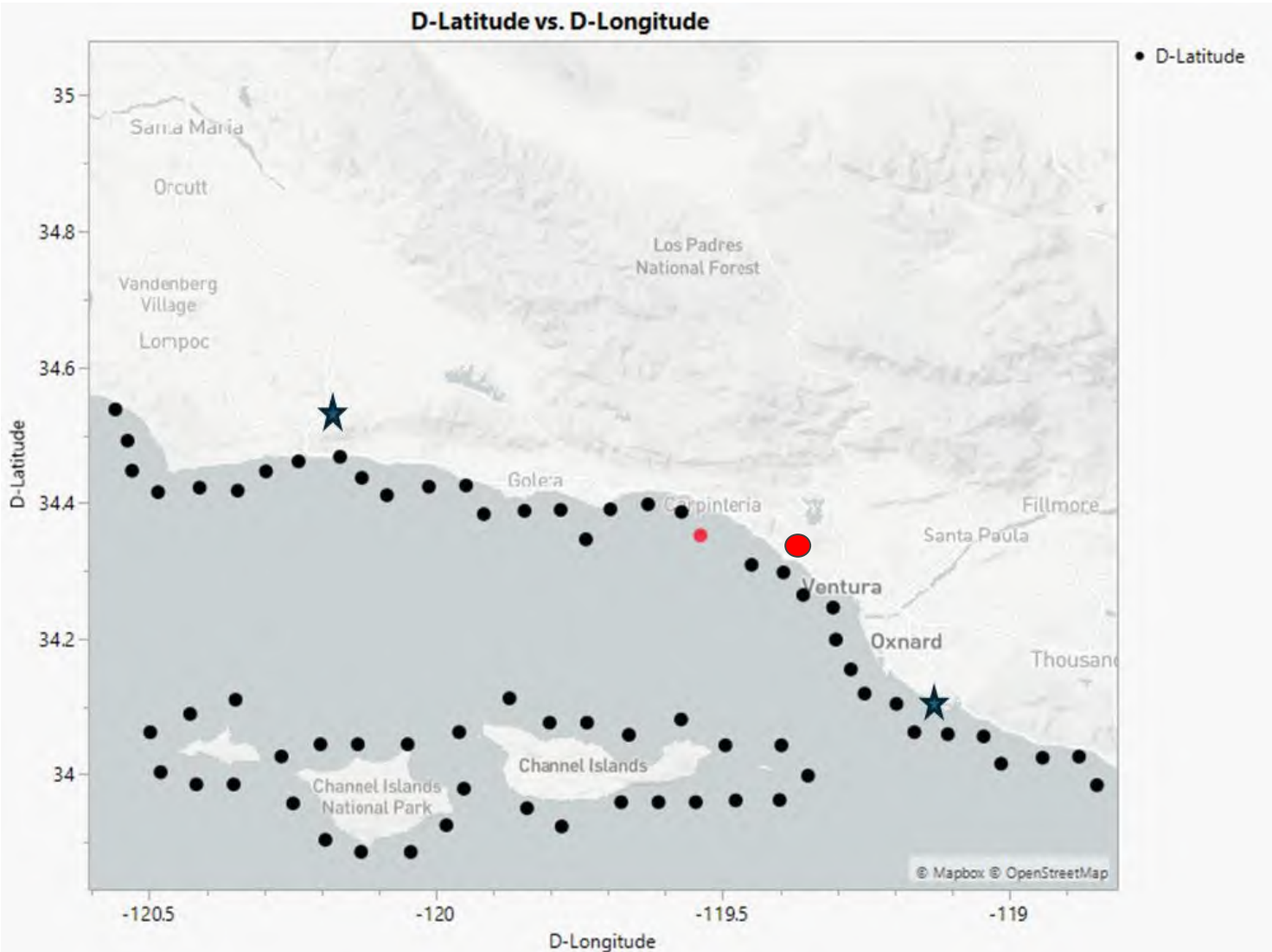
Credits: Jordan Manning, Carlos Gauna/The Malibu Artist

# Enhance connectivity



- The space between Point Dume SMCA and Campus Point SMCA is the largest physical distance between mainland California MPAs
- Connectivity is likely to be impacted by large-scale oceanographic events such as marine heat waves
- The proposed MPA would add an important ecological node, enhancing connectivity across the region

# Enhance connectivity



Yeager et al., 2023

# Protections for a persistent kelp forest



Credit: Jordan Manning

- California has experienced widespread losses in kelp cover
- The Carpinteria Reef-associated kelp forest has exhibited persistence over time
- **Kelp forests inside of MPAs exhibit higher ecological resilience in southern CA** following marine heatwaves
- Prioritizing the **protection of resilient populations and climate refugia** is a common principle in climate-resilient MPA design.

# Fishing Impacts



Credit: Jordan Manning

- 2023 landings data for fishing block 652 show that it represented:
  - 0.22% of total landings by weight
  - 1.1% of total landings by value
- 2013 - 2023 0.16% of total landings by weight and 0.63% of total landings by value
- SMCA represents 18% of this fishing block

# March 2025 Amendments



- Informed by extensive discussion with Tribal members, Tribal organizations, local community members, local fishers, fishing associations, and more
- **Reduced the size of the MPA by half**
- Shifted southern boundary to **retain fishing access to offshore Armpit Reef**
- Shifted eastern boundary to **retain fishing access to 25% of Carp Reef and kelp forest**
- Allowed shore-based hook and line fishing to ensure **access for all Chumash people, regardless of federal status**, and subsistence fishers

# Support

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## **Tribal governments and community members:**

- The Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians
- Tolowa Dee-ni Nation
- Community members of the Coastal Band of Chumash Indians
- Ocean Origins
- Native Coast Action Network
- Sacred Places Institute
- Wishtoyo Foundation

## **California Government:**

- Assemblymember Bennett
- Assemblymember Hart
- Supervisor Roy Lee

## **Community support:**

- A growing list of organizations that include ENGOs, recreational fishing interests, environmental justice organizations, and businesses (41 organizations as of April 16);
- Over 150 handwritten postcards from community members;
- ~100 student letters
- 7,398 signatories to an NRDC Action Alert about the proposal
- 388 signatures to a local public petition
- Nearly 1,400 angler signatures
- Scientist support from UCSB faculty and other marine PhD scientists



**Thank you**

