

California Fish and Game Commission



Compilation of Public Comments on Petition 2023-23MPA_AM1

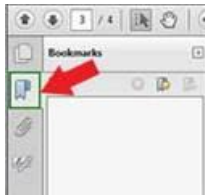
This PDF file compiles public comments that were included as exhibits in meeting materials and supplemental handouts for Commission meetings **after the 2026 regional MPA petitions meetings, starting with the June 2026 Commission meeting**. Additional exhibits and supplemental handouts will be added after each Commission meeting, including those received by the public comment deadline, until the Commission takes final action on the petition.

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

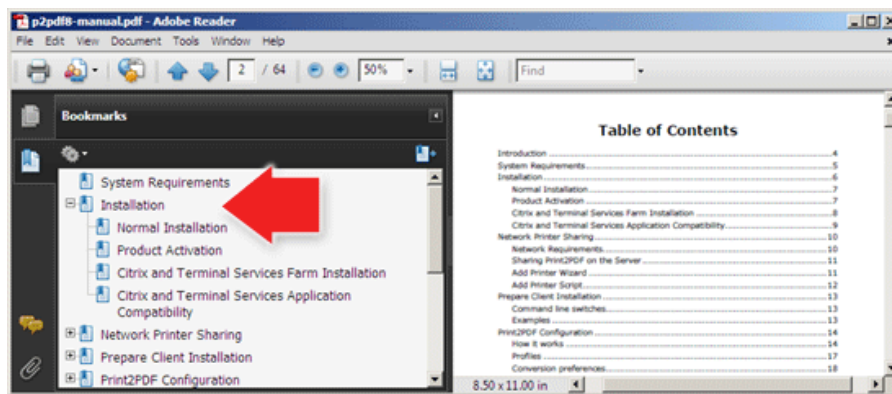
Last updated: through August 12-13, 2026 CFGC

EASY GUIDE TO USING THE PACKET

1. Download and open the binder document using your Adobe Acrobat program/app.
2. If a bookmark panel does not automatically appear on either the top or left side of the screen, click/tap on the “bookmark symbol” located near the top left-hand corner.



3. To make adjustments to the view, use the Page Display option in the View tab. You should see something like:



4. We suggest leaving open the bookmark panel to help you move efficiently among the comments in the packet. It's helpful to think of these bookmarks as a table of contents that allows you to go to specific points in the packet without having to scroll through hundreds of pages.
5. You can resize the two panels by placing your cursor in the dark, vertical line  located between the panels and using a long click /tap to move in either direction.
6. You may also adjust the sizing of the documents by adjusting the sizing preferences located on the Page Display icons found in the top toolbar or in the View tab.
7. Do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions or would like assistance.

**June 17-18, 2026
Commission Meeting**

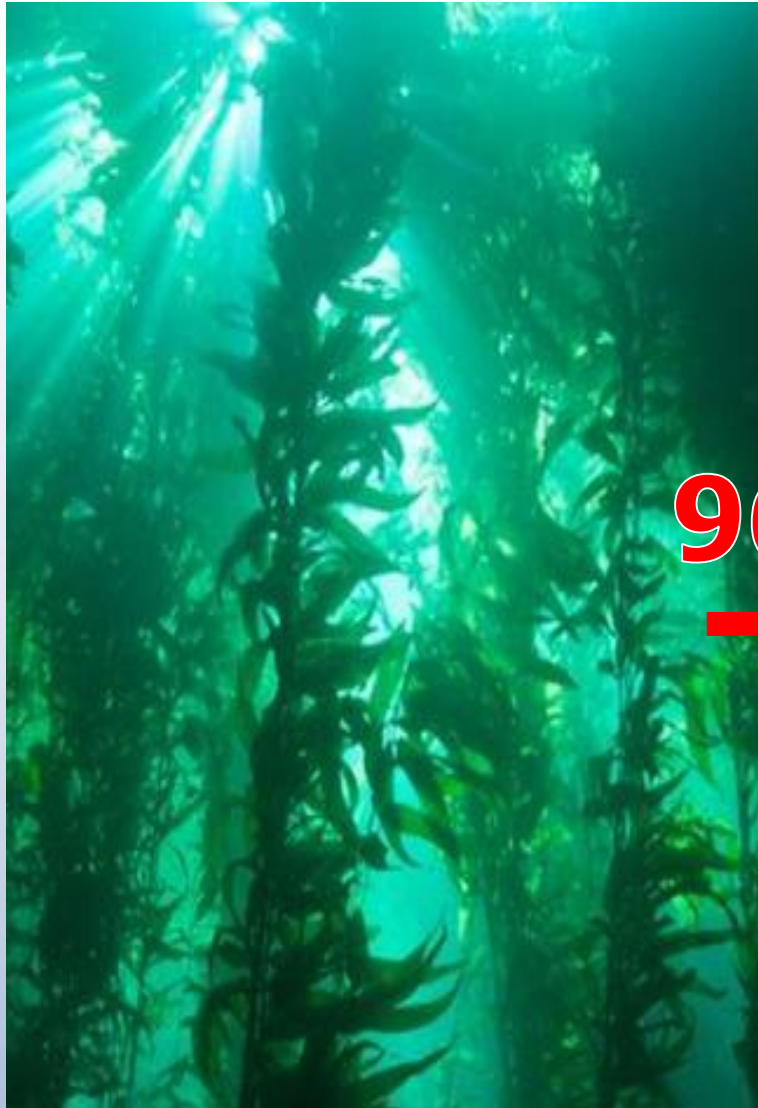
**August 12-13, 2026
Commission Meeting**

Giant Giant Kelp Restoration

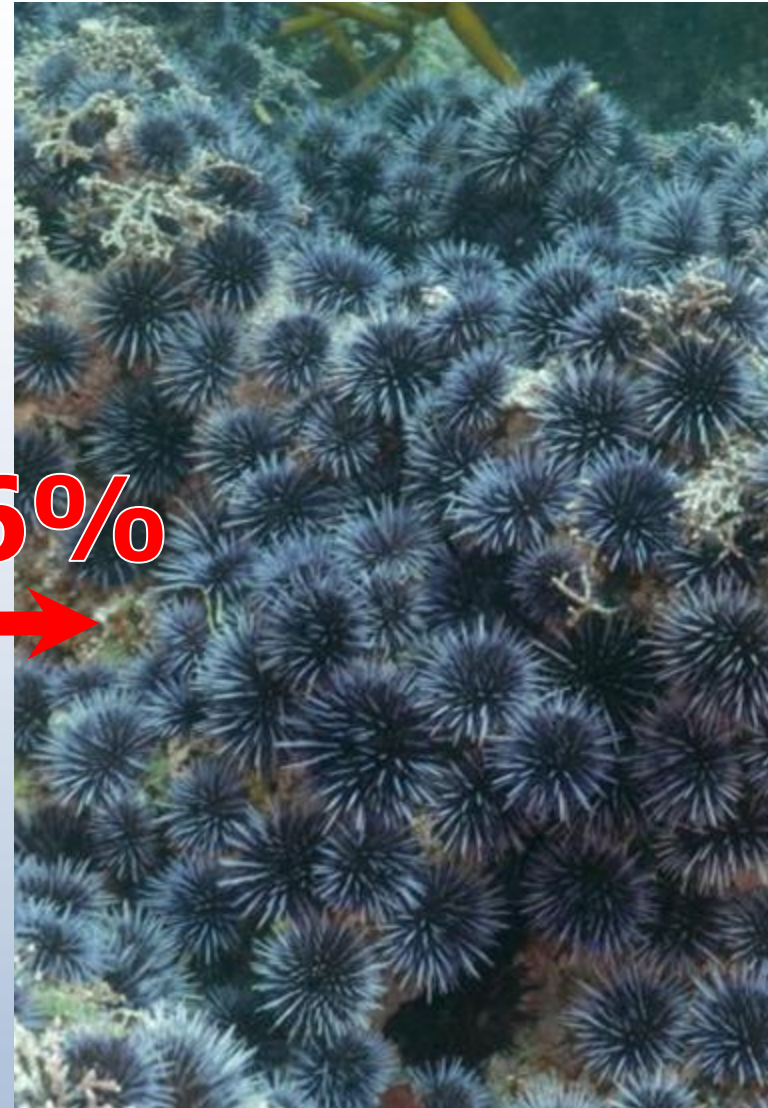
A group of seven divers, including men and women, are standing on a sandy beach. They are all wearing full scuba diving gear, including wetsuits, BCDs, tanks, and masks. Some are holding fins. The background shows the ocean with waves and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Fish and Game Commission
Agenda Item 7C - OPC Recommendations
August 12, 2026

Kelp Forests



Urchin Barrens



96%



OPC Recommendation

Given this precautionary approach, **we do not recommend that CFGC approve any petition that would weaken the existing MPA Network** (Petitions 2023-14MPA, 2023-15MPA_AM, 2023-16MPA, 2023-18MPA⁵, and 2023-23MPA_AM⁶). These petitions include several proposed actions that would open no-take State Marine Reserves or limited-take State Marine Conservation Areas to certain new types of fishing. OPC appreciates the thoughtfulness of petitioners in developing these proposals; however, we find that any actions that would roll back existing protections pose an unacceptable risk to the integrity of the existing Network. Such actions, while well-intentioned, have the potential to compromise existing conservation benefits and degrade the ability of the Network to meet the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act.

The Spatial Problem

- ❑ Don't add certain new types of fishing to an MPA because changing allowable activities has the "potential to compromise" the Network.
- ❑ Kelp restoration in MPAs rolls back protections for invasive and destructive species.
- ❑ MPAs are for science experiments and are not to be disturbed.

MPAs are not Do Not Disturb areas

Marine Life Protection Act Goals

1. Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. Improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.
4. Protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in CA waters for their intrinsic values.
5. Ensure California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. Ensure the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

Assembly Bill 63

Marine resources: Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act: restoration and monitoring activities – September 2021

36710.

(a) In a **state marine reserve**, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a *permit or specific authorization from the managing agency* for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. While, to the extent feasible, the area shall be open to the public for managed enjoyment and study, the area shall be maintained to the extent practicable in an undisturbed and unpolluted state. Access and use for activities including, but not limited to, walking, swimming, boating, and diving may be restricted to protect marine resources. Research, restoration, and monitoring may be permitted by the managing agency.

Educational activities and other forms of nonconsumptive human use may be permitted by the designating entity or managing agency in a manner consistent with the protection of all marine resources.

(c) In a **state marine conservation area**, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes, that the designating entity or managing agency determines would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features. *The designating entity or managing agency may permit* research, restoration, monitoring, education, and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources.

Spatial Solution

Kelp Restoration Management Permit by

Administrative Kelp Beds

which may include SMRs and SMCAs

Thank you!



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Photo by Dan Schwartz