

Marine Protected Area Petitions: Additional Evaluations and Other Documents Now Available



California Fish and Game Commission *Wildlife Heritage and Conservation Since 1870*

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The California Fish and Game Commission has received additional marine protected area (MPA) petition evaluations and other documents associated with MPA petitions submitted in 2023 to propose changes to the state's globally recognized MPA network. The newly received materials were provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

CDFW previously completed evaluations and recommendations for 10 MPA petitions - those not affiliated with tribal leads or co-leads. The new CDFW evaluations and recommendations are now provided for 5 tribally led or co-led MPA petitions.

CDFW's petition evaluations and recommendations, along with an updated "[2023 Decadal Management Review MPA Petition Evaluation Companion Document](#)", are available on CDFW's [MPA Petition StoryMap](#). The companion document contains additional context regarding CDFW's evaluations, a detailed history of the MPA petition process, and important additional resources and information.

Also available on CDFW's StoryMap related to the MPA petitions is an initial assessment of equitable access benefits and an initial assessment of

the Commission's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Policy; [the two assessments](#) were jointly developed by CDFW, OPC and CNRA.

OPC staff also delivered [a policy letter with MPA petition recommendations](#) intended to complement the comprehensive evaluations of MPA petitions conducted by CDFW and developed under Commission-approved evaluation questions and criteria.

At its August 12-13, 2026 meeting, the Commission will receive presentations on all new MPA petition evaluations and assessments from CDFW and OPC. Petitions and evaluations specific to tribally led or co-led petitions will also be received and discussed at the August 11, 2026 Commission Tribal Committee meeting.

CDFW has also developed the "[Science Guide to California's MPA Network](#)," summarizing the science guidelines used in developing California's MPA network, and assessing alignment of the network with those science guidelines.

The Commission anticipates making decisions on proposed MPA petition actions at its October 2026 meeting. For meeting agendas and additional information about upcoming Commission meetings, visit our website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/meetings>.

For information about California's MPA Network, visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>.