

2023 BIN 2 MPA PETITIONS

Evaluations and Recommendations for Tribally-led Petitions

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 11, 2026 CFGC Tribal Committee Meeting
August 12, 2026 CFGC Meeting



MPA Network Management

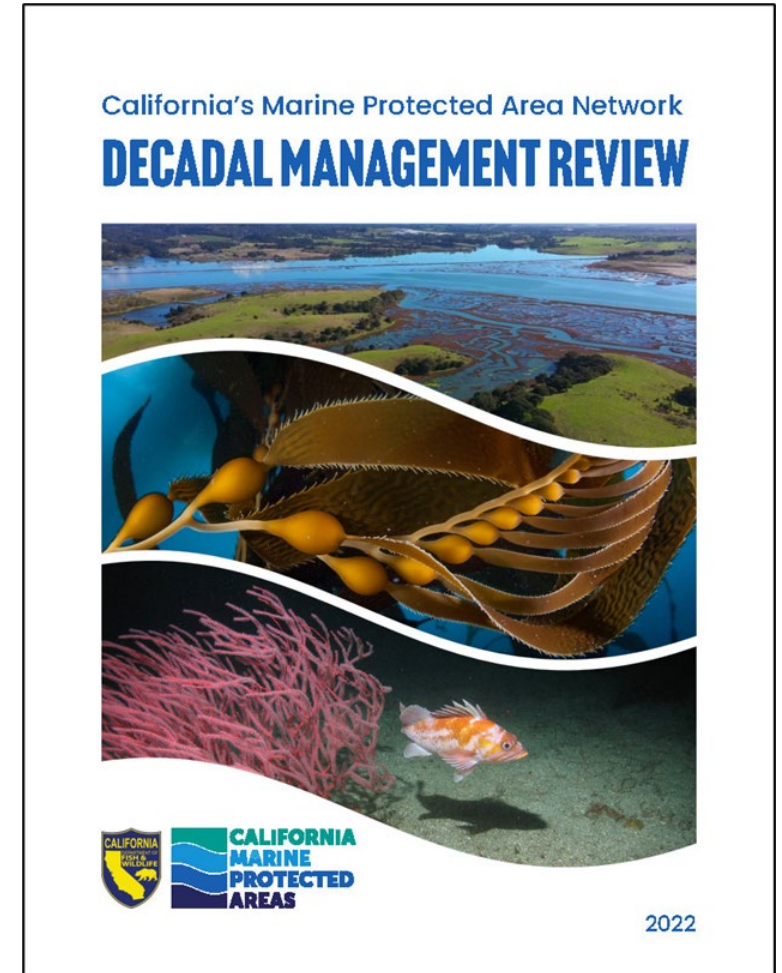
Adaptive Process

- Long-term scientific monitoring
- Periodic Review: data expertly evaluated
- Ongoing, across all Management Pillars
 - Regulatory
 - Non-regulatory



Decadal Management Review Key Findings

- For some species and habitats, MPAs support populations of larger and/or more abundant fish and invertebrates
 - Results vary across bioregions, habitats, and other factors
- Evidence of enhanced connectivity, ecosystem integrity, and resilience
 - MPA Network is still young, more to learn
- Did not identify performance gaps that warrant significant structural modification
- Informed 28 priority adaptive management recommendations, ~80 specific actions



2023 MPA Petition Process Milestones

Date	Milestone
Aug 2023	California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) approves prioritization framework and to consider changes to the MPA Network using the existing CFGF petition process
Oct 2023	CFGF releases "Overview of Process to Consider Potential Changes to California's MPA Network"
Dec 2023	CFGF receives 20 MPA-related petitions with 80+ actions
Feb 2024	CFGF refers all 20 petitions to CDFW for evaluation
Apr 2024	CFGF adopts 3-phased approach to petition evaluation
Aug 2024	CFGF approves binning petitions, requests CDFW evaluate Bin 1 petitions and develop a proposed framework to evaluate Bin 2 petitions
Nov 2024	CDFW releases recommendations for five Bin 1 petitions

2023 MPA Petition Process Milestones (2/3)

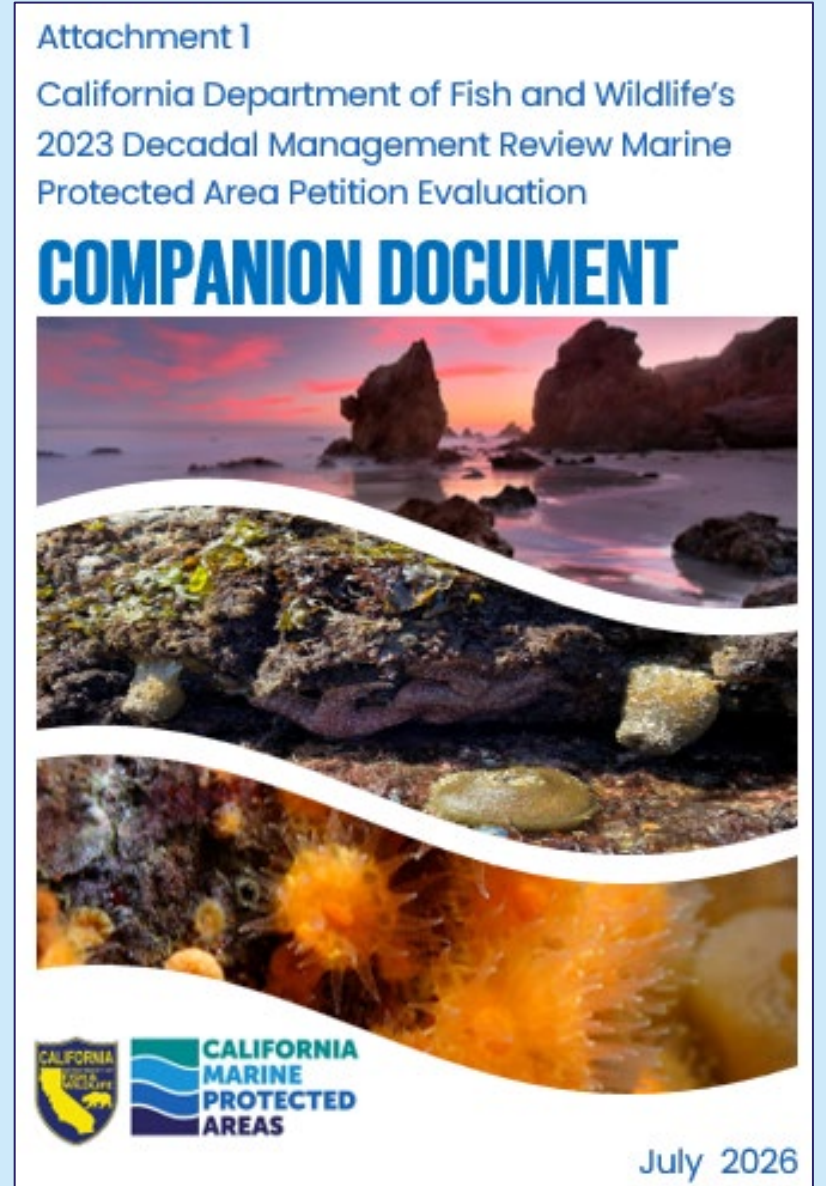
Date	Milestone
Dec 2024	CFGFC makes decisions on Bin 1 petitions and establishes March 14, 2025 deadline for amendments to Bin 2 petitions
Mar 2025	Deadline for amendments to Bin 2 petitions
Apr 2025	CFGFC refers amended Bin 2 petitions to CDFW for evaluation
Apr-May 2025	CDFW develops Draft Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework with Ocean Protection Council and CFGFC staff
May 2025	Update and discussion at CFGFC TC on Bin 2 MPA petitions and proposed approach for evaluations
Aug 2025	• Update and discussion on MPA petitions and Draft Eval Framework at CFGFC TC • CFGFC TC identifies four Tribally-led petitions
Aug 2025	CFGFC approves framework for evaluating Bin 2 petitions

2023 MPA Petition Process Milestones (3/3)

Date	Milestone
Dec 2025	Update and discussion at CFGC TC on Bin 2 MPA petitions; identifies one more Tribally-led petition; directs CDFW to come back to April 2026 CFGC TC to discuss MPA Petitions
Mar 2026	CDFW releases evaluations and Companion Document for the ten non-Tribally-led Bin 2 MPA Petitions for the 64 proposed actions
Apr 2026	Update and discussion at CFGC TC on Bin 2 MPA petitions Tribally-led petitions amended and referred to CDFW
Apr – May 2026	Regional CFGC Petition Discussion Meetings • April 21, San Mateo: Del Norte through Monterey counties, • May 5–6, Goleta: San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara counties, including the Northern Channel Islands • May 19, San Clemente: Los Angeles through San Diego counties, and Santa Catalina Island
July 2026	CDFW releases evaluations for the five Tribally-led Bin 2 MPA Petitions

2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Companion Document

- History of MPA Network Adaptive Management
- Supplemental information, reference materials, and additional context for evaluations
- July Updates:
 - 2023 MPA Petition milestones
 - Tribal outreach and engagement
 - Climate Resilience and MPAs
 - Additional information for Question 5 (information gaps) and Question 9 (MPA Network design and Levels of Protection)



CDFW Tribal Outreach – 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petitions

- Initiated in May 2024
- Regularly provided email and mailed updates
- Distributed to CDFW Tribal Contact List (NAHC contact list and additional interested tribal contacts)
- All updates included offers for formal consultation
- Summary of outreach in Companion Document



Updates at CFGC Tribal Committee

- May 7, 2025
- August 12, 2025
- December 9, 2025
- April 14, 2026
- August 11, 2026



CDFW Engagement with Tribes on Tribally-led Petitions

- September 2025 – July 2026
- CDFW met with representatives from tribes
- Purpose:
 - Better understand tribes' perspective and requests
 - Initiate discussions regarding requests for co-management
 - Clarify petition process and next steps



Tribally-led 2023 Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Tribally-led Petition: A petition that was submitted by a California Native American tribe, representative designated by a tribe or tribal organization, or has a tribal co-sponsor

- **Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation:**

- **2023-21MPA_AM1:** Remove Recreational Take of True Smelt and Change the Boundary at Pyramid Point SMCA

- **Northern Chumash Tribal Council:**

- **2023-28MPA_AM2:** Designate a new SMCA at Point Sal

- **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians:**

- **2023-19MPA_AM1:** Designate a new Chitqawi SMCA near Morro Bay with a Tribal Take Exemption for SYBCI
- **2023-20MPA_AM1:** Change the Name and Add a Tribal Exemption for SYBCI at Point Buchon SMCA, and Change the Boundary at Point Buchon SMR
- **2023-29MPA_AM2:** Designate a new SMCA near Mishopshno/Carpinteria with a Tribal Take Exemption for SYBCI



2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Evaluation Framework

CGFC Approved in August 2025, includes:

- I. Petition Summary
- II. CDFW Recommendations with Brief Justifications
- III. Bin 2 Petition Grouping: Identify Tribally-led Petitions
- IV. CDFW 2023 MPA Bin 2 Petition Narrative and Evaluation
- V. Supplemental Analyses, Data and Information, and Citations

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's
Evaluation of 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine
Protected Area Petition:
**Modify Take in 9 SMCAs to Allow Commercial Take of Sea Urchins
(2023-14MPA)**



I. PETITION SUMMARY

CFGF Tracking Number	2023-14MPA
Petition Contact/Affiliation	David Goldenberg, Executive Director, California Sea Urchin Commission
Number of Proposed Actions	9
Affected MPAs	Sea Lion Cove, Stewarts Point, Salt Point, Double Cone Rock, Naples, Anacapa Island, Point Dume, Point Vicente, and Swami's State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs)
Petition Summary	Allow commercial take of sea urchins in 9 State Marine Conservation Areas
Link to StoryMap page	2023-14MPA



March 2026



Non-regulatory Request: Co-management

Request included in Petitions

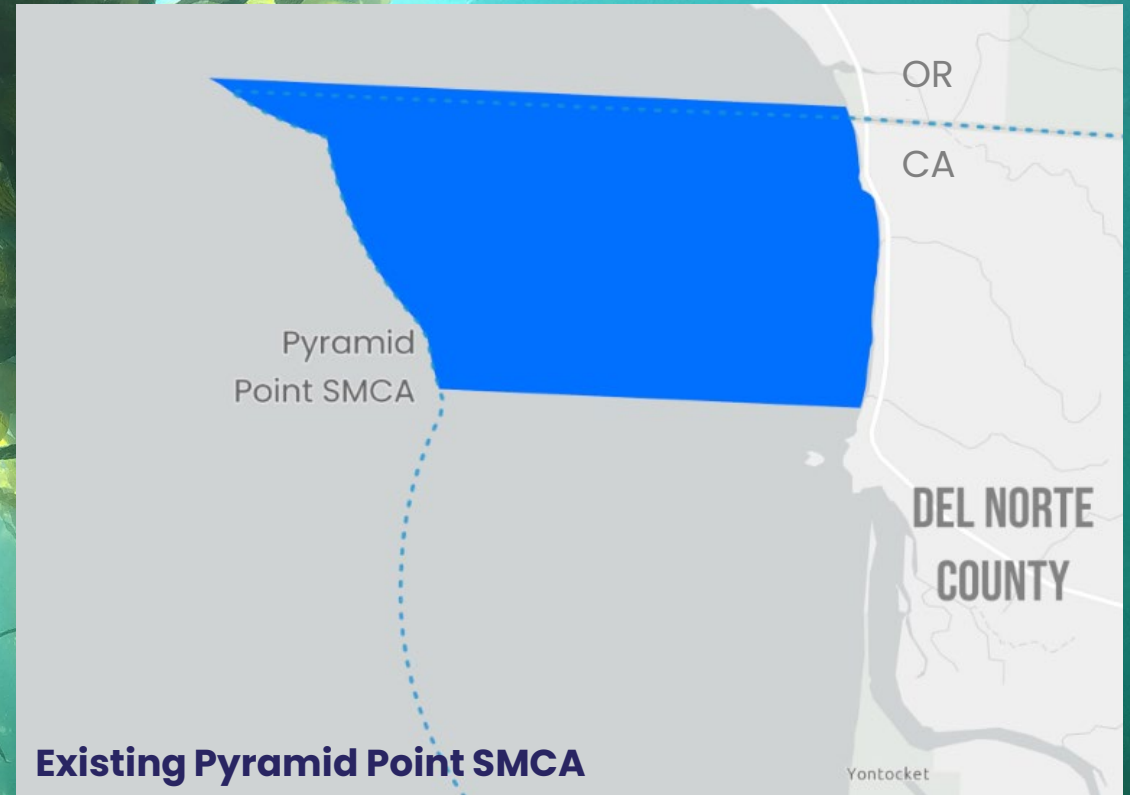
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
 - 19 Chitqawi SMCA
 - 20 Point Buchon SMCA
 - 29 Mishopshno SMCA
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
 - 28 Point Sal SMCA



CDFW Recommendation: Support with an Alternative Pathway
the non-regulatory requests to advance co-management

2023-21MPA_AM1 Pyramid Point SMCA

Remove Recreational
Take of True Smelt and
Change the Boundary at
Pyramid Point SMCA



Proposed Action 2023-21MPA_1_AM1: Remove recreational take allowance for true smelt in Pyramid Point SMCA and retain the existing tribal exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

Existing Regulations:

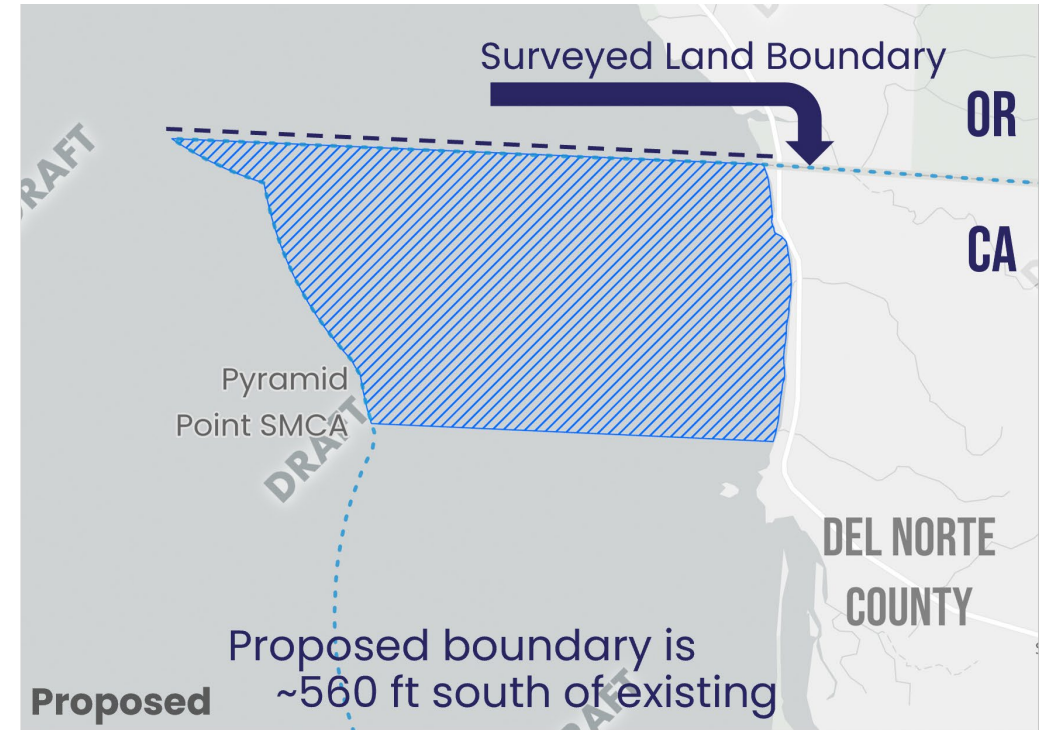
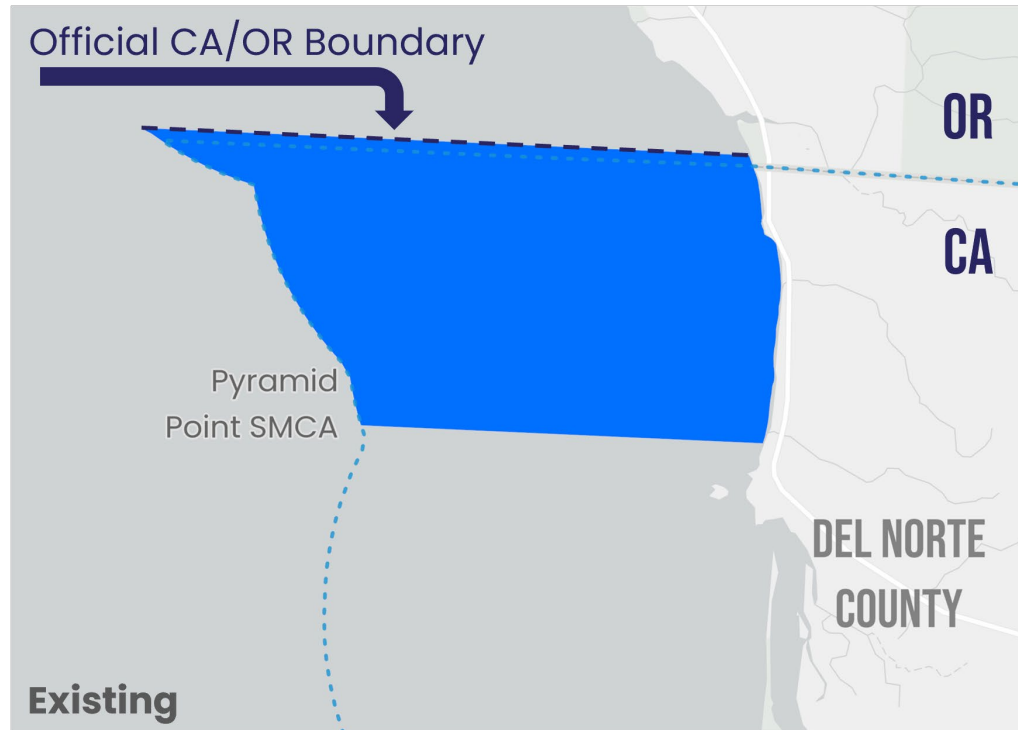
1. The recreational take of true smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net is allowed
2. Tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

CDFW Recommendation: GRANT

Remove recreational take allowance for true smelt in Pyramid Point SMCA, retain SMCA designation and existing tribal take exemption



Proposed Action 2023-21MPA_2_AM1: Change northern boundary of Pyramid Point SMCA from the official California/Oregon state line (42°N) to align with the landside surveyed border (41°59'55"N)

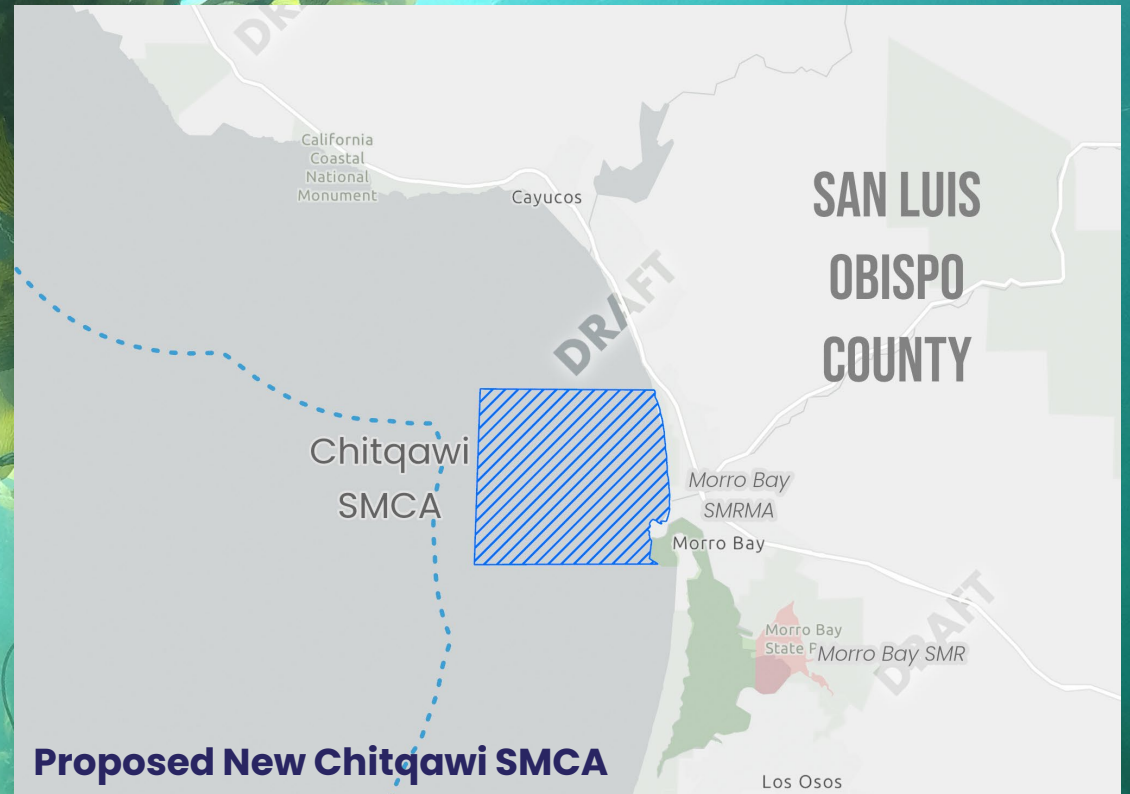


CDFW Recommendation: DENY

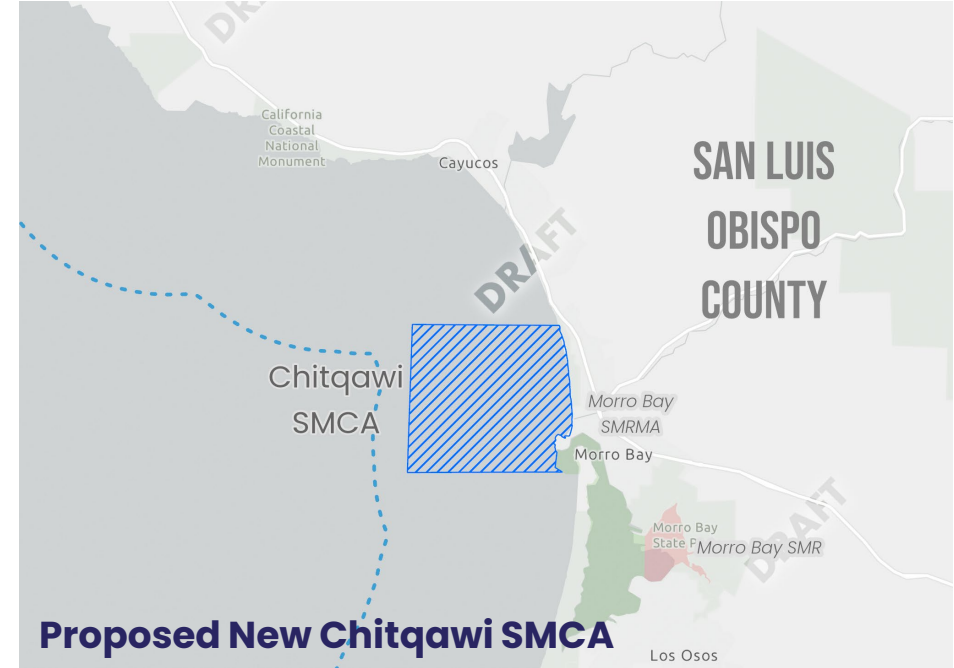
Retain the current boundary at 42°N

2023-19MPA_AM1 New Chitqawi SMCA

Designate a new SMCA in Estero Bay named Chitqawi SMCA with no take other than a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians



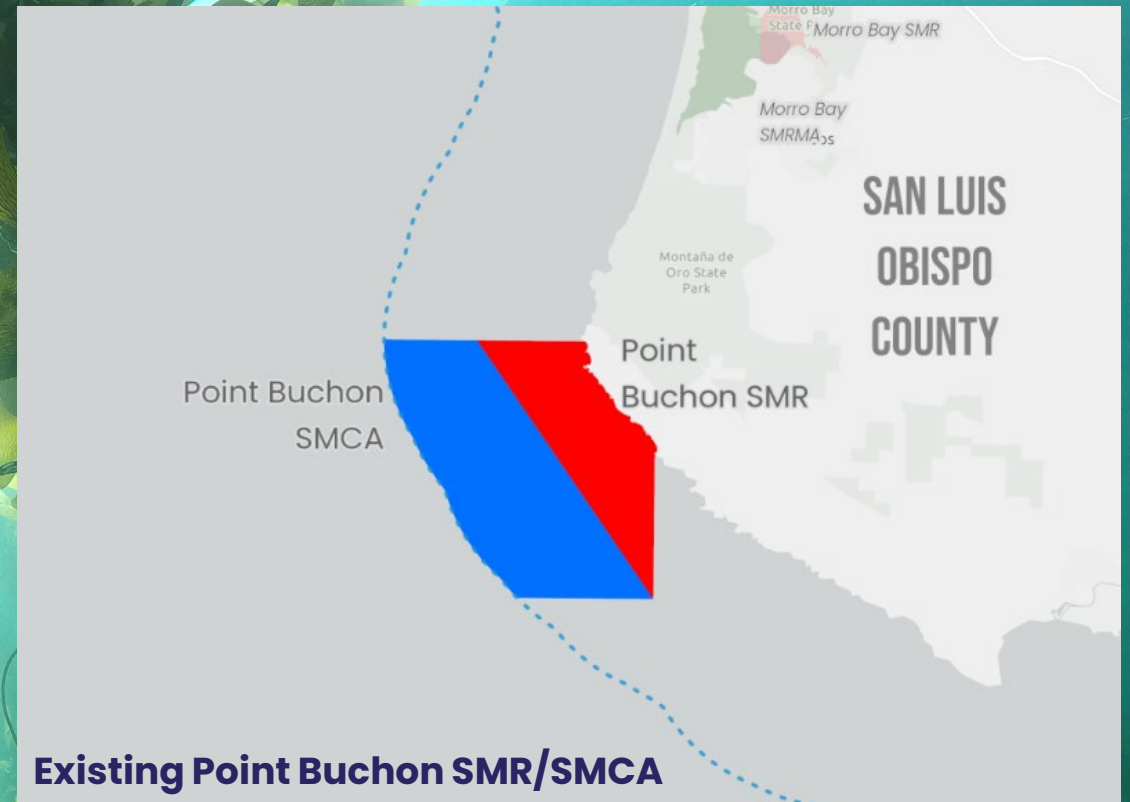
Proposed Action 2023-19MPA_1_AM1: Designate a new SMCA in Estero Bay named Chitqawi SMCA with no take other than a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians



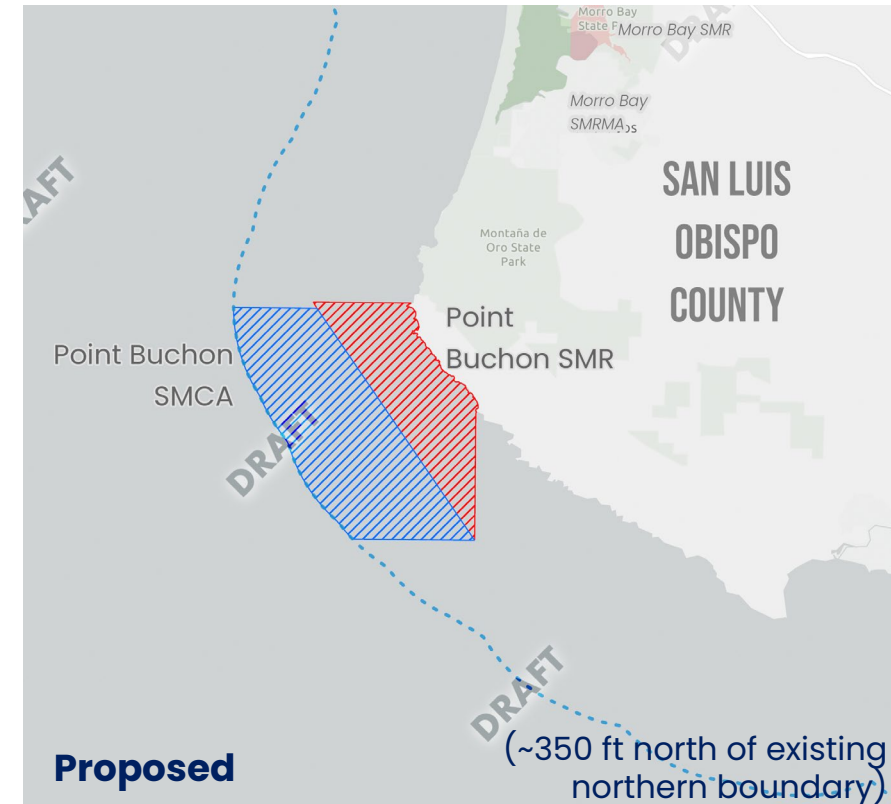
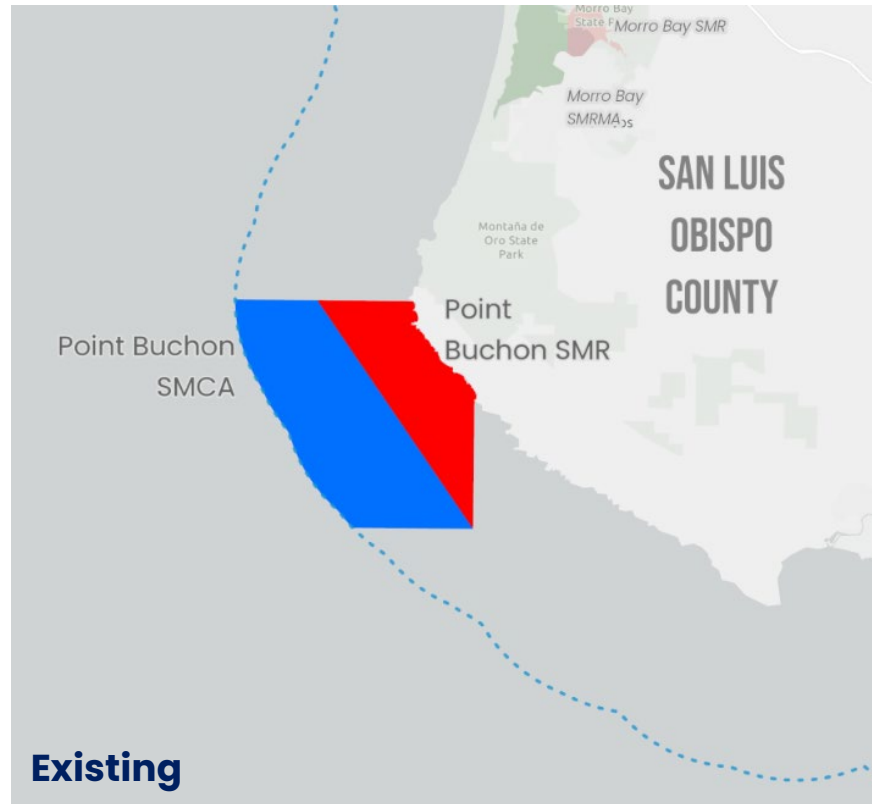
CDFW Recommendation: Support with an Alternative Pathway and request CDFW engage with the SYBCI, other interested tribes, and California State Parks to **explore designating the area as a State Marine Cultural Preservation Area** to acknowledge the cultural significance of the area, rather than establishing a new SMCA.

2023-20MPA_AM1 Point Buchon

Change the Name and Add
a Tribal Exemption for SYBCI
at Point Buchon SMCA, and
Change the Boundary at
Point Buchon SMR



Proposed Action 2023-20MPA_2_AM1: Adjust the northern boundary of Point Buchon State Marine Reserve to align with Point Buchon



CDFW Recommendation: DENY

Retain the current northern boundary

2023-20MPA_3_AM1: Rename Point Buchon SMCA



CDFW Recommendation: GRANT in Concept

Work with SYBCI and other tribes to identify a new name that aligns with CFGC's Naming Protected Area Policy

Proposed Action 2023-20MPA_4_AM1: Add tribal take exemption to Point Buchon SMCA for SYBCI

Existing Regulations:

The commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.

Tit. 14 Cal. Code Regs. 632(94)(B)

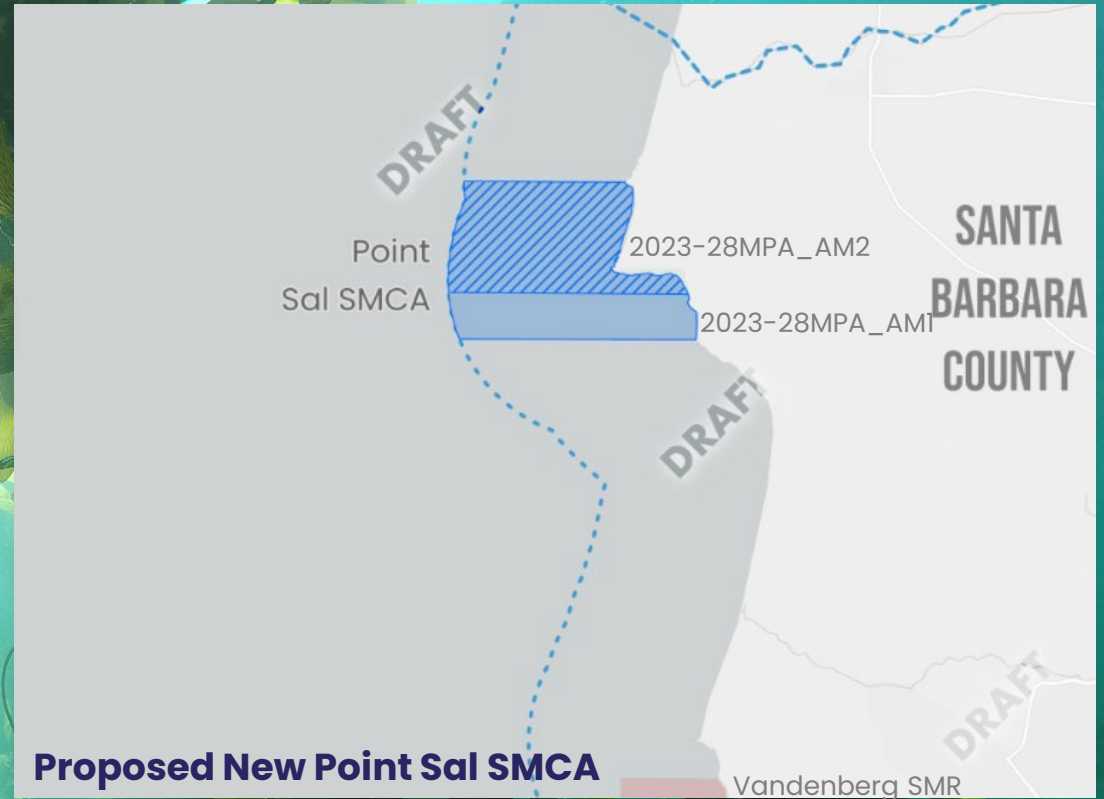


The area around Point Buchon SMR from the landward side. Photo Credit: Rose Dodgen, CDFW

CDFW Recommendation: GRANT

2023-28MPA_AM2 New Point Sal SMCA

Designate a New SMCA Near Point Sal with an Allowance for Recreational Take of Finfish by Hook-and-Line From Shore



Submitted by: Natural Resources Defense Council and co-sponsored by Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Proposed Action 2023-28MPA_1_AM2:

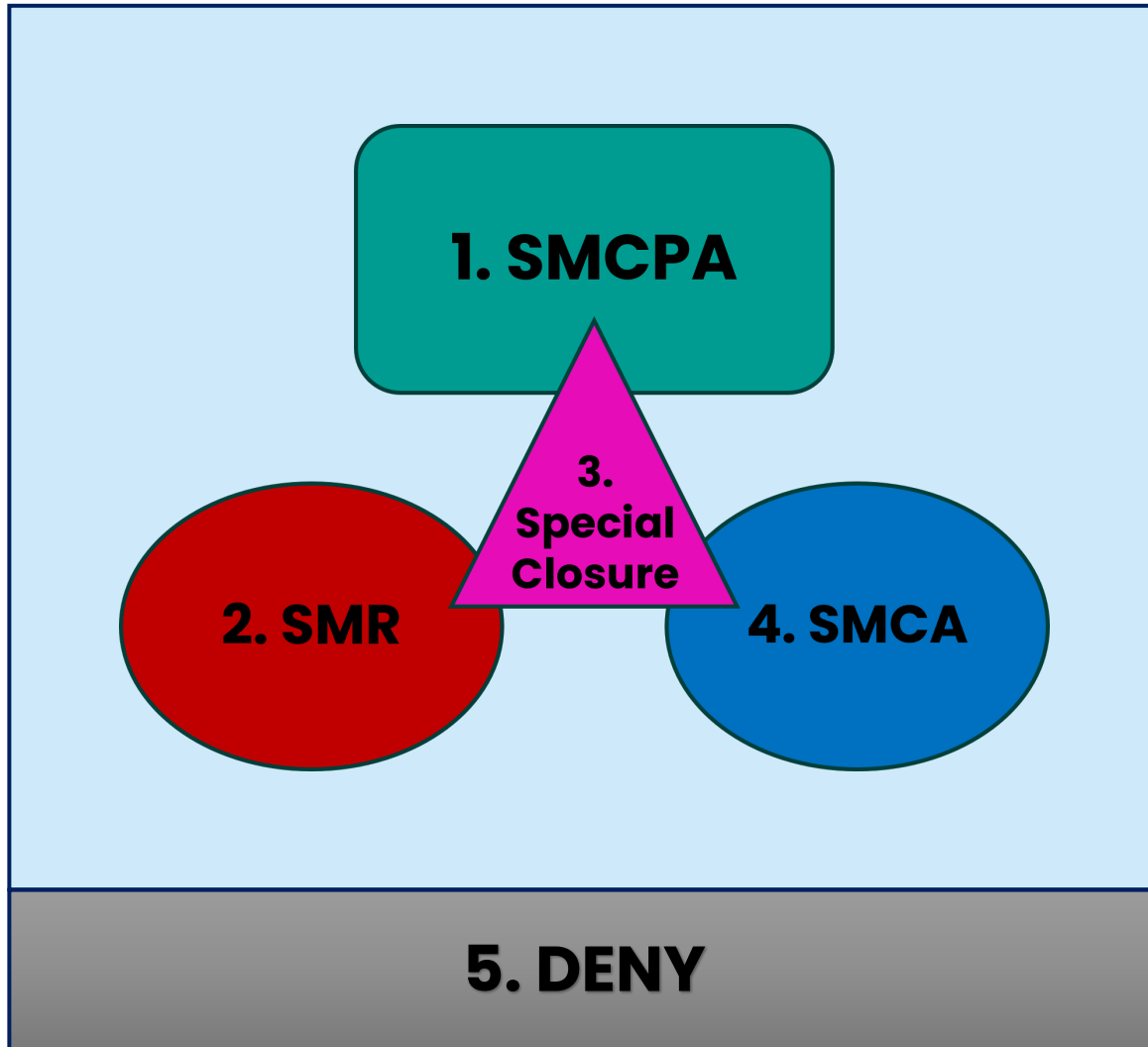
- Designate a new SMCA around Point Sal with an allowance for recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line from shore
- Include language to allow for take incidental to mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base
- Consult with tribes to identify a traditional tribal name for the new MPA



Courtesy of California State Parks, 2026.

CDFW Recommendation: Consider the options...

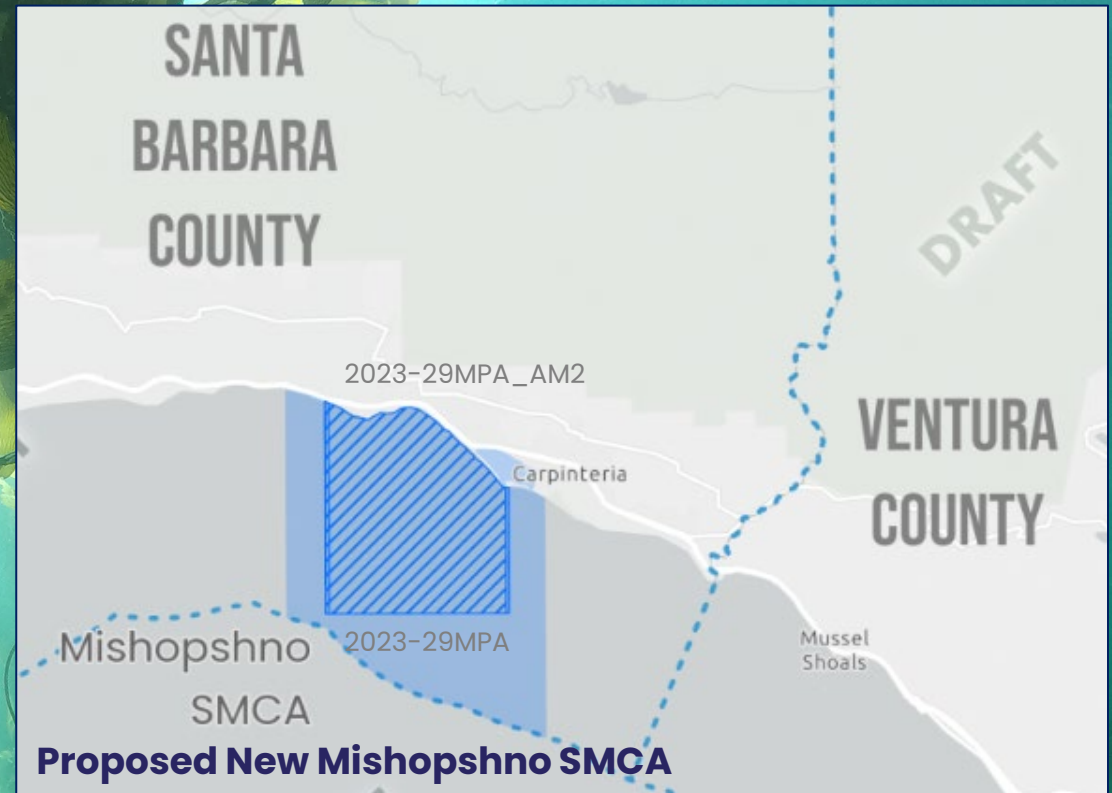
CDFW Recommendation 2023-28MPA_AM2 New Point Sal SMCA, Consider the Following Options:



1. **Support with an Alternative Pathway**
Explore designating the area as a **SMCPA**
2. **Grant with Alternative Pathway**
designate a **new SMR** with modified boundaries
3. **Grant with Alternative Pathway**
Designate a **new Special Closure** around Lion Rock for birds and pinnipeds
4. **Grant in Concept**
Designate a **new SMCA** with recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line from shore, with modified boundaries
5. **Deny**—do not designate an MPA, Special Closure, or explore a SMCPA

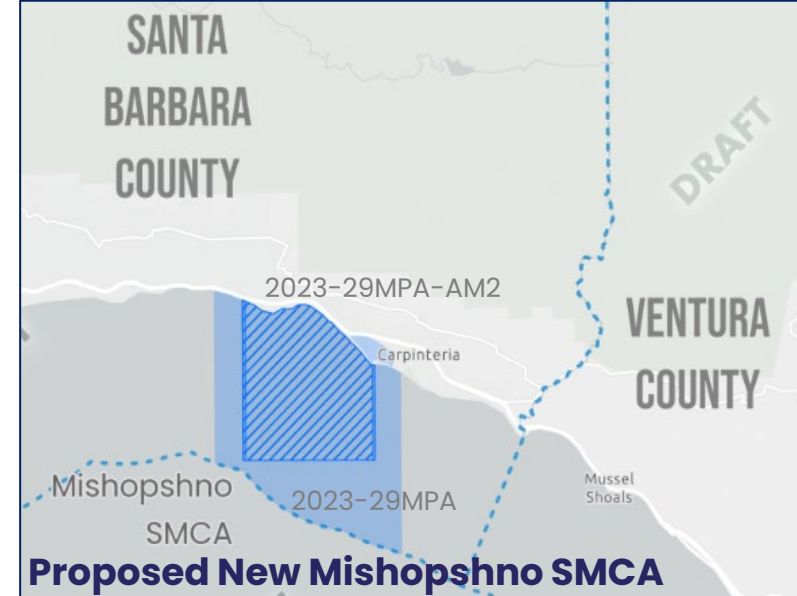
2023-29MPA_AM2 New Mishopshno SMCA

Designate a New SMCA Near Mishopshno/Carpinteria with an Allowance for Recreational Take of Finfish by Hook-and-Line From Shore and a Tribal Take Exemption for SYBCI



Submitted by: Natural Resources Defense Council, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Environmental Defense Center

Proposed Action 2023-29MPA_1_AM2: Establish a new California-Chumash co-management MPA near Santa Barbara to be named Mishopshno that allows tribal take by members of the SYBCI, and allows recreational take of finfish from shore by hook-and-line.



CDFW Recommendation: Support with an Alternative Pathway and request CDFW engage with the SYBCI, other tribes, California State Parks, and other interested parties, to **explore designating a State Marine Cultural Preservation Area at Mishopshno** to acknowledge the cultural significance of the area without limiting fishing access to other tribes that have a historical connection to the area, or to the public.

Recap: DMR Adaptive Management Recommendations

Near-Term (ongoing – 2 years)

- **Rec 1: Improve state agencies tribal engagement**
- **Rec 4: Apply Review knowledge to Network/Management changes**
- **Rec 7: Expand outreach and education materials**
- **Rec 9: Continue OPC coordination**
- **Rec 10: Improve coordination across Management Program pillars**
- **Rec 11: Update Action Plan**
- **Rec 16: More targeted outreach to specific audiences**
- **Rec 17: Improve SCP process**
- **Rec 18: Use policy to review MPA restoration/mitigation efforts**
- **Rec 20: Increase enforcement capacity**
- **Rec 21: Enhance citation record keeping and management**
- **Rec 25: Implement MPA climate change research**
- **Rec 27: Improve understanding of MPA effects on fisheries**

Mid-Term (2 – 5 years)

- **Rec 2: Create pathway to tribal MPA management**
- **Rec 3: Build tribal capacity to participate in MPA management**
- **Rec 6: Include and fund more diverse researchers and stakeholders**
- **Rec 8: Evaluate MPA accessibility**
- **Rec 12: Improve understanding of human dimensions**
- **Rec 13: Explore innovative technologies**
- **Rec 14: Develop MPA community science strategy**
- **Rec 15: Evaluate Outreach needs and resource effectiveness**
- **Rec 22: Increase knowledge on MPA judicial outcomes**
- **Rec 23: Examine MPA Network design attribute more effectively**
- **Rec 26: Consider climate change in human dimensions monitoring**
- **Rec 28: Integrate influencing factors into MPA performance evaluations**

Long-Term (5– 10 years)

- **Rec 5: Establish targets to meet MLPA goals**
- **Rec 19: Create MPA Enforcement Plan**
- **Rec 24: Better incorporate marine cultural heritage into MPA Network**



Questions

All CDFW Petition Evaluations available through the [MPA Management Program Petition StoryMap](#), which can also be accessed via this QR code

