

California Fish and Game Commission

Petition 2023-19MPA_AM1

This petition has been formally amended, effective April 15, 2026

This petition is one of five tribally led or co-led marine protected area (MPA) petitions that have been amended. The amendments are based on tribal petitioner presentations and discussion at the April 14, 2026 Commission Tribal Committee meeting; the proposed changes were formally accepted as amendments to the petitions by the Commission at its April 15-16, 2026 meeting.

Attached is a Commission memo to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that summarizes the changes to the five tribally led or co-led MPA petitions, including this one.

Attachments

- Memo from the Commission to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, dated July 6, 2026
- Communications from petitioner
- Original petition and attachments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM

DATE: ~~May 29, 2026~~ Updated July 6, 2026 (updates displayed in blue font)

TO: Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



CC: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Meghan Hertel, Director
Chad Dibble, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Sarah Fonseca, Tribal Liaison
Samara Maxey, Regional Tribal Coordinator, Marine Region

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

SUBJECT: Actions Proposed for Tribally Led and Co-Led Marine Protected Area Petitions

This memo is intended to transmit to the Department, for evaluation purposes, current descriptions of specific proposed actions in the five tribally led or co-led marine protected area (MPA) petitions under consideration by the Commission.

During its April 14, 2026 meeting, the Commission Tribal Committee received presentations from tribes that are leading or co-leading MPA petitions, [during which the tribes described updates or clarifications to their original petitions](#). The committee recommended that the Commission request the Department move forward with tribally led or co-led petition evaluations based on how the petitions, and individual actions contained within, were presented and described during the April 14 meeting.

At its April 15-16, 2026 meeting, the Commission supported the Tribal Committee recommendation and directed staff to submit to the Department the amended proposed actions for tribally led or co-led MPA petitions. Since the April meeting, the Commission held three regional meetings focused on MPA petitions, during which the five tribally led or co-led petitions were presented and petitioners reaffirmed the specific proposed actions as described on April 14.

Table 1 details the five tribally led or co-led MPA petitions and the specific actions requested in each, [including those](#) presented in April and reaffirmed during the regional MPA petition meetings. [For clarity, the tribal changes are identified in the third column and petitions are renamed with an amendment number in the fourth column](#). The Department is asked to evaluate the five petitions consistent with the amendments summarized in the "...Description of Amended Petition Proposed Actions, Effective April 15, 2026" column. The Commission has requested that the Department complete and submit the evaluations to the Commission prior to, and present its recommendations during, the Commission's August 12-13, 2026 meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Table 1: Tribally Led or Co-Led Marine Protected Area Petitions, Updated July 1, 2026 (updates displayed in blue font)

Petition Number Tribal Lead or Co-Lead and Co-Sponsor(s)	Description of Petition Proposed Actions (Original 2023 or as Amended 2025)	Tribal Petitioner Changes	Amended Petition Number and Description of Amended Petition Proposed Actions (Effective April 15, 2026)
2023-21MPA Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	- Amend northern boundary of Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area (SCMA) - Remove recreational take of surf smelt - Maintain tribal take exemption for the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	No changes proposed <i>The Department explained that surf smelt is part of a three-species "true smelt" group (surf, night, and whitebait); because the MPA allows recreational take of the group, it is necessary to remove the recreational allowance for true smelt, not just surf smelt. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation does not oppose this change.</i>	2023-21MPA_AM1 - Amend northern boundary of Pyramid Point SMCA - Remove recreational take of surf true smelt - Maintain tribal take exemption for the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
2023-28MPA_AM1AM2 Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Northern Chumash Tribal Council	- Designate a new SMCA around Point Sal (size: 14.22 square miles with an alongshore span of 3.20 miles) - Identify a tribal name through consultation with Chumash people - Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore	<i>Add Northern Chumash Tribal Council as co-petitioner</i> <i>Move the southern boundary northward by approximately one-half mile to end of Vandenberg Space Force Base Road.</i> <i>SW corner:</i> <i>34.895212665° N Lat,</i> <i>120.731972573° W Long</i> <i>SE corner:</i> <i>34.895212665° N Lat,</i> <i>120.642637239° W Long</i> <i>Allow incidental take during mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base</i>	2023-28MPA_AM2 <i>Northern Chumash Tribal Council added as co-petitioner</i> - Designate a new SMCA around Point Sal (size as amended: 9.18 square miles with an alongshore span of 4.03 miles) - Identify a tribal name through consultation with Chumash people - Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore - Allow incidental take during mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Petition Number Tribal Lead or Co-Lead and Co-Sponsor(s)	Description of Petition Proposed Actions (Original 2023 or as Amended 2025)	Tribal Petitioner Changes	Amended Petition Number and Description of Amended Petition Proposed Actions (Effective April 15, 2026)
2023-29MPA_AM1 NRDC Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Environmental Defense Center	- Designate a new marine protected area near Carpinteria as “Mishopshno SMCA” (size: 8.97 square miles) - Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore - Include a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	- Move western boundary <i>to align with Caspia Lane in Summerland, at:</i> 34.366106° N Lat, 119.53689° W Long - Move the eastern boundary <i>to align with Franklin Creek, at:</i> 34.366106° N Lat, 119.58868° W Long	2023-29MPA_AM2 - Designate a new marine protected area near Carpinteria as “Mishopshno SMCA” (size as amended: 9.05 square miles with an alongshore span of 3.63 miles) - Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore - Include a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
2023-19MPA Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	- Designate a new marine protected area near Morro Bay as “Chitqawi SMCA” - Include a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians - Allow recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand - Allow incidental take from permitted operations	- Remove proposed allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand - Remove incidental take allowance	2023-19MPA_AM1 - Designate a new marine protected area near Morro Bay as “Chitqawi SMCA” - Include only a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Petition Number Tribal Lead or Co-Lead and Co-Sponsor(s)	Description of Petition Proposed Actions (Original 2023 or as Amended 2025)	Tribal Petitioner Changes	Amended Petition Number and Description of Amended Petition Proposed Actions (Effective April 15, 2026)
2023-20MPA Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	• Expand northern boundary of Point Buchon State Marine Reserve (SMR) north to align with Point Buchon • Re-name Point Buchon SMCA as the “Chumash Co-Managed SMCA” • Remove current take allowance (recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore) • Add allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand • Allow take incidental to operations in MPA • Add a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	• <i>Keep current take allowance (recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore)</i> • <i>Remove proposed allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand</i> • <i>Remove proposed allowance for take incidental to operations in MPA</i>	2023-20MPA_AM1 • Expand northern boundary of Point Buchon SMR north to align with Point Buchon • Re-name Point Buchon SMCA as the “Chumash Co-Managed SMCA” • Add a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

**Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
Executive Summary for April 14 Tribal Committee**

Overview

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has requested:

- a new MPA with an exemption for the Tribe (Chitqawi)
- adding a tribal exemption to an existing MPA (Point Buchon)
- with NRDC a new MPA that would have a tribal exemption (Mishopshno)
- all include co-management components
- these are listed first, second and fifth on the Tribal Committee's agenda

Purpose for these MPA proposals

These proposals were submitted in response to both the Pathways to 30 x 30 report and the Decadal Management Review, both released in 2022. In both the State acknowledged the need to redress the exclusion of Tribes from the first MPA process but also to “create a clear pathway to tribal MPA management.” In fact, the petitions submitted by SYBCI address the first three adaptive management recommendations: improve state agencies' tribal engagement, support tribal management and build tribal capacity to participate in MPA management activities.

Moreover, the petitions clearly satisfy the CDFW tribal component criteria: (1) the proposed changes explicitly aim to advance tribal co-management, subsistence harvesting, stewardship, and provide a tribal benefit through recognizing the cultural significance of an area; and (2) the proposed regulatory changes explicitly are linked to a Tribe and meet all three subcriteria of a tribal exemption, tribal take only MPA, and new MPA for co-management.

The proposed petitions also address climate impacts through protection of marine life and habitat, and protect critically important cultural sites that are now submerged due to sea level changes over the last several thousand years. Finally, as the Santa Ynez Chumash are a maritime culture, the MPAs contain tribal take exemptions that would provide key fishing opportunities that sustain tribal culture.

Chitqawi

Chitqawi is the name for and represents the northernmost coastal Chumash village. It is at the top of the attached map. There is currently no tribally co-managed MPA in this Central Coast region between Morro Bay and Cambria. The petition describes two main reasons for granting the petitions: (1) as what is called “an insurance factor” to protect marine life and habitat impacted by anthropogenic events such as climate disturbance; and (2) to strengthen the role of Tribes in co-management and monitoring efforts. These are detailed in the supporting material submitted with this petition.

There is an important clarification here. The proposed regulatory language submitted would, according to CDFW, create a public opening whereas the petition text and supporting materials make it clear that the Tribe is seeking a tribal exemption only. We have shared this clarification with CDFW and CNRA directly and can make sure the language correctly reflects the intent of the Tribe in the follow up process.

Point Buchon

Point Buchon is an existing MPA and the petition requests that this be a tribally co-managed SMCA, requests a tribal exemption, and that the northern boundary to the north to better capture the marine area off the Point. This MPA is to the south of Chitqawi, eight miles south of Morro Bay. It is offshore of the Point Buchon SMR and is deeper at 200-400 feet. The petition requests a northern boundary shift as recommended by the MPA Collaborative Network's Regulatory Recommendation. This petition also has attached to it a detailed white paper called "Co-Management of California Chumash Marine Conservation Areas" that further supports their requests.

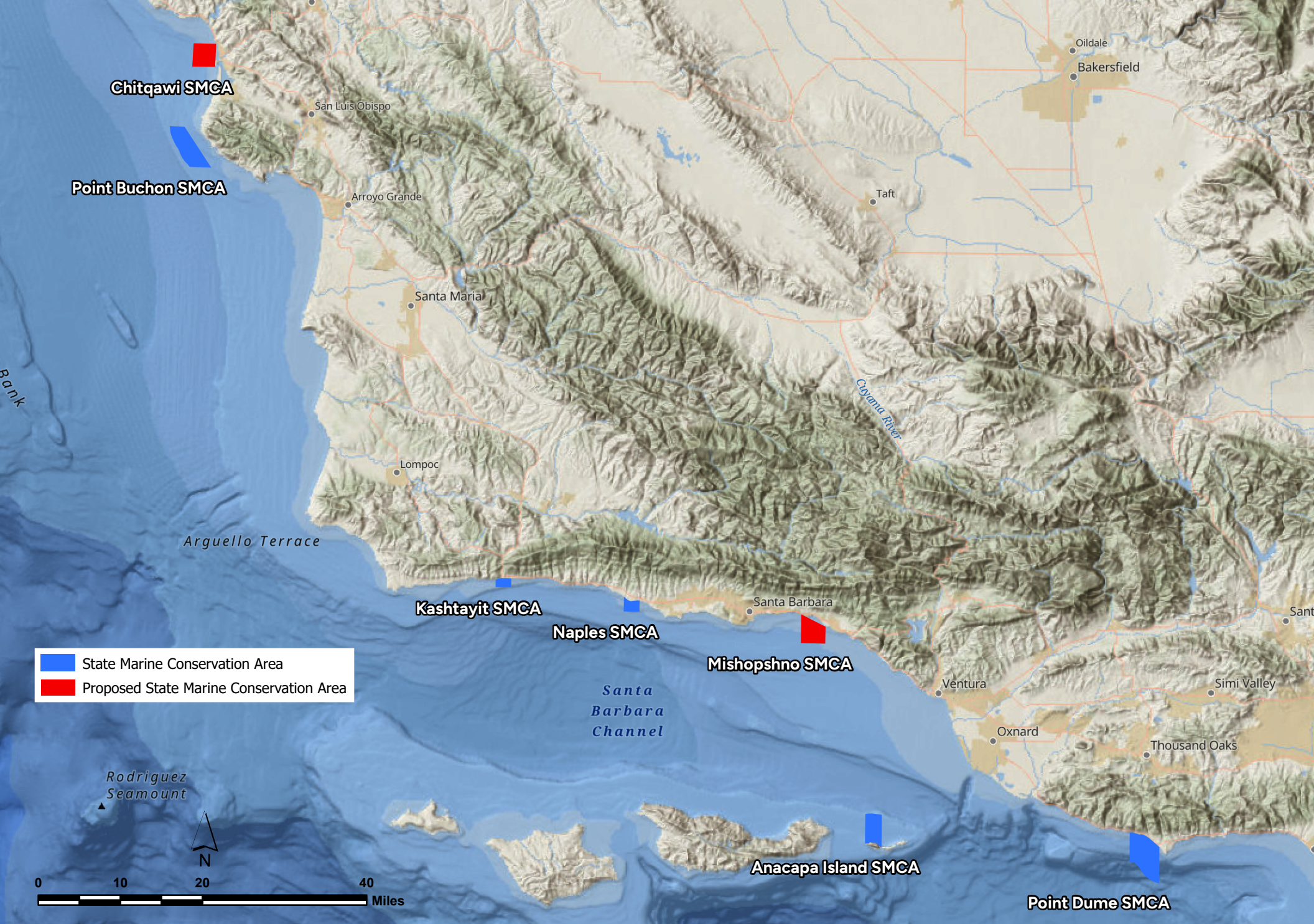
There are two important clarifications here. The proposed regulatory language submitted would, according to CDFW, create a public opening (thus reducing protection of this SMCA) whereas the petition text and supporting materials make it clear that the Tribe is seeking a tribal exemption only. Second, CDFW told the Tribe that salmon and albacore is currently allowed in this area and asked if the Tribe meant to remove that and the Tribe said "no." We have shared this clarification with CDFW and CNRA directly and can make sure the language correctly reflects the intent of the Tribe in the follow up process.

Mishopshno

The third petition and the fifth one to be heard in Tribal Committee is Mishopshno. The NRDC is our co-sponsor and will address the more scientific components but the Tribe was eager to co-sponsor because Mishopshno is a very ancient Chumash village and a place of profound spiritual significance to the Tribe. It has been the subject of many meetings and was amended during the original submission period in order to address public feedback. The Tribe is requesting a tribal exemption for this area and that it also be co-managed by the Tribe.

Requests of the Tribal Committee

1. Request that the Tribal Committee *recommend* that the Fish and Game Commission direct the CDFW to evaluate the petitions as discussed today, rather than the regulatory language as written so that the necessary corrections can be made
2. Request that the Tribal Committee *recommend approval* of the three petitions based on the fact that they meet the first three adaptive management recommendations: improve state agencies' tribal engagement, support tribal management and build tribal capacity to participate in MPA management activities; and also on the basis that they meet the CDFW tribal component criteria



Data source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS), accessed April 2026.

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians SMCAs

From: natalie@nashobaconsultingllc.com
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:07 AM
To: FGC
Cc: Eckerle, Jenn; Esgro, Michael; Thompson, Geneva; Nakia Lent; 'Teresa Sat'
Subject: visual presentations for meeting on Tuesday May 5th in Goleta
Attachments: Point Buchon presentation.pptx; Chairman testimony 4.15.26.pdf; Chitqawi presentation.pptx

Hello Commissioners –

Per the instructions, attached are copies of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash's presentations for the Chitqawi and Point Buchon petitions respectively at next Tuesday's meeting in Goleta. I am also attaching a copy of Chairman Kenneth Kahn's testimony on these petitions from Tribal Committee earlier this month.

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues opening the files.

Thank you,

Natalie

Natalie Landreth
Nashoba Consulting, LLC
natalie@nashobaconsultingllc.com
907-360-3423



Thank you, Chair Hostler-Carmesin and Commissioner Zavaleta.

My name is Kenneth Kahn, and I am Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. I am here on behalf of our Tribe in support of the two petitions we submitted—Chitqawi and Point Buchon—as well as the petition we co-sponsored, Mishopshno. The Tribal Council is unanimous in its support of all three proposals.

Since the Chitqawi and Point Buchon petitions are first on the agenda, I will focus my remarks on those and am happy to answer any questions. Joining me today is the Tribe's outside counsel, Natalie Landreth, who may assist with technical aspects of the petitions.

At the outset, I would like to thank the California Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for their time, collaboration, and thoughtful engagement over the past several months. Their willingness to work with us has been greatly appreciated.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians are deeply and inseparably connected to the ocean. It is foundational to our history, central to our culture—both past and present—and essential to our future. We have lived along this coastline since time immemorial, and for generations we relied on the ocean for sustenance, harvesting fish, shellfish, and marine mammals. These species are reflected in our traditions and in archaeological records that date back thousands of years.

With colonization and the imposition of federal and state control over coastal waters and fisheries, we lost much of the stewardship authority we once exercised. Even so, we have retained our knowledge of these ecosystems and our responsibility to care for them. These waters remain central to our identity.

Today, we continue these traditions through our tomol crossings to the channel islands, diving, fishing, and cultural education programs that keep this knowledge alive for future generations.

It is also important to recognize that as sea levels have changed over time, many of our ancestral village sites now lie underwater. As a result, our efforts are not only about protecting cultural practices and marine resources, but also about safeguarding the physical remains of our ancestral communities. These places are sacred and must be protected.

Because of this enduring relationship with the ocean, Santa Ynez was among the first Tribes to seek tribal fishing exemptions and co-management opportunities within Marine Protected Areas, beginning in 2007. Those efforts resulted in four MPAs—Kashtayit, Naples, Point Dume, and Anacapa Island—where Tribal access and stewardship were recognized.

The State’s “Pathways to 30x30 California” report highlights priorities that are directly aligned with the petitions before you today, including protecting Native American ancestral lands for cultural practice, strengthening Tribal partnerships, and expanding Native stewardship. The proposals we bring forward are designed to advance these commitments.

Our petitions are guided by three primary goals.

First, we seek tribal exemptions from fishing restrictions, consistent with existing MPAs. Maintaining access for fishing, gathering, hunting, and harvesting is essential to our cultural practices and contributes to the long-term health of these ecosystems.

Second, we aim to protect cultural resources. These areas were selected in part because they contain ancient village sites that are deeply significant to our people.

Third, and most importantly, we seek to move toward co-management of these MPAs. We believe California’s MPA network should meaningfully include Tribal stewardship, knowledge, and governance. We are currently working with the State to develop co-management approaches that are effective and collaborative.

Turning briefly to the Chitqawi proposal: Chitqawi is the name of the northernmost coastal Chumash village near present-day Morro Bay, encountered during the Portolá expedition in 1769. The area contains species that remain culturally important to our people, as described in our petition materials.

The Point Buchon proposal concerns an existing MPA located south of Morro Bay. Point Buchon is also the site of a historic Chumash village and holds deep spiritual significance. For this area, we are requesting a tribal exemption and a modest adjustment to the northern boundary.

During the process of working with CNRA and CDFW, we recognized that there are three discrepancies in our petitions that we would like to clarify today.

First, in the Chitqawi petition, the draft regulatory language unintentionally suggests a broader public opening. Our intent is to request a tribal exemption only for Santa Ynez, consistent with the four existing MPAs.

Second, the same clarification applies to Point Buchon. We do not seek to reduce protections or expand public access—only to establish a tribal exemption.

Third, we did not intend to remove the existing allowance for salmon and albacore take at Point Buchon.

We remain committed to working closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Natural Resources Agency to refine the regulatory language and ensure it reflects these intentions.

Santa Ynez is also proud to co-sponsor the Mishopshno petition with the Natural Resources Defense Council. This proposal likewise includes a tribal exemption and a co-management framework, and we strongly support its advancement.

In closing, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, I respectfully request that the Tribal Committee recommend that the Fish and Game Commission direct the Department of Fish and Wildlife to evaluate these petitions as clarified today. We also ask for your recommendation to approve all three petitions based on their advancement of Tribal co-management, protection of ancestral places, and the conservation benefits of Tribal stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.



Tracking Number: (_2023-19MPA_)

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 (Required)**
 Sam Cohen, Esq. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians |
 100 Via Juana Road
 PO Box 517 Santa Ynez, California 93460
 Telephone number:
 Email address: scohen@chumash.gov
2. **Rulemaking Authority (Required)** - 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)** - This attached Summary for this Petition describes a proposed additional California-Chumash co-management SMCA that is referred to as "Chitqawi" – the northern most coastal Chumash village site of the territory traditionally inhabited by the diverse Chumash peoples. The proposed new regulations are as follows:

(B) Area restrictions defined in subsection 632(a)(1)(C) apply, with the following specified exceptions:

 1. The recreational take of finfish [subsection 632(a)(2)], invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels by hand harvest is allowed.
 2. Take pursuant to activities authorized under subsection 632(b)(97)(C) is allowed.
 3. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b)(97) of these regulations and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.
4. **Rationale (Required)** - To ensure 30% of California waters are fully protected by 2030 and to foster Tribal engagement and co-management of MPAs, this Petition submitted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI) recommends an additional MPA for the Central Coast Region MPA network. There is no Tribal MPA for co-management within this regional network.



The SYBCI are co-managers of four south coast SMCAs. The Tribe is recommending the adoption of a new MPA between Morro Bay and Cambria for the Central Coast Region. Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: [Click here to enter text.](#)

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** [November 9, 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): [Click here to enter text.](#)
- ☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)
Or ☒ Not applicable.

9. **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: [At the discretion of the Commission.](#)

10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Please see attached.](#)

11. **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: [Unknown.](#)

12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[Please see attached.](#)

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [11/29/2023](#)

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 _____
- ☐ Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number

**SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR PETITION TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND
GAME COMMISSION FOR REGULATORY CHANGE**

A Petition to Add *Chitqawi* SMCA to the Central Coast MPA Network

Submitted By

Sam Cohen, Esq.
Government Affairs & Legal Specialist
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians
PO Box 517 | Santa Ynez, CA 93460
805.688.7997 Office

Date: November 11, 2023

Overview. California has begun its first 10-year review of the state’s marine protected areas (MPAs) network. The State’s first decadal management review of the MLPA will be used to inform the future of marine life protection in California waters.

Since the adoption of State MPAs, Governor Gavin Newsom laid out a goal to protect 30% of the land, water, and marine area over the decade. The current level of marine area designated in some type of MPA in each region is far less than the goal to protect 30% of California marine waters. Improvements to the existing MPA network are warranted. Changes to the existing MPA Network are based on the statutory authority of the Fish and Game Commission to take the action requested (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).

California should add marine area to the existing MPA Network for two primary reasons:

- (i) To ensure the designed benefits of marine reserves an insurance factor¹ is needed to protect marine life and habitat from the synergistic impacts of anthropogenic disturbance events. Marine life is impacted by ecosystem disturbance associated with short term and long-term factors associated with climate disturbance, such as the warming of sea surface temperature, among other anthropogenic pressures.² An insurance factor, such as increasing the scale of MPA networks, may provide a protective measure to marine life impacted by anthropogenic impacts. Given the ten-year history of the benefits of MPAs within State waters, the Commission should consider adding other MPAs to the existing network given evidence of climate disturbance on marine life. For example, there is evidence of large areas of warming of sea surface temperature and associated ecosystem disturbance within the California Current.³
- (ii) To strengthen the role of the Tribes in co-management and monitoring efforts and marine education activities throughout the marine region, additional Tribal MPAs are warranted today.⁴ Additional Tribal MPAs should be designed within the existing MPA networks to ensure that Tribal nations are integrated and engaged in marine life protection and education efforts. Additional designation of Tribal MPAs is also

¹ Allison, Gary W., Steven D. Gaines, Jane Lubchenco, And Hugh P. Possingham, Ensuring Persistence of Marine Reserves: Catastrophes Require Adopting an Insurance Factor, *Ecological Applications*, 13(1) Supplement (2003): S8–S24.

² Smith, J. G., Free, C. M., Lopazanski, C., Brun, J., Anderson, C. R., Carr, M. H., Claudet, J., Dugan, J. E., Eurich, J. G., Francis, T. B., Hamilton, S. L., Mouillot, D., Raimondi, P. T., Starr, R. M., Ziegler, S. L., Nickols, K. J., & Caselle, J. E. (2023). A marine protected area network does not confer community structure resilience to a marine heatwave across coastal ecosystems. *Global Change Biology*, 29, 5634–5651. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.16862>

³ Rodríguez-Rodríguez, D., and Javier Martínez-Vega. (2022) Ecological effectiveness of marine protected areas across the globe in the scientific literature. *Advances in Marine Biology* 92: 129-153 provide a detailed empirical review of the scientific literature on the ecological benefits of marine protected areas.

⁴ McGinnis, M.V. and R. Cordero. *Tribal Marine Protected Areas: Protecting Maritime Ways and Tribal Practices*. A White Paper produced by the Wishtoyo Foundation. 2004.

warranted given recent California and federal guidelines and initiatives that support Tribal co-management and collaborative natural resource management and planning.



To ensure 30% of state waters are fully protected by 2030 and to foster Tribal engagement and co-management of MPAs, this Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indian's (SYBCI) Petition emphasizes the need to designate an additional Tribal co-management SMCA for the Central Coast Region. This Petition recommends that the Central Coast Region MPA network (identified in the map below)⁵ should be strengthened to support an additional Chumash SMCA. There is no such Tribal MPA for co-management within this regional network. This Petition includes a general characterization of the proposed new MPA including location and regulatory information for the Tribal co-management of *Chitqawi*⁶ for the region.

Rationale. MPAs were established pursuant to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) of 1999, and through a collaborative public process known as the MLPA Initiative process, which involved regional stakeholder groups such as

commercial and recreational anglers, tribal and government representatives, educators, researchers, and conservationists. Environmental Impact Reports were prepared for each of the four study areas, including the Central Coast Region (Pigeon Point to Point Conception). The MPA network for the Central Coast Region was approved by the Commission in 2007.

California's first decadal management review of the MLPA began in 2022. One goal of the decadal management review is for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to evaluate and adaptively manage the established MPA Network. The regional networks that were established by the State included input from participants in collaborative planning efforts

⁵ The map is from California Central Coast Marine Protected Areas. Baseline Data Collection Summary Report. Publication No. T-068 (December 2008). California Sea Grant College Program University of California, San Diego. Page 2.

⁶ For a discussion of Chitqawi and other central coast Chumash history, see Milliken, R. and John R. Johnson (March 2005). An Ethnogeography of Salinan and Northern Chumash Communities – 1769 to 1810. Available at:

https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck_ind_1/4?utm_source=digitalcommons.csumb.edu%2Fhornbeck_ind_1%2F4&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

including members of the scientific community, conservationists, and marine resource users. Scientific input on the benefits of MPAs to marine ecosystems contributed to these early MPA planning processes.

There was very little effort by the State during the early period of the implementation of the MLPA to consider Tribal MPAs in the network design. There was also a general lack of agreement to establish MPA networks that would allow for ecological resilience of marine systems given the range of impacts and pressures associated with climate change, including the rise of sea surface temperature. Since the adoption of the MPA Network, there has been considerable evidence on the benefits of traditional ecological knowledge and other indigenous experience in marine life protection. There is also more information on the importance of marine reserves as management tools to support marine life protection in a context of climate change.⁷

The SYBCI are co-managers of four existing SMCAs. There exists no Tribal co-managed MPA within this network. Following adoption of MPAs in the North Coast MPA Planning Process, a regulatory provision was adopted by the California Department of Fish and Game Commission (hereafter “Commission”) to provide exemptions from MPA-specific area and take regulations for individual federally recognized California Tribes (i.e., tribal exemptions), through a petition process by the Commission. Tribal take can be authorized in MPAs that overlap with areas of historic and/or current uses for gathering, ceremony, or harvest as reflected in a factual record of use provided by the Tribe. Amendments to MPA regulations were approved by the Commission for two different tribes: the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (the Kashia) and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (hereafter “SYBCI”). The SYBCI is the only federally recognized Chumash Tribe. The Chumash-California MPAs are Naples SMCA, *Kashtayit* SMCA, Point Dume SMCA, and Anacapa Island SMCA that provide Tribal exemptions.

The SYBCI is recommending the adoption of a new MPA between Morro Bay and Cambria for the Central Coast Region. This Petition refers to the additional California-Chumash co-management SMCA as “Chitqawi” – the northern most coastal Chumash village site of the territory traditionally inhabited by the diverse Chumash peoples. Chitqawi is a coastal village of the Chumash that exists on the northern boundary of the Morro Bay area (although the exact location is unknown). The proposed SMCA is named after the Chumash village. The Chumash word Chitqawi appears to have many different spellings.⁸ An early reference to the village site was *Chotcagua*, which was probably a rancheria of 60 people encountered by the Portolá expedition at the north side of Morro Bay in the fall of 1769. A similar placename “Chotosilul,” recorded for a young couple baptized at Mission San Luis Obispo by Father Lasuén in 1800, may be synonymous with Chotcagua.

The proposed general location of Chitqawi SMCA is depicted in the Map (attached to this letter). The SYBCI is proposing a general location; the specific location is identified below but the Tribe

⁷ *Scientific Guidance for Evaluating California’s Marine Protected Area Network*. A Report by the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team Working Group and California Ocean Science Trust (June 2021).

⁸ See Milliken, R., and John R. Johnson. *An Ethnogeography of Salinan and Northern Chumash Communities – 1769 to 1810*.

is willing to collaborate with State partners to consider this proposed SMCA in more detail given the state's interest in pursuing additional marine protective measures and pursuing offshore wind energy in the general area of Morro Bay.

There are many benefits to co-management of marine protected areas.⁹⁹ The benefits include:

- more appropriate rules and regulations that can respond rapidly to changing socio-ecological conditions.
- more effective and efficient enforcement due to increased legitimacy of the management structures.
- can increase equitable and fair use of resources; and
- can contribute to the empowerment and development of marginalized communities.

A general summary of the proposed new Chitqawi SMCA is as follows:

Location:

NW Corner:

120° 55' 07.93184807" W

35° 24' 07.27987892" N

NE Corner:

120° 52' 12.77783307" W

35° 24' 07.66583976" N

SE Corner:

120° 52' 14.60088309" W

35° 21' 40.65821016" N

SW Corner:

120° 55' 12.28543284" W

35° 21' 38.75344654" N

Primary habitat types: sandy beach, rocky intertidal, surfgrass, shallow hard and soft bottom, kelp bed. The Morro Bay estuary is a “nursery of the sea” because numerous animal species rely on estuaries for nesting and breeding. Most of the fish and shellfish eaten in the United States, including salmon, herring, and oysters, complete at least part of their life cycles in estuaries. Many of these species were essential to the maintenance of Chumash culture and maritime society. Additional protective measures that extend beyond the MPAs designated within the Morro Bay estuary are warranted, including a SMCA in the marine area to the north of the estuary and within State marine waters.

Regulations: The Chumash requested the Commission to apply tribal take provisions in four SMCAs in Southern California that are within their areas of historic and/or current tribal use. With the proposed new Chitqawi SMCA, the Chumash would be allowed to fish with the use of hand-based equipment. The proposed exemptions would be consistent with allowing tribal take exemptions as currently defined in Title 14, §632(a)(11), which identify how a member of a federally recognized tribe may be authorized to take living marine resources from an MPA with site-specific take restrictions. Members taking living marine resources under this provision are

⁹⁹ *Moving toward Co-Management of the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary*. A Paper Prepared for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Michael Vincent McGinnis. Bioregional Planning Associates. (March 2022). The paper includes a review of the literature and technical reports on co-management marine life protection.

subject to current seasonal, bag, possession, gear and size limits in existing Fish and Game Code statutes and regulations of the Commission, except otherwise provided for in Title 14, §632(b). No member, while taking living marine resources pursuant to this section, may be assisted by any person who does not possess a valid tribal identification card and is not properly licensed to take living marine resources. Nothing in the proposed regulation is intended to conflict with, or supersede, any state or federal law regarding the take of protected, threatened, or endangered species. The box below includes language for the new regulations associated with the proposed Chitqawi SMCA:

(B) Area restrictions defined in subsection 632(a)(1)(C) apply, with the following specified exceptions:

1. The recreational take of finfish [subsection 632(a)(2)], invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels by hand harvest is allowed.
2. Take pursuant to activities authorized under subsection 632(b)(97)(C) is allowed.
3. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b)(97) of these regulations and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes:
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

Examples of species likely to benefit nearshore rockfish, squid, mussels, turban snails, limpets, among other species, including California halibut. There are benefits to marine life, including sea birds, which depend on the Morro Bay estuary during part of their life cycle, since the estuary is a nursery to the sea. The new SMCA will also provide for protection of a diverse area containing shallow hard and soft habitats, sandy bottom, and associated fish and invertebrate species adjacent to an existing estuary (that is part of the National Estuary Program).

Detailed Objectives:

- Protect natural trophic structure and food webs, including forage species such as juvenile rockfish, squid, and coastal pelagic finfish that serve as prey for other fish, marine birds, and marine mammals.
- Protect larval sources and enhance reproductive capacity of nearshore fish and invertebrate species.
- Provide protection to nearshore shelf rockfish species.
- Replicate within a state marine reserve the range of shallow habitats found at Cambria and White Rock SMCAs.
- Include and replicate sandy beaches, shallow hard and soft bottom habitat.

The SYBCI appreciates the opportunity to recommend the adoption of this new co-management MPA within the Central Coast Region network. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal in more detail with State partners during the planning effort that is currently underway for the State's first decadal management review of the MLPA and MPA Network.

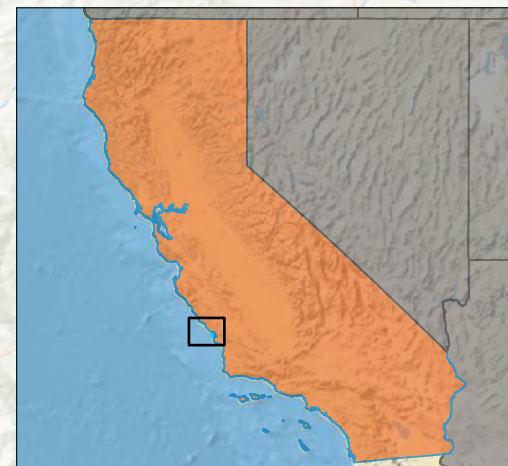


Proposed Chitqawi State Marine Conservation Area

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Legend

- Proposed Chitqawi SMCA
- State Marine Reserve
- State Marine Conservation Area
- State Marine Park
- State Marine Recreational Management Area
- Coast Line



- Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
- Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area
- Cambria State Marine Conservation Area
- White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area
- Morro Bay State Marine Reserve
- Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area
- Point Buchon State Marine Reserve
- Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

0 4 8 16 Miles

CO-MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA-CHUMASH MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS

**A White Paper Produced for The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
with Funding Provided by the 7th Generation Advisors**



MICHAEL VINCENT MCGINNIS, PhD

Bioregional Planning Associates Sacramento California

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Malibu's Paradise Cove August 19, 2011. Chumash paddle their tomol to meet the sailors in seven vaka moanas or sailing canoes from the Pacific Voyage. *Photo: M.V. McGinnis.*

ACROSS THE PACIFIC RIM, Tribal and Indigenous peoples are participating and co-managing marine protected areas. These co-management experiences provide opportunities and challenges to sustain Indigenous maritime practices. Co-management of marine protected areas can foster the integration of scientific and traditional ecological knowledge systems.

The planning effort under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) of 1999 currently involves federally recognized Tribes. The goal of this report is to strengthen the opportunities to implement co-management of designated California-Chumash marine conservation areas located at Anacapa Island, Naples, Point Dume, and Kashtayit in southern California.

The implementation of the existing California-Chumash marine conservation areas is ongoing, and the State plans to review the progress of the MLPA in 2022. At that time changes may be made to the existing legislative framework, and other planning and decision-making changes



may be developed to foster further cooperation with Tribes and the State in the implementation of the MLPA and the co-management of designated marine conservation areas.

Based on a review of case study materials and the literature on co-management of protective areas, there are three major recommendations described in this report. First, a move from consultative co-management to collaborative management of designated California-Chumash marine conservation areas is warranted. Second, the following factors contribute to successful implementation of co-management of State-Tribal protected areas: public access to Tribal members to the protected area; the proximity to use of the marine area; the scientific baseline information on the ecology of the marine area; the historical level of customary marine resource use; the institutional capacity to monitor the designated MPA; the enforcement capacity and capability of partnering agencies and the Tribe of the MPA; and the available customary values and ecosystem goods and services provided by the MPA. These factors are used to analyze the four alternative California-Chumash marine conservation areas. Third, the Chumash should consider joining the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program as the fifth partner in the collaborative network effort. There is currently no southern California Tribal partner in the pilot program. Two California-Chumash marine conservation areas may be appropriate to consider by the Chumash members given the analysis in this report -- the *Kashtayit* or Point Dume marine conservation areas. This recommendation is based on the historical use of customary practice by the Chumash of these areas; the proximity of use to these areas; the availability of public access to the sites; and other factors. Furthermore, the Chumash should consider ways to contribute as co-managers to the enforcement, education, information exchange, and the monitoring efforts to further the implementation of existing California-Chumash marine conservation areas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
CHUMASH TEK AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIGHT.....	6
CO-MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.....	8
THE EARLY PHASE OF CO-MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA-TRIBAL MPAS.....	12
<i>The Move toward Tribal Exemption.....</i>	12
<i>Co-management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.....</i>	14
<i>The Tribal Marine Stewards Pilot Program.....</i>	15
<i>Moving from Consultation Co-Management to Collaborative Co-Management.....</i>	16
CASE STUDIES OF CO-MANAGEMENT.....	18
AN ANALYSIS OF FOUR CALIFORNIA-CHUMASH MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS	21
<i>Institutional Capacity and Capability to Monitor and Enforce.....</i>	22
REFERENCE	23

List of Figures, Tables and Maps

Map 1. <i>Santarosae</i> Island before Sea-Level Rise.....	7
Figure 1. Co-Management Principles.....	9
Figure 2. Hybrid Management.....	10
Table 1. A Comparison of California and Tribal Management Systems.....	10
Figure 3. Types of Co-Management.....	11
Table 2. Alternative Analysis of California-Chumash Marine Conservation Areas.....	21

INTRODUCTION

Me'pshumawish. Together we are making health, harmony, peace.

This study builds on a previous report entitled *Tribal Marine Protected Areas: Protecting Maritime Ways and Cultural Practices* (McGinnis 2004) produced for the *Wishtoyo Foundation*. At the time of publication of that report, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) of 1999 did not include a statutory role for the Tribes in the collaborative network process (Sagkof et al. 2021). In their legal analysis of the changing role of the Tribes in the MLPA Berkeley and Williams (2019: 307) write:

Like the vast majority of California laws, the MLPA did not specifically address the rights and concerns of Indian tribes even though the California coast is Indian Country for many tribes. The failure of the legislature to acknowledge the centuries-long stewardship of coastal resources by Indian people, and the commencement of a resources-protection process that did not include tribes, resulted in initial opposition from Indian tribes. Many tribes feared the process would simply be the latest in a long history of state actions that risked the extinguishment of cultural practices. Instead, despite initial misunderstandings, the [marine protected area] MPA designation process elevated tribal engagement in state natural resource management and may be the catalyst for a fundamental shift in California's approach to tribal nations.

Requests to amend MPA regulations were submitted to the FGC by two different tribes: the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (hereafter, the Chumash). Tribal take was authorized in marine conservation areas that overlap with areas of historic and/or current uses for gathering, ceremony, or harvest as reflected in a factual record of use provided by a Tribe. There are four California-Chumash marine conservation areas that are located at sites in state waters at Anacapa Island, Naples, Point Dume, and *Kashtayit*.

The implementation of the existing California-Tribal marine conservation areas is ongoing. The first Decadal Management Review of the MLPA will take place in 2022, and will serve to review and potentially update four primary objectives of the MPA Management Program:

- Outreach and Education,
- Research and Monitoring,
- Enforcement and Compliance, and
- Policy and Permitting

The FWC will receive this review at their December 2022 meeting and decide whether to direct CDFW and its partners to pursue recommendations and identified next steps. At that time changes may be made to the existing legislative framework, and other planning and decision-making changes may be developed in cooperation with Tribes and California resource agencies to strengthen the co-management of designated marine conservation areas.

This paper begins with a description of the importance of traditional ecological knowledge or TEK and the Southern California Bight. Second, the paper characterizes the preliminary stages of implementation of the MLPA, and the changing role Tribes have in the collaborative network and decision-making. The paper reviews the co-management literature to suggest the need to move from *consultative* co-management to *collaborative* management of designated California-Chumash marine conservation areas.

In the last section, an analysis of the four alternative California-Chumash marine conservation areas is described. The alternative analysis is based on the following factors that contribute to successful co-management implementation:

- public access to Tribal members.
- the proximity to use of the marine area.
- the scientific baseline information on the ecology of the marine area.
- the historical level of customary marine resource use.
- the institutional capacity to monitor the designated MPA; and,
- the enforcement capacity and capability of partnering agencies and the Tribe of the MPA.

CHUMASH TEK AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIGHT

Federally recognized tribes are not mere stakeholders in the MLPA decision-making and collaborative process. As co-managers of marine life protection and management, Tribes are sovereign nations. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is essential to the maintenance of Tribal maritime culture and should be considered a key facet of the co-management process for California-Chumash marine conservation areas. Moreover, the public and resource agencies can learn from TEK.

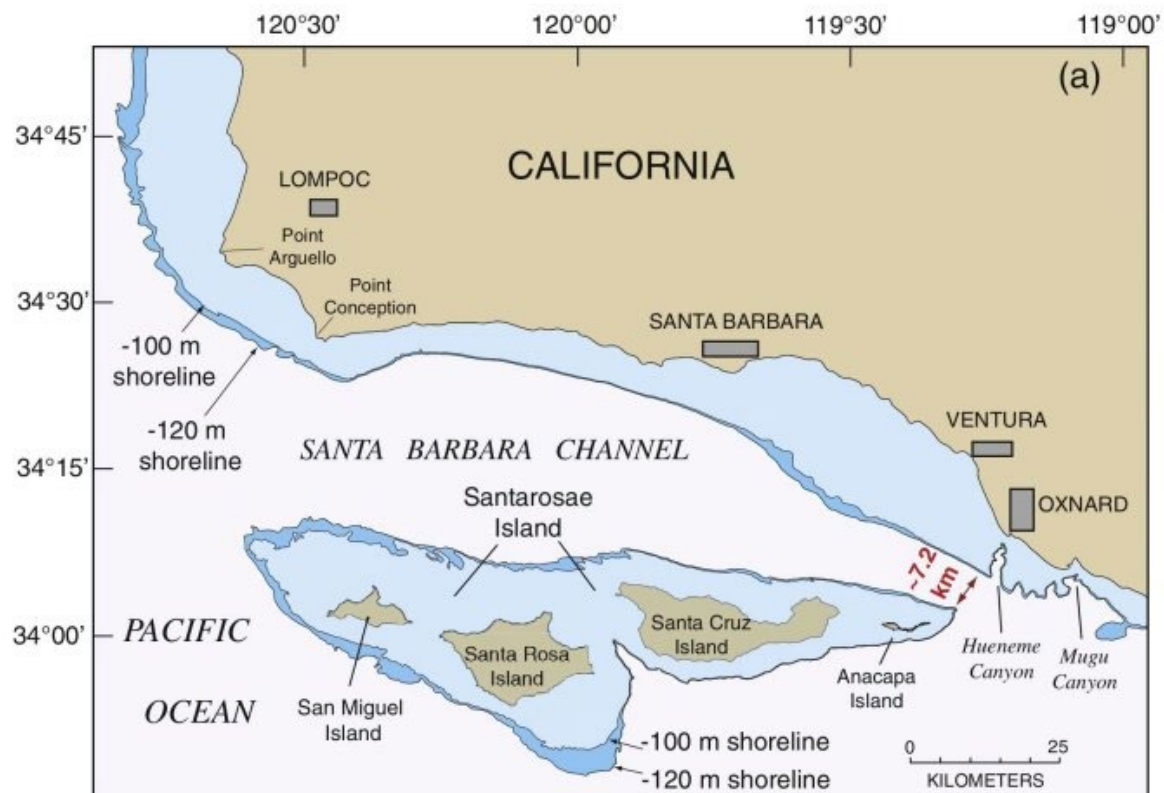
TEK is based on the interaction between traditional or Indigenous culture and the ecosystems that Tribal peoples are irrevocably connected to. In *Sacred Ecology*, Fikret Berkes (2008) describes two primary aspects of TEK that are important to consider as California and the Tribes move forward in the implementation of the MLPA. First, TEK should be considered a “process” rather than a “content.” TEK is a process insofar as it changes and adapts to changes with ecosystems and cultural values. Second, there are benefits from a stronger integration and partnership between those who have TEK and scientific knowledge.

One hundred and forty-eight historic Chumash village sites have been identified from Malibu to San Luis Obispo, including eleven on Santa Cruz Island, eight on Santa Rosa Island, and two on San Miguel Island (Glassow 1995). The archaeological record shows that traditional Chumash maritime practices changed with a changing socio-ecological context. Mussel shells uncovered at excavated historical Chumash village sites indicate cyclical periods of species decline and rebound. These cyclical periods reflect changes in oceanographic setting of the California Current and the Southern California Bight, including short-term and longer-term (e.g., interdecadal oceanographic regime shifts) changes in sea surface temperature and associated changes in biogeography of fishes and invertebrates (Kennett 2005).

Moreover, archaeological and ethnographic evidence suggest that the periodic movement of Chumash village areas helped mediate socio-ecological changes in food security (Rick 2007). As in other traditional societies such as the Māori and other Pacific Islanders, Tribal peoples monitored and temporarily banned fishing certain species in order for their respective populations to reach a more stable abundance. Chumash coastal inhabitants would change their diet to reflect changes in their food availability. Seaweeds, kelps, and other marine plants helped sustain Chumash populations; marine plants were often an essential food source during times of food insecurity.

Chumash TEK served the needs of cultural adaptation to changes in the socio-ecology of the Southern California Bight. The northern Channel Islands area were one connected island called *Santarosae* that was located nine kilometers from the coastal mainland (depicted in Map 1). Large-scale sea-level rise during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene periods inundated nearshore areas in many parts of the world, producing drastic changes in local ecosystems and obscuring significant portions of the archeological record (Reeder-Myers et al. 2015). Sea level was about 80–85 meters lower than present at the time of the first known human Chumash occupation.

Map 1. Santarosae Island before Sea-Level Rise



Source: KCET, *California's Atlantis: The Lost Superisland of Santarosae*, available at: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/californias-atlantis-the-lost-superisland-of-santarosae>

There were major consequences from sea level rise on traditional cultures and customary practices of coastal southern California (Kennett 2005). At the close of the Pleistocene and start of the Holocene, people in coastal California faced shrinking land, intertidal, and subtidal zones that were used for food gathering and other customary uses. This led to a decline in food security and migration of traditional cultures. Second, as a consequence of sea-level rise in the Southern California Bight, including the Channel Islands and the coastal mainland areas, the archaeological and cultural areas used near river and creek mouths, coastal beach areas, and other areas historically inhabited by the Chumash are submerged today (Glassow 1995).

In addition, European colonialization of [Alta] California significantly impacted Chumash society (Dartt-Newton and Erlandson 2006). As Dartt-Newton and Erlandson (2006: 419):

While natural environmental fluctuations may have played a role in the movement of Chumash people to the missions (particularly in the abandonment of Channel Island villages after AD 1810), we contend that colonial oppression and Spanish-induced environmental degradation were the chief culprits. No amount of scientific data can blunt the harsh realities of the mission period, when the Chumash and other California Indians died by the tens of thousands and most survivors were reduced to a humiliating slavery-like condition.

Overall, the socio-ecology of the islands and coastal mainland changed and so did the traditional and customary practices of the Chumash (Holmes and Johnson 1998). Chumash knowledge evolves with changes in living conditions. Chumash TEK sustained the diverse communities for thousands of years.

Tribes have a substantive role in the co-management of California-Tribal marine conservation areas. One hope is that Tribal TEK can contribute to the strengthening of the public's awareness of the sacred and customary values of coastal and marine ecosystems in California. These coastal and marine ecosystems have long been influenced by human activities and customary practices.

PRINCIPLES OF CO-MANAGEMENT

Definitions of co-management focus on sharing management responsibility between government and stakeholders (Brown and Pomeroy 1998; Pomeroy 2001; Berkes et al. 2001). Borrini-Feyerabend et al. (2000) note that co-management is a situation in which two or more social actors negotiate, define, and guarantee amongst themselves an equitable sharing of the management functions, entitlements, and responsibilities for a marine area. In this case, the sharing of responsibility under the MLPA is between State agencies and the Chumash.

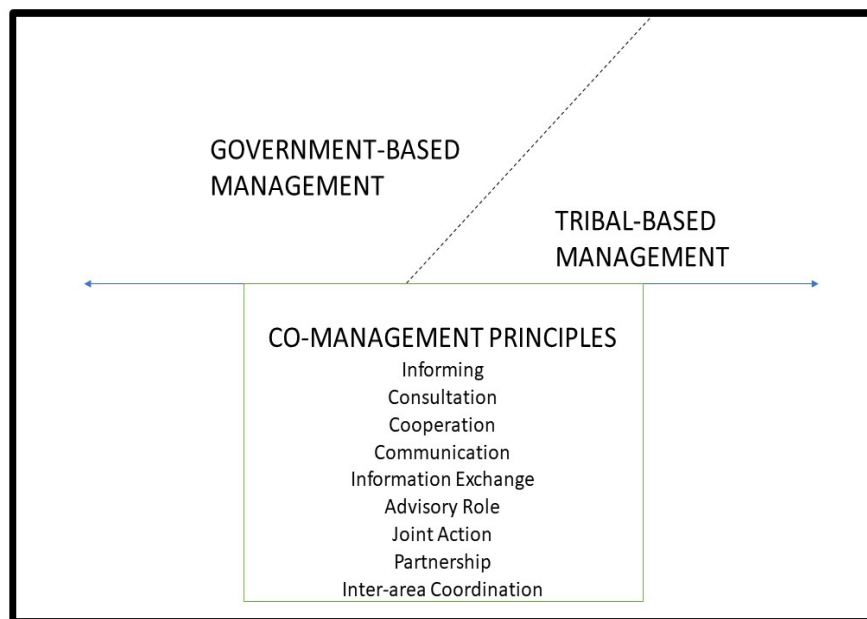
There are many benefits to co-management. The benefits include:

- improved management due to incorporation of better scientific evidence and TEK (Pinkerton 1989).
- more appropriate rules and regulations that can respond rapidly to changing socio-ecological conditions (Berkes et al. 2001; Ebbin 2002; Hernes et al. 2005).

- more effective and efficient enforcement due to increased legitimacy of the management structures (Berkes et al. 2001; Hanna 2003; Pinkerton and John 2008).
- can increase equitable and fair use of resources (Beierle and Cayford 2002; Borrini-Feyerabend et al. 2004; Coffey 2005); and
- can contribute to the empowerment and development of marginalized communities (Birner and Wittmer 2003; Hara and Nielsen 2003; Jentoft 2003; Pomeroy and Viswanathan 2003).

Figure 1 includes a general characterization of principles of co-management.

Figure 1. Co-Management Principles



There are three forms of co-management (depicted in Figure 2 below). The most common arrangement is described as “consultative co-management” whereby the resource agencies often consult with stakeholders or, in this case, Tribes (Brown and Pomeroy 1999). The term “collaborative co-management” connotes a stronger partnership where there is a sharing of authority and responsibility (Kurien 1988; McConney et al. 1998). Third is “delegated co-management” that includes, but is not limited to, community-based management since national or state co-management structures are especially common in fisheries management (Jacobs 1998; McConney and Mahon 1998). Establishing successful co-management is seldom immediate. Like most participatory processes it takes time and careful attention to partnership building and strategic planning.

Figure 2. Types of Co-Management

TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	TYPES OF CO-MANAGEMENT
Government has the most control	<u>Consultative Co-Management</u> Government interacts with partners But makes all decision
	<u>Collaborative Co-Management</u> Government and the tribes work closely and share decisions
	<u>Delegated Co-Management</u> Government lets formally organized tribes make decisions

A collaborative co-management approach to marine life protection requires the integration of two systems of governance and management. Tribal and customary management and marine ecosystem-based management systems have contrasting goals, inferred social and ecological benefits, and spatial scales. A general comparison of the diverse systems of management is found in Table 1.

Table 1. A Comparison of California and Tribal Management Systems

Management and Planning in the California MLPA	Tribal and Customary Management
Use of Ecosystem-based Principles in Planning	Cyclical processes and periodic benefits
Science-based Decision-making	Emphasis on the cultivation of TEK
Collaborative & Stakeholder based Planning	Utilitarian goals
Often dominated by Biological Conservation Goals	Sensitive to Socio-economic and Socio-ecological transformation
Operates on larger scales (e.g., networks of small reserves)	Complex tenure systems may hinder larger-scale conditions

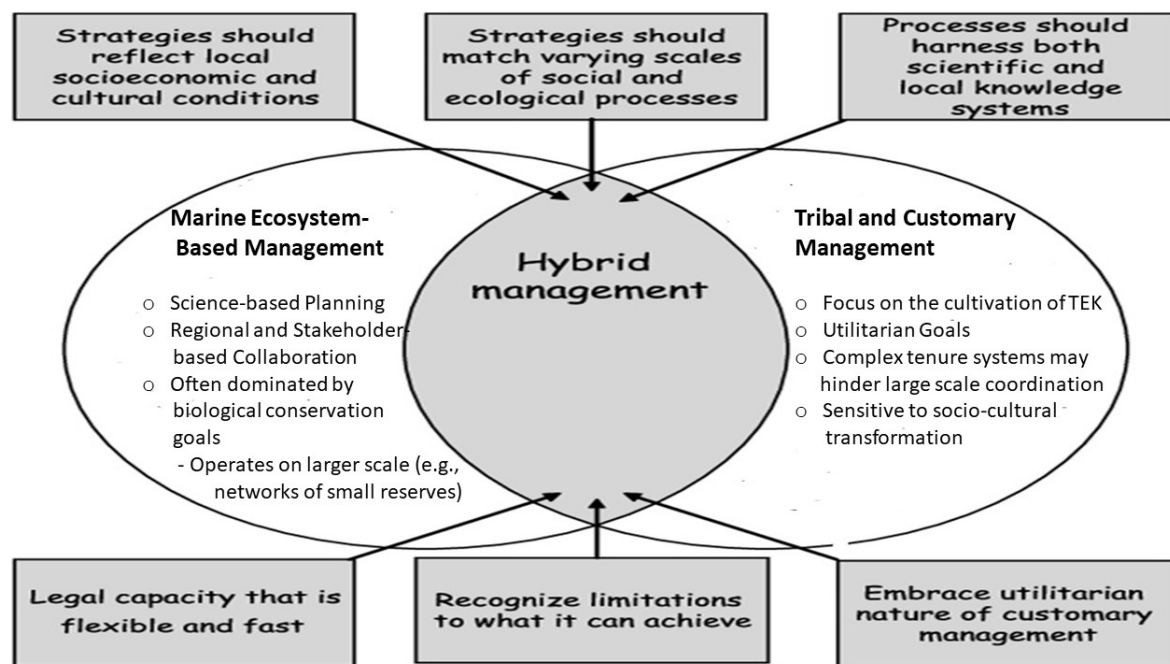
In collaborative co-management, there are three institutional factors that can contribute to the successful integration of authority and responsibility:

- Planning processes, including the monitoring and enforcement of marine protected areas, should harness both scientific and TEK systems.

- Program strategies should match varying scales of social, economic, and ecological processes.
- Program strategies should reflect local or regional socio-cultural conditions as they change overtime and as new information is gathered, e.g., strategic management should support adaptive approaches to planning in the future.

A hybridized co-management approach to marine life protection is depicted in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Hybrid Management



(After Pomeroy and Berkes 1997: 466)

Since the adoption of the MLPA in 1999, a number of steps have been taken by policymakers, resource agencies and members of Tribes to establish and encourage co-management of California-Tribal MPAs. Initial Studies, as required by CEQA, have been submitted and regulatory provisions have been approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission (FGC). Governor Brown and Governor Newsome have signed Executive Orders to encourage co-management of marine resources with Tribes. California resource agencies have approved strategic goals and objectives in support of co-management principles to encourage co-management of California-Tribal marine conservation areas. Collaborative networks have been established that include formal Tribal membership. Pilot programs between California and the Tribes to develop monitoring programs and the deployment of data gathering to strengthen monitoring of existing MPAs have been developed.

CO-MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA-CHUMASH MPAS

This section provides a general description of the early implementation of co-management of the California-Chumash marine conservation areas. A detailed overview of the early implementation of the MLPA and the role of the Tribes in the process is available at Sofka and colleagues (2021: 80-113) and Berkey and Williams (2019). These studies describe the collaborative, legal and historical role of the Tribes during the implementation of the MLPA.

The Move toward Tribal Exemption

Following adoption of MPAs in the North Coast MLPA planning process, a regulatory provision was adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to provide exemptions from MPA-specific area and take regulations for individual federally recognized California Tribes (i.e., tribal exemptions), through a petition process by the Commission. Requests to amend MPA regulations were submitted to the FGC by two different tribes: the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (the Kashia) and the Chumash (Berkey and Williams 2019; Dudek 2018).

Tribal Take

“Federally recognized tribe” means any tribe on the List of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, published annually in the Federal Register. Any member of a federally recognized tribe authorized to take living marine resources from an area with area-specific take restrictions in subsection 632(b), when engaging in take within an authorized area shall possess on his person, in his immediate possession, or where otherwise specifically required by law to be kept, any valid license, report card, tag, stamp, validation, permit, or any other entitlement that is required in the Fish and Game Code, or required by other state, federal, or local entities, in order to take living marine resources. Members shall possess a valid photo identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe that contains expiration date, tribal name, tribal member number, name, signature, date of birth, height, color of eyes, color of hair, weight, and sex; and display any of the items listed above upon demand to any peace officer. Members taking living marine resources under this provision are subject to current seasonal, bag, possession, gear and size limits in existing Fish and Game Code statutes and regulations of the commission, except as otherwise provided for in subsection 632(b). No member, while taking living marine resources pursuant to this section, may be assisted by any person who does not possess a valid tribal identification card and is not properly licensed to take living marine resources. Nothing in the regulation is intended to conflict with, or supersede, any state or federal law regarding the take of protected, threatened or endangered species [Title 14, 632(a)(11)].

The Chumash requested the Commission to apply tribal take provisions in four SMCAs in southern California that are within their areas of historic and/or current tribal use. The regulations for the State Marine Conservation Areas (as January 1, 2019) are taken from California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 632, and are as follows:

The exemptions are consistent with allowing tribal take exemptions as currently defined in Title 14, §632(a)(11) (noted above), which identify how a member of a federally recognized tribe may be authorized to take living marine resources from an MPA with site-specific take restrictions.

A description of each California-Chumash marine conservation area is below (Dudek 2018):

1) Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

- a) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - i) The recreational take of finfish, invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels, and giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest is allowed.
 - ii) Take pursuant to the maintenance of artificial structures and operation and maintenance of existing facilities is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department
- b) The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b)(97) and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

2) Naples State Marine Conservation Area Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

- a) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - i) The recreational take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish is allowed.
 - ii) The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest or by mechanical harvest is allowed.
- b) Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
- c) The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b)(98) and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

3) Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

- a) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - i) The recreational take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish is allowed.
 - ii) The commercial take of swordfish by harpoon; and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat 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.
- b) Take pursuant to beach nourishment and other sediment management activities is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
- c) The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b) (117) and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

4) **Anacapa Island State and Federal Marine Conservation Area Permitted/Prohibited Uses:**

- a) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - i) The recreational take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish and the commercial take of spiny lobster is allowed.
- b) The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations found in subsection 632(b) (112) and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

The Chumash remain subject to the Anacapa Island Special Closure regulations where it overlaps with the Anacapa Island SMCA and are not exempt from the Anacapa Island Federal Marine Conservation Area take restrictions. Fishing with use of hand-based equipment and intertidal collection is allowed in this area, for which there is no pelican fledging area closure. Therefore, there are currently no exemptions in federal waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

With respect to the role of the Tribes in the MLPA process Berkey and Williams (2019: 349-350) note that Governor Brown in Executive Order B-10-11 moved forward with formally recognizing the role of federally recognized tribes in marine governance:

The perceptions of tribal representatives who participated in the late stages of the MLPA process bears out the truth of the Governor’s observation. One tribal advocate said that, though there is a great deal of work yet to be done to fully recognize tribal rights to marine resources, the “space created by the MLPA is a promising first step.”

Both the State and some tribal representatives see a trend toward a marked increase in tribal participation in the development of state policy beyond that of marine resources. While not every tribe has the resources to respond to state agency invitations, at least they have a greater opportunity.

In Executive Order N-82-20 Governor Newsome also recognized the role of the Tribes in marine resource protection and supported further development and movement toward co-management of MPAs.

Co-management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Tribal Communication and Consultation Policy provides the foundation for the CDFW to work cooperatively, communicate effectively, and consult with Tribes. This policy also serves as the CDFW’s primary means to implement Executive Order B-10-11 and the California Natural Resource Agency’s Tribal Consultation Policy.

The *Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas – Appendix B* from the CDFW (2016: B-10) describes the existing co-management policy with respect to Tribes as follows:

The purpose of this policy is to create a means by which tribes and Fish and Game Commission can effectively work together to realize sustainably managed natural resources of mutual interest.

This CDFW (2016) identifies the following priorities:

1. Communication. Both FWC and the Tribes are faced with innumerable demands on their limited time and resources. In the interest of efficiency, FWC will annually host a Tribal planning meeting to coordinate the upcoming regulatory and policy activities before FWC. The meeting will provide a venue for education about process, identifying regulatory and policy needs, and developing collaborative interests; this will include inviting sister agencies to participate.
2. Collaboration. In areas or subjects of mutual interest, FWC will pursue partnerships with tribes to collaborate on solutions tailored to each tribe's unique needs and capacity. The structure of these collaborative efforts can range from informal information sharing to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with more specific agreements regarding working relationships and desired outcomes, to co-management agreements with specific responsibilities and authorities.
3. Record-keeping. FWC will maintain a record of all comments provided by Tribes and will include them in administrative records where appropriate.
4. Training. FWC will provide training to interested Tribes on its processes for regulation and policy development.

The FWC *Co-Management Vision Statement and Definition* (February 2020) states:

The vision of tribes, the California Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is to engage in a collaborative effort between sovereigns to jointly achieve and implement mutually agreed upon and compatible governance and management objectives to ensure the health and sustainable use of fish and wildlife [*my emphasis*].

Definition: A collaborative effort established through an agreement in which two or more sovereigns mutually negotiate, define, and allocate amongst themselves the sharing of management functions and responsibilities for a given territory, area or set of natural resources [*my emphasis*].

The above strategy adopted by the CDFW clearly suggests the value of *collaborative* co-management with the Chumash to implement marine conservation areas.

The Tribal Marine Stewards Pilot Program

Esgro (2020) notes that Tribes are engaged with California resource managers in multiple forums for MPA management through participation in multiple decision-making bodies, notably the CDFW Tribal Subcommittee and representatives at the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (MSLT). California's MSLT includes four regional Tribal representatives to ensure that Tribes

are directly involved in the development of MPA policy. Tribal participation in the collaboratives has given way to funded Tribal-specific projects and initiatives.

In 2020, a Tribal Marine Stewards Network Pilot Program was approved by the Ocean Protected Council (OPC) that included a disbursement of \$1,000,000 to the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) to support the development of a Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program. The objective of the program is to enhance engagement with Tribes and protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems. According to OPC, this program is a mechanism to “advance California’s efforts to support [I]ndigenous stewardship and adopt meaningful co-management measures.”

The program is composed of four partner Tribes (Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, Resighini Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band), and is supported by two non-governmental organizations (CIEA and Ecotrust). The program focuses on MPA monitoring and notes that Tribes will work to identify a fifth Tribe, ideally in southern California, who is interested in participating in the network. At the time of the writing of this report, the Chumash are not formally involved in this pilot program.

A timeline that includes a general summary of development in the co-management approach in California is below:

- Executive Order (“EO”) B-10-11 started state agency tribal consultation under Gov. Brown
- 2012 Natural Resources Agency adopts Tribal Consultation policy
- 2014 CDFW adopts tribal Communication and Consultation Policy
- 2015 FGC Adopts Tribal Consultation Policy
- 2019 EO N-15-19 reaffirms Tribal Consultation by Gov. Newsom
- 2020 Tribal Subcommittee of FGC Adopts Co-Management Vision & definition
- 2020 Gov. 2d Annual Tribal nations Conference, Christina Snider, Gov. Tribal Advisor requests each tribe apply for co-management opportunities
- 2020 - Sept. 25: Gov. Newsom issues Statement of Administration Policy, Native American Ancestral Lands, “to facilitate tribal access, use and co-management of state owned or controlled natural lands.”
- 2020 - Oct. 7: EO N-82-20 “to conserve 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030” and “to incorporate Tribal expertise and traditional ecological knowledge.”

Moving from Consultation Co-Management to Collaborative Co-Management

In an evaluation of the MLPA collaborative network process, Sofka et al. (2021) describe a number of recommendations that can strengthen the collaborative co-management of California-Chumash marine conservation areas. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend the following:

- *Improve Tribal Engagement, Protocols, and Initiatives*
 - Provide cross-cultural training by establishing periodic cross-cultural training opportunities. Trainings should foster cultural awareness around interactions with Tribal groups. Allocate time and funding for ongoing collaborative, network, and

state cross-cultural training that reflects local Tribal culture, histories, and connection to place.

- Protocols to prioritize respect, reciprocity, and free, prior, and informed consent in all interactions that acknowledge historical and current injustices related to Tribal sovereignty. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that California should evaluate how Tribal consent, respect, or reciprocity may have been violated with respect to resource management issues in general, and marine conservation specifically. California should review ways to redress these past violations, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability.
- Establish and abide by anti-discrimination policies approved and/or developed by Tribes. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that California should determine which forms of discrimination, biases, or stereotypes Tribes have encountered through their participation in the collaboratives and MPA management. The State should review existing agency policies and interpretations that constrain Tribal participation, including but limited to considerations of inclusivity and accessibility.
- Consider the utility of developing a statewide MPA tribal committee and/or statewide Tribal collaborative.
- Engaging Tribes as partners in co-management, not stakeholders. The State should involve Tribal participants in decision-making bodies, forums, and protocols surrounding the control and co-management of MPAs. They also recommend that the State review how principles of Tribal co-management have been violated with respect to resource management issues in general, and ocean/MPA conservation specifically.
- Ensure Tribal co-authorship of language in all formal agreements. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that Tribal authorship should take place in future planning and policymaking to ensure that Tribal perspectives, preferences, and confidentiality are appropriately captured.
- Establish protocols for integrating aspects of Tribal stewardship. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that California establish and codify appropriate policies, best practices, and protocols at the collaborative and State levels of governance that emphasize the integration and acknowledgement of Tribal stewardship at all levels of MPA management. They also recommend that the State prioritize Tribally led and managed stewardship projects, such as the Tribal Marine Stewards Network.
- Prioritize the inclusion of all forms of Tribal and indigenous communities and recognize that Tribal communities exist far beyond federal recognition. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that California prioritize the involvement of diverse forms of Tribal arrangements including but not limited to federally recognized Tribes, State recognized Tribes, unrecognized Tribes, consortiums, etc. The State should review with Tribal participants what groups have been excluded from this MPA management in the past, and the procedures which facilitated that exclusion. Sofka et al. (2021) also recommend that the Tribes and California determine how

management and planning approaches can be modified to engage a variety of formal and informal Tribal arrangements.

- *Establish Protections and Protocols for Tribal Decision-Making and Authority Around Knowledge and Data. This should include the establishment of policies with Tribal participants for knowledge requests, use, sharing, and mobilization within the collaboratives.*
 - Anticipate and honor diverse Tribal preferences for data management, collection, analysis, and use. These protocols should facilitate Tribal participation and information sharing in collaboratives and beyond, creating an atmosphere of consent.
 - Understand that Tribes may not consent to the sharing of their knowledge and data that has been passed down and safeguarded for generations. Similarly, acknowledge the diversity of Tribal science and knowledge, how it differs from non-Tribal science, and the ways in which TEK can be better protected.
 - Consider the integration of Tribally selected models of Indigenous data governance and data protection at all levels of MPA collaborative management. Sofka et al. (2021) recommend that California and the Tribes carefully review Tribal decision-making authority and consider if there have been instances where Tribes felt as though they did not have control over their data, and if so, what policies could be established to mitigate these scenarios going forward.

Careful consideration of these recommendations is warranted to strengthen the collaborative co-management approach to California-Chumash marine conservation areas.

CASE STUDIES OF CO-MANAGEMENT

This section includes a brief characterization of case studies on implementation of co-managed State-Tribal or Indigenous protected areas.

Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network

A locally managed marine area (LMMA) differs from a typical MPA in that LMMAs “are characterized by local ownership and/or control,” whereas other forms of MPA are usually “designated by levels of management via a top-down approach” (Govan et al. 2006). The LMMA Network supports a collaborative co-management approach to manage coastal and marine resources. LMMA supports networks in Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Pohnpei, Fiji and the Solomon Islands, and engages with more than fifteen other countries in the Indo Pacific. Case studies of member organizations within the LMMA are found in Rocliffe et al. (2014), Jupiter et al. (2014), and Robertson et al. (2020).

Increasingly, the LMMA Network is sharing its lessons globally, with increased interest not only in improved conservation outcomes, but also with an increased focus on social justice and the rights of traditional resource owners. Robertson et al. (2020) note that a LMMA, in the South Pacific context, is rooted in traditional and customary fisheries management and is designed to

gain support and active engagement from the local community, with the latter being a key condition for the successful and lasting implementation of MPAs.

The Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network supports traditional communities who have observed declines in marine resources and their customary use of marine resources and want to act. The FLMMA Network is a non-profit and charitable association of resource conservation NGOs, government departments, academic institutions and over four hundred communities working together as co-managers to promote and encourage the preservation, protection and sustainable use of marine resources in Fiji.

The goals of the FLMMA are to:

- Provide practical capacity building, cost-effective and culturally appropriate engagement tools to promote locally led dialogues and management.
- Assist communities in managing their resources, often utilizing a revival of cultural traditions strengthened by contemporary science.
- Build trust, resiliency, confidence, and innovation through lesson sharing between practitioners.
- Follow a code of conduct that ensures community interests are the heart of any conservation effort.
- Advocate for communities at the national, regional, and international levels, for fair partnerships, policies, and support.

The Challenge of MPA governance in New Zealand and the Role of Māori

When New Zealand was settled by Europeans, a treaty was signed between Māori and the British Crown, called the Treaty of Waitangi. The Treaty gave guarantees that Māori would retain ownership and sovereignty over their customary resources. However subsequent government action deprived Māori of rights and land. It was only in the 1970s that the New Zealand government began to recognize the importance of partnership with the diverse Māori peoples. Today, much of the policy and legislation in relation to oceans governance requires consultation with local Māori (*tangata whenua*) and tribes (*iwi*) (McGinnis 2012).

The New Zealand government, as part of its obligations to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi, has provided for some coastal and marine areas to be subject to the control of local Māori. Two types of protection can be granted over areas: *mātaitai* and *taiāpure*. *Mātaitai* reserves are established to protect traditional fishing grounds in internal waters or coastal waters. Within a *mātaitai*, commercial fishing is prohibited, but recreational fishing can continue. The *tangata whenua* can also request the Minister of Fisheries to create bylaws that restrict or prohibit recreational fishing. Other customary reserves are *taiāpure*-local fisheries. Consultation is required and an appeal against a decision by the Minister of Fisheries to establish a *taiāpure*-local fishery can be heard by a tribunal. Due to this process, they are harder to establish than *mātaitai*. The national government of New Zealand can deny designation of *taiāpure*-local fisheries.

There are several problems regarding Māori rights with respect to marine protection, and co-management has failed (McGinnis 2012). Application for marine reserve designation is



dependent on approval from other interested parties and government agencies. Current co-management legislation requires the Crown acting through the Department of Conservation have the final say regarding marine reserve management (Dodson, 2014). Co-management in New Zealand has not empowered local iwi or tribes in co-governance – there remains unequal authority between cultural groups and governmental organizations. Collaborative co-management could potentially minimize marginalization of Māori communities and increase successful marine reserve implementation (Carlsson and Berkes 2005; Berkes 2009; Mossop 2020). Fragmented government authority and inter-agency conflict also contribute to failure to live up to international best practice in protected area management in New Zealand.

Co-management between Australia and the Miriuwung-Gajerrong People of Western Australia

Collaborative co-management involves Australia and the Miriuwung-Gajerrong people of Western Australia, and the partnership that has evolved shows co-management can provide equity in managing a protected area (Hill, 2011). In this case, collaborative co-management established a balance between Indigenous values and State conservation values.

Co-management is central to the Australian government's approach to this conservation/Indigenous nexus, and to delivering the enhanced equity with Indigenous people in protected areas. Indigenous people favor community-controlled approaches to protected areas in this region of Australia. Hill (2011) describes a number of reasons for the success of the Australia-Miriuwung-Gajerrong co-management model:

- Respect the rights of traditional owners, custodians, or users to lands, territories and resources Indigenous land ownership
- Free, prior and informed consent of the Traditional Owners
- Legal protection for rights and interests of parties
- Respect and strengthen Indigenous peoples' institutions and customary laws
- Coherent and effective Indigenous representative party with legitimacy
- Sufficient resources to enable Indigenous participation
- Conflict management
- Respect and strengthen Indigenous peoples' exercising of authority and control
- Commitment of Indigenous people to assume the opportunities
- Appropriate technical and other advice
- Clear understanding of Indigenous ideas about success
- Traditional Owners in driving role

As a general summary, Hill (2011) identified three factors of significance for the establishment of a successful co-management of a protected area: (1) a foundation platform of recognition of rights and interests; (2) a set of effective organizations to support the roles of the key actors; and (3) effective mechanisms for working together.

A number of factors contribute to unsuccessful co-management, such as: unclear law with vague strategic and programmatic development; failure to uphold treaty rights and obligations for

Indigenous or Tribal peoples regarding their use or right to access protected areas; lack of resources granted to Indigenous or Tribal peoples to participate as partners in co-management planning and decision-making; lack of funding granted to implement and enforce co-management plans; lack of leadership; and, the lack of institutional capacity to address conflicts between partners in co-management planning efforts.

[An *Addendum* describes the co-management framework that has been adopted and implemented for the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary.]

AN ANALYSIS OF FOUR CALIFORNIA-CHUMASH MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS

Based on an analysis of the scholarly literature and case study material published on co-management of protected areas, this section provides an alternative analysis based on a sample of factors that often contribute to successful State-Tribal partnerships. The primary factors used in the analysis are:

- Public access of a marine area by Tribal members.
- The proximity to use of the marine area by Tribal members.
- The scientific baseline information on the ecology of the marine area.
- The historical level of customary marine resource use.
- The institutional capacity to monitor the designated MPA and enforce rules and regulations.

Table 2 depicts a general summary of the findings from this analysis. A characterization of the institutional capacity and capability of partnering organizations to monitor and enforce the rules and regulations of MPAs is described as well in the sections below the table.

[insert Table 2]

Institutional Capacity and Capability to Monitor and Enforce

A comprehensive evaluation of the institutional capacity and capability to monitor and enforce the existing MPA network is beyond the scope of this project. Starting in 2007, California Sea Grant partnered with the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and CDFW to administer research project funding for baseline monitoring of MPA's. These projects aimed to establish a snapshot of marine ecosystems and human activities around the time of the establishment of the new MPAs, and to document initial socioeconomic and ecological changes after the MPAs take effect. The South Coast was the third region to be studied as part of the MPA Baseline Monitoring Program. The projects ran from 2011 to 2017.



The MPA monitoring framework explicitly mentions the potential role of citizen science programs in MPA monitoring (CDFG 2008). Recently, many citizen-based science programs have endeavored to help provide these much-needed data (Freinwald et al., 2018). Implementation of MPAs under the MLPA Initiative in Southern California was followed by a monitoring program to establish a comprehensive baseline of the ecological conditions of several marine ecosystems at the time of MPA implementation. This baseline monitoring consortium involved several citizen science monitoring programs alongside more traditional academic monitoring programs, creating an opportunity to evaluate the potential for citizen scientists to become more involved in future long-term monitoring efforts.

Enforcement of existing CDFW regulations is based on education, public outreach, and a number of other factors, including the number of marine wardens. In an undercover operation and subsequent boarding by officers in 2013, CDFW wildlife officers observed eighteen violations including poaching within California's MPA network, exceeding the possession limits of several fish species, using illegal methods to take fish, and failing to report accurate counts on logbooks. Monitoring and enforcement of MPA regulations will depend on the resources available to citizens, resource agencies and the Tribes to co-management designated areas. One obstacle often recognized in marine life protection is an "implementation deficit" whereby deficits occur during the implementation phase of policy development when there is a mismatch between fields of regulatory action. This can occur immediately or across a longer-term implementation phase. Immediate implementation deficits are caused by an excessively general definition of regulations or when policy goals are not operationalized in this field.

Recommendation

Based on the alternative analysis, the Chumash should consider joining the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program as the fifth partner in the collaborative network effort. There is currently no southern California Tribal partner in the pilot program.

Two California-Chumash marine conservation areas may be appropriate to consider by the Chumash members given the analysis above: the *Kashtayit* or Point Dume marine conservation areas. This recommendation is based on the historical use of customary practice by the Chumash of these areas; the proximity of use to these areas; and the availability of public access to the sites.

Furthermore, the Chumash should consider ways to contribute as co-managers to the enforcement and monitoring efforts to further the implementation of existing California-Chumash marine conservation areas.

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November 28, 2023

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Petitions to the California Fish and Game Commission Regulation Change submitted by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Dear Commissioners,

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians welcomes the opportunity to submit the required forms (FGC 1) and summary narratives to the California Department of Fish and Game Commission to revise and amend existing regulations for marine protected areas within the Central Coast MLPA Region. Please find attached the following forms and documentation:

- 1) Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change (FGC 1) for a new Chitqawi SMCA with a Summary Narrative and Map for consideration in the Central Coast Region.
- 2) Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change (FGC 1) for amendments to the existing Point Buchon SMCA and SMR in the Central Coast Region with a Summary Narrative and White Paper produced by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Cohen, at 805-245-9083.

Thank you,

Sam Cohen

Sam Cohen, Esq.
Government Affairs and Legal Specialist