California Fish and Game Commission

Compilation of Public Comments on Petition 2023-27MPA_AM1

This PDF file compiles public comments that were included as exhibits in meeting materials and supplemental handouts for Commission and Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meetings since November 2023. 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.

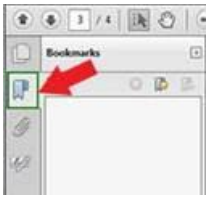
Note: Commission meeting materials include a representative selection of comments, rather than a comprehensive suite of all related comments received. Given the large volume of public comments received, the Commission has directed staff to summarize comments and provide a representative selection in 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 April 21, 2026 FGC

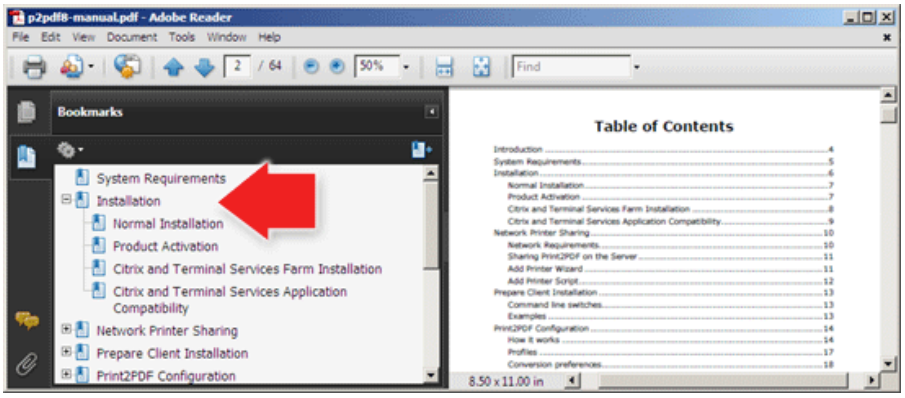
EASY GUIDE TO USING THE PACKET

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.

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7. Do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions or would like assistance.

From: Aubrie Fowler <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:12 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Ashcraft, Susan@FGC <[redacted]>
Cc: Calla Allison <[redacted]>; Claire Arre <[redacted]>; Jamie Blatter <[redacted]>
Subject: FGC Meeting Binder Submission

Hi Susan and Commission staff,

Please see the attached exhibit (saved as a PDF and Excel sheet, whichever formatting is preferred) to please be added to the meeting binder for the February Fish and Game Commission meeting on 2/14-2/15/2024.

The link to the Google sheet can be found **here** as well; this was the format that the MPA Collaborative Vetted Regulation Recommendations was previously shared with Commission and Department staff.

Please let me know if there's more context you need from me.

Thank you,
Aubrie

Aubrie Fowler (she/her)
South Coast Specialist
MPA Collaborative Network
cell: [redacted]
Sign-up for our Quarterly Newsletter
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County	MPA	Current Regs Summarized	Compliance concerns and/or management problem identified	Regulation Recommendation for Adaptive Management	Consensus?	Justification	Supporting Management Suggestion	Petitioner Lead	Contact Information	Recommendation Category	Designation Change?
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Onshore and offshore hook and line fishing, collecting sand crabs as bait, kayak fishers, violations from boaters registered in both CA and OR	Remove allowance for surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Change to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni'	Yes	Smelt is culturally important species to Tolowa and No Take designation will be clearer to public, reducing violations	Signs being vandalized, ripped out. Outreach to gain compliance needed (Guardian Watchmen)	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	rosa.laucci@tolowa.com	Take Allowance Change	Yes, from SMCA to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Elk Valley Rancheria is interested in exploring the possibility of being included in exempt status	Add Elk Valley Rancheria to exempt Tribes if requested by Tribal Council	Yes	Elk Valley Rancheria has ancestral ties to the area				Take Allowance Change	
Del Norte	Pyramid Point SMCA	Rec take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net. Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt	Boundary is in Oregon	Change northern boundary to align with recognized California/Oregon state line	Yes	Original boundary used a mapping system that does not align with on-the-ground state line.		Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	rosa.laucci@tolowa.com	Boundary Change	
Del Norte	Point St. George Offshore Reef SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap. Elk Valley and Tolowa Dee-ni' exempt		No change	Yes						
Del Norte	Sea Lion Rock Special Closure	300'	No data	No change	Yes						
Del Norte	Castle Rock Special Closure	300'	Poke poling at Preston Island and Battery Point and Hook Finger Point during extremely low tides. Kayaks near closure	No change	Yes						
Del Norte	False Klamath Rock Special Closure	300' from 3/1-8/31	Low flyovers by US Coast Guard helicopter. Kayaks near closure, kaking kelp. Dogs off leash	No change	Yes		Signs needed at Wilson Creek. Potential site for CoastSnap to crowdsource changes around rock				
Humboldt	Reading Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Trinidad, Resighini and Yurok exempt	Hook and line fishing and take of sand crabs regularly occur, especially at southern boundary Gold Bluffs beach traditional smelt camp Track amount of surf smelt taken (25 lbs current limit). Hawaiian Type throw net inappropriate	Work with California Tribes and indigenous people to change “Hawaiian type throw net” to a term that is more reflective of Indigenous Californian net based take methods	Yes	Reference to Hawaiian nets when indigenous terms exist for this take type is inappropriate and disrespectful	Monitor Surf smelt as a part of state monitoring plan.			Language Change	

Humboldt	Reading Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Trinidad, Resighini and Yurok exempt		Recommend implementing limits on commercial take of surf smelt	Yes	Culturally important species				Take Allowance Change	
Humboldt	Reading Rock SMR	No Take	Drifting commercial crab pots	No change	Yes						
Humboldt	Samoa SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; Dungeness crab by trap. Wiyot exempt	Difficult to determine boundaries	Work with California Tribes and indigenous people to change “Hawaiian type throw net” to a term that is more reflective of Indigenous Californian net based take methods	Yes	Reference to Hawaiian nets when indigenous terms exist for this take type is inappropriate and disrespectful	Monitor recreational and commercial (through landing/block reports) take of salmon by troll and surf smelt by dip net and assess effect on population; Signs with you are here map at Mad River			Language Change	
Humboldt	South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	No Take except waterfowl may be taken. Wiyot exempt	Invasive grasses, loss of eelgrass, general threats to habitat. Non Tribal members clamming. Difficult to identify boundaries within South Humboldt Bay	Determine reason it does not extend to southern water’s edge and extend if no reason	Yes	Clearer for outreach purposes to say from southern end of bay to 2nd hunter pull out	Direct enforcement to look for unlawful clamming			Boundary Change	
Humboldt	Sugarloaf Island Special Closure	300’		No change	Yes						
Humboldt	South Cape Mendocino SMR	No Take	Minimal patrol	No change	Yes		Develop a plan for evaluating remote area MPAs to determine impact, such as temporary M2 radar/drone surveillance; support southern Humboldt patrol by LED				
Humboldt	Steamboat Rock Special Closure	300' 3/1-8/31	Confusion on when it is open to swim out to and when it is closed	No change	Yes		Sign that highlights special closure and closure dates				
Humboldt	Mattole Canyon SMR	No Take	Minimal patrol. Some commercial crab pots observed during USCG flyover	No change	Yes		Develop a plan for evaluating remote area MPAs to determine impact, such as temporary M2 radar/drone surveillance; support southern Humboldt patrol by law enforcement division				
Humboldt	Sea Lion Gulch SMR	No Take	Backpackers harvest mussels along entire Lost Coast Trail; people getting too close to new elephant seal colony. No cell connectivity to determine boundaries of MPA	Move southern boundary south to Cooskie Creek	BLM support but need fisher input	Creek is more identifiable feature for land based outreach to fishers hiking the Lost Coast Trail				Boundary Change	

Humboldt	Big Flat SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap. Multiple Tribes exempt	Backpackers harvest mussels along entire Lost Coast Trail; surf fishing occurs at Miller Flat. No cell connectivity to determine boundaries of MPA	No change	Yes		More outreach needed for fishers hiking lost coast. Include more detailed information in BLM Lost Coast map				
Mendocino	Double Cone Rock SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling; Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap	Unknown. Limited patrol. Report of excessive urchin and need for grazer suppression.	Reassess restoration policy in SMCAs impacted by climate change/kelp loss	Yes	Loss of kelp habitat needs to be addressed in this SMCA	Allow for restoration work/grazer suppression to address urchin barrens (reds and purples)	California Sea Urchin Commission - allow for commercial take of urchin		Other	
Mendocino	Vizcaino Rock Special Closure	300' 3/1-8/31		No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Ten Mile SMR	No Take	Primary concern is shore-based fishing (rod and reel at seaside creek beach). Recreational fishers take rockfish and lingcod, crab pots "walk themselves" into MPA at southern boundary. Dogs off leash	No change	Yes		OK/boundary sign needed at northern boundary. Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	Ten Mile Beach SMCA	Rec take of Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand. Commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. Many Tribes exempt	Unlawful take of fish (rockfish, lingcod); dogs off leash in snowy plover habitat. Potential sand dump site south side of Ten Mile Beach	No change	Yes		Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	Waterfowl may be taken. Many Tribes exempt	Limited access for fishers	No change	Yes		Simplify outreach language around MPA clusters				
Mendocino	MacKerricher SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	Multiple violations occur daily since closest to Fort Bragg city center (general fish and game code violations). North boundary (Laguna Point) hotspot for intertidal take	Add protection for intertidal zone, per State Parks, in support for protection of the resource and ease of enforcement/outreach	Many in support but no full consensus	There are limited areas in the county to lawfully take intertidal animals such as mussels, turban snails, limpets, etc.	More enforcement support needed due to limited State Parks personnel. Focus on tidepool education. Intertidal specific take signs are needed	State Parks pending review		Take Allowance Change	
Mendocino	Point Cabrillo SMR	No Take	Lighthouse sees lots of boats fishing offshore of Frolic Cove on northern end of Point Cabrillo SMR or inside	No change	Yes		OK boundary signs would be beneficial on both boundaries for kayak fishing				
Mendocino	Russian Gulch SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	General fish and game code violations	No change	Yes						

Mendocino	Big River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of surfperch by hook and line from shore only and Dungeness crab by hoop net or hand. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	Increased use for swimming and recreation has led to safety concerns, including close calls between swimmers and hunters. Swimmers mixing with motorized boats may lead to accidents	Hunting should be prohibited due to high public use/public safety issues, per State Parks	Yes	Community reported incidents of near misses between hunters/boaters and swimmers		State Parks pending review		Allowed Activity Change	
Mendocino	Big River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of surfperch by hook and line from shore only and Dungeness crab by hoop net or hand. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	Can MPA restrict motorized vessels if not ecological reserve?	Restrict all motorized vessels with allowance for public safety, per State Parks	Yes, with clarification that motorized vessels are only restricted going east (up river)	West access from launch should be allowed for boaters going out to ocean	Data on crab fishery is needed to determine whether allowance is sustainable. Need clear signage restricting snare traps. Pick up after dog signs needed	State Parks pending review		Allowed Activity Change	
Mendocino	Van Damme SMCA	All rec take allowed. Commercial take allowed except for bull kelp and giant kelp	Overtake and take of undersize fish	No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Navarro River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of salmonoids by hook and line. Many Tribes exempt. Waterfowl may be taken	People illegally breach sandbar (but outside MPA?)	No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Point Arena SMR	No Take	Fishing in SMR reported by lighthouse manager	No change	Yes		OK boundary signs needed				
Mendocino	Point Arena SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear		No change	Yes						
Mendocino	Sea Lion Cove	Rec and commercial take of finfish	Urchin barrens	Reassess restoration policy in SMCAs impacted by climate change/kelp loss	Yes		Allow for restoration work/grazer suppression to address urchin barrens (reds and purples)	California Sea Urchin Commission - allow for commercial take of urchin		Other	
Mendocino	Saunders Reef SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and urchin	Citations issued for people diving and taking at Schooner Gulch; illegal shore fishing from Hearn Gulch	No change	Yes		Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Sonoma	Del Mar Landing SMR	No Take	Fishing at north end	No change	Yes		Trail pamphlets with MPA information				
Sonoma	Stewarts Point SMR	No Take	Poaching at 3 mile line. Difficult for fishers to determine where 3 mile line is and difficult to enforce from land	Allow for trolling of salmon. Change to SMCA?	No. Discussed with no strong opposition but more info needed	Impact to commercial salmon fishing can be addressed with minimal impact to other resources	More signage needed at public access points			Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change SMR to SMCA. No consensus
Sonoma	Stewarts Point SMCA	Rec take from shore only of marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish by hook and line, surf smelt by beach net, species authorized by hand-held dip net	Tribal based MPA	Prohibit all take and add Kashia Pomo to Tribal exemptions to make affirmative rights of Tribal Members re: collection, harvesting, and research	Yes	MPA is only accessed by Kashia Tribal members from shore (owned by Tribe) so would be same protection while acknowledging Tribal rights				Take Allowance Change	Yes, change from SMCA to No-Take SMCA with Tribal exemption

Sonoma	Salt Point SMCA	Recreational take of abalone and finfish allowed	Take of abalone during closure; poaching of intertidal species. Confusion regarding intertidal take	No change	Yes		Needs more signage on collecting/take of shellfish and other non finfish				
Sonoma	Gerstle Cove SMR	No Take	Excessive intertidal take. Rec fishers fishing the line	No change	Yes		Need for good tidepooler rules signs to address harmful tidepooling				
Sonoma	Russian River SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Marine mammal disturbance occurring. County of Sonoma needs to conduct restoration work as part of management plan	Allow for restoration work in SMRMA	Yes	Restoration will not impact haul out sites, marine mammals or birds				Other	
Sonoma	Russian River SMCA	Rec take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net. Commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Illegal onshore and offshore fishing; seal disturbance "seal selfies" near Goat Rock. Trash/dogs off leash	No change	Yes		More outreach for out of town fishers/permanent signage				
Sonoma	Bodega Head SMR	No Take	Take of rockfish and trolling for salmon; fishing on northern boundary off rocks Difficult “fan” shape and hard to identify northern boundary makes enforcement difficult	No change	Yes	Would require new outreach					
Sonoma/Marin	Bodega Head SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll fishing gear and round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Take of rockfish and trolling for salmon; fishing on northern boundary off rocks Difficult “fan” shape and hard to identify northern boundary makes enforcement difficult	No change	Yes						
Sonoma/Marin	Estero Americano SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Confusion as to boundary “high tide line” and who manages strip of beach between ocean and estuary that is often closed; Difficulty identifying eastern boundary. No way to see boundary from shore	No change	Yes		More signs needed at access points here to address compliance concerns				
Marin	Estero de San Antonio SMRMA	No take except waterfowl may be taken	Some take (animal remains) and illegal fishing	No change	Yes						
Marin	Point Reyes SMR	No take	Sand dollar and fossil take, rod and reel fishing from vessels, party boats troll for salmon; violations are limited offshore	No change	Yes		Signage and more enforcement needed, especially at Drakes Beach and Coast Guard Station. Consolidated mixed messaging signs, with dog information.				

Marin	Point Reyes SMCA	Rec take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap	Commercial crabbers set coonstripe shrimp traps on top of crab traps; Boundaries in MPA cluster hard to identify; NPS jurisdiction limited to	No change	Yes						
Marin	Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 1000 feet seaward	Recreational vessels fishing in summer; Disturbance spiked in 2020; USFW continues to monitor this area	No change at this time	Yes	Might need to revisit making adjustments in the future if data shows changes/increases in disturbance					
Marin	Estero de Limantour SMR	No take	Difficult to determine boundary between SMR and Drakes Estero SMCA makes enforcement difficult. There are suspicions that poaching of clams occurs in the SMR from people on kayaks from Drakes Estero	Extend SMR designation all the way into Drakes Estero	Yes	NPS in support of expanding SMR because federally designated wilderness, major harbor seal haul out, and critical nursery habitat for leopard shark and bay rays		EAC Marin with NPS letter of support		Boundary Change	
Marin	Drakes Estero SMCA	The recreational take of clams is allowed	Difficult to determine boundary line between Drakes Estero SMCA and Estero de Limantour SMR leading to poaching. Cows accessing/pooping from NPS ranch leased land	Prohibit clamming in Drakes Estero SMCA. Merge with Estero de Limantour SMR.	Yes	SMCA designation was originally due to oyster farm that is no longer there. NPS in support of making into a SMR due to federally designated wilderness area	Give people direction/ outreach materials on where they CAN clam safely	EAC Marin with NPS letter of support		Take Allowance Change	Yes, change from SMCA to SMR
Marin	Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of rock	Seabird flushing by vessels. USFW monitoring area.	No change	Yes	GFNMS thinks current regulations are good, very important to their mission and public outreach					
Marin	Double Point/Stormy Stack Special Closure	No access from mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of rock	Seabird flushing by vessels and surfers, who enter harbor seal rookery. Increased visitation due to people hiking to Alamere Falls	No change	Yes	GFNMS thinks current regulations are good, very important to their mission and public outreach and don't want to extend to shore to allow shore access	Put signs with regulations and text about importance of special closure at trailhead; more outreach to boaters about special closures needed				

Marin	Duxbury Reef SMCA	Recreational take of finfish from shore and abalone* is allowed	Difficult to enforce and outreach about why you can take finfish but not invertebrates. Beach Watch data at this site for 30 years show slight decrease in activities in last 10 years, but take of invertebrates has been observed, and the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent has provided information about the need to consider additional conservation measures at Duxbury Reef. Maria Brown (NMS) submitted a letter saying Duxbury Reef would benefit from increased protection of unique and important habitat of entire reef (largest shale reef in N. America). EAC MPA Watch data shows	Change to SMR because of difficulty of interpretation and enforcement. Extend southern boundary further out to sea (south) and northern boundary to Double Point to fully cover reef	No	No agreement on extending boundaries to cover the reef and changing to SMR. More research needed on benefits of changing existing ribbon from SMCA to SMR; Might be important fishing access point for public	More signs needed and more support for onsite education and enforcement from CDFW to agate beach and land-side terrestrial Duxbury	EAC Marin		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change SMCA to SMR. No consensus
Marin	Duxbury Reef SMCA	Recreational take of finfish from shore and abalone* is allowed	Heavy use and impacts, intertidal take – buckets and tools (e.g., crow bars, tire jacks) used to take black turban snails and purple urchin that are nestled into cracks. People need to break the reef to get to purple urchin	Potential compromise would be to add specific tidepool protections, similar to OC	TBD	NMS would like to continue conversation to explore potential compromises	Research other tidepool docent programs in MPAs with mixed use of allowed fishing/tidepool protections			Language Change	
San Francisco	North Farallon Islands SMR	No Take	Commercial crab case here	No change	Yes	More data needed for this MPA cluster	Increase CDFW LED patrols during peak months. Need for CCFRP program here				
San Francisco	North Farallon Islands Special Closure	No vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 1000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of North Farallon Island, or to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the remaining three southern islets		No change	Yes						

San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands SMR	No Take	Small recreational boats. A number of encroachments occur into SMR during better weather months	No change	Yes		Increase patrols from LED and consider M2 radar at this location				
San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands SMCA	Recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon by troll fishing gear	Salmon fishers use salmon gear to fish for halibut	No change	Yes						
San Francisco	Southeast Farallon Islands Special Closure	Closed 300 feet seaward year-round, except Fisherman's Bay to East Landing, southeastern tip of the island and southeastern side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, which is closed from December 1 through September 14. 5 mile per hour speed limit 1000 ft seaward of mean lower low tide of any shoreline Exhaust system requirements for commercial dive boats	Boats cut across the special closure	No change	Yes	Predates MLPA process, careful consideration went into crafting special closure regulations					
San Mateo	Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure	A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of any of the three rocks comprising Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock; Transit in between the rock and the mainland between these points is prohibited at any time.	Reported violations include fishing boats inside boundaries and low flying aircraft/drones	Change name to "Devil's Slide Special Closure"	Yes	Egg rock is no longer a name used/recognized locally. Devil's Slide is more appropriate and simpler for outreach				Language Change	
San Mateo	Montara SMR	No Take	A top cited MPA in Central Coast, highest in San Mateo; fishing offshore and tidepool take; Difficulty interpreting southern boundary	Move Montara SMR onshore southern boundary to current Pillar Point SMCA southern boundary (north end of Maverick's Beach), then extending out to current offshore southern SMR boundary point	Yes	Easier for enforcement and makes SMR boundaries consistent with Fitzgerald Marine Reserve boundaries				Boundary Change	

San Mateo	Pillar Point SMCA	The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll or round haul net Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net is allowed.	Unclear boundary leads to poaching in intertidal Difficult for local law enforcement to ensure compliance of tidepool take regulations due to high volume of consumptive visitors	Extend southern SMCA boundary further south to edge of harbor jetty, extending out to existing offshore southern point. Onshore northern boundary would be same as Montara SMR onshore southern boundary	Yes	Would cover entire reef in MPA for ease of allied agency outreach and enforcement.				Boundary Change	
San Mateo	Pillar Point SMCA	The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll or round haul net Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net is allowed.		Change regulations to allow for recreational hook and line take of finfish from shore and take of mussels, crabs, snails and seaweeds for equity and access purposes	Yes	Allowing for shore based hook and line and some intertidal take maintains access for consumptive users while applying some protection for a heavily impacted habitat				Take Allowance Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Año Nuevo SMR	No Take	Unlawful take of snails; fishing; wildlife disturbance. Boats driving squid out of MPA. Confusion because sign at top of trail to Greyhound Rock says fishing beach but must go left at bottom to legally fish	Move southern boundary line to have whole of Greyhound Rock in SMR	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and San Mateo Collaborative meetings	Clearer boundary makes enforcement easier	Ensure sign with map at bottom of trail. Utilize social/digital/traditional media for public outreach	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Greyhound Rock SMCA	Rec take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon. Other finfish by hook and line only from shore. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, salmon and market squid	Take of mussels at southern boundary Confusion with Año Nuevo SMR boundary/whether fishing is allowed at Greyhound Rock Split between 2 counties	Move northern boundary line to have whole of Greyhound Rock outside of SMCA and in SMR; Move southern boundary south to beginning of Scott Creek bridge	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and San Mateo Collaborative meetings	Reef should be fully protected or fully open. Preference to cover reef but either way will have clearer boundary for outreach/enforcement. Move of southern boundary would cover reef to address intertidal impacts	Need for sign with map at Scotts Creek	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Mateo/Santa Cruz	Greyhound Rock SMCA	Rec take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon. Other finfish by hook and line only from shore. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand harvest only, salmon and market squid	Confusing regulations	Replace comma with semi-colon in regulations after "giant kelp by hand harvest only", or otherwise edit	Yes	Clearer language needed to clarify you are not required to catch salmon and squid by hand harvest only		State Parks pending review		Language Change	Section 100 change
Santa Cruz	Natural Bridges SMR	No Take	Hard to identify boundaries; safety concerns with fishers and swimmers at Natural Bridges State Park beach	Shift both boundaries south to more identifiable features (4 mile point and Natural Bridge)	Yes	State Parks would like SMR to cover the beach at Natural Bridges SP for public safety reasons	Need for interpretive signs with maps/good tidepooler rules, why MPAs, etc.	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
Santa Cruz	Soquel Canyon SMCA	Rec and commercial take of pelagic finfish	Split between 2 counties	No change	Yes						

Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMR	No Take	Fishing occurs regularly at Kirby Park pier/dock, was originally built for fishers with disabilities with SFRA grant. Inconsistent enforcement.	Move northern boundary south of Kirby Park pier/dock. Shift entire MPA to maintain size	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and Monterey Collaborative meetings	Opens fishing area as originally intended to limit poaching; supports increased enforcement presence in area	If Kirby is open, must be concerted cross-jurisdictional effort to enforce shore waste of fish/debris and other F&G Code violations. Need for good fishing practices outreach	Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Boundary Change	
Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMCA	The recreational take of finfish by hook and line only and clams is allowed. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area [subsection 550(a)].	Difficult to determine where SMR/SMCA boundary is (i.e., where kayak fishers can no longer fish).	Move SMR line to bird watching platform (eastern side)	Yes, at both Santa Cruz and Monterey Collaborative meetings	Bird watching platform provides a clear boundary for shore and kayak fishers and would maintain size of SMR with shift off Kirby		Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Boundary Change	
Monterey	Elkhorn Slough SMCA	The recreational take of finfish by hook and line only and clams is allowed. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area [subsection 550(a)].	Clamming disturbs sea otter rafts. Huge amounts of trash (fishing receptacles full)	Removing allowance for clamming to address impact to otters and human health considerations	Maybe?	Need more info on impact to recreational clammers and safety of consuming clams	Need for more trash receptacles/removal	Elkhorn Slough Foundation		Take Allowance Change	
Monterey	Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve	No take	Some access on eastern end. Agricultural influence. Elkhorn Slough NERR in support of no change	No change	Yes						
Monterey/Santa Cruz	Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish is allowed	Many violations, especially illegally set crab traps (commercial) and rockfish take (recreational). Whale disturbance. More impact due to depth restrictions lifted	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish is allowed	Many violations, especially rockfish take (recreational). Whale disturbance	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Fishing debris from Coast Guard pier. Abalone and other intertidal poaching at breakwater	Explore regulations to limit fishing gear loss from Coast Guard pier (such as requiring use of breakaway leaders or no braided line)	Yes	Fishing gear loss impacts wildlife, habitat, and safety of divers due to entanglement	Partner with MBNMS on outreach of litter/derelict fishing gear			Language Change	
Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	New regulations may restrict fishing for rockfish from boat close to shore after October 1	Change to SMR and join with Lovers Point-Julia Platt SMR	Maybe	No strong opposition but no fishing reps present		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR

Monterey	Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish by hook and line. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand		Allow restoration/urchin culling without requiring SCP	No	May lead to destruction of healthy urchins		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) - applies to Ed Ricketts, PG Gardens, and Carmel Bay SMCAs, and will include suggestion for buoys on sites		Other	
Monterey	Lovers Point- Julia Platt State Marine Reserve	No Take	Fishing off Lovers Point rocks, undersize and immature fish, spearfishers and fishing boats catch halibut, illegal tidepool take; confusion around northern boundary line	Move southern boundary line so Lovers Point is either all in or all out (with preference for all in reserve)	No	Disagreement about where to move line	Boundary marker or fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed if boundary doesn't change			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Lovers Point- Julia Platt State Marine Reserve	No Take		Move southern boundary to end of Lovers Point, splitting point equally in half	Yes	Fishing/No fishing arrow signs would make sense/be more accurate	Fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed at Lovers Point			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Spearfishing violations, especially from kayaks and dinghies; illegal take of scallops and crustaceans; undersize and immature fish taken Point Pinos is key oystercatcher nesting habitat	Move both boundary lines so Lovers Point and Point Pinos are all out of SMCA and in SMRs because both are key oystercatcher nesting sites	No	Rock outcropping and buoy at Point Pinos (southern boundary) are currently good boundary indicators for boaters				Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand		Move northern boundary to end of Lovers Point	Yes	Fishing/No fishing arrow signs would make sense/be more accurate	Fishing/no fishing arrow sign needed at Lovers Point and Point Pinos			Boundary Change	
Monterey	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	New regulations may restrict fishing for rockfish from boat close to shore after October 1	Change to SMR, join with Lovers Point SMR	Maybe	No strong opposition but no fishing reps present		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR
Monterey	Asilomar State Marine Reserve	No Take	Onshore and offshore fishing common, hook and line from nooks and crannies; harmful tidepooling, tidepool take; wildlife disturbance common Northern boundary at Point Pinos is confusing, splits rocks in half	No change	Yes		Fishing/No Fishing arrow signs needed at Point Pinos				
Monterey	Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve	No Take	Offshore violations common	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand	Intertidal take common, including abalone and mussels. Golf balls go into MPA and are not collected. Some kelp take at Stillwater Cove	No change	Yes		Work with Pebble Beach on reducing golf ball litter either through requiring biodegradable balls at key holes or ensuring balls are collected by divers				
Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Reserve	No Take	Take occurs. Boundaries are confusing	No change	Yes						

Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Reserve	No Take		Allow restoration/urchin culling	No	Difficult for enforcement/interpretation in no-take area		Giant Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR)		Other	
Monterey	Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of salmon and albacore and the commercial take of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn is allowed		No change	Yes						
Monterey	Point Sur State Marine Reserve	No Take	Violations common between SMR and SMCA, southern corner is hard to enforce. Abalone case reported	Encompass the whole coastline of Point Sur in MPA	No	Keep boundaries as is				Boundary Change	
Monterey	Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore		Add bluefin tuna to list of species allowed for take	No	Lessens protection				Take Allowance Change	
Monterey	Big Creek State Marine Reserve	No Take	L-shape of SMR within SMCA is confusing	No change	Yes						
Monterey	Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational take of salmon and albacore. Commercial take of salmon, albacore	Potential unlawful fishing off Marine Lab	No change	Yes						
San Luis Obispo	Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve	No take	Missing signs. Onshore fishing violations (poaching mussels at Point Sierra Nevada). Wildlife disturbance. Extreme angle makes kayak fishers look like they are fishing in SMR	No change	Yes		Use boundary images on signs to help reference angle at pullout.				
San Luis Obispo	Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore	Occasional poaching observed. Fishing for rockfish. No albacore, limited salmon observed by fishers/wardens	No change	Yes						
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	Harmful tidepooling occurring throughout MPA. Difficult to message good tidepooler rules without designated protections	Add tidepool protection language similar to Crystal Cove and Dana Point SMCAs	Yes	Would make it easier to message about responsible tidepooling and reduce inadvertent take	Tools for existing SP tidepool docent program needed here, such as Natural Bridges State Park tidepool cart	State Parks pending review; Environment California?		Take Allowance Change	
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	Boundary between Cambria SMCA and White Rock SMCA is confusing, leading to accidental poaching by kayak fishers putting in at boundary at Wedgewood	Shift White Rock SMCA northern boundary to end of neighborhood at Lampton Park. Shift southern boundary south 1/2 mile accordingly to not lose any protection and cover some kelp habitat	Yes	May be some pushback from commercial live rockfish fishery for southern shift but recreational anglers in support		Environment California?		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Cambria State Marine Conservation Area	All recreational take is allowed	No commercial take allowed but there is an existing kelp lease?	Remove kelp lease 209 OR clarify that lease holder cannot harvest within Cambria SMCA	Yes	Commercial harvest of kelp is incompatible with MPA regulations that allow recreational take only		Environment California?		Other	

San Luis Obispo	White Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease	Boundary between Cambria SMCA and White Rock SMCA is confusing, leading to accidental poaching of kayak fishers putting in at boundary at Wedgewood	Shift White Rock SMCA northern boundary to end of neighborhood at Lampton Park. Shift southern boundary south 1/2 mile accordingly to not lose any protection	Yes	May be some pushback from commercial live rockfish fishery for southern shift but recreational anglers in support		Environment California?		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	White Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease		Prohibit commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp with valid lease and change to an SMR	Yes	Original intent was a reserve but there was existing kelp lease. Current lease holder is fine with relinquishing/ disallowing take of kelp		Environment California?		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area	Waterfowl hunting allowed. Recreational take of finfish north of line at Pasadena Point. Aquaculture allowed	Poaching occurs at southern side that does not allow take of finfish. Line is confusing and unclear on maps and outreach materials. Illegal invertebrate take (e.g., sea stars at jetty, ghost shrimp at Windy Cove). Signs needed at blue pier	Shift no fishing boundary 150 yds north to public access at Pasadena Park (between Santa Ysabel and Baywood Way)	Yes	Makes it easier for county to manage and educate more accurately about fishing/no fishing line	Signs needed, especially at Blue Pier. County can install sign at Pasadena Park			Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area	Waterfowl hunting allowed. Recreational take of finfish north of line at Pasadena Point. Aquaculture allowed	Hunting "within" a bird sanctuary (City of Morro Bay) is confusing, safety concerns for paddlers with increased visitors who are unaware hunting is allowed. Concern about safety issues around hunting around neighborhoods. Trampling of plants occur on shoreline in Baywood Park.	No change to regulations at this time	Yes	Important hunting area. Confusion should be addressed through outreach	Overlay hunting map on SMRMA for outreach purposes Mixed message signs/more education needed about estuary impacts/erosion: "tread lightly" in Los Osos				
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay State Marine Reserve	No Take	Some hunting violations, hugging line; Boardwalks work to protect birds! Might be good to have one at Baywood Park at 1st Street	No change (reluctantly)	Yes	Some desire to extend SMR west and into bottom part of bay beneath Baywood Peninsula but do not want to impede on aquaculture	More education and outreach needed				
San Luis Obispo	Point Buchon State Marine Reserve	No Take	Regular poaching offshore, trolling, and stopping to drop a line in water. Busiest MPA in SLO, most violations observed/cited	Move northern boundary to actual Point Buchon	Yes	Clearer boundary for fishers coming from Port San Luis	Boundary marker needed here. Make "flagpole" more visible (hang flag?) if boundary doesn't change	State Parks pending review		Boundary Change	
San Luis Obispo	Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore allowed	Regular poaching, rockfish and lingcod, maybe some squid boats?	No change	Yes						

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Vandenberg SMR	No Take	Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) allows active-duty officers, their dependents/families, and guests to fish off Vandenberg. Leads to confusion since officially a no-take area. Regulations should match take allowed. Petition has been submitted by City of Lompoc to allow shore fishing at Surf Beach	Change designation to SMCA that allows hook and line for finfish from shore only	Yes	Would increase actual protection due to past 5 Base Commanders' decision to allow all legal take on base and would address equity concerns by allowing access for non-military at Surf Beach		Greg Helms to propose intertidal ribbon		Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from SMR to SMCA
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Vandenberg SMR	No Take		Revaluate MOA with VSFB that is being interpreted as allowing for full military recreational take in a no-take SMR	No, not needed if designation is changed to SMCA	Vandenberg conservation officer will enforce updated take regs on military personnel				Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Point Conception SMR	No Take	Recent groundfish case. Difficult for enforcement to access from land through Dangermond Preserve. M2 radar at Pt. Conception shows a lot of boating activity, may	No change	Yes		Provide continued support for M2 radar with ground truthing and continued coordination/info sharing between agencies				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Kashtayit SMCA	Rec take of finfish, invertebrates (except rock scallops and mussels) and giant kelp by hand harvest. Santa Ynez band of Chumash exempt	Illegal and dangerous access down the bluffs on Gaviota. Fishing without a license. Access issues for pier fishers with Gaviota pier closed. Difficult to interpret	Reword regulations for clarity of outreach: "Recreational take of finfish, invertebrates, and giant kelp allowed"	Yes	Simpler regulations will make outreach easier, increasing compliance, with minimal impacts to the resources	Have FGC/State push for pier repair at Gaviota Pier (SB County/State Parks) for safety/access reasons	State Parks pending review/Greg Helms		Language Change	Section 100 change
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Naples SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of giant kelp by hand or mechanical harvest. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exempt	Hook and line fishing and access issues occur here, and most days there are at least two vehicles for fishing or surfing parked near Naples. Impact to hook and line fishers	Add hook and line to allowed method of take	No	Numbers/impact/level of take different between hook and line and spearfishing. Would drastically reduce protection				Take Allowance Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Campus Point No-Take SMCA	No Take	Onshore and offshore hook and line fishing continues to be observed	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		Greg Helms		Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Goleta Slough No-Take SMCA	No Take	Trespassing (e.g., illegal swimming, dogs). People occasionally use nets to fish here and/or fish off bridges at the finger boundaries of the slough. Dumping of sediment still occurs in Goleta Bay	Consider water quality designation for Goleta Bay	Yes	Goleta Bay is between two MPAs and there is a need to address impacts of sediment dumping to subsistence fishers off Goleta Pier		Greg Helms		Other	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Goleta Slough No-Take SMCA	No Take		Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		Greg Helms		Other	

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Richardson Rock SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	San Miguel Island Special Closure	Allowance for sea urchin divers between Castle Rock and Judith Rock SMR western boundary (Point Bennet) between 3/15-4/30 and 10/1-12/15.	Commercial urchin poaching. Purpose to reduce disturbance to pinniped populations. Is closure still necessary? Point Bennet has one of the largest pinniped (six species) rookeries on the West Coast of North America	Revaluate need for special closure (SC); Clean up language to address confusion between 300 yards describing SC and 100 yards keeping boats from whole Island 102 A.1.(a)	Yes		M2 radar at NMFS marine mammal station	Greg Helms		Language Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Harris Point SFMR	No Take	CDFW sees some fishers that are taking from shore, although it is not common	No change	Yes		Use land-based range markers (e.g., O & K) to mark boundaries				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Judith Rock SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes		Use land-based range markers (e.g., O & K) to mark boundaries				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Carrington Point SMR	No Take	Confusing angle relative to pier	No change	Yes	NPS outreach on angle has been good	More permanent boundary markers/signage is needed				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Skunk Point SMR	No Take	Difficult to determine how far offshore boats are (in or out)	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	South Point SFMR	No Take		No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Painted Cave SMCA	Rec take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish	People are taking non-pelagic fish species, rockfish, California sheephead, and live fish	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Gull Island SFMR	No Take		Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Scorpion SFMR	No Take	Fishing/take in little coves at eastern boundaries. Lobster traps	No change	Yes		More on-island enforcement presence needed				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island Special Closure	No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep. Brown Pelican closure from Portuguese Rock to Frenchy's Cove 1/1-10/31	Brown pelican area makes it difficult for Island Packers and others to land legally at Frenchy's	Add exemption to allow access/landing Frenchy's Cove	Yes	Intent was to allow landing at Frenchy's Cove but aligning brown pelican closure with SMR/SMCA boundary closed off access to safe landing		Greg Helms		Allowed Activity Change	
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island Special Closure	No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep. Brown Pelican closure from Portuguese Rock to Frenchy's Cove 1/1-10/32	Depth hard to enforce due to sheer drop off from island	Reassess need for Special Closure and consider removing if not justified	Yes	May only need brown pelican closure rather than full island special closure to protect seabirds		Greg Helms		Allowed Activity Change	Yes, would remove special closure

Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island SFMCA	Rec take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of spiny lobster. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exempt	Confusion regarding what "pelagic" means may lead to unlawful take	No change	Yes		Outreach needed around pelagics				
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Anacapa Island SFMR	No Take	Violations for unlawful take	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Footprint SFMR	No Take	Lots of violations. Boats drift in because they cannot anchor	Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Begg Rock SMR	No Take	The MPA violations here are commercial and come from experienced	No change	Yes						
Santa Barbara and Ventura (Santa Barbara Channel)	Santa Barbara Island SFMR	No Take	Osborne Bank. CPFV/commercial lobster poaching. Overlapping jurisdictions	Have state discuss with NMS changing federal area to FMCA to allow for take of pelagics	No	More data/justification needed	M2 radar needed to monitor remote MPA			Take Allowance Change	Yes, would turn federal MRs into federal MCAs. No consensus
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Santa Ynez band exempt	Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	Delete allowance for commercial take of Swordfish by harpoon	Yes	Swordfish fishing does not occur that close to shore	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed	State Parks pending review; Heal the Bay		Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Santa Ynez band exempt		Allow hook and line fishing for allowed method of take of white seabass and pelagic finfish	No	Lessening of protection/unclear impacts				Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Dume SMR	No Take	Angle of eastern boundary is confusing/extends due west and is close to shore	No change	Yes		Use of surveyed boundary images in outreach can help address confusion with eastern boundary at Paradise Cove				
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Vicente No-Take SMCA	No Take	Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	No change	Yes		Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Point Vicente No-Take SMCA	No Take	Confusion of significance of purple designation	Keep allowance for maintenance but change color from purple to red for ease of public interpretation	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	

Los Angeles (Mainland)	Abalone Cove SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat	Harmful tidepooling impacts/take from tidepools. Frequent noncompliance with MPAs and limited enforcement	Delete allowance for commercial take of swordfish by harpoon	Yes	Swordfish fishing does not occur that close to shore	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed	Heal the Bay		Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Mainland)	Abalone Cove SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; and market squid by hand-held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat		Allow hook and line fishing for allowed method of take of white seabass and pelagic finfish	No	Lessening of protection/unclear impacts				Take Allowance Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Arrow Point to Lion Head Point SMCA	All rec and commercial take allowed. Take of invertebrates prohibited	Poaching lobster and abalone. Hoop nets. Difficult to identify 1,000 feet from shore at Indian/Endemic Rock	No change	Yes		Need for a locally managed (research) buoy to mark 1,000 feet point				
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Blue Cavern Onshore No-Take SMCA	No Take. No anchor area in original refuge boundaries	Fishing/using hoop nets close to shore at Big Fisherman Cove. Poaching at Yellowtail Point and Bird Rock; Confusion around no anchor zone	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes, only if all current maintenance/access activities are still allowed	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR	Need for some boundary marker at Yellowtail Point. MPA Watch transect would help identify use/ compliance issues here			Other	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Blue Cavern Offshore SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line and spearfishing and white seabass by spearfishing and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of pelagic finfish by hook and line and swordfish by harpoon	Take via illegal gear types	No change	Yes						
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Long Point SMR	No Take	Trolling through MPA occurs. Misconception that MPA is only close to shore. Rental boats go past Long Point and fish	Make a distance from shore rather than lat/long for ease of outreach. Cut off corner and flip and move west (offshore) to maintain size	Yes	Clearer outreach to trollers to stay certain distance from shore, IF maintains size				Boundary Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Lover's Cove SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from the Cabrillo Mole is allowed. Feeding fish allowed	Fishing from shore at the ramp near the Mole. Angle is difficult at eastern boundary. Food torpedoes are shot from tourist subs to attract fish to windows	Remove allowance for feeding of fish	Yes	Against intent of MLPA, affecting behavior of fish/habitat; public safety issue as fish become more aggressive and bite				Allowed Activity Change	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Casino Point No-Take SMCA	No Take. Feeding fish allowed	Boundaries don't match dive park buoys. Feeding fish may be incompatible use. 40-50' depth at MPA line.	Remove allowance for feeding of fish.	Yes	Against intent of MLPA, affecting behavior of fish/habitat; public safety issue as fish become more aggressive and bite	Might need to utilize a weaning off process for fish used to being fed			Allowed Activity Change	

Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Casino Point No-Take SMCA	No Take. Feeding fish allowed		Change purple to red for outreach purposes for outreach	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Farnsworth Onshore SMCA	Rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish; marline, tunas and dorado by trolling and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon, coastal pelagics by roundhaul net, brail gear and light boat	More difficult to assess whether poaching is occurring on the backside. Challenging/confusing for fishers	No change	Yes		More outreach to fishers needed on why deep habitat/fish are protected here				
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing; white seabass by spearfishing; marlin, tunas and dorado by trolling and market squid by hand held dip net. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon, coastal pelagics by roundhaul net, brail gear and light boat	CPFVs (party boats) are seen illegally fishing in Farnsworth Offshore SMCA, moving out if they see the CDFW patrol boat approaching. Regs restricting take of rockfish can be confusing for fishers/challenging to prove rockfish on board was taken outside	No change	Yes						
Los Angeles (Catalina Island)	Cat Harbor SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing, market squid by hook and line, and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea cucumbers by diving only and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Aquaculture of finfish	Some take of undersized fish	No change	Yes						
Orange	Bolsa Bay SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs	Potentially combine Bolsa Bay with Bolsa Chica Basin MPAs?	No	State Lands requirement to have fishing				Boundary Change	Yes, would change from SMCA to SMR. No consensus
Orange	Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Water management infrastructure is failing - needs management and repairs. Shoaling and potential closing of inlet - need cost effective alternative to dredging and $ to implement. Could ultimately change boundaries of MPAs	MPA should cover all waters in ecological reserve. Move northeastern boundary to Graham	Yes	Makes enforcement easier so CDFW can cite for unlawful fishing using 632 instead of no trespassing		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Boundary Change	
Orange	Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take SMCA	No Take. Allows for maintenance of artificial structures	Confusion between Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin MPA regulations and whether take is allowed. Bridge inconsistency	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	

Orange	Upper Newport Bay SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore in designated areas only	Ecological Reserve and MPA overlapping jurisdiction. Fishing from floats by PCH bridge and using gill nets at Jamboree	No change	Yes		Harbor and estuary signs needed at Newport Dunes. Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed				
Orange	Crystal Cove SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat	Harmful tidepooling and undersized lobster. Nighttime poaching. Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat	Yes	"Area encompassing the rocky pools" is confusing, makes it sounds like it is only the pools, not intertidal zone when dry	Night vision for State Parks officers to address nighttime poaching	State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Crystal Cove SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat		Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		State Parks pending review; OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Laguna Beach SMR	No Take	Poaching in gated/private communities; angle is difficult at northern boundary	No change	Yes		More enforcement needed in private community. Bring back community scientist/anglers (i.e., CCFRP) to OC				
Orange	Laguna Beach No-Take SMCA	No Take. Maintenance allowed	Angle is difficult at southern boundary	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR	Produce map that has layer that shows allowed maintenance/artificial structures and scientific take	OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Other	
Orange	Dana Point SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected	Fishing without a license. Night poaching at 3 Arch. Take of limpets at north end. Shift in fishing pressure. Angle is difficult at southern boundary. Harmful tidepooling	Add "non-living, geological or cultural" marine resource to tidepool take prohibition for consistency with 632(a)1(C)	Yes	Clarifies tidepool protections to include rocks and shells		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
Orange	Dana Point SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line or by spearfishing and spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear and light boat. Tidepools protected		Better define tidepool definition to encompass rocky intertidal habitat or utilize a different term.	Yes	Tidepools are specific to pools but intertidal habitats protected can be free of pools in some cases. "Area encompassing the rocky pools" is unclear whether all rocky intertidal habitat is included here.		OC Coastkeeper	Wendy Berube	Language Change	
San Diego	Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Confusion between ecological reserve regulations west of 5 and MPA regulations east of 5	Expand SMCA west of I-5 bridge to encompass all of ecological reserve	No	Expands MPA size, unclear on impacts to recreational fishing				Boundary Change	

San Diego	Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change to blue SMCA with designated fishing areas	Maybe	If does not reduce fishing opportunities under I-5 and 101 bridges, or lessen existing protections				Take Allowance Change	Yes, would change from No-Take SMCA to SMCA
San Diego	Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change purple to red for outreach purposes if boundaries remain the same	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	Swami's SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from shore and rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish	Harmful tidepooling, especially at Seaside reef. Enforcement for take of lobster is hard at southern boundary since it splits 2 jurisdictions and the reef (hard to know where they are actually taking from and who is responsible for enforcing what.)	Move southern boundary to jurisdictional boundary between State Parks and City of Solana Beach for full tidepool protection of reef	No	Increases size of MPA, reducing fishing access, and may impact take of halibut				Boundary Change	
San Diego	Swami's SMCA	Rec take by hook and line from shore and rec take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish		Shift entire shape south (lifeguard tower to state/Solana Beach line to cover tidepool on south side)	Yes	Compromise. Keeps same size MPA but covers impacted tidepool area on southern boundary. Lifeguard tower clear boundary at north end		State Parks pending review; Wildcoast		Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Elijo Lagoon No Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Lots of people fishing at entrance to San Elijo lagoon under bridge and in channel	Move boundary to west side of the bridge (prohibiting fishing under the bridge) as long as accommodations are allowed for dredging	Yes	Signs are currently posted on west side of bridge to prohibit people from entering the San Elijo Lagoon. Makes outreach clearer		State Parks pending review; Wildcoast		Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Elijo Lagoon No Take SMCA	No take. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited		Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain "no take" if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA	Rec take of finfish by hook and line from shore. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited	Confusion between ecological reserve boundaries and regulations and MPA boundaries and regulations. Speculation that extent of water has changed since restoration. Original intent of 632 was to align with 630 in overlapping waters. Non-MPA areas are more restrictive which leads to confusion	Have MPA cover all water within ecological reserve.	Need more information	Check with Joint Power authority because would lessen protections if SMCA (that allows fishing) is expanded to all state waters	Sea level rise impacts should be considered			Boundary Change	
San Diego	San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA	Rec take of coastal pelagic species, except market squid, by hook and line only	Harmful tidepooling. People using gear types for fishing for species other than coastal pelagics but gear type cannot assume intent. Makes enforcement difficult. Also safety concerns with surf casters into high use swim/surf area	Add, "except from shore" to prohibit surf hook and line	Yes	Surf fishing from shore causes safety concerns (hooks getting caught on surfers/swimmers). Still allows kayakers to fish for bait fish on way out, which was original intent				Take Allowance Change	

San Diego	Matlahuayl SMR	No Take	Harmful tidepooling. Kayak fishing. Caves are being defaced/ graffitied	Add place name (La Jolla) to traditional Kumeyaay name (Matlahuayl)	No	Keep Kumeyaay name only for Tribal acknowledgement. Would also add confusion between other La Jolla MPAs	More focused patrols on caves in La Jolla to address littering/defacement of MPA			Language Change	
San Diego	South La Jolla SMR	No Take	Most highly cited MPA. Poaching of lobster and offshore fishing. Harmful tidepooling. Challenges of parking and access (coastline related challenges due to sea level rise, climate disturbance)	No change	Yes	Focus on local management/outreach/enforcement	Need for more focus on tidepools (outreach/ enforcement). More staff for allied agencies to help enforce. Encourage city to maintain safe accessways and deal with coastal erosion problems. More education on marine mammal disturbance				
San Diego	South La Jolla SMCA	Rec take of pelagic finfish by hook and line only		No change	Yes						
San Diego	Famosa Slough No Take SMCA	No Take	Homeless encampments. Construction run-off. Dogs and cats disturbing birds	Change purple to red for outreach purposes	Yes	Easier to explain “no take” if consistent with red SMR				Other	
San Diego	Cabrillo SMR	No Take	Harmful tidepooling. Offshore boats but NPS unable to contact other than through megaphone	Work with Kumeyaay to rename MPA to traditional Kumeyaay name	Yes	Kumeyaay name exists for this location. Need to confirm spelling	Additional enforcement personnel/efforts are needed			Language Change	
San Diego	Tijuana River Estuary SMCA	Rec take of coastal pelagic species, except market squid, by hand held dip net. Commercial take of coastal pelagics, except market squid by round haul net	Difficult take regulations to interpret in the field and take by hand held dip net not really occurring, per Imperial Beach lifeguards	No change							

Cell: K138
Note: was not sure about this categorization
MPA Collaborative

From: Devin O'Dea <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 04:10 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Mark Smith <[redacted]>; Wayne Kotow <[redacted]>; Keely Hopkins <[redacted]>; California Chapter <[redacted]>
Subject: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear Commission Staff,

Please accept the attached comment letter on behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, the Coastal Conservation Association of California, and the Congressional Sportsman's Foundation pertaining to Discussion Item 10 at the upcoming Fish & Game Commission meeting.

Thank you,

Devin O'Dea | Western Policy & Conservation Manager
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Phone: (415) 246-5329
www.backcountryhunters.org



BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS
CALIFORNIA





February 1, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the numerous petitions under consideration at the February meeting of the California Fish & Game Commission, and we offer the perspective of the many hundred thousand supporters of our organizations to the Commission. We express grave concerns regarding several of the proposals to eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast and argue that many of the petitions lack adequate scientific support and documentation to substantiate their positions.

The Decadal Management Review (DMR) of the Marine Protected Area Network (MPA) has offered important insights for MPA managers to help shape the adaptive management of MPA regulations, including promising research that MPAs may increase biomass and provide resiliency against the impacts of a changing climate for some species. The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and overfishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale or the acknowledgement of regulatory mechanisms already in place such as those established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act working through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Fish & Game Commission, and the additional state/federal laws and agencies dedicated to this task. Simply put, many of the petitions referenced below seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Anglers and consumptive users will often be the first and loudest voices to advocate for restrictions or even closures to ensure the sustainability of a fishery, as evidenced by the numerous fishing groups and organizations advocating for the closure of the 2023 salmon season following the data and dismal projections provided by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and CDFW. However, a Californian

constitutional right to fish seems to stand in conflict with the presumption that restriction of access is permissible where there is a lack of scientific evidence or data to justify the closure. Section 1, Article 25 of the California Constitution states, "the people shall have the right to fish upon and from the public lands of the State and in the waters thereof," and the courts in re Quinn (1973) defined "public lands of the state" referenced in this article to include "access to fish in the inland streams and coastal waters of the state."

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California's diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state's many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups. We feel that these considerations are in line with the California Natural Resources Agency's Outdoors for All initiative and its commitment in the Pathways to 30x30 document to "implement projects that do no further harm or pose unintended consequences to historically marginalized communities."[1] Specifically, we wish to highlight this issue with regards to the expansion of California's MPA network which restricts shore-based diving, foraging, and fishing access for all Californians – especially historically marginalized communities, communities of color and Native American tribes. From California's Constitutional Right to Fish:

> Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities. Moreover, fishing opportunities offer physical and psychological benefits to disadvantaged communities, not just access to fish as food.[2]

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to take the following actions with regards to the petitions they have received.

Petition 2023-14MPA: *Allow commercial take of red sea urchins in nine state marine conservation areas (SMCAs)*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-15MPA: *Reclassify three northern Channel Islands state marine reserves (SMRs) to SMCAs and allow take of highly migratory species, pelagic finfish, and/or coastal pelagic finfish*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation, but are encouraged by the proposal and the potential opportunity to gather more data on limited take MPAs and long-term MPA monitoring at the Channels Islands.

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[1] https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/30-by-30/Final_Pathwaysto30x30_042022_508.pdf

[2] Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. "CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH." *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

Petition 2023-16MPA: *Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs and allow commercial take of salmon.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-18MPA: *Modify allowed uses for four marine protected areas (MPAs) in Santa Barbara Channel and eliminate two special closures.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-19MPA: *Designate new "Chitqawi" SMCA near Morro Bay for California-Chumash co-management*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-20MPA: *Reclassify and rename Point Buchon SMR to "Chumash SMCA" for co-management with tribal take exemption.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-21MPA: *Modify Pyramid Point SMCA to remove recreational take of surf smelt and allow tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-22MPA: *Define "rocky intertidal zone," add research, monitoring, restoration and education allowance, and clarify protections in several Orange County MPAs.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-23MPA*: Reclassify three SMCAs to SMRs, designate one new SMR in Monterey, and make various changes related to kelp restoration.*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner's intent to restore kelp forests and ecosystem integrity at tankers reef and in the surrounding waters is laudable, this broadly proscriptive petition would unnecessarily restrict access for anglers where there is no clear scientific rationale. In fact, the petitioner submitted a very similar petition seeking to close access for groundfish along a large stretch of the coast in this region in 2023 which the Department of Fish & Wildlife rejected citing a lack of scientific evidence to support the claim. We support the ongoing efforts to restore kelp forests through urchin culling and other means, however we oppose reclassifying these SMCAs to SMRs and the establishment of a new SMR in Monterey.

Petition 2023-24MPA: *Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA southward to border of City of Laguna Beach and modify Dana Point SMCA boundaries*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose this petition on the basis that it lacks scientific documentation or justification to eliminate fishing access in the proposed area. The petitioner argues primarily for administrative ease that the no-take closure be extended to the edge of city limits. During the implementation of the MLPA, MPAs were sited utilizing careful selection criteria based on habitat type, proximity from other MPAs, impact to communities and more. The petitioner argues that all beaches within the City of Laguna Beach should be no-take MPAs in order to streamline enforcement and that homeowners "feel that it is not equitable to have only the north and central beaches protected." It should be noted that the petitioner also states clearly in the Economic or Fiscal Impact section of the petition that "estimated resident property values gain an increase of 20% from proximity to a fully protected MPA" which may explain more robust support from the city and homeowners.

The petitioner also cites kelp forest health as justification for eliminating fishing access, however the 100 + page report included with the petition doesn't reference fishing pressure or boat activity with regards to kelp forest health and instead focuses on water temperature, nutrients, wave height, upwelling, rainfall and other stressors. As such, we recommend the Commission deny this petition since there is no scientific documentation to support its claims, and it would only negatively impact anglers who would be forced to travel further to reach fishing grounds.

Petition 2023-27MPA: *Reclassify a portion or all of Anacapa SMCA to an SMR to protect eelgrass*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation. We recognize the value of eelgrass beds for overall ecosystem health and habitat; however, it should be noted that many recreational anglers who target pelagic fish do not anchor and instead prefer to drift fish or troll instead which would have zero impact on the bottom habitat and eelgrass.

Petition 2023-28MPA: *Designate a new SMR at Point Sal, or designate as an SMCA with a tribal take exemption based on tribal consultation*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner takes time to identify the important habitat types, larval transport zones, and cultural significance of the Point Sal area, and they reference potential threats to the region from coastal development and industry, they fail to elaborate in any substantive way why fishing access should be removed from this wild and iconic central coast fishing destination. The petitioner states: "current [commercial] fishing in the proposed area is limited, likely due to its considerable distance from nearest port areas of Morro Bay and Santa Barbara." They also admit that they have no data or analysis with regards to recreational fishing and state, "our request to CDFW for recreational fishing data from this area was being processed at time of submission; we will evaluate the potential impact to recreational fishers and submit it to the state following receipt of the requested data."

A limited google search of "Point Sal fishing" also uncovers a large number of recreational fishing blogs and videos detailing the remote and adventurous hike to fish this area from a diverse population of anglers. In 2023 one blogger wrote, "had a great time hiking miles and miles and miles to fish Point Sal with Martin Mansera from Mansera Outdoors…It's such a remote location and so difficult to access, it

makes for a really rad adventure." Recreational fishing trips to the area by boat are also common, and fishing is noted in nearly every travel guide or city/county website that talks about visiting Point Sal.

Regarding access and disadvantaged communities, the petitioner writes, "the California Environmental Protection Agency identifies the adjacent city of Guadalupe as "disadvantaged" under CA Senate Bill 535, and their synthesis of environmental and socioeconomic indicators further reveals that Guadalupe – alongside Santa Maria and Lompoc – are underprivileged communities that experience significant cumulative impacts from pollution. Given these communities' close proximity to Point Sal, implementing an SMR at the proposed site could enhance access for disadvantaged populations to valuable coastal resources and fishing opportunities."

To justify this confounding claim that removing fishing access could somehow *enhance fishing opportunities* for disadvantaged communities, the petitioner cites a study of commercial lobster fishing and the concept of "spillover." They write, "California's MPAs have been shown to increase the biomass of fishery-targeted species and promote "spillover" into nearby coastal areas, benefitting nearby fishing grounds."

Spillover and the positive impacts to fisheries located in waters adjacent to MPAs are often referenced in association with the MPA network, and the limited, initial science has demonstrated some positive correlations with spillover of invertebrates like lobsters to adjacent fishing grounds in select study areas and commercial fishing for tuna in Hawaii. However, there remains an opportunity to further study this hypothesis and to promote scientific research that successfully documents spillover of targeted finfish across the MPA network in California. Some data from MPA monitoring along the Central California Coast indicated limited evidence of spillover from targeted finfish that were tagged and recaptured at a later point during the study period as evidenced from the Starr et al study: Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters:

> As of July 2014, a total of 251 individual tag recaptures have been reported (Table 8). Tagged fishes were recaptured by commercial and recreational hook-and-line fishermen, commercial trap fishermen, SCUBA divers, and during our fishing surveys. Of all the tagged fishes recapture and reported, 71% were recaptured in the same site and grid cell as they were released, and 22% of recaptured fishes were caught within the same site but outside the original grid cell where they were released. Only 18 fish, or 7% of the recaptured fishes, were recaptured beyond the boundaries of the MPA or REF site in which they were released. The mean net distance moved by eight of nine species recaptured was less than half the length of the MPAs we studied.[3]

While we do not seek to draw conclusions regarding the overall merits of spillover to adjacent fisheries from the results of one study, we do encourage additional research to evaluate the impacts that MPAs have on local fisheries and fisheries as a whole, especially within the context of varied siting and disparate habitat types evidenced across the MPA network. As the Forcada study indicated, "We conclude that spillover effects are not a universal consequence of siting MPAs in temperate waters and they are related to the distribution of habitats inside and around MPAs." (Forcada et al., 2009).

Due to the limited scientific understanding of spillover as it relates to the Marine Protected Area Network as a whole, especially with regards to finfish which would be the primary target of recreational shore and

[3] 4 Starr RM, Wendt DE, Barnes CL, Marks CI, Malone D, et al. (2015) Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters. PLOS ONE 10(3): e0118502. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0118502

boat-based anglers at Point Sal, we disagree with the petitioner's logical assumptions and the argument as a whole. In fact, when considered in the context presented from the *Constitutional Right to Fish* article, the discussion is turned on its head entirely. "Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities."[4]

With the two large no-take SMRs located just South of this newly proposed MPA (Vandenberg SMR & Point Conception SMR) and Point Buchon to the North, it would seem the opportunities to fish and forage the coast for residents of Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Maria are already few and far between. In fact, in 2022 the City of Lompoc petitioned the Fish & Game Commission to allow for shore-fishing access along a ½ mile stretch of beach with in the Vandenberg SMR, citing a lack of access to historic fishing grounds for the local communities.

We share the petitioner's concerns regarding habitat disruption from off-shore energy production and the associated infrastructure, however, we note the likely establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation which would effectively curtail any development or offshore energy production in this region. Planning for the CHNMS has included fishing access as a key component of the proposed designation.

As a result, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-29MPA: *Designate a new SMCA with a tribal take exemption for and co-management with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in Santa Barbara*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose the petitioner's request to designate a new, no-take SMCA in Carpinteria for several reasons. First, the petitioner argues that spacing and connectivity is a key concern in this location with the distance between the Campus Point and Point Dume SMCAs at 64 nautical miles (nm) instead of the recommended 54 nm to ensure ecological connectivity. When this request is examined within the broader context of MPA siting, it is clear that the target spacing between MPAs could be easily achieved by moving the Campus Point SMCA South or the Point Dume SMCA North, since both are located well-within the recommended 54nm from adjacent MPAs on either side.

Additionally, the petitioner cites the location as important nursery habitat for juvenile great white sharks as justification for establishing a no-take SMR. They write, "Research conducted in the Southern California Bight has found that fisheries bycatch is likely the main source of mortality for JWS." However, the article they cite to support this claim, John F. Benson et. al., discloses that for great white sharks they captured and tagged, "mortality risk was substantially greater off the coast of Baja, Mexico compared with California." Importantly, the research paper also states, "that incidental gillnet capture continues to be the primary source of mortality for juveniles. The lower mortality risk we documented in California waters suggests that full closure of gillnet fishing close to shore is a more effective management strategy than simply banning targeted fishing to reduce mortality risk due to bycatch." [5]

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[4] Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. "CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH." *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

[5] Benson JF, Jorgensen SJ, O'Sullivan JB, et al. Juvenile survival, competing risks, and spatial variation in mortality risk of a marine apex predator. *J Appl Ecol*. 2018; 55: 2888–2897. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13158

As the petitioner is undoubtedly aware, gillnet fishing is banned in state waters and therefore the proposed MPA would have no impact on the gillnet fishery or likely the mortality risk to great white sharks.

The petitioner notes the location's popularity with recreational lobster divers and the likely opposition from stakeholders who would oppose the additional loss of access. The mortality risk to great white sharks from the recreational lobster fishery is zero, similar to the risk from spearfishing, yet the petitioner seeks to eliminate access entirely without providing any scientific rationale for the closure. As a result, we request that the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-31MPA: *Reclassify Drakes Estero SMCA to an SMR and combine with Estero de Limantour SMR as a single SMR:*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but encourage the Commission to maintain access for clamming unless there is a clear threat to the fishery or surrounding ecosystem.

It is worth noting that the National Park Service mentions in their comment letter that the area is now Congressionally Designated Wilderness and that "recreational take of shellfish appears to be very rare, [and] requires long kayak trips in wilderness area." Just because something is difficult doesn't mean it should be illegal.

Petition 2023-32MPA: *Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA as an SMR and expand northern and southern boundaries*

We recommend that the Commission deny or refer this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but emphasize maintaining fishing access for local communities at Duxbury Reef. The vast majority of complaints regarding Duxbury reef are related to enforcement and compliance, rather than a scientific justification for eliminating access. Shore fishing is an important past-time for the diverse communities that comprise the North Bay Area, and removing access to a popular fishing destination should not be justified simply based on the actions of a few bad apples.

Petition 2023-33MPA: *Expand the boundaries of five SMRs and one SMCA, and designate a new SMR off Pleasure Point, in Santa Cruz*

We recommend that this petition be denied or referred to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation due to its broad scope and complexity. The petitioner seeks to enhance protections for kelp forests, but does so with an overly broad brush. Rather than advocating for reducing fishing pressure for predators of kelp grazers, like lobster and sheepshead, the petition advocates for the closure of all fishing, including the harvest of grazer species like urchins that have been documented to decimate kelp forests.

The petitioner argues that eliminating fishing pressure within the proposed MPA areas would somehow bolster kelp populations, but the claim is not well documented by scientific research in this petition. A noteworthy case study, by comparison, is the ongoing Tanker's Reef kelp restoration project, where volunteers have been culling purple urchins within study plots and tracking kelp recovery within the study area and a control site nearby. The initial data for the last three years shows a clear correlation between the removal of purple urchins and kelp recovery in the study plot with no kelp recovery in the adjacent control where urchins were not removed. Fishing is permitted in the Tanker's reef area, however, in adjacent MPA's that have not permitted active restoration and where fishing is not allowed, urchin barons persist and kelp recovery remains minimal.

Kelp forest health and resiliency is a complex and multi-variable equation that can be impacted by numerous factors including water temperature, disease, pollution, algal blooms, wave energy, commercial harvest and more. We support efforts to restore kelp forests across the coast and recognize the role they play in the overall ecosystem health of fisheries, especially the abalone fishery that remains closed until 2026. We urge caution, however where broad fishing closures are enacted in the attempt to solve a problem that requires a more nuanced and carefully crafted multidisciplinary approach.

It should also be noted that the petitioner indicates support for recreational hook and line fishing and spearfishing as an acceptable alternative in several of the MPAs referenced in the petition.

Petition 2023-34MPA: *Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to only allow recreational spearfishing.*

We recommend that the Commission deny this petition and we emphasize the substantial impacts to current fishing access. The petitioner argues that since the salmon season was closed in 2023 it will likely be closed in perpetuity, which would justify eliminating salmon and albacore fishing access at the Point Buchon SMCA. Salmon populations often decrease during drought years and can rebound with increased precipitation or water allocation as was the case in 2008 and 2009 when the fishery was closed and then reopened. We are cautiously optimistic that the salmon numbers will once again bounce back following the increased precipitation received over the past two years.

In the draft Pathways to 30x30 document, the CNRA writes: “It should be noted that limited-take State MPAs provide an excellent model for other jurisdictions looking to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable well-managed commercial and recreational fishing.” We feel that reclassifying the Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR and eliminating fishing in this area would be inappropriate; however, we support any attempts to improve enforcement and compliance with existing regulations.

Furthermore, the proposal to modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs would disproportionately impact a broad variety and collection of user groups who may not be physically able or inclined to spearfish. For this reason and the lack of concrete scientific data to justify the additional restrictions, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Sincerely,

Devin O’Dea
Western Policy & Conservation Manager
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Wayne Kotow
Executive Director
Coastal Conservation Association California

Keely Hopkins
Western States Manager
Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation

FGC@FGC

From: Rick Duenas <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:41 AM
To: FGC
Subject: Public comment on several 2023-MPA petitions

Dear Members of the Commission,

My name is Rick Duenas. I reside in Pacifica, CA but recreate up and down the coast. I write to you as an avid angler and spearfisherman expressing concern and opposition regarding several of the 2023 MPA petitions that impact areas for which I am both a consumptive stakeholder and steward. Many of these petitions will exclude and alienate consumptive stakeholders from participating in the MPA network, whether through designation changes or boundary expansions. I urge you to please reject petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023- 27MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, 2023-33MPA, and 2023-34MPA for the reasons enumerated below.

- 2023-23MPA: This petition will effectively ban fishing and spearfishing from the entire north side of the Monterey Peninsula by converting existing SMCAs to no-take SMRs. These SMCAs provide important nearshore opportunities for various consumptive stakeholders. The petitioner, as they attempted in a prior petition rejected by FGC (petition 2023-02), incorrectly claims eliminating finfish take will benefit kelp. In fact, the literature cited by the petition itself even states "[population and mean biomass responses] in the Central Coast MPAs were highly variable" and "kelp canopy monitoring from Landsat remote sensing did not detect a strong effect of MPA protection on average kelp canopy area." (Carr, et al.) This petition is not grounded in scientific reasoning or sound fisheries management and should be rejected.
- 2023-24MPA: This petition will effectively ban fishing, spearfishing, and all other take in the entirety of Laguna Beach. The petitioner cites ease of enforcement and anecdotal overharvesting and substrate degradation as rationale. This is unfair to consumptive stakeholders, essentially saying "it is too hard for city enforcement to learn the different regulations between different areas, so we want to impose a blanket ban on all consumptive stakeholders rather than addressing the root problem of educating the public." Frankly, this petition proposes lazy, non-adaptive management and should be rejected.
- 2023-26MPA: This petition aims to protect intertidal habitat and simplify enforcement but will effectively ban lobster diving from the productive reef at the southern end of Cardiff State Beach. This petition should be rejected and the petitioner advised to propose a smaller, intertidal-take-specific MPA in its place if that truly is the concern.
- 2023- 27MPA: This petition aims to protect eel grass against anchor and lobster trap damage by converting Anacapa SMCA to a no-take SMR but will effectively ban consumptive take on the entire northern side of Anacapa Island. Why not simply address these threats via regulation change instead of designation change? This petition should be rejected and the petitioner advised

to propose a regulation change that prohibits lobster trapping and anchoring shallower than 20 meters; this will allow anglers and divers to drift through or swim in, the intention of the original regulations.

- 2023-29MPA: This petition will effectively ban all take off Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. This is a popular and important nearshore access opportunity for lobster diving, which is limited to shallow reefs like those found here. This petition should be rejected or revised to make an exemption for low impact take like lobster diving and shore angling.
- 2023-32MPA: This petition will severely limit shore angling opportunities off the Marin coastline. This is an equity issue in that shore-based anglers cannot simply motor to other areas in boats. This petition should be rejected in favor of public education and outreach.
- 2023-33MPA: This petition will severely limit consumptive stakeholder opportunities in several important kelp forests in Southern and Central California, kelp forests that provide equitable access to nearshore activities like angling, lobster diving, and spearfishing. It is inappropriate for a single petition to propose changes to seven unrelated areas; this petition should be split into seven distinct petitions to weigh stakeholder input for each specific area. These expansions are unnecessary in that they target kelp forests that have done particularly well the last decade without MPA intervention. The petition cites warm water events and pollution as threats to kelp forests, yet expanding MPA areas do nothing to mitigate these threats. It is also important to manage these areas in the status quo to serve as a scientific control to compare the efficacy of other MPAs against. This petition should be rejected. Particularly egregious proposals therein:
    - Expanding Cabrillo SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to 100% of nearshore reefs and kelp in San Diego.
    - Expanding South Point SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to 50% of the south coastline of Santa Rosa Island.
    - Expanding Natural Bridges SMR (and intertidal-focused MPA) to 3nm offshore will eliminate large swaths of groundfish and salmon opportunity from anglers, completely unrelated to the inshore kelp.
    - Designating the Pleasure Point SMR as proposed will result in divers and anglers losing access to important inshore reefs and kelp in eastern Santa Cruz County.
- 2023-34MPA: This petition aims to ease enforcement and compliance by converting Point Buchon SMCA to a no-take SMR. Again, this is throwing the baby out with the bath water. Moreover, the petitioner justifies prohibiting take of salmon because there is a temporary statewide salmon closure, leaving no room for this to change in the future with better recruitment conditions. This petition should be rejected in favor of public education, outreach, and increase enforcement emphasis on the existing MPA.

In summary, the aforementioned petitions alienate and restrict opportunity for a large cohort of consumptive stakeholders across the state in an uncompromising and blanket manner. These petitions should be rejected and the petitioners advised to re-group and bring to the table more specific solutions that address root causes to the compliance, enforcement and protection gaps identified as rationale.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rick Duenas

FGC@FGC

From: Michael Eberhardt <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 11:33 AM
To: FGC
Subject: Subject: Opposition to Proposed MPAs - Petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA

Michael Eberhardt

[redacted]

San Francisco, CA [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

2.4.24

Fish and Game Commission

715 P Street, 16th floor,

Sacramento, 95814

Subject: Opposition to Proposed MPAs - Petitions 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the series of Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions currently under consideration, specifically 2023-23MPA, 2023-24MPA, 2023-26MPA, 2023-29MPA, 2023-32MPA, and 2023-33MPA. These proposed changes, I believe, are not only detrimental to the rights and

interests of consumptive stakeholders but are also lacking in scientific rationale, equitable enforcement strategies, and fail to directly address the purported environmental concerns.

2023-23MPA seeks to convert existing State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) on the north side of the Monterey Peninsula into no-take State Marine Reserves (SMRs), effectively banning all fishing and spearfishing activities. This proposal disregards the importance of these areas for consumptive users and is based on the unfounded claim that prohibiting finfish take will benefit kelp forests. This approach is not supported by scientific evidence and overlooks the need for sound fisheries management practices.

2023-24MPA proposes a complete ban on fishing, spearfishing, and all other take activities in Laguna Beach. The justification for this sweeping prohibition—citing enforcement difficulties and anecdotal evidence of overharvesting—overlooks the fundamental issue of public education on existing regulations. This blanket approach unfairly penalizes law-abiding stakeholders and is an example of regulatory overreach based on convenience rather than necessity.

2023-26MPA aims to protect intertidal habitats at Cardiff State Beach but in doing so would unjustly prohibit lobster diving in one of the area's most productive reefs. This proposal is an overextension of enforcement simplification that sacrifices valuable recreational opportunities without considering more targeted and reasonable restrictions.

2023-29MPA seeks to eliminate all take activities off Carpinteria, impacting essential access for low-impact recreation such as lobster diving. This area is crucial for sustainable nearshore activities, and the proposed ban disregards the socio-economic benefits derived from these practices.

2023-32MPA would significantly restrict shore angling and some kayak fishing opportunities off the Marin coastline by expanding the Duxbury Reef SMCA. This change is proposed under the guise of enforcement ease but in reality, would severely limit public access to marine resources without a clear environmental justification.

2023-33MPA proposes broad restrictions across several key kelp forest areas in Southern and Central California. The sweeping nature of this petition fails to consider localized stakeholder input and does not effectively address the cited threats of warm water events and pollution. Instead, it would indiscriminately restrict access to valuable fishing grounds and recreational areas.

In summary, these petitions lack a balanced consideration of ecological preservation, stakeholder interests, and the socio-economic impact on local communities. They also fail to provide compelling scientific evidence to justify such extensive prohibitions. I urge the Commission to reject these proposals and to seek more targeted, science-based, and equitable solutions to marine conservation challenges.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. I trust that the Commission will make decisions that are in the best interest of both our marine ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

Sincerely,

Michael Eberhardt

FGC@FGC

From: Joe Huettl <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 4:12 PM
To: FGC
Subject: MPA

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Members of the Commission,

I am writing to oppose the following petitions under consideration at this month's Fish and Game Commission meeting.

2023-23MPA - Eliminating Tanker's Reef would remove an important area from a popular kayak fishing destination for rockfish, California halibut, sardines, and other fin fish. Kayak fishing has little or no impact on kelp beds. Changing three SMCAs to SMRs would also eliminate areas that are currently available and popular to catch squid recreationally. The petitioner makes statements regarding recreational fishing effects on both kelp health and diver safety that are not backed by science. The culling of urchins is listed as the primary strategy of kelp restoration and they do not make a good case for recreational fishing having much of an affect on that.

2023-33MPA - Expanding Natural Bridges SMR three nautical miles out goes far beyond the goals of the petition and severely negatively affects recreational fishing. Recreational fishing has little to no affect on kelp forests. Creating a new SMR at Pleasure Point would have a huge impact on recreational fishing with very little benefit to kelp restoration. This is a popular fishing area for non-motorized vessels and small boats. At some point these restrictions would eliminate Santa Cruz as a fishing destination, with local economic impacts to follow. In one of their letters they state that the proposed MPA is not subject to any significant commercial take. So the designation would affect sport fishing and diving for the most part.

2023-32MPA - Changing Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR will eliminate local shore fishing opportunities. Expanding the proposed SMR could have a negative affect on kayak and boat fishing.

2023-20MPA - Expanding Point Buchon North would eliminate one of the few ocean kayak fishing opportunities on the Central Coast.

Please take into account the loss of recreational fishing opportunities and their effect on local economies and morale.
This current barrage of petitions to expand the MPA network is meant to overwhelm the opposition and disregards the thousands of Californians who fish recreationally.

Sincerely,

Joseph Huettl
[redacted].
Walnut Creek , CA [redacted]



February 6, 2024

Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: <u>Comments on Fish and Game Commission February 14-15 Meeting Agenda Item 10(B)</u>

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the Environmental Defense Center ("EDC"), please consider our comments on the Marine Protected Area ("MPA") Network, MPA Petition process. California's MPA Network has advanced ocean conservation in a manner worthy of global recognition. The MPA Network's success boasts ten years of research and monitoring activities that indicate MPAs are positively contributing to the six goals of the Marine Life Protection Act ("MLPA"). Even with these positive results, the Network has yet to realize its full potential in ocean protection. We appreciate the opportunity to stay involved with this process and submit this letter to urge Commissioners and staff to only consider actions to improve and strengthen protections and to reject petitions that do not align with the guidance from the MLPA. We also encourage the approval of Petition 2023-27MPA, to reclassify Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area ("SMCA") into a State Marine Reserve ("SMR") or at a minimum reclassify the portion of the SMCA from shore to at least 30 meters depth to better protect eelgrass habitat.

Marine Life Protection Act Guidance

The establishment of the MPA network was comprised of lengthy stakeholder conversation to gather information from all ocean users. The MPA Network now reflects the work that occurred in just under a decade, showcasing extensive political compromise and a comprehensive design that allows for a wide range of consumptive and non-consumptive use. The six MLPA goals guided the initial process and should still be an impartial directive today.

The first goal in the MLPA states, "Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems." Ca. Fish and Game Code § 2853(b)(1). As this goal states, the function of an MPA is to facilitate the recovery and growth of the ecosystem that is contained within its borders. MPA Petitions requesting a decrease in protections to allow for take of a species do not fit within the guidance from the MLPA. MPAs were not imagined and built to operate as a fishery management plan, with evaluations every year for one species. They were designed to take a comprehensive look at whole ecosystems in need of protection to be evaluated every decade to allow for the ecosystem and its inhabitants to grow healthy again.

As the state considers adaptive management of the MPA network, it is important to make decisions that support MLPA goal 5 which requires that "effective management measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines." Ca. Fish and Game Code § 2853(b)(5). Allowing SMRs to be downgraded as SMCAs in order to allow commercial and/or recreational take will create complexity for enforcement officers who must ensure individual compliance with regulations. Petition requests to allow take of certain species like highly migratory species or those with weak site fidelity does not allow for ease of enforcement. Those species that are largely migratory will not stay in any one MPA long term; therefore, allowing any take of these species in highly protected MPAs does not support scientifically sound adaptive management and will establish a precedent for weaking MPA protections. Prohibiting these fishing pressures will support enhanced enforcement and align with recently available scientific findings.

Anacapa Island SMCA should be Reclassified to a SMR

The Decadal Management Review ("DMR") is a momentous step in adaptive and community-based conservation. We commend the California Fish and Game Commission ("FGC"), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Ocean Protection Council for the enormous effort undertaken to complete this first 10-year review. The MPA Network was designed to function as an ecological network to ensure the protection of California's diverse coastal ecosystems.

This petition supports goals 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the MLPA as it will remove a significant and specific threat to eelgrass – recreational and commercial lobster fishing, sustain and protect both eelgrass and the marine species that utilize the habitat, eelgrass beds are a critical study area to understand how to restore other eelgrass meadows in California waters, and will support "effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines." Ca. Fish and Game Code § 2853(b)(1), (2), (3), and (5).

This petition protects the eelgrass habitat that provides significant ecosystem services in shallow, sandy-bottom habitats. Eelgrass beds support complex food webs, filter nutrients, and improve water quality, stabilize sediments, and serve as important refuge and nurseries for marine vertebrates and invertebrates. Eelgrass beds are typically found from shallow waters down to depths of up to 30 meters (98 feet). Due to their habitat range we submitted an alternative request of partial reclassification from shore to 30 meters.

By approving the conversion of the Anacapa SMCA to a SMR, the FGC will integrate the best available science into MPA policy; support the goals of the MLPA; advance federal and state policies advocating for the recovery and protection of eelgrass; and directly support the DMR's goal of adaptively managing MPAs based on findings from the past decade.

Conclusion

We celebrate the success of the MPA network in a time when ocean conservation wins are more important than ever. While we rely on oceans to contribute to many of our societal needs, from food to energy, we must remain committed to protection of our shared resources, not only for future generations but also for the intrinsic value of a thriving ocean. We strongly urge Commissioners and staff to only consider actions to improve and strengthen protections and to reject petitions that do not align with the guidance from the MLPA. We also encourage the approval of Petition 2023-27MPA, to reclassify the Anacapa SMCA into a SMR or, at a minimum, reclassify the portion of the SMCA from shore to at least 30 meters depth to better protect eelgrass habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Azsha Hudson, ahudson@environmentaldefensecenter.org.

Sincerely,

Azsha Hudson, Marine Conservation Analyst
Environmental Defense Center

Linda Krop, Chief Counsel
Environmental Defense Center

Attachments

- Signed Petition Postcards from Patagonia Tabling- 2.1.2024
- Frenchys-Cove-Sign-On_FINAL_2023_11_29

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely, Angel Fajardo

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Camarillo, Ca, [redacted]

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

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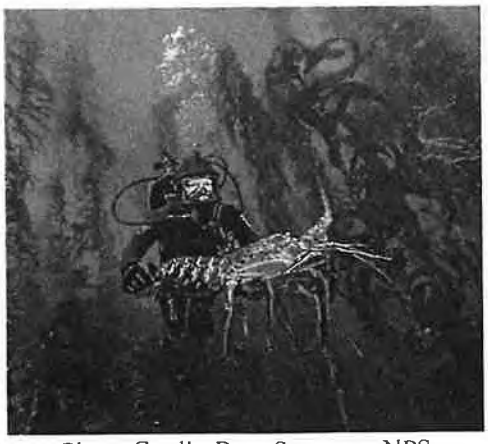


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely, RUGILE PEKUNAS

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Ventura, CA [redacted]

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Alecia Locke
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Ventura CA [redacted]
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

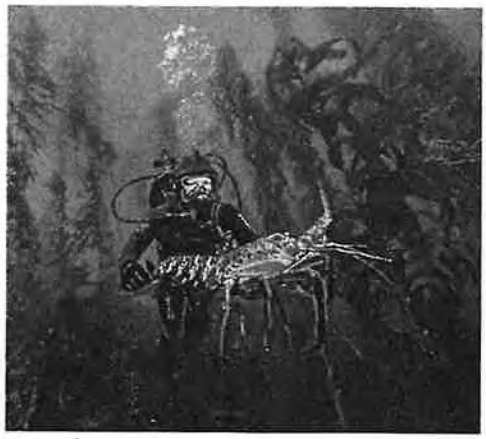


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

SOPHIA MILLER
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

OAK VIEW, CA [redacted]

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.



November 30, 2023

Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: <u>Decadal Management Review Marine Protected Areas Petition Process: Anacap SMCA at Anacapa Island</u>

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners:

The undersigned organizations have decades of combined experience and interest working on Marine Protected Area ("MPA") management, research, compliance, outreach, and education efforts. We submit this letter to support the submission of an MPA petition for the Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area ("SMCA") as a part of the Decadal Management Review ("DMR") process. This petition seeks to reclassify the Anacapa SMCA as a State Marine Reserve ("SMR") or at a minimum reclassify the portion of the SMCA from shore to at least 30 meters depth to better protect eelgrass habitat.

The DMR is a momentous step in adaptive and community-based conservation. We commend the California Fish and Game Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Ocean Protection Council for the enormous effort undertaken to

complete this first 10-year review. The MPA Network was designed to function as an ecological network to ensure the protection of California's diverse coastal ecosystems. Eelgrass meadows are one of the may habitats protected by MPAs. The eelgrass found in California and at Anacapa Island is *Zostera marina.* This subspecies of eelgrass used to be abundant at multiple sites at Anacapa island until white urchin (*Lytechinus anemesus)* populations increased and invaded the area following the 1983 El Nino. Transplantation efforts at Anacapa Island have had some success, however the shift of spiny lobster trapping to soft bottom habitat has led to a decline in the transplanted eelgrass population at Frenchy's Cove.

Anacapa Island Historic Eelgrass Cover

Eelgrass plays an important role in many marine systems like species survival, reducing coastal erosion, acting as a carbon sink, etc. Globally eelgrass populations have declined during the past 25 years through a combination of natural and anthropogenic deterioration. By 1995, only 2 small eelgrass patches were present at East Anacapa Island, and both disappeared by 1999. Past research at Anacapa Island found that there had been no sign of recruitment at Frenchy's Cove since 1991 up until the 2000s when efforts were made to reintroduce eelgrass into the area. The annual surveys conducted from 1991 to 2001 at Frenchy's Cove revealed no eelgrass seedlings, adult plants, or drift material, underlining the limited long-distance dispersal capabilities of this species.

Impacts to Anacapa SMCA Eelgrass Meadows

Follow up surveys in 2014 and 2016, after the transplantation effort in the early 2000s, found the transplanted eelgrass meadows at the Anacapa SMCA to be damaged and greatly reduced. Information gained from mariners and National Park rangers revealed that Frenchy's Cove was being fished heavily during the two months (November, December) that the brown pelican Special Closure was open. Fishing block data for the mainland showed that effort more than doubled within blocks containing fishing areas adjacent to SMRs. Notably, eelgrass continues to thrive within the Anacapa SMR, 200 meters to the east.

Before the shift in fishing efforts for spiny lobster, in 2012 the research team responsible for the transplantation in the early 2000s found additional patches 200 meters to the east of the transplant site and scattered shoots were observed at the west end of East Anacapa Island. The unintended differences in usage of the SMCA and SMR showed that eelgrass will rapidly colonize and thrive if anthropogenic disturbance (i.e., trapping) were to cease.

The impact of fishing for spiny lobster during the two months allowed is destroying the eelgrass meadows. Research shows that recruitment of new eelgrass is a long process, but it is possible when the ideal habitat is left undisturbed. Currently the SMCA allows for recreational take of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish and commercial take of spiny lobster. The Brown Pelican special closure allows for lobster traps in November and December. We ask that the SMCA be reclassified as a SMR or reclassifying the portion of the SMCA from shore to at least 30 meters depth.

Conclusion

We celebrate the success of the MPA network in a time when ocean conservation wins are more important than ever. While we rely on oceans to contribute to many of our societal needs, from food to energy, we must remain committed to protection of our shared resources, not only for future generations but also for the intrinsic value of a thriving ocean. This petition to reclassify the Anacapa SMCA as an SMR or reclassifying the portion of the SMCA from shore to at least 30 meters depth will allow Anacapa Island to recover its historic eelgrass meadow.

Thank you for your consideration of the MPA petition. If you have any questions, please contact Azsha Hudson, ahudson@environmentaldefensecenter.org.

Sincerely,

Azsha Hudson, Marine Conservation Analyst
Environmental Defense Center

Richard Smalldon, Director
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Sea Center

Robert Mazurek, Executive Director
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Tomas Valadez, California Policy Associate
Azul

Elizabeth Purcell, Policy and Communications Intern
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Ted Morton, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Channel Keeper

Jim Taylor, Group Chair
Sierra Club, Santa Barbara – Ventura

Robert Vergara, Roger Arliner Young (RAY) Ocean Conservation Fellow
Natural Resources Defense Council

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Interim Executive Director & Legal and Policy Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)

February 8, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the numerous petitions under consideration at the February meeting of the California Fish & Game Commission, and we offer the perspective of the many hundred thousand supporters of our organizations to the Commission. We express grave concerns regarding several of the proposals to eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast and argue that many of the petitions lack adequate scientific support and documentation to substantiate their positions.

The Decadal Management Review (DMR) of the Marine Protected Area Network (MPA) has offered important insights for MPA managers to help shape the adaptive management of MPA regulations, including promising research that MPAs may increase biomass and provide resiliency against the impacts of a changing climate for some species. The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and overfishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale or the acknowledgement of regulatory mechanisms already in place such as those established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act working through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Fish & Game Commission, and the additional state/federal laws and agencies dedicated to this task. Simply put, many of the petitions referenced below seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Anglers and consumptive users will often be the first and loudest voices to advocate for restrictions or even closures to ensure the sustainability of a fishery, as evidenced by the numerous fishing groups and organizations advocating for the closure of the 2023 salmon season following the data and dismal projections provided by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and CDFW. However, a Californian

constitutional right to fish seems to stand in conflict with the presumption that restriction of access is permissible where there is a lack of scientific evidence or data to justify the closure. Section 1, Article 25 of the California Constitution states, "the people shall have the right to fish upon and from the public lands of the State and in the waters thereof," and the courts in re Quinn (1973) defined "public lands of the state" referenced in this article to include "access to fish in the inland streams and coastal waters of the state."

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California's diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state's many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups. We feel that these considerations are in line with the California Natural Resources Agency's Outdoors for All initiative and its commitment in the Pathways to 30x30 document to "implement projects that do no further harm or pose unintended consequences to historically marginalized communities."[1] Specifically, we wish to highlight this issue with regards to the expansion of California's MPA network which restricts shore-based diving, foraging, and fishing access for all Californians – especially historically marginalized communities, communities of color and Native American tribes. From California's Constitutional Right to Fish:

> Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities. Moreover, fishing opportunities offer physical and psychological benefits to disadvantaged communities, not just access to fish as food.[2]

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to take the following actions with regards to the petitions they have received.

Petition 2023-14MPA: *Allow commercial take of red sea urchins in nine state marine conservation areas (SMCAs)*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-15MPA: *Reclassify three northern Channel Islands state marine reserves (SMRs) to SMCAs and allow take of highly migratory species, pelagic finfish, and/or coastal pelagic finfish*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation, but are encouraged by the proposal and the potential opportunity to gather more data on limited take MPAs and long-term MPA monitoring at the Channels Islands.

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[1] https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/30-by-30/Final_Pathwaysto30x30_042022_508.pdf

[2] Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. "CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH." *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

Petition 2023-16MPA: *Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs and allow commercial take of salmon.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-18MPA: *Modify allowed uses for four marine protected areas (MPAs) in Santa Barbara Channel and eliminate two special closures.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-19MPA: *Designate new "Chitqawi" SMCA near Morro Bay for California-Chumash co-management*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-20MPA: *Reclassify and rename Point Buchon SMR to "Chumash SMCA" for co-management with tribal take exemption.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-21MPA: *Modify Pyramid Point SMCA to remove recreational take of surf smelt and allow tribal take exemption for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-22MPA: *Define "rocky intertidal zone," add research, monitoring, restoration and education allowance, and clarify protections in several Orange County MPAs.*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation.

Petition 2023-23MPA*: Reclassify three SMCAs to SMRs, designate one new SMR in Monterey, and make various changes related to kelp restoration.*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner's intent to restore kelp forests and ecosystem integrity at tankers reef and in the surrounding waters is laudable, this broadly proscriptive petition would unnecessarily restrict access for anglers where there is no clear scientific rationale. In fact, the petitioner submitted a very similar petition seeking to close access for groundfish along a large stretch of the coast in this region in 2023 which the Department of Fish & Wildlife rejected citing a lack of scientific evidence to support the claim. We support the ongoing efforts to restore kelp forests through urchin culling and other means, however we oppose reclassifying these SMCAs to SMRs and the establishment of a new SMR in Monterey.

Petition 2023-24MPA: *Expand Laguna Beach no-take SMCA southward to border of City of Laguna Beach and modify Dana Point SMCA boundaries*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose this petition on the basis that it lacks scientific documentation or justification to eliminate fishing access in the proposed area. The petitioner argues primarily for administrative ease that the no-take closure be extended to the edge of city limits. During the implementation of the MLPA, MPAs were sited utilizing careful selection criteria based on habitat type, proximity from other MPAs, impact to communities and more. The petitioner argues that all beaches within the City of Laguna Beach should be no-take MPAs in order to streamline enforcement and that homeowners "feel that it is not equitable to have only the north and central beaches protected." It should be noted that the petitioner also states clearly in the Economic or Fiscal Impact section of the petition that "estimated resident property values gain an increase of 20% from proximity to a fully protected MPA" which may explain more robust support from the city and homeowners.

The petitioner also cites kelp forest health as justification for eliminating fishing access, however the 100 + page report included with the petition doesn't reference fishing pressure or boat activity with regards to kelp forest health and instead focuses on water temperature, nutrients, wave height, upwelling, rainfall and other stressors. As such, we recommend the Commission deny this petition since there is no scientific documentation to support its claims, and it would only negatively impact anglers who would be forced to travel further to reach fishing grounds.

Petition 2023-27MPA: *Reclassify a portion or all of Anacapa SMCA to an SMR to protect eelgrass*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation. We recognize the value of eelgrass beds for overall ecosystem health and habitat; however, it should be noted that many recreational anglers who target pelagic fish do not anchor and instead prefer to drift fish or troll instead which would have zero impact on the bottom habitat and eelgrass.

Petition 2023-28MPA: *Designate a new SMR at Point Sal, or designate as an SMCA with a tribal take exemption based on tribal consultation*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

While the petitioner takes time to identify the important habitat types, larval transport zones, and cultural significance of the Point Sal area, and they reference potential threats to the region from coastal development and industry, they fail to elaborate in any substantive way why fishing access should be removed from this wild and iconic central coast fishing destination. The petitioner states: "current [commercial] fishing in the proposed area is limited, likely due to its considerable distance from nearest port areas of Morro Bay and Santa Barbara." They also admit that they have no data or analysis with regards to recreational fishing and state, "our request to CDFW for recreational fishing data from this area was being processed at time of submission; we will evaluate the potential impact to recreational fishers and submit it to the state following receipt of the requested data."

A limited google search of "Point Sal fishing" also uncovers a large number of recreational fishing blogs and videos detailing the remote and adventurous hike to fish this area from a diverse population of anglers. In 2023 one blogger wrote, "had a great time hiking miles and miles and miles to fish Point Sal with Martin Mansera from Mansera Outdoors…It's such a remote location and so difficult to access, it

makes for a really rad adventure." Recreational fishing trips to the area by boat are also common, and fishing is noted in nearly every travel guide or city/county website that talks about visiting Point Sal.

Regarding access and disadvantaged communities, the petitioner writes, "the California Environmental Protection Agency identifies the adjacent city of Guadalupe as "disadvantaged" under CA Senate Bill 535, and their synthesis of environmental and socioeconomic indicators further reveals that Guadalupe – alongside Santa Maria and Lompoc – are underprivileged communities that experience significant cumulative impacts from pollution. Given these communities' close proximity to Point Sal, implementing an SMR at the proposed site could enhance access for disadvantaged populations to valuable coastal resources and fishing opportunities."

To justify this confounding claim that removing fishing access could somehow *enhance fishing opportunities* for disadvantaged communities, the petitioner cites a study of commercial lobster fishing and the concept of "spillover." They write, "California's MPAs have been shown to increase the biomass of fishery-targeted species and promote "spillover" into nearby coastal areas, benefitting nearby fishing grounds."

Spillover and the positive impacts to fisheries located in waters adjacent to MPAs are often referenced in association with the MPA network, and the limited, initial science has demonstrated some positive correlations with spillover of invertebrates like lobsters to adjacent fishing grounds in select study areas and commercial fishing for tuna in Hawaii. However, there remains an opportunity to further study this hypothesis and to promote scientific research that successfully documents spillover of targeted finfish across the MPA network in California. Some data from MPA monitoring along the Central California Coast indicated limited evidence of spillover from targeted finfish that were tagged and recaptured at a later point during the study period as evidenced from the Starr et al study: Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters:

> As of July 2014, a total of 251 individual tag recaptures have been reported (Table 8). Tagged fishes were recaptured by commercial and recreational hook-and-line fishermen, commercial trap fishermen, SCUBA divers, and during our fishing surveys. Of all the tagged fishes recapture and reported, 71% were recaptured in the same site and grid cell as they were released, and 22% of recaptured fishes were caught within the same site but outside the original grid cell where they were released. Only 18 fish, or 7% of the recaptured fishes, were recaptured beyond the boundaries of the MPA or REF site in which they were released. The mean net distance moved by eight of nine species recaptured was less than half the length of the MPAs we studied.[3]

While we do not seek to draw conclusions regarding the overall merits of spillover to adjacent fisheries from the results of one study, we do encourage additional research to evaluate the impacts that MPAs have on local fisheries and fisheries as a whole, especially within the context of varied siting and disparate habitat types evidenced across the MPA network. As the Forcada study indicated, "We conclude that spillover effects are not a universal consequence of siting MPAs in temperate waters and they are related to the distribution of habitats inside and around MPAs." (Forcada et al., 2009).

Due to the limited scientific understanding of spillover as it relates to the Marine Protected Area Network as a whole, especially with regards to finfish which would be the primary target of recreational shore and

[3] 4 Starr RM, Wendt DE, Barnes CL, Marks CI, Malone D, et al. (2015) Variation in Responses of Fishes across Multiple Reserves within a Network of Marine Protected Areas in Temperate Waters. PLOS ONE 10(3): e0118502. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0118502

boat-based anglers at Point Sal, we disagree with the petitioner's logical assumptions and the argument as a whole. In fact, when considered in the context presented from the *Constitutional Right to Fish* article, the discussion is turned on its head entirely. "Anglers from historically marginalized communities may be less able to travel to fishing locations and are more likely to require shore access, as opposed to access from a boat. Anglers in communities like this need accessible shore-fishing, particularly given the importance of subsistence fishing in poorer communities."[4]

With the two large no-take SMRs located just South of this newly proposed MPA (Vandenberg SMR & Point Conception SMR) and Point Buchon to the North, it would seem the opportunities to fish and forage the coast for residents of Guadalupe, Lompoc and Santa Maria are already few and far between. In fact, in 2022 the City of Lompoc petitioned the Fish & Game Commission to allow for shore-fishing access along a ½ mile stretch of beach with in the Vandenberg SMR, citing a lack of access to historic fishing grounds for the local communities.

We share the petitioner's concerns regarding habitat disruption from off-shore energy production and the associated infrastructure, however, we note the likely establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation which would effectively curtail any development or offshore energy production in this region. Planning for the CHNMS has included fishing access as a key component of the proposed designation.

As a result, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-29MPA: *Designate a new SMCA with a tribal take exemption for and co-management with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in Santa Barbara*

We recommend the Commission deny this petition.

We oppose the petitioner's request to designate a new, no-take SMCA in Carpinteria for several reasons. First, the petitioner argues that spacing and connectivity is a key concern in this location with the distance between the Campus Point and Point Dume SMCAs at 64 nautical miles (nm) instead of the recommended 54 nm to ensure ecological connectivity. When this request is examined within the broader context of MPA siting, it is clear that the target spacing between MPAs could be easily achieved by moving the Campus Point SMCA South or the Point Dume SMCA North, since both are located well-within the recommended 54nm from adjacent MPAs on either side.

Additionally, the petitioner cites the location as important nursery habitat for juvenile great white sharks as justification for establishing a no-take SMR. They write, "Research conducted in the Southern California Bight has found that fisheries bycatch is likely the main source of mortality for JWS." However, the article they cite to support this claim, John F. Benson et. al., discloses that for great white sharks they captured and tagged, "mortality risk was substantially greater off the coast of Baja, Mexico compared with California." Importantly, the research paper also states, "that incidental gillnet capture continues to be the primary source of mortality for juveniles. The lower mortality risk we documented in California waters suggests that full closure of gillnet fishing close to shore is a more effective management strategy than simply banning targeted fishing to reduce mortality risk due to bycatch." [5]

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[4] Coats, Francis, and Karrigan Bork. "CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FISH." *Environmental Law*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2021, pp. 1085–147. *JSTOR*, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48647570. Accessed 22 Mar. 2023.

[5] Benson JF, Jorgensen SJ, O'Sullivan JB, et al. Juvenile survival, competing risks, and spatial variation in mortality risk of a marine apex predator. *J Appl Ecol*. 2018; 55: 2888–2897. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13158

As the petitioner is undoubtedly aware, gillnet fishing is banned in state waters and therefore the proposed MPA would have no impact on the gillnet fishery or likely the mortality risk to great white sharks.

The petitioner notes the location's popularity with recreational lobster divers and the likely opposition from stakeholders who would oppose the additional loss of access. The mortality risk to great white sharks from the recreational lobster fishery is zero, similar to the risk from spearfishing, yet the petitioner seeks to eliminate access entirely without providing any scientific rationale for the closure. As a result, we request that the Commission deny this petition.

Petition 2023-31MPA: *Reclassify Drakes Estero SMCA to an SMR and combine with Estero de Limantour SMR as a single SMR:*

We recommend referring this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but encourage the Commission to maintain access for clamming unless there is a clear threat to the fishery or surrounding ecosystem.

It is worth noting that the National Park Service mentions in their comment letter that the area is now Congressionally Designated Wilderness and that "recreational take of shellfish appears to be very rare, [and] requires long kayak trips in wilderness area." Just because something is difficult doesn't mean it should be illegal.

Petition 2023-32MPA: *Reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA as an SMR and expand northern and southern boundaries*

We recommend that the Commission deny or refer this petition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation but emphasize maintaining fishing access for local communities at Duxbury Reef. The vast majority of complaints regarding Duxbury reef are related to enforcement and compliance, rather than a scientific justification for eliminating access. Shore fishing is an important past-time for the diverse communities that comprise the North Bay Area, and removing access to a popular fishing destination should not be justified simply based on the actions of a few bad apples.

Petition 2023-33MPA: *Expand the boundaries of five SMRs and one SMCA, and designate a new SMR off Pleasure Point, in Santa Cruz*

We recommend that this petition be denied or referred to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and recommendation due to its broad scope and complexity. The petitioner seeks to enhance protections for kelp forests, but does so with an overly broad brush. Rather than advocating for reducing fishing pressure for predators of kelp grazers, like lobster and sheepshead, the petition advocates for the closure of all fishing, including the harvest of grazer species like urchins that have been documented to decimate kelp forests.

The petitioner argues that eliminating fishing pressure within the proposed MPA areas would somehow bolster kelp populations, but the claim is not well documented by scientific research in this petition. A noteworthy case study, by comparison, is the ongoing Tanker's Reef kelp restoration project, where volunteers have been culling purple urchins within study plots and tracking kelp recovery within the study area and a control site nearby. The initial data for the last three years shows a clear correlation between the removal of purple urchins and kelp recovery in the study plot with no kelp recovery in the adjacent control where urchins were not removed. Fishing is permitted in the Tanker's reef area, however, in adjacent MPA's that have not permitted active restoration and where fishing is not allowed, urchin barons persist and kelp recovery remains minimal.

Kelp forest health and resiliency is a complex and multi-variable equation that can be impacted by numerous factors including water temperature, disease, pollution, algal blooms, wave energy, commercial harvest and more. We support efforts to restore kelp forests across the coast and recognize the role they play in the overall ecosystem health of fisheries, especially the abalone fishery that remains closed until 2026. We urge caution, however where broad fishing closures are enacted in the attempt to solve a problem that requires a more nuanced and carefully crafted multidisciplinary approach.

It should also be noted that the petitioner indicates support for recreational hook and line fishing and spearfishing as an acceptable alternative in several of the MPAs referenced in the petition.

Petition 2023-34MPA: *Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to only allow recreational spearfishing.*

We recommend that the Commission deny this petition and we emphasize the substantial impacts to current fishing access. The petitioner argues that since the salmon season was closed in 2023 it will likely be closed in perpetuity, which would justify eliminating salmon and albacore fishing access at the Point Buchon SMCA. Salmon populations often decrease during drought years and can rebound with increased precipitation or water allocation as was the case in 2008 and 2009 when the fishery was closed and then reopened. We are cautiously optimistic that the salmon numbers will once again bounce back following the increased precipitation received over the past two years.

In the draft Pathways to 30x30 document, the CNRA writes: “It should be noted that limited-take State MPAs provide an excellent model for other jurisdictions looking to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable well-managed commercial and recreational fishing.” We feel that reclassifying the Point Buchon SMCA as an SMR and eliminating fishing in this area would be inappropriate; however, we support any attempts to improve enforcement and compliance with existing regulations.

Furthermore, the proposal to modify take at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs would disproportionately impact a broad variety and collection of user groups who may not be physically able or inclined to spearfish. For this reason and the lack of concrete scientific data to justify the additional restrictions, we recommend the Commission deny this petition.

Sincerely,

Devin O’Dea
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Rachel Fischer
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Wayne Kotow
Coastal Conservation Association California

James Stone
Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsman’s Association

Keely Hopkins
Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation

Larry Phillips
American Sportfishing Association

February 8, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Discussion Item 10 - Regulation change petitions (marine)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Zavaleta & Commissioners,

As an organization dedicated to ensuring our North American heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting with over 350,000 supporters, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers expresses serious concerns regarding several of the petitions currently before the California Fish & Game Commission that would eliminate fishing access along large stretches of the California coast.

The intent of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the stewardship of our coastal resources are of paramount importance to California's heritage. However, these laudable goals and conservation benchmarks should not preclude access to harvest coastal foods where state and federal fisheries managers have demonstrated robust and resilient fish stocks without any current threat of overfishing, nor for those species where targeted fishing and active management would benefit the overall ecosystem balance.

There are numerous, seemingly well-intentioned petitions currently before the Fish & Game Commission that seek to preserve California's coastal waters citing anthropogenic impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems, such as pollution, rising sea temperatures, disease, development and fishing. While we support the intent to safeguard our fish stocks, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity, we strongly disagree with the all-or-nothing approach adopted by many of the petitioners who proffer the wholesale elimination of fishing access without adequate scientific rationale.

Simply put, many of the petitions seek to advance preservation at all costs, pushing for wholesale closures that circumvent the regulatory processes already in place, ultimately bludgeoning access for the diverse angling communities that have revered these coastal traditions for generations.

Shore fishing, diving/spearfishing, kayak/boat fishing and coastal gathering are low impact activities that reflect the broad spectrum of California's diverse community and constitute a valuable resource for individuals across the economic divide to access nature and provide food for their families at the same time. We encourage the Commission and MPA managers to consider the numerous communities that enjoy the state's many sustainable food resources when considering protections and recommendations that might unnecessarily exclude these groups.

It is within this context that we urge the Commission to deny those petitions (outlined in our detailed letter to the Commission on 2/1/24) that would unnecessarily erode our longstanding coastal fishing and foraging traditions.

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2024-02-05 22:56:46.81		Stan	Perry		[redacted]	San Diego	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 21:33:06.14		Jim	Velazquez		[redacted]	San Diego	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 21:21:19.297		Reid	Lamson						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 21:12:35.05	Mr.	Nick	Zagaris		[redacted]	Auburn	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 22:13:07.423		Michael	Skehen		[redacted]	Arroyo Grande	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 20:34:57.753		Callie	Warne						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 20:02:32.65		Harrie	Dennison						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 19:52:17.087		Jacob	Jensen						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 19:19:31.487		Dale	Parsons						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 19:17:18.01		Sterling	Coberly						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 19:04:40.757		Reece	Reber						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 18:56:03.143		Adam	Bloomer						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 18:38:07.283		John	Shimmick						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 18:16:11.547		Charles	Stanton						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 18:07:46.917		Kenneth	Ply						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 17:55:22.687		Cameron	Dobbs						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 17:52:10.473		Chase	Ascari						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 17:27:50.223		John	Towers						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 16:58:29.703		Christopher	Agacite						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 16:44:19.967		David	Rosenthal						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 15:48:35.097		Christopher l	Lincoln						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 15:41:54.56		Chris	Killen						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 13:16:03.28		David	Zachry						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 13:15:26.283		Tyler	Blackburn						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 12:59:07.173		Victor	Flores						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 12:58:03.97		Jack	Van Nieulande						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 11:57:45.247		Mike	Garske						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 11:29:37.853		Bryce	Carnehl						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 23:37:53.183		Dave	Huebner						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 22:31:18.197		Ryan	McGaffin						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 22:22:27.137		Timothy	Watson		[redacted]	Middle Grove	NY	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 21:05:54.64		Jose	Camarena						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:04:37.32		Erick	Burres						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 20:58:02.777		Shaun	Ayers						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:56:18.6		Tom	Stubbs						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:44:54.14		Rafael	Santillan						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 20:31:49.4		Zane	Murphy						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:21:30.41		Jeremy	Kerekes						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:20:07.45		Eric	Manahan		[redacted]	Hollis	ME	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:18:56.503		Marcus	LeBlanc		[redacted]	Grover beach	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 20:10:44.193		Dave	Gifford						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:56:09.143		Dave	Rechel						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:43:54.443		Gabriel	Silveira						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 19:40:58.32		Jesus	Padiernos						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:29:09.317		Jaime	Gutierrez						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:27:36.86		Darren	Gertler						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 19:06:32.177		Matthew	Bond						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 17:46:21.643		Clayton	Beaver						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:45:06.907		Travis	Craven						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:30:47.033		Eric	Tye						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 17:16:16.94		Benjamin	Kaslin						US	Petition Signed

2024-02-02 16:25:01.977		Matt	Rose						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 16:10:12.253		Kevin	Vella						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:56:10.45		Charlie	de la Rosa						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:55:01.117		Nicholas	Angus						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:38:15.073		Nick	Ippolito						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 15:34:39.867		Artin	Marootian						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:57:10.573		Sam	Narveson						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:52:04.667		Jacob	Morris						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:48:19.837		Jonathan	Hoang						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:44:36.137		Mitchell	Ward						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:40:14.187		Logan	Little						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:29:39.883		Josef	Sanchez						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:25:41.613		Leif	Bierer						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:09:39.14		JESSE	STOVALL		[redacted]	Fiddletown	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:09:23.547		Mike	Costello						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:03:34.583	Mr.	Hunter	Miller		[redacted]	Kuna	ID	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 14:02:35.91		Jordan	Germyn						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:58:56.873		Gilberto	Garcia						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:58:51.957		Rod	Kazempour						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:56:33.713		Andrew	Miller						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:55:22.597		Micah	Dungey						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-02 13:50:04.897		Chris	Chun						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:48:43.423		Jerry	Chang						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:48:06.903		Clayton	Thornton						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:47:17.947		Christopher	James						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:45:51.557		John	Phillips						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:45:40.09		James	Killiany						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:40:12.057		Richard	Owens						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:37:41.607	Mr.	Blane	Markham		[redacted]	Carmel	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:36:49.903		Connor	Weber						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:35:29.397		Logan	Gillingham						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:31:21.977		Dennis	Kilian						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:29:17.553		Daniel	Collins						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:23:58.117		Phillip	Sanders						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:17:26.583		Derrik	Kapalla						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:16:58.097		Craig	Simes						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:15:13.017		Valerie	Bednarski						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:14:01.07		Elijah	Black						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:12:08.623		Philip	Adornato						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:10:44.163		owen	shapiro						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:10:37.263		Steve	Dolan						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 13:09:39.617		Nick	Garcia						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 21:14:07.19		Keynan	Hobbs						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 19:52:19.6		Allen	Noren						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-01 19:31:26.837		Devin	O'Dea						US	Petition Signed

From: Azsha Hudson <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 02:58 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: 2023-27 MPA Supplemental Research

Good afternoon,

I have attached a three-page write-up for agency staff to use as they review MPA Petition 2023-27MPA. It is addressing some of the questions posed by a Commissioner during the February FGC Meeting.

Thank you!

AZSHA HUDSON (she/her/hers)
MARINE CONSERVATION ANALYST
906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
o: 805.963.1622 X 105 c: 805.263.7071
www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

Petition 2023-27MPA Response to Questions posed by Commissioner's

Please see the below report responding to questions (bolded) posed by Commissioner Zavaleta in a follow up email after the February 14, 2024 Fish and Game Commission meeting. The response to Commissioner Zavaleta's questions were addressed by Jessie Altstatt, a researcher that has studied eelgrass at Anacapa island for years and wrote a report on her findings that prompted us at the Environmental Defense Center to submit an MPA petition.

Clarifying the spatial and temporal extent of impact on eelgrass beds from the traps and anchoring that you identified as damaging to those beds. For example, how do anchorage pits compare in size and density to natural disturbances (such as feeding pits, storm events) to eelgrass?

The species of eelgrass found at Anacapa Island, *Zostera pacifica*, has very short rootlets and typically grows within the top few centimeters of sediment. This makes it extremely sensitive to disturbance, which is why it is found only in the most sheltered areas. Deploying and pulling traps disturbs the sediment and dislodges the eelgrass and causes it to drift away. It will only "grow back" if there is still material left behind. Deploying and pulling traps is akin to anchoring, which is known to be a major threat to eelgrass beds world-wide, and it's no coincidence that Channel Islands National Marine Sanctury ("CINMS") is very concerned about anchoring and disturbing the seafloor in areas of eelgrass.

I (Jessie Altstatt) have attached a figure from a talk I gave at the 2016 California Islands Symposium, showing the main permanent transect within my restoration area at Frenchy's. Note the abandoned trap.

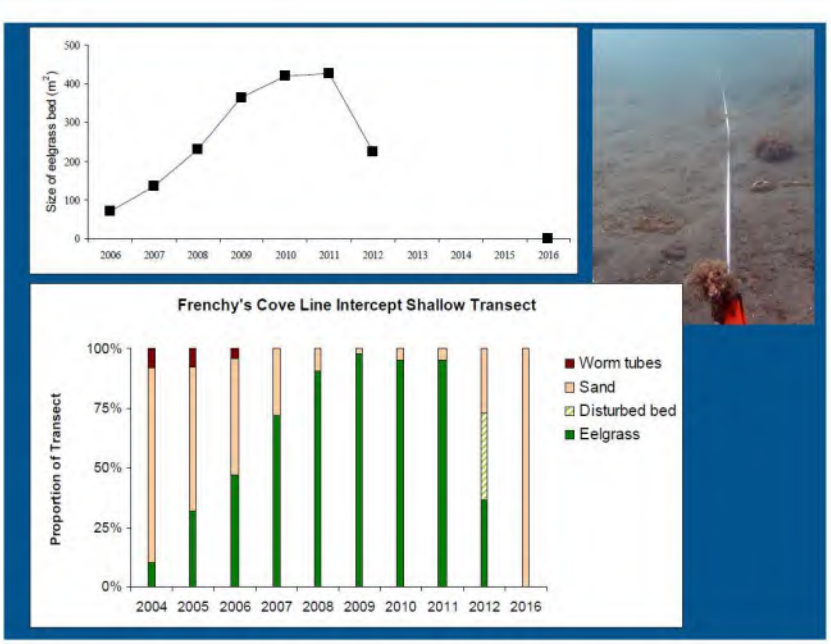


How long does it take for the eelgrass to grow back from each of these disturbance types? In terrestrial grasslands (which I [Commissioner Zavaleta] understand are different), for example, patchy disturbances increase overall biodiversity and vegetation recovery in them is quick.

To answer the question, how long does it take for recovery, I (Jessie Alstatt) would argue that it could take many decades if there was not a wild source of seeds or vegetative material upstream. The closest bed up current of Frenchy's is at Smugglers, > 4 miles away and across a channel between the islands. And, for any recovery, the fishing effort needs to stop. There is no other lobster fishing area that I (Jessie Altstatt) know of that specifically targets soft-sediment bottom. Frenchy's once had the largest eelgrass bed at Anacapa island (Jack Engle data). We were on our way to seeing recovery following our restoration work, and now it is gone.

The fishing pressure within the Special Closure in Frenchy's Cove is extremely intense during the two months that the commercial fishermen are allowed to enter (Nov, Dec). I (Jessie Altstatt) have routinely counted over one hundred traps within a small area. The traps are repeatedly picked up, re-baited and dropped again (~every 72 hours). In a natural system, a bat ray may create a feeding pit which disturbs an area of eelgrass possibly ~ 1 meter across, but then the ray moves on, and that area can gradually recover vegetatively growing in from all sides towards the center of the pit. My permanent transects went from nearly 100% healthy eelgrass in 2011, to ~60% cover, half of which was severely distressed.

Another figure shows numerical data (size of restoration area in square meters) and % cover along a permanent transect). During the restoration work, it took > 5 years to reach solid cover of eelgrass, and this was destroyed within a year (although I do not have the quantitative survey data from 2013-2015, I learned from other divers that most of the solid grass bed was gone by 2013).



I (Jessie Altstatt) have also attached (see below) a picture from 2016 from within Frenchy's Cove, showing how damaged the eelgrass bed was at that time. Note that the abandoned trap contains the bones of a drowned cormorant.



I (Commissioner Zavaleta) want to understand not whether there are effects of fishing and boat anchorages, but how large, spatially extensive (what % of a meadow?) and long-lasting they are.

In support of my (Jessie Altstatt) observation that traps were responsible for the damage, in 2016 there were still a few scattered eelgrass plants within the cove, but they were shallower than 20' as that is the inner limit for trap fishing. However, there is very limited habitat of the right sediment grain size in shallower than 20' due to wave action.

To address the wave action question, eelgrass is very limited by depth to areas where there is not much exposure to wave action. Frenchy's Cove is the most protected area at Anacapa Island, which is why the historic bed once grew as shallow as 20' depth.

Please also note that recently CINMS performed a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and protecting eelgrass habitat was among the top 2 proposals discussed by the group. There was a list of action items created by the group, and excluding trap fishing was on that list- but ultimately NMS has no control over state-managed fisheries.

From: California Fishermens Resiliency Association <californiafishermensresiliency@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 06:44 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: [redacted] Steve Scheiblauer <[redacted]>; Dave Colker <[redacted]>; Jake Mitchell <[redacted]>; [redacted]
Subject: MPA Petitions Support/Object



California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1320
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

July 3, 2024

Re: MPA Petitions/Support/Object

Commissioners:

The California Fisherman's Resiliency Association (CFRA) expresses its support for the following Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions:

2023 - 14 MPA
2023 - 15 MPA
2023 - 16 MPA
2023 - 18 MPA
2023 - 30 MPA

Our support is based on research conducted by the University of Washington (sustainable fisheries- us.org) which exactly states that MPA's have no positive affect on threats to marine life posed by ocean acidification, global warming, coastal development, terrestrial and urban run-off and human pollution of the world environment. "Recent reviews of the extensive MPA network in California have concluded there is no evidence for a regional increase in biodiversity, or targeted fish abundance, nor is there evidence for MPA's providing climate resiliency"

We provide no support for the following MPA petitions:

2023 - 19 MPA
2023 - 20 MPA
2023 - 21 MPA
2023 - 22 MPA
2023 - 23 MPA
2023 - 24 MPA
2023 - 25 MPA
2023 - 26 MPA
2023 - 28 MPA
2023 - 29 MPA
2023 - 31 MPA
2023 - 32 MPA
2023 - 33 MPA
2023 - 34 MPA

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Ken Bates, Executive Director
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association Member Associations

Crescent City Commercial Fishermen's Association
Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Association
Shelter Cove Fishermen's Preservation, Inc.
Salmon Troller's Marketing Association of Noyo
Bodega Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association
Half Moon Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association
The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Cc: Dave Colker
Peter Halmay
Steve Scheiblauer
Jake Mitchell

FGC@FGC

From: david rowell [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 12:19 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Proposal

I would like to express my support for improving and adding more MPAs. I have lived in Santa Barbara for 40 years and have frequently been SCUBA diving at the SB Channel Islands. The ecosystem inside an MPA is clearly benefiting from the protection. Frankly, it reminds me of diving in the 1980s. MPAs are critically important not only for recovery of fisheries but also enrichment of areas outside the MPA.

In addition, I support the proposal to reclassify Anacapa Island State Conservation Area as s State Marine Reserve. This will serve to protect the eelgrass in the shallow waters, which as you are aware is a breeding ground for juvenile marine organisms. This designation will not only assist this location but also serve to enhance the entire ecosystem with greater replenishment.

I fully acknowledge the issues the commercial fisherman have raised given this is their livelihood. However, I do think expanding MPAs which serve as sanctuaries from over fishing and it will create much more productive fishing in other areas through restocking. In terms of maintaining sustainable fisheries, I believe Cal Fish and Game should review the number and type of commercial fishing licenses in various areas such as Santa Barbara. Given the lower overall catch and the difficulty of making a living as a commercial fisherman, it might make sense to retire some licenses. This could be accomplished through a program that offers compensation plus job training.

Thank you for your consideration

David Rowell

From: Jean Kaplan <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:07 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Marine Sanctuaries

I am

I am requesting the designation of petitions 2023-27MPA and 2023-29MPA, along with your personal support for these petitions.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!
Please join EDC and our partners in urging the Commissioners to designate two petitions critical to enhancing the MPA network and providing critical protection for our marine resources.

WAYS TO JOIN US
July 16-17th
Marine Resources Committee Hearing

- **IN-PERSON (Agenda)**
  California Natural Resources Headquarters Building
  Second Floor, 715 P Street
  Sacramento, CA 95814
- **VIRTUALLY**
  The FGC will update the meeting documents1.5-2 weeks before the meeting date (tentatively should be updated on/around July 1,2025). Please use this link to check the FGC website for instructions on how to join virtually and comment at the meeting.
- **EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS BY JULY 3, 2025**
  Submit written commenbts to**fgc@fgc.ca.gov**

TALKING POINTS:

- I urge the Commission to approve petitions 2023-29MPA in Carpinteria and 2023-27MPA at Anacapa Island.
- The Carpinteria petition, named Mishopshno (Mee – shop – shno) is to create a new MPA that will fill a 64-mile spacing gap between Campus Point and Point Dume MPAs which will better enhance network connectivity.
- Mishopshno will also protect kelp forest, rocky reef, sandy bottom, and sandy beach habitat, which is essential to kelp bass, rockfish, octopus, spiny lobster, egrets, whales, dolphins, and more.
- The Anacapa Island petition will improve protection for restored eelgrass meadows from the impact of commercial lobster traps, conserving an important habitat that is increasingly diminished and impacted by human activities.
- Adjustments to the existing Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area will also improve the current MPA network via adaptive management as directed by the Marine Life Protection Act

Thank you for speaking up on this important issue and helping protect these vital marine resources.



Azsha Hudson
Marine Conservation Analyst and Program Manager

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kelsey Maloney <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 8:44 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Support for MPAs

Good morning,

I am writing to urge the Commission to approve petitions 2023-29MPA in Carpinteria and 2023-27MPA at Anacapa Island. We have an obligation to protect marine life. We will all be healthier with a thriving marine ecosystem. With so much of public lands and waters at risk of being sold off or used for drilling oil, and with the threat of climate change, it is more important than ever to protect marine life and natural resources. As a swimmer and beach goer, I cherish these spaces and encourage you to help protect these vital marine resources.

Thank you,

--

Kelsey Maloney (she/her)

Grant Writer

[redacted]

July 31, 2025

Erika Zavaleta
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: <u>Comments on Fish and Game Commission Meeting Agenda Item 17C</u>
<u>Support for Marine Protection Area Network and Petition 2023-27MPA</u>

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

We are writing to express our strong support for California's Marine Protected Area ("MPA") network and ask that the California Fish and Game Commission ("FGC") take action to maintain, improve, and strengthen the integrity of the network and the critical protections it provides. Specifically, we ask the FGC to support adaptive management of the Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area ("SMCA") (2023-27MPA) to better protect restored eelgrass meadows.

As business owners who are both reliant on our planet's marine resources and committed to protecting them, we strongly support efforts to maintain and enhance protections for this culturally, historically, and ecologically significant environment.

A decade has passed since California designated the MPA network, and it is performing as intended according to extensive scientific research as part of the Decadal Management Review ("DMR") conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW"). The state can now make improvements to enforcement and other management issues that have emerged since the original designation, while building on the existing MPA network.

One area of improvement the MPA Network can benefit from is ensuring protection of the variety of habitats included within the network. Eelgrass plays an important role in many marine systems such as species survival, reducing coastal erosion, acting as a carbon sink, etc. Globally, eelgrass populations have declined during the past 25 years through a combination of natural and anthropogenic deterioration. By 1995, only 2 small eelgrass patches were present at East Anacapa Island, and both disappeared by 1999. Luckily replantation and restoration efforts started in the early 2000s at the Anacapa SMCA and State Marine Reserve ("SMR").

Unfortunately, follow up surveys in 2014 and 2016 found the transplanted eelgrass meadows at the Anacapa SMCA to be damaged and greatly reduced. Notably, eelgrass continues to thrive within the Anacapa SMR, 200 meters to the east.

The 2014 and 2016 surveys included information gained from mariners and National Park rangers and revealed that Frenchy's Cove was being fished heavily during the two months (November and December) that the brown pelican Special Closure was open. Fishing block data for the mainland showed that effort more than doubled within blocks containing fishing areas adjacent to SMRs. The increased fishing pressure led to an increase in hard bottomed objects resting on top of eelgrass for extended periods. This phenomenon causes blades to become broken or abraded, which may disrupt normal blade function.

The decline in any ecosystem can have an impact on more than the biological environment; it can have an impact on economic prospects as well. Tourism in Santa Barbara generates more than $2.24 billion, including $82.9 million in yearly tax revenue, with many local businesses benefiting from visitors. A 2023 National Park Service report showed that 323,000 people visited the Channel Islands National Park in 2022 and spent $21.8 million in communities surrounding the Park. The degradation of eelgrass meadows can have a direct impact (e.g., to businesses that focus on supporting people visiting these areas for recreation, wildlife viewing, etc.) as well as indirect impact (e.g., to businesses who rely on the ecological health and reputation of this area to attract customers) on businesses surrounding the Anacapa Island MPA.

Due to these concerns, we support Petition 2023-27MPA, which will reduce the impacts to eelgrass at Anacapa Island. We are aware that the Petitioner has come up with potential alternative solutions to help protect the meadow (please refer to EDC's July 31, 2024, letter re: Petition for Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area – Agenda Item 6(c) for more detailed explanation), including:

- Change current regulations to disallow commercial lobster fishing year round
- Change current regulations to disallow hard bottomed fishing gear near eelgrass meadows
- Change the existing border, prohibiting the deployment of lobster traps from 0-30 feet instead of the existing 0-20 meters

Accordingly, we support the Petitioner's request that the FGC and CDFW analyze these new potential solutions to find an answer that best protects the eelgrass meadow and the public's interests. We understand that the MPA petition process is ongoing with many details still being determined, with considerations of all ocean users' input combined with environmental, economic, and social data. We hope and expect that the outcome will keep the Santa Barbara Channel protected for future generations of life.

Thank you for initiating the process to participate in the adaptive management of our world-renowned MPA network. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input through this process.

Thank you,

Michelle Stevens
Founder & CEO, The Refill Shoppe

Albert DiPadova, Co-Founder
Riviera Towel Co.

John Gonzales, Founder
Leashless Brewing

Michael Cohen, President
Santa Barbara Adventure Company

Chris Ragland, Executive Director
Sea League

July 31, 2025

Erika Zavaleta
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: <u>Agenda Item 17C: Community Outreach Update re Petitions 2023-27MPA and 2023-29MPA</u>

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

In late 2023, the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) requested that the public submit petitions for any changes to the Network to advance adaptive management Recommendation 4, "Apply what is learned from the first Decadal Management Review to support proposed changes to the MPA Network and Management Program." EDC submitted two Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions in Santa Barbara/Ventura County:

- Petition 2023-27MPA proposes to reclassify a State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA); and
- Petition 2023-29MPA, submitted with the co-sponsors, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI) and NRDC, proposes a California-Chumash co-managed MPA off the coast of Carpinteria to be named Mishopshno.

FGC additionally directed petitioners to prioritize community outreach following the deadline for petition submissions. We at EDC, SYBCI, and NRDC have been working to inform our local communities of the MPA adaptive management process, as well as relevant petitions (for this letter the petitions being addressed moving forward will be those listed above), and have continued to engage the community since we submitted our petition in November 2023.

Since January 2024, the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI), and the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) have conducted over 100 in-person and virtual or meetings and phone calls with stakeholders and community members.[1] As part of our joint efforts to inform and engage the community, we attended multiple community events with tabling opportunities sharing the petitions with community members and asking for their support of the MPA Network and to sign on in support of the two petitions. Over the summer of 2023, we garnered over 150 postcards from community members in support of the petitions.

The postcards read:

> "Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,
>
> I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.
>
> Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users."

The outreach we conducted via tabling in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties adds to our overall outreach efforts in the community to inform and educate. Our individual and joint efforts have led to conversations with hundreds of interested individuals via email, phone calls, tabling events, and virtual and in-person meetings, including:

- Federally and non-federally recognized Tribes
- Tribal non-profit organizations
- City Council members, District Supervisors, Mayors, city staff
- Congressional, Assembly, and Senate offices and district staff

[1] Please refer to both the July 31st, 2024 comment letter submitted by EDC titled, "Petition for Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area – Agenda Item 6(c)" and the February 28, 2025 comments submitted by NRDC titled, "Comments on Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee March 2025 Meeting Agenda Item 5 A II: MPA Regulation Change Petitions" for more context on our combined outreach efforts.

- Local and State agencies (i.e., Santa Barbara Flood Control District, Santa Barbara County Parks, State Parks, etc.)
- Local businesses
- Local scientists
- Commercial fishing representatives
- Local recreational fishers (e.g., spearfishers, catch-and-release fishers)
- Local homeowners
- Local, state, and national non-profit organizations
- Youth
- Community centers

As the petition process continues towards completion, we remain dedicated to our continued community engagement, hoping to build on the connections we've made thus far. We look forward to sharing our outreach and supplemental research findings with the CDFW and FGC teams to inform the evaluation of petitions 2023-27MPA and 2023-29MPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the adaptive management of California's MPA Network.

Sincerely,

Azsha Hudson
Marine Conservation Analyst
Environmental Defense Center

Sam Cohen
Government Affairs and Legal Officer
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Sandy Aylesworth
Director, Pacific Initiative, Nature
Natural Resources Defense Council

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

JEREMY LAMB

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Yareli Solis

(Print name)

[redacted]

[redacted]

(Email)

SB, CA 93101

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Heffner [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted]

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Robert Demetriou

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Ojai, CA 93023

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

ADAM Lenhard
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

Ventura
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

MAHOMED KHAN

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

LOS ANGELES

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Steven Libowitz

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

SB CA 93101

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Brenda Major [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] 93103

(A (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Brewer
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Gerardo Arzate
(Print name)

(Email)

(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Sara Bazan
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

Santa Barbara, 93103
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Andrea Sperling
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

John Reed
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

SB, CA 93116
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Lily Poehler
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara CA 93110
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Milly Beebe

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93103

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Harriet Eckstein [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Santa Barbara CA 9310

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Yalda Khodadad
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

SB, CA, 93103
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kathy Burke

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Beverley Beitsch

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Rachel Brady
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Aidaly Xicotencatl
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Colton Ca, 92324
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Charles Mugler

(Print n[redacted])

(Email) [redacted]

(Address) [redacted]

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Erika Zollett
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

HUGH KELLY
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

SANTA BARBARA
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

INGE ROSE [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] SB 93109

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Mariam Garcia
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Hazel Vaquero
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, 93106
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Patricia Park
(Print name)

(Email)

(Address)

Goleta, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

HAZEL Studstill
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

GOLETA CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Clifford Ghersen
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA. 93108
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Angelica Ace

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

CA 93110

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Dalia Khan

[redacted]

(Address)

(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Melody Angkor [redacted]

[redacted] (Email)

[redacted] (Address)

Santa Barbara, CA, 93101 (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Modugno [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] SB. 93109

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Camila Erickson [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Isla Vista

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Douglas Myers
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Apple Valley, CA 92307
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Jan Myers

(Print [redacted])

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Apple Valley, CA 92307

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Michael Purvis

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Santa Barbara 93101

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

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Sincerely,

NANCY COLLINS

(Pri[redacted]

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Santa Barbara, 93101

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gring

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Carpinteria CA 93013

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda Phillips
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kathy Henry

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

SB CA 93101

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Denise Umland
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

SB CA 93103
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

Al firmar este documento, acepta recibir actualizaciones de Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Nathan A Sara
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara CA 93110
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Ryan Asaro
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

San Diego CA, 92130
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Karen Oliver
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

Sarasota FL 34241
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Paige Caras [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Santa Barbara, CA 93109

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Shawn Velarde [redacted]

(Print) (Email)

[redacted] Ventura, CA 93003

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Jamie Diaz
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

SB, CA
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

MARY SOLIS

(Print name) [redacted] (Email)

[redacted] (Address) SB 93105 (City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Patricia Rose
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Carson, CA 90745
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Romero
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara CA 93103
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Norma Uriarte
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Lauren Harris [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] SB CA 93109

(Address) SB, CA (City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

BRETT RUTER

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

SB CA 93108

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kristie Rittle [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] SB, CA 93110

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Patty Handley

(Pri[redacted]

(Address) [redacted] Calif. 93111

[redacted]

(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

MARCO CERVANTES
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

SB, CA 93101
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Phil Kirkpatrick

(Print n[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

TOM MILLER
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

GOLETA CA 93111
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

ANDREW GARDNER

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hallam

(P[redacted])

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Oxnard, CA 93035

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Brian Trautwein

[redacted]

(Email)

(P[redacted]

(Address)

Goleta CA 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

_____ _____

(Print name) (Email)

_____ _____

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Randy Evered [redacted]

(Print[redacted] (Email)

[redacted] Santa Barbara, CA 93105

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Milo Alves
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted] Goleta CA, 93111
(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Miranda Aguilar [redacted]

(Print) (Email)

[redacted] Ventura, CA, 93003

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Danielle Muller
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

San Diego, CA 92107
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Morgan Houston
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Ventura, CA 93003
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Miranda Magaña
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

(Email)

Oxnard 93030
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Emily Hunt
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Ventura, CA 93003
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente, Denia Díaz

([redacted])

(Correo electrónico)

([redacted])

(Dirección)

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

Al firmar este documento, acepta recibir actualizaciones de Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Enoc Gutierrez Gonzalez [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Camarillo, CA, 93010

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

JILL COFFAN
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

-
(Email)

VTA CA 93003
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Iah

(Print name)

(Email)

(Address)

ventura

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Tanya

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Ventura 93003

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Kathleen Good
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted] Ventura
(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rodero

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Ojai 93023

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Hector Mejia

[redacted] Camarillo, CA 93010

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Laura Thomas
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Oxnard CA 93035
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

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Sincerely,

Sean McArthur

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Santa Barbara

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Lyndsey McNeill
(Print name)

[redacted] Goleta, CA 93117
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Maria Santiago

(Print name)

[redacted] Turbo Rd

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Goleta, CA, 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Cami Child

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

Al firmar este documento, acepta recibir actualizaciones de Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Chloe Hu
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Sidney Loftman
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Williams
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Crane
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Kinga Bihari
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Isla Vista, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Bellett Stubbs-Friedmann

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Goleta, CA 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Jessie Boswell
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Tara Robinson
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

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Sincerely,

Michelle _____ [redacted]

(Print name) [redacted] (Email)

(Address) Goleta (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Gould
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Sorel Benitez

(Print[redacted])

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Goleta, CA, 93117

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Breanna Elman [redacted]

[redacted] Goleta CA 93117

Nylon Guss [redacted]

[redacted] Goleta CA 93117

Charlotte Breier [redacted]

Hadley Mahoney [redacted]

Bruno Bartalos

Ryan Chavez

Heather Albiol

Nora Ismael

Açúcar Pinto



Please Protect Our Ocean

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Wang

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted] (Email)

Mililani, HI 96789

(City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

ANASTASIA WANG

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

MILILANI, HI 96789

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Helen Samba
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA, 93106
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Anna Lisenberg
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted], Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Mohamed Zaid Fayyaz
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta · CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Isabel Hart [redacted]

(Pri[redacted]) (Email)

[redacted] Shaker Heights, OH 44120

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Chloe Mercado
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Anna Ambriz
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Newbury Springs Ca 93365
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Shivank Thanji
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, 93117, CA.
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Thomas Farrill
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Paige Grinnell
(Nombre)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

CA 93117
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

ANH NGUYEN [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] CA 95111

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente, Alyssa Fernandez

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA, 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Sasha Schotthoefer
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Carla Brechter
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

Goleta CA 93117
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Hannah Jones
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Catherine Pizzinat

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Goleta, CA 93110

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Maria Malafei

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Jacob Carver
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

KATY DENEFF

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

GOLETA CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Elorm Ladzekpo
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA. 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Arlie McNeil

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Anna Tackabery

([redacted])

([redacted])

(Dirección)

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Zach Zavodnik
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Katrina Rugeda [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Goleta, CA 93117

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente, Clio Salles Spar

(N[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

~~[redacted]~~ Dobbs Ferry, NY, 10533

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



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Sincerely,

Isabel Saavedra [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Goleta, CA 93117

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Sam Maybaum
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address) 93117

Goleta, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Arushi Lakhanpal
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

SB 93101
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Elijah Anderson

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

93117, Santa Barbara, CA

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente, Claire Art

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Daniela Lopez Maria
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

Isla Vista, CA
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Meg Chang
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

(Dirección)

San Jose CA 95129
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Atentamente,

Maria M. Illy

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

(Dirección)

I/30 Vista [redacted]

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Atentamente,

Isabella Torres
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

Goleta
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Atentamente,

Jenny Skrumbis

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente, Samantha Garcia

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA, 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente, Richard Palafox

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA, 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Mila Matich

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente, Colleen Gaffney

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente, KARA NGUYEN

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

GOLETA, CA 93117

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Les escribo para instarles respetuosamente a que aprueben dos peticiones de Áreas Marinas Protegidas (MPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Peticiones: 1) MPA Mishopshno, que crearía una nueva Área de Conservación Marina Estatal (2023-29MPA) (SMCA, por sus siglas en inglés); y 2) MPA Anacapa, que reclasificaría una SMCA a Reserva Marina Estatal (SMR, por sus siglas en inglés) (2023-27 MPA). La creación de una nueva MPA frente a la costa de Carpintería ayudará a cumplir con las directrices científicas para el espaciamiento entre hábitats protegidos, promoviendo la conectividad en la red de AMP y la representación de tipos de hábitat. También protegerá hábitats atractivos para la vida silvestre, como los tiburones blancos juveniles, y permitirá un mejor acceso a la costa y a los recursos marinos para fines tradicionales, ceremoniales, culturales y de subsistencia para la tribu Banda de los Indios Chumash de Santa Ynez, -reconocida federalmente. La reclasificación de Anacapa SMCA a SMR protegerá mejor el hábitat de pastos marinos, ya que hay evidencia de que la captura y el anclaje estacional de langosta en el SMCA está destruyendo lechos de pastos marinos que de otro modo prosperarán en el Anacapa SMR adyacente.



Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Chenen Bethel
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, Ca 93117
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente, Lucero Torres

(Nombre en letra imprenta) [redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Santa Barbara, CA 93107

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Morgan Downes

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

SB, CA 93106

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Celeste Mota Campos
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Claire Cady
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Julia Dahl
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Isla Vista, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Pallas Lemarchand [redacted]

(Address)

[redacted] (Email)

Campbell, CA, 95008

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Annie Gleason
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Centennial, CO, 80122
(City, State, Zip)

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Por favor proteja nuestro océano

Estimados Comisarios de Pesca y Caza:

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente,

Betzaida Chavez

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Irene Caballero

(P[redacted])

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

W. CA 93117

(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Esther Flores
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

Haga lo correcto para nuestra comunidad y proteja la biodiversidad única de nuestro océano para las futuras generaciones de usuarios del océano.

Atentamente, Ciara Garcia

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

Goleta

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Dalila Alarcon whitehead [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Santa Barbara CA

(Address) (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Cayer Segall
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Alex — (Print name)

[redacted] — (Email)

[redacted] — (Address)

Goleta, CA 93117 — (City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Dana Hand
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Islavista, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Elise Jault
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

93117, Goleta, CA
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Victoria Huizar
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA, 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Lucy Dixon
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA 93107
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.

Please do what is right for our community and protect our ocean's unique biodiversity for future generations of ocean users.

Sincerely,

Ela Schulz
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

a3117
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully urge that you approve two Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Petitions: 1) Mishopshno MPA, which would create a new State Marine Conservation Area (2023-29MPA) (SMCA); and 2) Anacapa MPA, which would reclassify a SMCA to a State Marine Reserve (SMR) (2023-27MPA). Creating a new MPA off the coast of Carpinteria will help meet the science guidelines for spacing between protected habitats, promoting connectivity in the MPA network and representation of habitat types. It will also protect habitat attractive to marine wildlife, such as juvenile white sharks, and will allow enhanced access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Reclassifying Anacapa SMCA to an SMR will better protect eelgrass habitat as there is evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR.



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Micah Littlepage
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA 93117
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Delanie Valencia
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Lompoc, CA 93436
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

VIVIANA MARSANO
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Lauren Janson
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Lompoc, CA, 93436
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

EVA GUILE
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Studio City, CA, 91604
(City, State, Zip)

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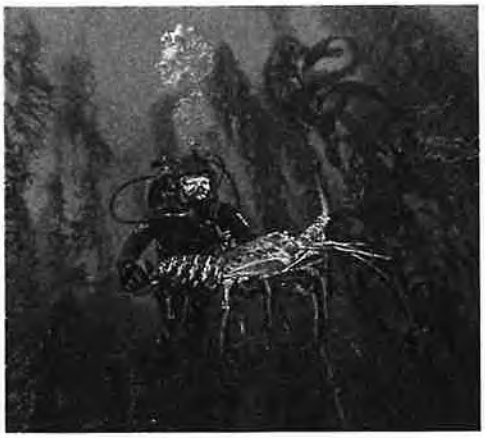


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Abigail Raftery
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Gratia Hill
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA, 93101
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Wyatt Sanchez
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address) Hills, CA, 91354

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Quentin Burns
(Print name)

Jalama House Room 2216
(Address)

quentinburns81@gmail.com
(Email)

SANTA BARBARA, CA, 93106
(City, State, Zip)

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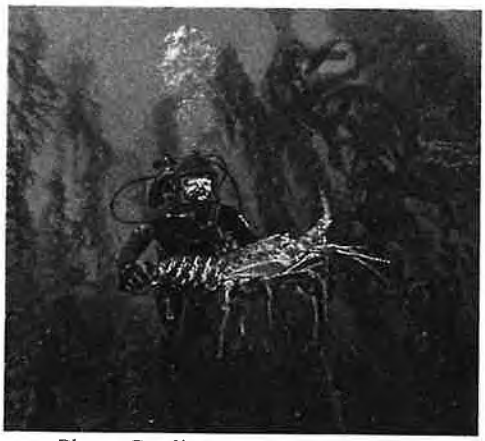


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Johnny McConville
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA
(City, State, Zip)

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely, Angel Fajardo
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Camarillo, Ca, 93010
(City, State, Zip)

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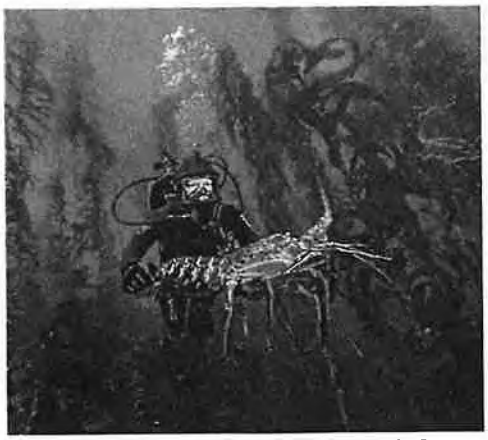


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely, RUGILE PEKUNAS
(Print name)

(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Ventura, CA 93004
(City, State, Zip)

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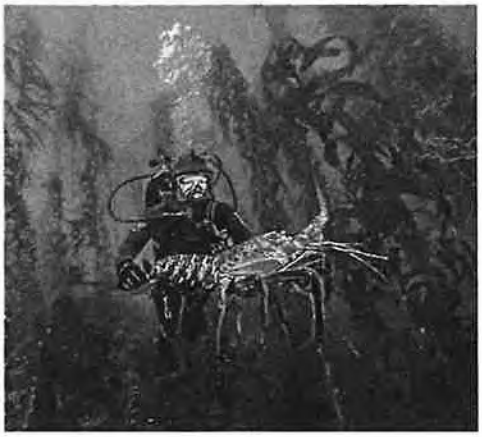


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Alecia Locke
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Ventura CA 93003
(City, State, Zip)

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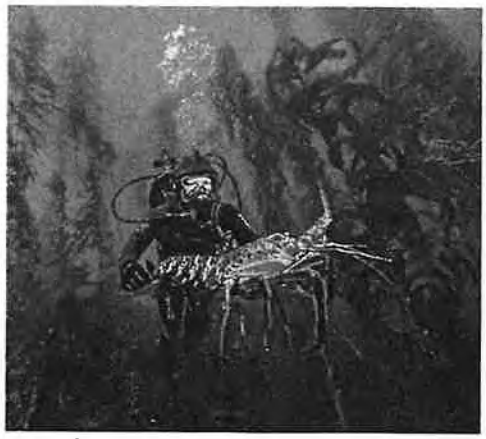


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

SOPHIA MILLER
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

OAK VIEW, CA 93022

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

By signing this you agree to receive updates from the Environmental Defense Center.

From: Matthew Bond <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 8:11 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Tonie Bangos <[redacted]>; Devin O'Dea <[redacted]>; Christopher Killen <[redacted]>
Subject: Comment Regarding MPA Petitions for the February 11-12, 2026 Commission Meeting

Dear members and staff of the California Fish and Game Commission,

Please find attached our letter representing the voice of a broad coalition of individuals, organizations, businesses, and scientists with opinions and related rationale on each of the Bin 2 MPA petitions.

Thank you for your time and service,

Matt Bond
Allwaters Protection and Access Coalition

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions



































The California Association of Harbor Masters & Port Captain















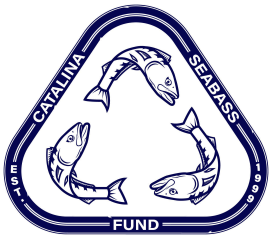














January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

To the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),

This letter serves as a joint comment, representing a mass consensus reached by the undersigned groups and individuals representing tens of thousands of stakeholders from recreational, commercial, and scientific backgrounds on all of the Bin 2 MPA petitions. While some of us may submit our own individual comments in addition, or have already, we would like the FGC and CDFW to understand that this diverse community of statewide stakeholders are all united regarding the following comments on these petitions. We all would like to share our common beliefs outlined in the below letter to you as this united group. With the adaptive management process of our MPA network underway, we ask to please take the below input deeply into account when determining the outcomes of the following bin 2 MPA petitions.

Petition2023-14MPA – Accept

Petition 14 proposes the allowance of commercial urchin take inside of a group of SMCAs that already have allowable limited-take restrictions, with the exception of one no-take SMCA. This petition has not been amended since submission. We believe this petition's rationale to have enough merit to warrant its acceptance in part or in full.

At a time where there are mass interests in helping kelp forests regrow, allowing sea urchin take in areas already partially open to other fisheries is a minimally invasive step we can take, especially in SMCAs that already allow some forms of take. By being allowed to harvest and remove sea urchins that are currently protected in these areas, we allow the kelp the chance to grow back. While we cannot locally control global factors affecting kelp growth such as water temperature or swell meaningfully, we can still promote regrowth of kelp by being allowed to at least remove one of kelp's largest predators, the sea urchin.

Per SeaSketch, we may accept this petition whilst also maintaining the same relative level of protection (LOP) in six of the eight total SMCAs in the proposal: Double Cone, Salt Point, Stewarts Point, Sea Lion Cove, Naples, and Anacapa. This means any MPA connectivity benefits will be maintained as is in the current network. For the Point Dume and Point Vicente SMCAs, while the MPA LOP does drop, we believe the allowance of sea urchin take in these SMCAs will greatly benefit the entire area through restored kelp growth, and additional workable area for local urchin divers. However, we understand if a loss in connectivity for these two areas is something the commission is against, that just these two MPA be excluded. At a minimum, this petition should be granted for the SMCAs where the network as a whole does not lose any existing connectivity benefits.

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Petition2023-15MPA-AM2 – Accept

Petition 15 proposes allowing limited take of pelagic or highly migratory species at three joint State-Federal MPAs at the Channel Islands. The petition was amended twice, and proposes several possible options for limited-take of pelagic finfish or highly migratory species (HMS). The petition brings forward three gear types: hook-and-line, spear, and harpoon swordfish; additionally, it includes possible nearshore-offshore MPA options to mitigate bycatch in the more biodiverse nearshore areas and maintain high MPA LOPs for network connectivity. While it is up to the commission and department to determine what the best combination of choices may be, we all believe this petition should be accepted under a preferred option that retains a high LOP for these MPAs, maintaining existing ecosystem level protection/connectivity, that consists of an offshore SMCA and nearshore SMCA or SMR.

The petition is founded on a longstanding scientific basis and MLPA goals that the MPAs in our network are primarily intended to benefit our nearshore waters and non-pelagic species the most. This has been established since the MLPA MPA Master Plan (MMP) in 2008 where MPA benefits to pelagic species were explained to be weak at best, rather focusing the network toward non-pelagic species that benefit the most from MPAs per the MMP documents. This led to the coastal network outside of the Islands process allowing some form of pelagic access in over 40% of our existing MPAs, and no-take in the remaining 60%. Of the currently 60% of MPAs that are no-take, most areas are nearshore, cover predominantly shallow water, and would not provide much pelagic benefits if they were even partially open. The approximately remaining 40% of the network that is limited take, most of which is pelagic take, are set in areas where pelagic effort is reasonable enough to avoid any nearshore or bottom interactions, or does not allow hook-and-line, just spear.

This sets a clear precedent, based on the science, that we can allow reasonable pelagic fishing access in the areas where it makes sense to allow it, and fully protect areas where pelagic fishing is less realistic or interferes too much with nearshore areas. This precedent was again reiterated in the 2016 MMP in a regional objective that explicitly states to allow for forms of pelagic take across the network in all bioregions, something the coastal MPA phases included but the Channel Islands network specifically lacks. The commission then upheld this mass precedent in 2020 when it denied a petition to create an MPA for white sharks, citing specifically that MPAs in our network are not meant for highly migratory or pelagic species, they are for ecosystem level protections, which can still exist in pelagic allowed MPAs. We simply ask that this precedent continue to be upheld for the MPAs that can reasonably allow for pelagic or HMS take and network maintain connectivity. This has no better use case to be applied than at the Channel Islands. That region of the network was designated prior to all of the primary MPA guiding documents, covers mostly offshore waters, and provides the least pelagic access of all the MPA designation regions, a clear case of adaptive management.

Because the Channel Islands MPA network is the oldest region in the modern network, designated now over 20 years ago in 2002, it pre-dates the coastal MLPA implementation phases, the MLPA LOP frameworks, both MPA Master Plans, and all other frameworks and processes that established this pelagic allowance elsewhere during the 4 coastal phases. In the early 2000s during the Channel Islands process, the primary concerns driving the island MPAs involved groundfish species and recovering their overfished populations. This fact was a main driver in justifying the federal sections of the island MPAs, as the federal expansions cover deep water rocky bottom or reefs where groundfish frequent. Today, federal outlooks of no-take MPAs are almost non-existent. With the exception of the Channel Islands, federal protected areas off the west coast only protect non-pelagic bottom dwelling species (groundfish), and allow pelagic fishing access, aligning exactly to what the petition proposes.

We believe this to be an adaptive management case of modernizing MPAs that predate all guidance documents, and updating them to better align to these well established frameworks in the same way the rest of the network already has. In the case of pelagic access, this shift is clearly seen as the more-modern coastal MPAs allow significantly more pelagics access (40%), compared to the Channel Islands MPAs (3%). In the case of The Footprint MPA specifically, it is the only MPA in the State that is disconnected from land, is entirely deeper than 50m, and has no limited take allowance for pelagics. The Channel Islands MPAs as a whole are justifiably the most equipped to handle pelagic allowance in them, especially offshore, due to the depths covered allowing a massive buffer between pelagic fisheries in the mid to upper water column and non-pelagic fisheries on the bottom. Any take beyond State waters in the federal portions of these MPAs would affect the nearshore region even less than already existing State pelagic allowances present in the current coastal network. Most of the federal portions of these MPAs are well over 1000 feet in depth, and in some cases over 4000 ft in depth.

Per SeaSketch, LOP tiers from the original MLPA state pelagic take maintains MPA connectivity due to the take allowance’s high LOP in offshore waters. At the islands specifically this is seen as only allowing hook-and-line take in waters deeper than 50 meters (164ft), with harpoon or spear gears allowed anywhere due to their high selectivity and lack of any bycatch. A high LOP can be maintained and connectivity still upheld if the petition is accepted with the proposed “nearshore” SMCAs or SMRs at Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island that restrict nearshore hook-and-line, along with any SMCA option in The Footprint and the proposed “offshore” sections of Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island. With all of this precedent and SeaSketch LOP information in mind we believe there is more than sufficient rationale, federal and state evidence, and MLPA/MMP support to allow for this adaptive management change.

Petition2023-16MPA – Modify then Accept

Petition 16 requests the allowance of the commercial take of salmon by troll in two SMRs in the northern bioregion, Bodega Head and Stewarts Point, making them SMCAs. The petition argues similarly to petition 15, on the lack of interference allowed pelagic access would cause. While we do stand by this petition's core arguments, we also believe that this allowance should be accompanied with a similar recreational allowance of salmon by troll in these MPAs too.

Recreationally or commercially the salmon troll fisheries mirror each other with similar gear use, lack of gear conflicts with unintended species, and lack of interactions with the bottom environment due to the nature of the troll gear always moving and being in the upper section of the water column. There are no reasons to not allow recreational troll access in these areas as well because of this. This is further supported by the bordering and nearby pelagic allowed SMCAs in the area giving both recreational and commercial allowance for salmon trolling. A joint allowance would also help to solve any possible confusion on the water of only a specific group being able to troll in the area while others may not, reducing any possible enforcement problems.

Per SeaSketch, the LOPs of these areas as SMCAs allowing any kind of salmon trolling retains existing MPA protections for their respective connectivity benefits. While these MPAs in the northern bioregion are more-modern of MPAs, coming after initial MMPs, MPA frameworks, and processes, unlike those in Petition 15, we see this change allowance as reasonable for consideration. With the recreational troll allowance added to this petition, we see its arguments as more equitable and in-line with existing MPAs in the surrounding northern bioregion of the network.

Petition2023-18MPA – Accept

Petition 18 makes several requests across the Santa Barbara Channel to 6 MPAs in total, and some requests were non-regulatory requests. We support all of the prescribed changes in the petition to better regulatory language, provide better MPA regulation clarity through color corrections, and to make fine tune changes to better the overall MPA network. Of all the requests in petition 18, the most controversial is the creation of a shore region SMCA in the Vandenburg SMR. This would be called the Vandenburg SMCA and would allow shoretake of finfish. This case of a shore allowance is a unique case for our MPA network, as the bordering military base with the SMR allows shore fishing already anyway. This shoretake allowance would clear up any enforcement confusion by the public for the SMR and give some access back to the public in general. We believe this petition's regulatory and non-regulatory requests should be accepted in full.

Petition2023-19MPA – Reject or Modify

Petition 19 requests the creation of a tribal co-managed SMCA at Morro Bay that only allows for the recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels by hand harvest, also including a tribal take exemption within the SMCA. We believe the petition should be either rejected or amended to allow for more general recreational and commercial take as well.

We believe tribal co-management to be a great step forward in managing California's waters and should be present in all MPAs; however, creating a new MPA that restricts exclusively commercial groups and most recreational fishing access from such an essential area should not be warranted. The commercial blocks overlapping the proposed SMCA account for 6.2% of Morro Bay's landing revenue alone. More specifically, these blocks represent 25% of the area's squid landings, 8.8% of the groundfish landings, and 15% of the area's salmon landings, per the MFDE. While not an exact correlation, recreational access in the area is likely comparable (with the exception of squid) and will likely be equally affected in the MPA regions, as this petition affects all fisheries not involving direct hand harvesting.

Additionally, there is concern that the proposed offshore wind energy program has its proposed electrical lines connecting the Morro Bay power bank stations to the offshore array crossing through the SMCA. If passed, this would need to be addressed and an additional allowance added.

Petition2023-20MPA – Reject Nearshore and Clarify/Accept Offshore

Petition 20 requests changes to the MPA cluster, the nearshore and offshore MPAs, at Point Buchon. The petition requests the offshore SMCA allow the hand harvest of finfish and invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels, allow the maintenance of artificial structures under the correct permits, and provide a tribal take exemption for federally recognized tribes. However, it is unclear if these requested allowances to the offshore SMCA at point Buchon are replacing or adding to existing recreational and commercial allowance for the take of albacore and salmon. Pursuant to the allowances being additive and not replacing the existing take allowances in the offshore MPA we support the request for the offshore region of the MPA cluster to have the added take allowances. This example in the offshore region is a clear example of how tribal components can be added to the existing network, not requiring creation of more MPAs to involve tribes.

Regarding the petitioner's request to the nearshore SMR being expanded, we believe this request should be rejected. The expansion of only the SMR section of the Point Buchon nearshore/offshore cluster would unnecessarily remove all access from the added area. The justification for this addition comes from MPA Collaborative meetings citing enforcement concerns, stating that moving the northern boundary to the physical

point will provide a better reference for enforcement. The core reason the existing MPA does not go to the physical point on land is because the nearest whole decimal degree value was used as the northern boundary instead, following MLPA guidelines. This usage of a round Lat/Long number for an MPA that does not experience much shore fishing opportunity is supported by the MLPA MPA design criteria to explicitly help, not hurt, enforcement. The current northern boundary gives those fishing beyond shore an easy to understand GPS reference point to know where the boundary is. Additionally, expanding only the nearshore SMR may cause further enforcement problems with the offshore SMCA remaining its original size. The expansion of the nearshore only leads to a case of an unevenly sized MPA in the nearshore and offshore regions.

Petition2023-21MPA – Accept

Petition 21 requests the Pyramid Point SMCA in the northern bioregion be modified to remove its existing recreational allowances for take of surf smelt and give additional tribal exemption to the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation on top of its existing tribal exemption. The petition also requests the border of the MPA be moved south to the true CA-OR state boundary line, slightly shrinking the MPA.

While this petition does remove some recreational access to take surf smelt, that access was already relatively limited and small scale. The change to the border to shrink the SMCA to align to the actual state border clears up any possible confusion or issues the overlap currently causes. Overall we are supportive of this change, and addition of another Tribal component to the existing Pyramid Point SMCA.

Petition2023-23MPA-AM1 – Reject or Modify

Petition 23 requests multiple changes to 3 existing SMCAs, the Carmel Bay SMCA, Pacific Grove SMCA, and the Edward F. Ricketts SMCA, requesting all three SMCAs become closed to take of finfish during “active kelp restoration permits” and to create a new SMR at Tankers Reef, the area of this SMR was reduced during amendments.

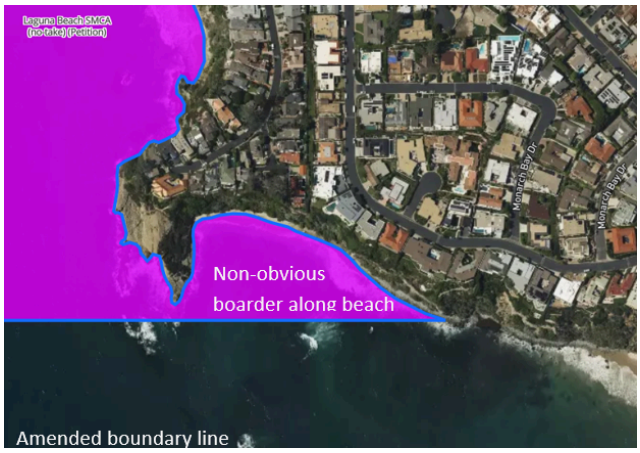
We believe the petition has reasonable goals, restoring kelp, but goes about this in the incorrect way. Regarding the specific MPA changes requested, we believe this petition should be rejected or modified. Acceptance would come at the additional loss of recreational fishing access to these SMCAs. Fishing has no significant impact on kelp restoration compared to environmental factors (e.g., water quality, water temperature, swell) and would be closed when a “kelp restoration permit is active.” This also raises further enforcement concerns as regulations would effectively be in constant flux depending if a permit is active or not, there would need to be new paths created to inform all on the water when said permit is active or not. Additionally, existing restoration efforts at Tankers Reef would immediately stop if an SMR is designated there for the lack of allowable take inside of an SMR, even the reduced in size SMR.

If the petitioner wishes to accomplish the outstanding goals of this petition, then a similar approach to that in Petition2023-14MPA should be considered. Such an approach could consist of keeping the 3 SMCAs as SMCAs with the same allowable take regulations, but only adding a new allowance for the recreational and commercial take of sea urchins, removing the finfish closures during "active permits." Regarding Tankers Reef, we believe no MPA, SMR or SMCA, should be designated there as existing restoration efforts would be able to continue there without requiring any closures or special allowances be made inside of a new MPA. Leaving Tankers Reef as is will also allow any future restoration methods to be deployed at the location without having to modify the SMCA allowances again as we continue to learn how to restore our kelp forests.

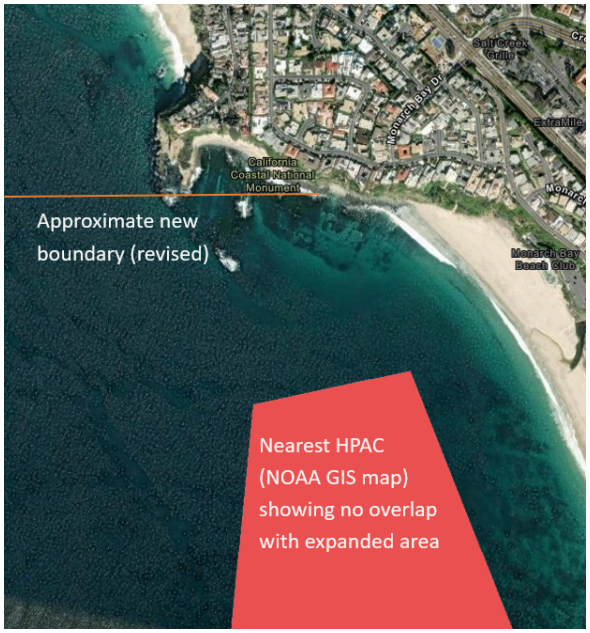
Petition2023-24MPA – Reject

Petition 24 requests expanding the existing Laguna Beach SMCA into the Dana Point SMCA. We believe Petition 24 should be rejected for several reasons. Petition 24's core argument claims enforcement concerns of the MPAs by lifeguards, when in fact, the primary enforcement of the MPAs is warden officers. Wardens are the only individuals that may issue citations for MPA compliance and are most notably, not bound by city limits. The idea of moving this border to allow for better enforcement will only create more of an enforcement problem due to where the proposed border lies versus the existing one. The existing border of the Laguna SMCA and Dana Point SMCA is a rocky point, a physical barrier between two areas. This allows the border to be clear as it is marked by an obvious, physical landmark, this is a guiding objective of the MLPA in MPAs that justifiably have a large shore fishing presence. The proposed new border would sit along the mean high tide line in the middle of a rocky beach. Simply put, removal of a physical barrier landmark to an invisible line on a public beach would only create more of an enforcement compliance problem, not reduce it along shore. (See Below images)





The petition then cites the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 and its 2002 update where essential fish habitats (EFH) and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs) were designated along the west coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.



Essential fish habitats (EFHs) are defined by NOAA as areas where specific fish species, including groundfish, pink salmon, king salmon, coho salmon, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species, can feed, spawn, or grow to maturity. These habitats are extensive, the three EFHs overlapping the proposed expansion area—groundfish, CPS, and HMS—cover the entire coast of California, Washington, and Oregon. Because of their broad geographical scope, EFHs alone do not indicate a need for MPAs off the coast, or this proposed expansion.

Habitat areas of particular concern (HPACs), as the name implies, are sections of the EFH that are more important in providing the ecological functions that the general EFHs offer. These are more selective in their designation and display highlighted areas of concern within the EFHs. While these areas are more important in participating in these biological processes, the petitioner's proposed MPA expansion does not overlap with any existing HPACs (see above image). The arguments of the petition involving any EFHs or HPACs to protect this additional area are irrelevant for these reasons.

The petition additionally presents a rationale similar to that of Petition 2023-33 regarding the protection of kelp beds. It claims that conserving these areas is essential for the health of kelp forests. However, like the counterarguments we will see in Petition 2023-33, it is important to note again that fishing effort and so-called “anchor drag” does not significantly reduce kelp biomass; rather, factors such as water temperature, water quality, and swell conditions primarily drive changes in the kelp population. Additionally, any concerns raised in the petition about “anchor drag” damaging kelp beds would equally apply to non-consumptive vessels, not just fishing boats.

The petition references the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) concerning potential marine mammal entanglements from lobster traps in the area. While recreational and commercial lobster fishing occurs in the region, there have been little to no reported entanglement incidents involving whales or dolphins locally, showing in reality there is little need for concern. While it's important to acknowledge the possibility of such events, the absence of previous occurrences suggests that the likelihood of entanglements is extremely low. Furthermore, if the area were to be protected, lobster traps would simply be relocated, meaning the risk of entanglement would persist

regardless of where the traps are ultimately placed. Lastly, the adoption of ropeless fishing technologies, such as those developed by Sea Sonics, indicates a future where entanglement issues could be further mitigated.

Concerning the MLPA itself, it should be noted that the proposed expanded area would give the MPA an “L-shape.” This shape is specifically called out in the MLPA as a poor MPA design for enforcement and is just another reason we have concerns for this petition.

Petition2023-27MPA-AM1 – Reject

The original petition 27 and its amendments only look at lobster taken from the Anacapa SMCA. We believe this request should be rejected. Petition 27, similar to petitions calling for protections to increase kelp beds, calls for additional protections at the Anacapa Island SMCA, the difference being that 2023-27’s focus is on eelgrass, not kelp. While a trap sitting on the bottom does have a larger footprint than a pelagic hook and line configuration which is also allowed in the SMCA, traps fished in the area are not significantly impacting eelgrass beds due to there already being a 20 foot depth closure for traps around Anacapa in its Special Closure. This area contains already a large amount of the existing eelgrass beds as the SMCA and special closure overlap making the key rationale of this petition redundant as protections are effectively already in effect.

Petition2023-28MPA-AM1 – Reject

Petition 28 requests the establishment of a new MPA around Point Sal. This MPA would significantly impact local fisheries, recreational and commercial, despite the petitioner's claim that the effects would be minimal. For this primary reason we believe the petition should be rejected, even as amended to allow for shore based take of finfish.

The petition includes an economic analysis of the proposed area but overlooks the devastating local impacts this MPA would have economically. While the petition accurately states that the overlapping commercial fishing blocks contribute to 1.1% of the central coast's total landings by value, it fails to consider the actual local implications of that 1.1% and what it represents. Using the same time range (2012 to 2022) on the MFDE, the local port nearest to the proposed MPA, Port San Luis/Avila, derived 28.12% of its total commercial revenue from the overlapping blocks 631 and 632. More specifically, 25.92% of the port's groundfish revenue and 57.79%, over half, of its crab revenue came from these areas. If recreational effort even somewhat mirrors commercial effort in the area, not only is Point Sal relevant commercially, but recreationally too offshore. Establishing an MPA at Point Sal will significantly harm the community of Avila and other nearby ports, threaten local businesses, harm or remove

people's sources of income, and remove recreational and subsistence access to the area by boat.

Providing shore based take of finfish would allow for beach anglers to continue fishing as they have been, but would do so at the loss of all offshore activity. More notably, this also results in a drop of the LOP of the SMCA to moderate-low. This LOP ranking per the MLPA fails any connectivity requirements making the final proposed SMCA a protected area that does not add to total MPA network connectivity. This brings into question the main argument of the petitioner to add this MPA in order to maintain MPA connectivity, as the final amended SMCA would not accomplish this.

<u>Petition2023-29MPA-AM1 – Reject</u>

Petition 29 requests a new MPA be created at Carpinteria. This MPA would be a tribally allowed SMCA that would be closed to non-federally recognized tribal fishing (general recreational and commercial fishing); the petition was amended to reduce its overall size and allow shore-based take of finfish. The petition's three primary arguments for the new SMCA are to meet habitat connectivity/MPA spacing requirements, to protect habitat surrounding juvenile white shark grounds, and to allow for tribal access. While tribal co-management of all California MPAs should be considered, we believe for the following reasons this specific MPA proposal should be rejected.

Regarding habitat connectivity, the petition asserts that the spacing of the existing MPA network exceeds the recommendations set by the MLPA scientific advisory team, which suggests a minimum spacing of 31 to 62 miles. The petition argues that the nearest coastal MPAs, Campus Point and Point Dume, are too far apart, claiming they are separated by 63.8 nautical miles or 73.4 miles (Image 1).

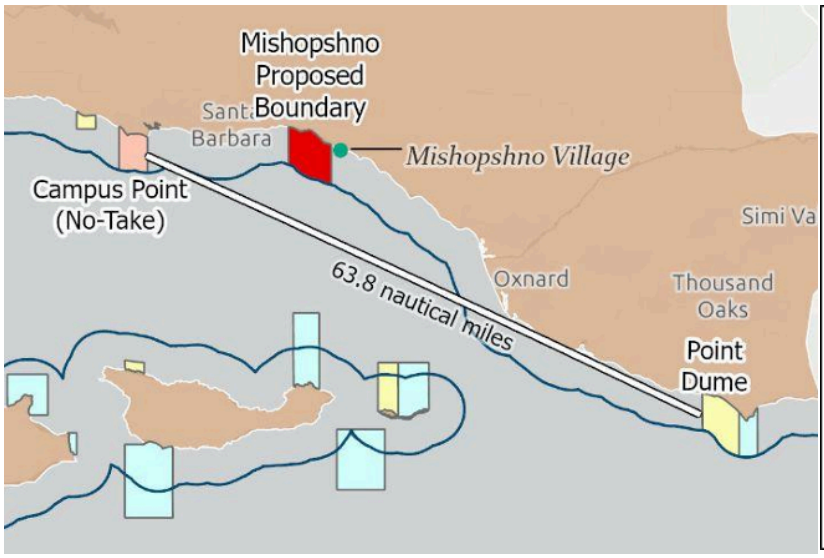


Image 1: Petition 29's image displaying proposed area and <u>claimed</u> spacing between existing Pt. Dume and Campus Point SMAs to be 63.8 nm (73.4 mi), which, if true, would exceed the southern MLPA MPA spacing requirements.

Note: the shown MPA is the original, pre-amendment size.

Discussions with the CDFW clarified that MPA spacing is measured by the, “shortest distance over water between two MPAs.” When measuring the distance between Campus Point and Point Dume, we find that it is in fact less than 62 miles, indicating that the current spacing distribution is adequate along the coast (see below Image 2).

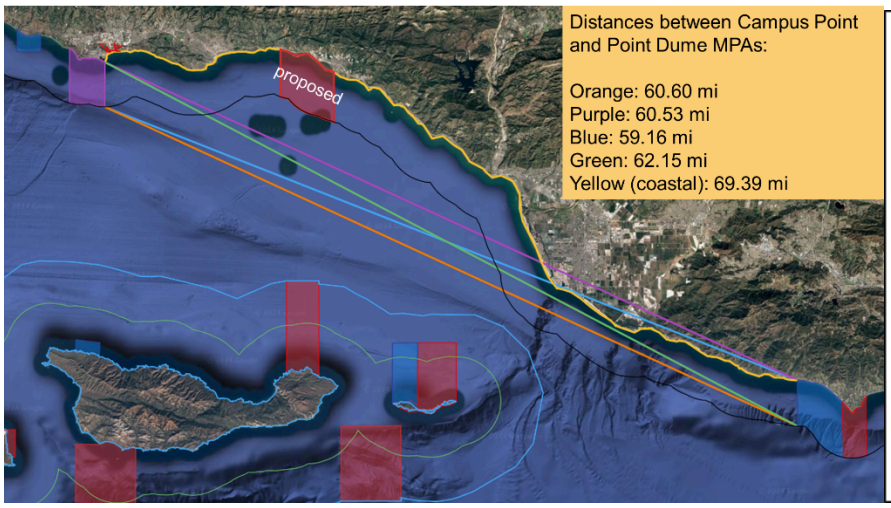


Image 2: Actual spacings between nearest existing MPAs around the proposed site. All but one straight line measurement exceeds 62 miles. The length that would be used by CDFW according to their provided input would be 60.60 mi (orange line) which falls within the spacing requirement.

Following the CDFW and MLPA guidelines, the shortest water distance between the two existing MPAs is ~60.60 miles, viewable by the orange line. This distance falls within the 31–62-mile MLPA spacing requirement. None of the provided measurements, including a measurement along the coastline (yellow) exceeded 73.4 miles of separation as the petitioner claims, again bringing into question the purpose for the new MPA if connectivity is already met.

In addition, the provided shore based take of finfish does allow for some form of recreational take but this now raises connectivity concerns. As mentioned in previous petitions, allowance of shore fishing of finfish reduces an MPAs LOP to moderate-low, losing its MPA connectivity with the network, this is confirmed by SeaSketch. Connectivity was a major reason for this MPAs proposal. With connectivity now lost due to these allowed take methods begs to question the purpose for this implementation in the first place if its foundational goals are not even accomplished. The LOP chart for the southern bioregion, moderate low protection is provided below.

	Mod-low	**SMCA SMP**	**Shore fishing** (H&L, hoop net); **kelp bass, barred sand bass, lingcod, cabezon, and rockfish** (H&L, spearfishing); **sheephead** (H&L, spearfishing, trap); **spotted sand bass and halibut** (H&L); **lobster** (trap, hoop net, diving); **urchin** (diving); **rock crab and Kellet's whelk** (trap); **catch and release** (H&L-general) **In water depth <10m: Catch and release** (H&L-single barbless hooks and artificial lures) **In water depth <50m at islands and <30m on mainland: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass** (H&L);

Regarding the protection of juvenile white shark nursery grounds, a similar petition was submitted in 2020 (Petition 2020-012 AM1) to close off a smaller section of beach at Carpinteria for the same purpose. Like Petition 29, this earlier petition aimed to protect

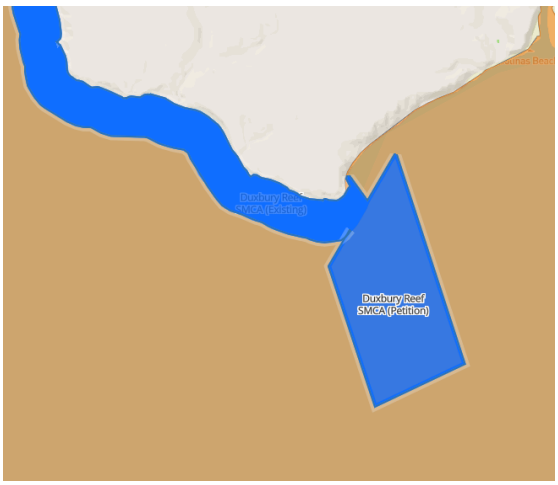
juvenile white sharks within the currently proposed area. This 2020 petition was rejected by the Department and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC), which stated that MPAs are designed to protect nearshore ecosystems rather than individual species, especially highly migratory species like white sharks. Given that this issue was previously addressed at the same location just four years ago, the same arguments against the current petition apply today regarding white sharks.



Lastly, regarding the tribal access portions of the petition, while tribal access and co-management should be explored across the entire MPA network, current access to the area by tribes is not limited in any way. Regardless of a tribal MPA designation or not, federally recognized tribes will have access in the area just like the public. Closing this area off to all groups except those of the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians would have the additional side effect of restricting any non-federally recognized tribes, as the petition does mention. In addition to the above counter reasons of the petition's primary claims, there exists additional effects to be considered at the proposed MPA site. The proposed area was considered during the MLPA for the southern section but was traded off for two other SMCAs on the coast, Naples and Kashtayit that were present in different MPA alternatives that Carpinteria was not in. If allowed, the new MPA would essentially break the agreements struck during the MLPA. Lastly, the pre- and post-amended boundaries overlap existing oil infrastructure that is maintained year round, no existing exemptions or conversations have been had regarding this infrastructure overlap. For these reasons we believe the petition should be denied.

<u>Petition2023-32MPA – Reject</u>

Petition 32 requests expanding the Duxbury Reef SMCA north, south and converting the SMCA into an SMR. The petition cites apparent drops in biodiversity in the areas, confusion on take regulations, and, as a result, high incidence of accidental poaching.



We believe this petition to be well intentioned but do not believe it should be accepted. The petition's claims that there was a local drop in biodiversity are all based on local surveys on no actual data displaying a measurable drop in the biodiversity in the area.

Observations by MPA Watch on potential MPA violations comes from observers seeing "anyone with buckets," citing even children with buckets counting as a possible violation. While it is understandable to ascertain data this way, we would like the commission to understand that someone simply with a bucket on one of the most popular beaches in the area does not mean they are violating MPA take regulations. This method of data collection possibly is why the self-reported values of possible violations at Duxbury are so high, when actual enforcement reports show infractions at Duxbury being so low they do not even make it to the yearly MRC report. Enforcement reports on MPAs from the yearly March MRC give insight into MPA violations in the state, of which Duxbury Reef never was in the top MPAs in violation (top 35) or top 5 in the northern region specifically in 2024 or 2025. Letters from partner agencies such as state and national parks as well as national marine sanctuaries all cite possible issues with the SMCA, all requesting it expand, but no agency goes so far as to support making the area an SMR. No hard data whatsoever has been provided to demonstrate a need to expand the SMCA to include these highly inaccessible areas in the north or south as well. The petitioner's claim that visitors walking through the existing southern border with legal catch from outside the SMCA is merely speculative. Access to the reef in this southern section is blocked by an inside channel except during extreme low tides, making further regulatory protection unnecessary and a niche case at best.

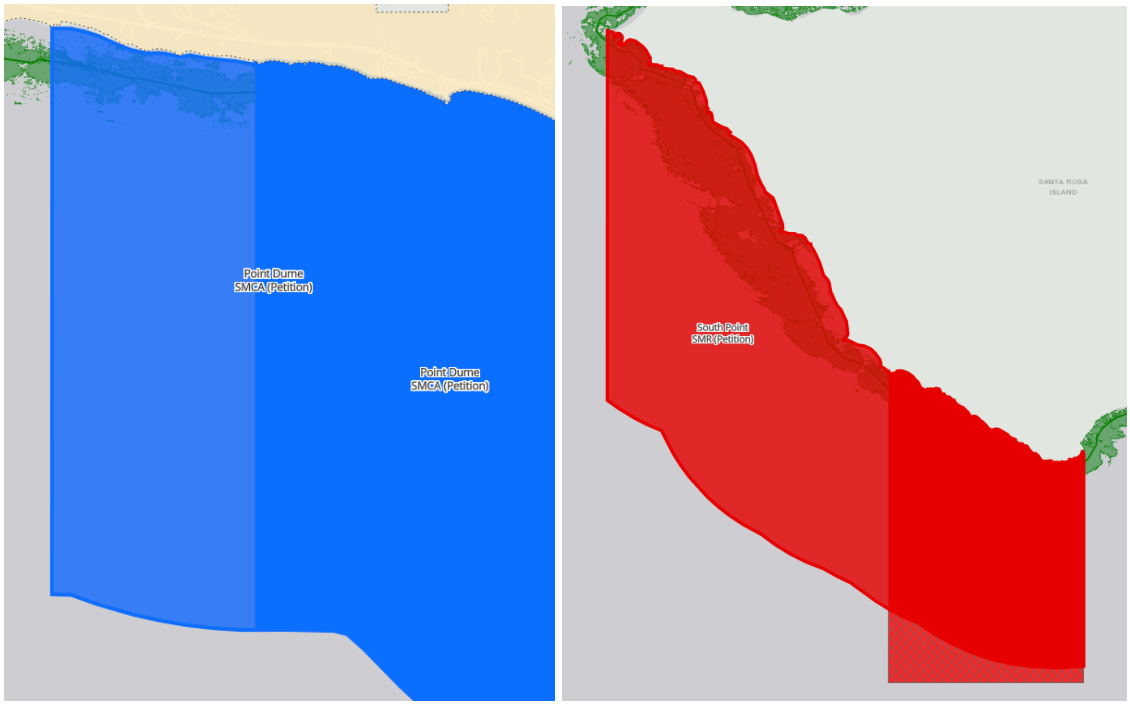
Regarding the original MPA expansion proposals, and even specifically the southern expansion (image above), the new covered area has a very asymmetric shape. This goes directly against MLPA guidelines for designating MPAs which state that MPAs with odd-asymmetric shapes are difficult to enforce and confusing to the public, possibly even adding to the confusions the petitioner claims is present at Duxbury. At the bare minimum, this border must be modified in a way that adheres to the MLPA MPA design guidelines before even being considered for final action. Because any possible additional area included or removed from the proposed expansion needs to be considered by all stakeholders, we must see what this final border actually is before providing further input. In December 2025, the petitioner did submit an informal request ("informal" was tagged by FGC staff) to change the border post-petition deadline, which could solve this odd shape issue. It is currently not known whether amendments like this can be considered. If the informal request is ultimately considered, the existing counter arguments still exist with exception of course of the expansion border shape.

<u>Petition2023-33MPA – Reject</u>

Several groups and individuals have expressed opposition to this petition, and we all stand by the majority of their comments, even after the limited number of amendments to certain MPAs in petition 33. While there are various pathways for kelp restoration, the establishment of new or larger MPAs is not one of them. It is widely accepted that the growth and abundance of kelp are dependent on water quality and temperature. Even under ideal growing conditions, a large swell can damage kelp forests, ripping the

largest, most buoyant, stalks off the seafloor. Fishing activities have little to no impact on kelp health as seen by thriving kelp populations throughout history pre-dating even the MLPA when fishing access was less restrictive. It is well documented how we came to this spot in the first place for our kelp, the rolling El Ninos in the mid-2010s removed a substantial amount of our state's kelp forests, not fishing, and fishing restrictions are not what it will take for the forests to regrow. The creation or expansion of MPAs resulting from this petition will have a negligible effect on the recovery of kelp forests, but a permanent and lasting effect on those that have a livelihood on the water or those that want to simply fish and enjoy a day on the water. In some instances, such expansions may hinder restoration efforts by obstructing human interventions aimed at encouraging kelp growth, such as seeding areas or urchin barren removal efforts.

Furthermore, the petition does not adequately explain why most of the proposed expansion areas cover waters that are simply too deep for kelp to grow. All but one of its expansions (Gull Island) have this problem, covering waters well beyond kelps natural growing depth. Many of the proposed expansions extend to the state line, covering areas with depths exceeding 1,000 feet when kelp cannot grow any deeper than 150ft. For a petition focused on kelp restoration, this deepwater coverage is illogical and appears to be an attempt to limit area access to our already managed fisheries while protecting an area outside of the scope of the petition. Below are some of the petition's proposed expansions on SeaSketch with the kelp max extent per landsat and flyovers enabled (green layer under proposed expansions). This shows most of the expansion area does not even cover the absolute maximum kelp could grow. Any justifiable MPA expansions regarding kelp recovery at the bare minimum should be more targeted, covering specifically areas kelp can grow, not mass areas covering mostly water kelp cannot grow.



Lastly, the added amendments only pull back on one expansion, the Cabrillo SMR, and add in shore based take of finfish and general spearfishing of finfish at the proposed Pleasure Point SMCA and Point Dume SMCA. As mentioned previously, the shorebased allowance would reduce Pleasure Point and Point Dume to moderate-low levels of protection per the MLPA, losing their local MPA connectivity, making the proposed expansions weaken MPA connectivity rather than strengthen them. Specifically for Point Dume, that MPAs connectivity appears centrally important under the SeaSketch model and should be maintained. While the reduction in size at the Cabrillo expansion is a positive, we still believe any expansion in the first place is not warranted, especially for kelp restoration purposes.

Petition2023-34MPA – Reject

Petition 34 requests the redesignation of one offshore SMCA to a no-take SMR, merging it with the nearshore SMR at Point Buchon to make one no-take SMR. The petition also requests combining the nearshore and offshore SMCAs at Farnsworth into a single SMCA that would permit only pelagic finfish spearfishing, removing various pelagic fishing allowances existing there. The primary justification for these changes is enforcement concerns. Enforcement has effectively managed the existing MPA network without significant issues which already contains nearly 40% limited take SMCAs. The situations at Farnsworth and Point Buchon are similar to several other MPAs along the coast that successfully integrate nearshore and offshore components. The concept of allowing pelagic finfish targeting offshore—where interactions with the MPA's intended

protections are minimal—has been recognized since the first and second MPA Master Plans where it explicitly states the lesser effect pelagic fish have on themselves and the MPA ecosystem, and to allow for areas that have pelagic take respectively. Pelagic fishing should be permitted in MPAs that overlap with offshore waters, provided that fishing practices minimize interactions with local and nearshore species, which they inherently do. Additionally, if enforcement was truly the only concern, commercial harpoon at Farnsworth is just as enforceable, if not easier to enforce than recreational spear methods, and should be left in as an allowance in the SMCA. This petition also conflicts with Petition 20 and its requests at Point Bucheon.

The two MPA systems at Farnsworth and Point Bucheon are no different from other nearshore/offshore configurations, so-called “MPA clusters”, and we see no compelling reason to change them specifically. Both MPA clusters currently meet regional sizing guidelines for the total cluster area and LOP requirement to count them both for connectivity as is, with their current access. For these reasons, we believe this petition should be rejected.

Thank you,

AllWaters - AWPAC *(recreational)*
-Chris Killean (President)
-Matt Bond (Board Member)

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara - CFSB *(commercial)*
-Chris Voss (President)
-Ava Schulenberg (Assistant Director)

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers - BHA *(recreational)*
-Devin O’Dea (Western Policy & Conservation Manager)

Coastal Conservation Association California - CCA Cal *(recreational)*
-Chris Arechaederra (Executive Director)
-Tonie Bagnos (Assistant Director)

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association - VCCFA *(commercial)*
-Dave Colker (Executive Director)
-Jason Woods (President)
-Eric Hodge, Mike Kenny, Tim Athens (Board Members)

LA Rod and Reel Club *(recreational)*
-John Ballotti (President)

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association *(commercial)*
-Chris Pavone (President)

Santa Barbara Sportfishing Club *(recreational)*
-Whitney Uyeda (President)

Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries *(recreational/commercial)*
-Alan Alward (Co-Chair)

San Diego Fishermen's Working Group *(commercial)*
-Pete Halmay (President)

Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization *(commercial)*
-Bill Blue (President)
-Tom Hafer (Secretary)

The Tuna Club Foundation *(recreational)*
-Chase Offield (Board Member)

Santa Barbara FreeDivers Club *(recreational)*
-Dave Huebner (President)
-Bradley Pirmen (Chair)

BD Outdoors *(recreational business)*
-Ali Hussainy (President)

The California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains *(commercial)*
-Tim Petrick (President)

Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching *(recreational)*
-Donna Kalez (Co-Owner)

Santa Barbara Landing and Stardust Sportfishing *(recreational business)*
-Jamie Diamond (CEO/owner)

Monterey Bay Tritons *(recreational)*
-Brandon Burke (President)

NorCal Underwater Hunters *(recreational)*
-Matt Mattison (President)

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Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Fathomiers *(recreational)*
-Paul Romanowski (Conservation Officer)

The Catalina Seabass Fund *(recreational/commercial)*
-Jock Albright (Director)

The Laguna Maritime Alliance *(recreational/commercial)*
-Chase Offield (Chair)

Santa Cruz Kelp Stalker *(recreational)*
-Hans Haveman (Chair)

San Diego Freedivers *(recreational)*
-Ryan Moore (President)

OC Spearos *(recreational)*
-Hidenori Iwagami (president)

Long Beach Neptunes *(recreational)*
-Terry Maas (Chair)

Save Duxbury Access *(grassroots recreational/commercial)*
-Chris Martinelli (Local Lead)

American Fishing Tackle Company - AFTCO *(recreational/commercial business)*
-Bill Shedd (CEO)
-Casey Shedd (President)

Get Hooked Seafood *(commercial business)*
-Kim Selkoe and Victoria Voss (Co-Founders)

Pacific Coast Sportfishing *(recreational business)*
-Bill DePriest (Publisher / Editor)

January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Dedicated Researchers/Scientists:

UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
-Dr. Dawn A. Murray (PhD. Ocean Sciences - UCSC)

UCSB & UCSC Conservation Scientist
-Dr. Jason Johns (PhD. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - UCSB)

UCSB Marine Scientist
-Dr. Kim Selkoe (PhD. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - UCSB)

Private Marine Scientist
-Ethan Estess (M.S. Earth Systems (Marine) - Stanford University)

Senior Marine Scientist and previous marine biologist for the Channel Islands NPS
-Derek Lerma (B.S. Biological Oceanography - Humboldt State University)

01/26/2026

California Fish and Game Commission
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Bin 2 MPA Petitions

Dear Melissa Miller-Henson,

Please add the San Diego County Wildlife Federation (SDCWF) to the CCA Coalition letter regarding Bin 2 MPA petitions being considered. We were unfortunately a bit late getting our logo and signature added to the letter represented below. The San Diego County Wildlife Federation represents over 20,000 sportsmen and women in San Diego County, and we are active in conserving our inland and aquatic habitats in a manner which allows both conservation protection with consumptive use of the waters of our state.

The SDCWF agrees with the recommendations of Coalition listed below.

Thank you for the work you and the Commissioners do for California outdoorsmen and women.

Respectfully,

Gary F. Brennan
President, San Diego County Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 3886
Ramona, CA. 92065

Copy to: CCA California

Marine Conservation Institute

29 January 2026

Re: Comments from Marine Conservation Institute for consideration during the February 11-12, 2026 meeting on petitions to amend the state's MPA network.

(submitted via email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

As California works to protect 30% of state waters by 2030 (30 x 30) to fight climate change, protect biodiversity, and expand access to nature for all Californians, the implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that provide tangible benefits to marine biodiversity requires an understanding of effective conservation and knowledge of which MPAs meet that threshold.

Since 2012, Marine Conservation Institute's Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas) has brought a focused lens to the quality of marine protections in MPAs around the world. MPAtlas (mpatlas.org) is the largest global repository of MPA assessments using The MPA Guide[1]. The MPA Guide is a peer-reviewed scientific framework published in *Science* in 2021 that evaluates an MPA's stage of establishment and level of protection by looking at the management of mining, dredging & dumping, anchoring, infrastructure, aquaculture, fishing, and non-extractive recreational activities. Both management regulations and in situ activity data specific to each individual MPA are analyzed to determine the actual outcomes provided by a given MPA. Ecological evidence[2] from as recently as 2025 suggests that the best conservation outcomes are seen when MPAs are implemented or actively managed, and fully[3] or highly[4] protected from these seven activities.

Scientists from MPAtlas evaluated the 20 petitions proposing changes to California's MPA Network submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission by the public and Tribes in 2023 using The MPA Guide. Our preliminary analysis suggests that the following petitions would improve the level of protection for existing MPAs or designate new MPAs, expanding and strengthening the California State MPA Network's overall ability to achieve conservation benefits:

Petition	Marine Protected Area
2023-19MPA	Chitqawi SMCA
2023-20MPA	Point Buchon SMR
2023-23MPA-AM	Carmel Bay SMCA
	Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA
	Tanker's Reef SMR
2023-24MPA-AM	Laguna Beach SMCA

14301 Arnold Drive Suite 25 Glen Ellen CA 95442
Marine-Conservation.org • +1 707 938-7036

2023-27MPA-AM	Anacapa Island SMCA
2023-28MPA-AM	Point Sal SMCA
2023-29MPA-AM	Mishopshno SMCA
2023-32MPA	Duxbury Reef SMR
2023-33MPA-AM	Cabrillo SMR
	Gull Island SMR
	Natural Bridges SMR
	Pleasure Point SMCA
	Point Conception SMR
	Point Dume SMCA
	South Point SMR
2023-34MPA	Farnsworth Offshore SMCA
	Farnsworth Onshore SMCA
	Point Buchon SMCA

With critical tipping points approaching ocean biodiversity, the opportunity to align California's MPA network with the best and most up-to-date understanding of MPA science is incumbent on the Commission. We urge the Commission to adopt the petitions that serve to advance conservation and keep the State of California moving forward with a world-leading example of marine conservation, creating an effective MPA network, and progressing towards the State's commitment to 30 x 30.

Sincerely,

Lance Morgan, PhD, President, Sonoma County
Nikki Harasta, Marine Conservation Scientist, Ventura County

1 Grorud-Colvert, K., et al. (2021). The MPA guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean. Science. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0861

2 Horta e Costa, B., et al. (2025). Marine protected areas' stage of establishment and level of protection are good predictors of their conservation outcomes. Cell Reports Sustainability. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsus.2025.100345

3 No impact from extractive or destructive activities is allowed and all abatable impacts are minimized. Non-extractive activities may include recreational, traditional, cultural, or spiritual activities. Examples include minimal impact snorkeling, swimming and SCUBA, tidepooling, cultural/ceremonial gatherings, education, knowledge transmission, and motorized or non-motorized vessels associated with the previously mentioned activities.

4 Only light extractive activities are allowed that have low impact, and all other abatable impacts are minimized. If any anchoring is allowed, it is small scale and for a short duration with a low impact. If any infrastructure is allowed, it is small scale with low impact. Any aquaculture must be low impact, small scale, low density, and unfed. If fishing occurs, it is infrequent and only five or fewer gear types are used that are highly selective and low-impact. Any non-extractive activities are regulated and restricted and of low impact, low density, and small scale.

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

February 6, 2026

Re: Retraction of signature and clarification of position on California MPA petitions

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners,

I am a marine scientist and environmental studies professor advising graduate students at Antioch University and teaching undergraduate courses in the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Barbara. I work in resource management and conservation realms to protect habitats and to amplify Indigenous voices in conservation initiatives. I also work locally with NOAA on intertidal marine sampling and support locally-rooted conservation efforts, including curriculum development and weaving Indigenous and Western Scientific Knowledge into system solutions. I have worked with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council (NCTC) supporting the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation and Chumash cultural values, wisdom, and traditions in marine and land management practices. I currently serve on the NOAA CHNMS Advisory Committee as a Research Seat Alternate.

My research focuses on participatory conservation and co-designing conservation methods that equitably integrate local communities in multi-pronged conservation solutions. I value coalition-building, listening to and incorporating multiple perspectives in conservation planning. I work with fishermen around the world, including supporting the Miloli‘i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA), south of Kona, Hawai‘i, which includes the waters and submerged lands from the shoreline to the 100-fathom depth contour. The Miloli’i community leads the regulation creation and enforcement in their " last Hawaiian fishing village". In addition, I support the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara in their continued efforts to practice local eco-friendly, sustainable fishing, sell locally caught fish in the Saturday market to our community, promote science and monitoring, and their stewardship of our coast via numerous annual beach and island clean-ups.

Over a year ago, I was asked to add my name to a joint letter about the MPA adaptive management proposals from commercial and recreational fishermen. I did so because of my relationships with many in the California fishing community. Recently, the letter was submitted to the Fish & Game Commission. Unfortunately, I had not kept up with the revisions, updates, or additions to the letter in the last 13 months and the in-depth amendments to each MPA petition. The letter contains recommendations that I am unable to endorse due to my expertise as a marine scientist. I need to retract my signature from that letter and clarify my position.

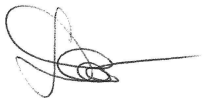
Clarifying my current perspectives on the MPA petitions:

- I submitted a letter in November 2023 endorsing Petition 2023-33MPA, and I am a supporter of protecting California's kelp forests because they provide invaluable ecological and environmental benefits. These dynamic and biodiverse ecosystems serve as critical nurseries for a wide variety of marine species, providing shelter and food for numerous fish, invertebrates, and marine mammals. Healthy kelp forests support thriving commercial and recreational fisheries and can help dampen the impacts of coastal erosion and storm impacts. With the declines in kelp forest cover across the Pacific West Coast, including California, from natural and human-induced factors, MPAs are a critical tool for supplying the population of recruits and supporting the resilience of kelp ecosystems in the face of these stressors.
- To achieve the stated goals of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem health, I encourage the state to consider increasing protections for MPAs that are currently only lightly or minimally protected as defined by The MPA Guide,[1] especially in places where weaker or more complicated regulations lead to poor compliance and enforcement. An example of what I support are the clarifications on Kashtayit regulation language and Campus Point SMCA color coding (Petition 2023-18MPA).
- I support strengthening the MPA network through the addition of new MPAs where they would protect critical habitat and advance Tribal co-stewardship. To that end, I endorse Petition 2023-28MPA designating Point Sal SMCA, which provides an opportunity to strengthen protections within the CHNMS and offers a pathway for meaningful co-stewardship between the state and NCTC. In addition, I support Petition 2023-29MPA designating Mishopshno SMCA, which would protect a special place culturally and ecologically, and similarly offer a pathway for meaningful co-stewardship between the state, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and potentially other Tribes. I appreciate that the petitioners were responsive to feedback from the local community, including recreational and commercial fishers, cutting the size of the proposal in half.
- Finally, I do not support weakening MPA protections off the California coast in any capacity. For example, to open recreational fishing opportunities to non-Base fishers, Petition 2023-18MPA would create a narrow alongshore State Marine Conservation Area within the existing SMR that would allow all people to fish for finfish by hook and line. This change would weaken the MPA network by officially downgrading the protections within the state's largest fully protected MPA. Instead, I support the state ensuring current Vandenberg SMR restrictions are enforced and applied to Base personnel and dependents, so that it is not only non-military community members who must comply.

California's MPA network is imperative for maintaining healthy ocean habitats, biodiversity along the California coast, and ecosystem resilience. Management of MPAs can also honor numerous knowledge systems - commercial fishers, recreational fishers, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and Western scientific knowledge systems. The adaptive management process offers a pathway to improve, and build on the successes of our globally-recognized MPA network.

[1] Grorud-Colvert, Kirsten, Jenna Sullivan-Stack, Callum Roberts, et al. 2021. "The MPA Guide: A Framework to Achieve Global Goals for the Ocean." Science, ahead of print, September 10. World. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0861.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify my position. I appreciate your leadership and your commitment to a healthy and vibrant ocean for all.



Dr. Dawn A. Murray
Professor Environmental Studies, Antioch University
Lecturer Environmental Studies Department, UC Santa Barbara

Received February 24, 2026

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN OF SANTA BARBARA

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

February 16, 2026

RE: Opposition to Petition 2023-27MPA_AM1 (Anacapa SMR)

Dear Commissioners,

The Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association and California Lobster and Trap Fishermen's Association collectively represent the majority of the fishing families who have worked the waters of Anacapa Island for generations. We have reviewed the scientific evidence presented in this petition carefully, and we acknowledge that the research raises legitimate concerns about eelgrass habitat impacts at Frenchy's Cove.

However, this petition pursues the wrong regulatory mechanism and does not uphold the Commission's recently adopted **Coastal Fishing Communities Policy**. This is not an MPA design problem — it is a fishery management issue that calls for adaptive, data-driven seasonal tools developed through meaningful stakeholder engagement.

I. Failure to Meet Coastal Fishing Communities Policy Objectives

The Coastal Fishing Communities Policy commits the Commission to:
(1) meaningfully engage fishing communities;
(2) factor community interests into decision-making; and
(3) increase adaptive capacity and resilience.

This petition falls short on all three fronts and as such will set a dangerous precedent if it moves forward.

A. Lack of Meaningful Engagement

No meaningful fisheries stakeholder engagement has shaped this petition. The petitioner's report on outreach (Staff Summary for August 14-15, 2024) states "*We spoke with a couple*

of Santa Barbara County lobster fishers…We are still looking to speak with a Channel Islands lobster fisher to get a more applied perspective." Given that lobster fishers are the primary impacted party to this regulatory change, and given the copious time spent by the petitioners on public outreach, it is surprising that this is the extent of their engagement with lobster fishers. In CFSB's own meeting with the petitioners, the discussion focused only on their Mishopshno petition, as reported by the petitioners. No structured outreach occurred to harbor businesses, processors, or crew whose livelihoods would be directly impacted.

In any case, the stakeholder engagement needs to be a structured process with clear metrics of success and terms of notification and documentation. This approach is needed to fulfill the Policy's requirement for meaningful, collaborative engagement — especially where regulatory changes would permanently alter access to fishing grounds.

B. Absence of Socioeconomic Impact Analysis

The petition fails to meaningfully evaluate social and economic impacts on fishing communities, despite clear direction under the MLMA, Coastal Act, and the Commission's own policies to minimize adverse community effects where conservation goals can still be met. There is no assessment of lost income, operational displacement, safety risks, cumulative regulatory burden, or adaptive capacity. Instead, permanent spatial exclusion is treated as the default tool, without comparison to less disruptive management alternatives.

C. Undermining Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

The petition proposes a static regulatory structure that cannot easily respond to environmental variability, monitoring results, or future learning. Using the MPA petition process instead of a fisheries management process to change regulations is effectively fixed, and reversing it requires another multi-year petition process — even if eelgrass recovers or fishing impacts prove minimal. This rigidity is incompatible with the Policy's emphasis on adaptive, learning-oriented management systems in a rapidly changing ocean.

II. This Is a Fishery Management Issue — Not an MPA Design Issue

Proposing new depth closures for the lobster trap fishery at Frenchy's Cove to protect eelgrass can be accommodated by the Department's established process to amend fishery management plans, in keeping with goal 5 of The Marine Life Protection Act, which calls for "effective management measures based on sound scientific guidelines."

.

Fishery management is inherently adaptive. Seasons, area closures, and timing restrictions can be adjusted year-to-year based on monitoring data, environmental conditions, and stock assessments. This is exactly what the spiny lobster fishery management plan already does — with dynamic season dates, size limits, trap limits, and area restrictions that respond to biological data, including highly dynamic harmful algal blooms.

For instance, the petition describes eelgrass habitat at Frenchy's Cove as occurring in the 20–45 ft depth zone. Adaptive fishery management could test whether adjusting the trap fishing depth limit from the current 20 ft to 50 ft — rather than closing to 30 meters (~98 ft) — would adequately protect eelgrass while minimizing unnecessary displacement.

III. The Proposed Closures Are Far Broader Than Scientifically Justified

Although the stated objective is to protect eelgrass at Frenchy's Cove, the proposed regulatory alternatives include closing areas far larger than the actual eelgrass footprint and potentially restrict multiple fisheries.

A. Deeper Than Needed

The petition provides no scientific justification for extending closures to 30 meters (~98 ft). The petition itself states: "Eelgrass beds at Anacapa Island are typically 20–45 feet in depth" (p. 6 of the original petition). Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's 2010 eelgrass report similarly places eelgrass at Frenchy's Cove in the 20–40 ft depth range. Closing waters deeper than observed eelgrass habitat is unsupported by the evidence presented.

B. Larger Area Than Needed

The petition may seek to close the entire western front side of Anacapa Island, despite the fact that Frenchy's Cove is a small, discrete cove with historically less than four acres of eelgrass — and is the only eelgrass site on the western front of the island (See Channelkeeper 2010 eelgrass report). This is disproportionate and unjustified. The remainder of the shallow waters in the proposed area are rocky habitat that do not grow eelgrass, aside from one small inlet.

These overbroad closures would impose unnecessary burdens on fisheries for no clear conservation gain, violating the Fishing Communities Policy requirement to minimize adverse community impacts where conservation goals can still be achieved.

IV. Problematic Precedent

If approved, this petition sets a troubling precedent: documented habitat impacts from fishing gear would become grounds for converting SMCAs to SMRs even where adaptive fisheries management tools have not been attempted. This would erode confidence in

California's fisheries governance frameworks and create regulatory uncertainty across working waterfronts statewide.

California's fishery managers have successfully used temporal and seasonal restrictions for decades to protect sensitive habitats and life stages — rockfish spawning closures, salmon season modifications based on run strength, crab season delays to avoid whale entanglement. These tools work. They are adaptive. They respond to monitoring data. This is the appropriate framework here.

V. Conclusion

We support eelgrass conservation and effective habitat protection. But this petition bypasses the Commission's Coastal Fishing Communities Policy by proposing permanent access restrictions without meaningful community engagement, socioeconomic analysis, or serious evaluation of adaptive fishery management alternatives. It reduces resilience rather than strengthening it.

We urge the Commission to deny this petition and instead direct the Department to pursue collaborative, adaptive fishery management solutions that protect habitat while sustaining California's coastal fishing communities — consistent with the MLMA, Coastal Act, and the Commission's own policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
Chris Voss, President
Kim Selkoe, Executive Director

California Lobster and Trap Fishermen's Association
Ava Schulenberg, Executive Director

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association
Jason Woods, President
Dave Colker, Executive Director

Outlook

Agenda item 2 FGC April 15, MPA Bin 2 Petitions

From Jaime Diamond <info@stardustsportfishing.com>
Date Mon 03/30/2026 08:18 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Clarifying my attached letter is for agenda item 2 4/15/26

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 8:14 PM Jaime Diamond <info@stardustsportfishing.com> wrote:

> Please confirm receipt of my attached comments.
>
> --
> Jaime Diamond

--
Jaime Diamond
Stardust/Coral Sea
Owner
805-259-6775
www.StardustSportfishing.com

March 28, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission

From: Stardust Sportfishing and Santa Barbara Landing

Subject: Bin 2 Petition Analysis

Dear Chair Sklar and Commissioners,

Stardust Sportfishing and Santa Barbara Landing offers sportfishing trips, whale watching, guided Channel Islands kayaking and SCUBA adventures, SCUBA instruction, kayak & jet ski rentals, fishing clinics, and a bait and tackle store located in the Santa Barbara Harbor. We are the main provider of ocean access (both consumptive and non-consumptive) to the public from Santa Barbara. Stardust Sportfishing is owned by husband and wife team Captain Jason and Jaime Diamond. We are board members of The Sportfishing Association of California, and Jaime serves as Regional Vice President of SAC.

The MPA network was developed after an extensive and traumatic process, Captain Jason was part of the regional stakeholder group for the Santa Barbara area. Recreational anglers and charter operators had to adapt to the loss of access to approximately fifty percent of our traditional fishing areas. Unfortunately, some were not able to and went out of business.

Today, we have adapted to the framework, trust has been built as recreational anglers and vessels from the CPFV sector including our vessels Stardust & Coral Sea, have been involved in the study of the MPA network. We believed what we were told, it would never happen again, that was it. Unfortunately, now, we find ourselves far down the path of MPA 2.0, despite a list of 27 adaptive management recommendations from the MPA Decadal Management Review, which would or could have offered meaningful change to improve and strengthen the network vs blanket expansions. The sportfishing industry did not submit petitions to remove any MPA's, because we respect the work that has been done, and the protections as they are.

We applaud the CDFW analyses of the non-tribal bin 2 2023 MPA petitions submitted in response to the Decadal Management Review recognizing the adaptive management component of the Marine Life Protection Act.

In 2023 the "draft evaluation framework (Draft Framework) was developed for the 15 Bin 2 Petitions that propose changes to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network that were received by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) and referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2023. CDFW developed the Draft Framework, with support from staff at the CFGC and Ocean Protection Council (OPC), based on the adaptive management process outlined in chapter 4 of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs. The 2016 Master Plan directs CDFW and CFGC to use the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals and mandates, MPA objectives, and design considerations as the primary basis for any action taken to make

changes to the MPA Network. The Draft Framework also draws from the Decadal Management Review (DMR) and recommendations, and the MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework approved by CFGC at their August 2023 meeting, which is rooted in the DMR recommendation cornerstones of MPA Governance, MPA Management Program Activities, and MPA Network Performance." (Evaluation Framework for 2023 Marine Protected Area Bin 2 Petitions at https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=232901&inline).

We support the Department's work product and recommendations and believe the Department has exhaustively researched and cited the components of the MLPAI process which illuminate the choices and considerations to guide their analyses and recommendations.

We offer our recommendations to the Commission for1 tribal petition and 5 non-tribal petitions that would have a detrimental impact on our own business and the broader sportfishing community a. We review the implications of the proposed actions with the greatest potential impact on our ability to provide public access to the state's rich and sustainably managed marine resources, our continued economic vitality, and the overall continued sustainable management of our fisheries.

Petition 2023-29MPA, and absent CDFW recommendations,

DENY based on the following:

Petitioners propose the establishment of a new State Marine Conservation Area off the coast of Carpinteria. This proposal is redundant, scientifically unsupported, reduces public access to all but the documented members of the Federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash. It creates an undue burden on a region already heavily impacted MPA fisheries closures.

Tribal Stewardship and Co-Management

We continue to support California's commitment to tribal sovereignty and co-management of native resources. However, we emphasize that tribal stewardship does not require the creation of new MPAs.

Tribal stewardship is currently a component of the MPA framework under the MLPA Master Plan. There are four MPA's allowing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exclusive fishing access at Anacapa SMCA, Naples Reef SMCA, Point Dume SMCA, and Kashtayit SMCA. Tribal exemptions allow traditional and ceremonial take. These examples demonstrate that the state can honor its commitment to tribal sovereignty and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by modifying current regulations without closing additional area to public access for fishing. This was most recently done at the August 22, 2018, FGC meeting.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash previously submitted a petition for Tribal Take within several existing MPA's. In 2018, after a full analysis, the FGC approved their petition. (FGC Decision Document 08-22-2018) The new petition 2023-29MPA is exclusionary in nature. The area they propose is currently open and accessible to the public and all tribal members regardless of federal recognition. If implemented this new closure would exclude access for all others, including descendants of local Chumash who also have ancestral ties to these waters but are not registered members of the Santa Ynez Band. True collaborative co-management should be explored across California's entire MPA network to ensure equitable access for all tribal

members. We encourage you to prioritize collaborative management at these existing sites. Additional closures which eliminate access for non-federally recognized tribes and the public are not needed, nor appropriate.

Scientific Rationale for Denial

The scientific justifications provided in the petition are fundamentally flawed:
Connectivity: The petition argues for a new MPA to fill a gap in the network. However, official measurements show the spacing between existing MPAs at Campus Point and Point Dume is 60.60 miles, which falls within the state's recommended 31–62 mile spacing guideline, making a new designation unnecessary.

Species-Specific Protection: The petition focuses heavily on protecting juvenile white shark nurseries. The Fish and Game Commission established clear precedent in 2020 when it denied a nearly identical petition for this exact location, stating that MPAs are intended to protect entire ecosystems, not individual highly mobile species like sharks.

The petitioner proposes allowing shore-based finfish take, which reduces the area's Level of Protection to moderate-low. Under the MLPAI SAT guidance this LOP would not support MPA connectivity goal.

Disproportionate Regional Impact

The Santa Barbara Channel is already one of the most protected regions in California with 19 MPA's. Currently, 21% of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary waters in this area are protected, significantly exceeding the state average of 16%. Furthermore, 96.41% of the Channel Islands MPA network is designated as no-take, compared to a 60% average for the rest of the state. Closing Carpinteria would further marginalize local recreational fishermen who have already seen their traditional grounds significantly reduced.

Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the proposed MPA, is one of relatively few reef areas close to harbor for fishing. Approving this petition will be the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs. It will totally exclude opportunity for those who cannot afford or safely travel across to the Channel Islands such as skiffs, kayak fishermen and freedivers. The reefs in the protected waters of the proposed MPA are where charter boats take first timers, trips with special needs children, and our wounded warriors due to close proximity to the harbor, generally protected area from weather, and the variety of fish habitat in this zone. There is also an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition due to a lack of meaningful local outreach. The Carpinteria reef area is vital to the local community, economy, local charter businesses, and tourism. Closing this area to fishing would ignore carefully negotiated outcome for this region during the MLPAI process. It would greatly reduce access for all non-Santa Ynez Band Chumash tribal people as well as create regulatory conflicts in the planned decommissioning of oil infrastructure in the area. We respectfully urge you to deny Petition 2023-29MPA---

Petition2023-27MPA-AM1 – new restrictions on anchoring within the existing Anacapa Island SMR/SMCA complex.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

There is little evidence that the current allowance of anchoring in these waters is having an enduring negative impact on seagrass beds in this area. Seagrass in the area is predominantly Zostera Marina, a resilient flowering plant that propagates predominantly through sub-benthic rhizomes lying buried beneath the seafloor in soft bottom substrates.

Its appearance and density above the bottom vary seasonally and season to season. Primary influences on its abundance are lighting (water clarity and depth), appropriate substrate, surge and current strength. The impact of anchoring, should it happen to be within an area colonized by Zostera, is minimal and temporary. Current levels of anchoring in the area are relatively low and sea grass beds disturbed quickly recover.

Members or our fleet do fish within this SMCA and appreciate the access to coastal pelagic species there. Anchoring is part of that activity, and this proposal leaves open the potential for an anchoring prohibition that would adversely impact that fishing opportunity for the public.

Petition 2023-33MPA –

This petition proposes the following MPA expansions and new MPAs

- **i. Cabrillo SMR - expand westward and northward by 15.2 sq mi ~9.9 sq mi**
- **ii. Point Dume SMCA - expand westward by 4.6 sq mi**
- **iii. South Point SMR - expand westward by 26.3 sq mi**
- **iv. Gull Island SMR - expand northward by 1.8 sq mi**
- **v. Point Conception SMR - expand eastward by 14.6 sq mi**
- **vi. Natural Bridges SMR - expand southward by 13.7 sq mi, eastward to the edge of Natural Bridges State Beach by ~14.5 sq mi**
- **vii. Pleasure Point, Santa Cruz - designate 3.2 sq mi as a new State Marine Reserve Conservation Area**

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

This petition is a bold “land grab” which proposes to turn vast areas of prime, valued rocky reef habitat, especially in waters of less than 100 meters, into marine parks that ban fishing. This habitat type is already over-represented within our MPA network as compared to its natural occurrence in state waters. These proposed actions are completely out of line with the guidance provided for adaptive management measures to be considered by the Commission, which offered that this would not be MLPA-2.

To date our award winning MPA network has shown that a larger biomass-per-area of the species that fisheries target has developed within our MPAs. This state-wide result is driven by differences observed in the southern regions.

What has not been observed within the scientific monitoring effort was a difference in fish diversity, or ecosystem resistance to change (due to the recent marine heat wave). While these kinds of benefits have been observed globally that they were not here indicate two things.

The first is if there are differences in ecosystem resilience or species diversity between waters inside and outside of MPAs in California, the scale of the difference is likely to be small.

The second is quite revealing and illuminates that the existing robust fisheries management and environmental protections are already protecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience at a very high level statewide. What's missing is only robust protection from future industrialization. However, this is something that is provided for within the National Marine Sanctuary waters.

The petitioners proposed actions would exclude fishing from vast areas of rocky bottom habitat in waters less than 100 meters. It is precisely this habitat type that our captains most depend on to provide successful fishing for our customers.

While the proposed actions are state-wide in nature, they disproportionately cost public access from Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz harbors. In areas closed to fishing the lost fishing access has so far not been compensated for by additional public participation based on an area being closed to fishing. Fishing participation transcends physical ability, socioeconomic strata, educational levels, cultural backgrounds, creeds and colors in ways SCUBA diving and underwater photography participation commonly does not.

Petition 2023-23MPA

This petition proposes to reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries

Deny all proposed new restrictions to take and seaward boundary expansions in concurrence with the CDFW recommendations

The CDFW notes the following: "The petitioner asserts that current regulations cause confusion and that there has been an increase in non-compliance relative to other Marin County MPAs. These claims are unsubstantiated by CDFW enforcement data. The proposed change would not result in additional regulatory protection for the rocky intertidal habitat that the current MPA was designed to protect, and it would unnecessarily eliminate established uses previously vetted during the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative planning process."

Member vessel owners and operators with the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association (GGFA a SAC affiliate member) note "Our member vessels provide access to California's public fisheries for thousands of residents and visitors each year, many of whom would otherwise have no opportunity to fish due to economic, physical, or geographic limitations. Any expansion of the Duxbury Reef MPA would further restrict access to these public trust resources and disproportionately impact underprivileged and local community members who rely on affordable and equitable access to the ocean...Further closures in areas like Duxbury Reef remove historically important fishing grounds without sufficient consideration of social, economic, and access-related impacts."

GGFA members provided this broader comment on proposals that expand the area that the public is excluded from fishing. "We are concerned that continued MPA expansion without demonstrable conservation necessity shifts the burden of protection onto working families, small businesses, and underserved communities, while failing to acknowledge the conservation success already achieved through existing regulations. Limiting access does not equate to equity, nor does it automatically result in improved resource outcomes."

The SAC as a whole concurs with these SAC members' perspective.

The GGFA respects the CDFW's support for extending the intertidal invertebrate protections within this proposal "Grant in concept." This would allow the public's continued access to fish from shore. Most of our clients participate in surf fishing as well. Many if not most were first introduced to the rewards and the personal gratification that comes from harvesting one's own foods from the wild by it.

Petition 2023-24 proposal to expand the spatial extent of the prohibition of public access for fishing off the City of Laguna Beach.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

The Department found that the proposal does not "address a current or emerging MPA management challenge or align with the original intent of these MPAs as established during the MLPA Initiative planning process." They found that the proposed action would not further the proposer's stated objectives within their petition – ease of enforcement, kelp protection, whale entanglement risk.

We concur. We also note that the proposer's purpose appeared contrary to providing equitable access to a public trust resource for underserved communities (fishing within the state's submerged lands).

Rather, the intent appears to be an effort to further the relative exclusion of the public from the shorelines and coastal waters offshore of the economically exclusive community of Laguna Beach.

Our fleet out of Dana Point Harbor regularly takes the public to fish in the waters proposed for closure, a 1.3-mile stretch of some of the most scenic coastline in the state. The loss of access to fish these waters would halve the beautiful near-coastal fishing area north of Dana Point Harbor, where rocky headlands and deep secluded coves predominate.

A roughly 2.5-mile stretch immediately up-coast of the Dana Point Harbor, it is precisely these coves and headlands where the charter fleet out of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching takes organized groups of underserved youth, disabled veterans and others that are on limited time schedules or mobility challenged to experience recreational fishing in beautiful and inspiring surroundings.

Petition 2023-34MPA

Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

Within their analysis the Department notes the extensive deliberations by the various stakeholders during the 2-year Southern Region MLPAI Regional Stakeholder Group process. The take allowances at the Farnsworth MPA cluster were carefully considered and vetted, resulting in the current configuration and take allowances.

These take allowances provide important public access to mobile species which largely do not benefit from spatially based protections. At the same time the cluster provides spatially based protections for demersal, sessile and resident species including Stylaster hydrocoral, at scale.

The Farnsworth Bank is very important to our Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor based party boats' access to target squid, bonito, yellowtail, white sea bass and other species. The regionally famous "Farnsworth mossback yellows" are fish of legend – difficult to land once hooked but a true prize and badge of honor if successful.

The Department's analysis of these proposed actions (2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34_3) provide "...further reductions to the fishing grounds and restricting take to spearfishing only would impose socioeconomic costs without clear ecological benefit. From an MPA Network design perspective, the Farnsworth SMCAs fulfill their intended role as partial-take MPAs with a High LOP..."

The Farnsworth is a site where avid anglers desire to fish big-game -- where the challenge is elevated but so is the potential reward.

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts of the scientists, regulators and staff from CDFW and the CFGC for their extraordinary effort to review and communicate with the community on this important topic. We strongly feel working together we can continue to strengthen the network through research, monitoring and targeting water quality issues.

Sincerely,

Jaime Diamond

Jaime Diamond

Stardust Sportfishing, Owner

Santa Barbara Landing, CEO/GM

Jason Diamond

Captain Jason Diamond

Stardust Sportfishing, Owner/Operator

Santa Barbara Landing, Partner

Outlook

SAC Letter to FGC Ref Agenda Item 2, April 15, 2026

From K Fran [redacted]
Date Mon 03/30/2026 05:49 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Hi Melissa,

I hope all is well. I am sure you are all working very hard.

Please find attached a letter from SAC to the FGC for the next meeting. I plan to be there in person.

Best wishes,

Ken

Ken Franke

President

Sportfishing Association of California

5060 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 165 | San Diego, CA, 92106
(619) 760-4031 | www.californiasportfishing.org

SAC SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

5060 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 165
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 760-4031

March 28, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC)
From: Sportfishing Association of California
Subject: Bin 2 Non-Tribal Petition analysis by the CDFW

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) is an organization whose membership includes commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) based throughout the coastal ports of California. We provide public access to over one million visitors annually for fishing, whale watching and ocean charters.

The MPA network was developed after an extensive and often extremely stressful process. Recreational anglers and related vessel service providers had to adapt to the loss of access to approximately fifty percent of their traditional fishing areas.

That was then. Now everyone has adapted to the framework after what was a painful time. It is proving to be resilient. Trust has been built as recreational anglers and vessels from the CPFV sector have been involved in the study of the MPA network.

SAC appreciates and complements the analyses of the non-tribal bin 2 2023 MPA petitions submitted in response to the Decadal Management Review recognizing the adaptive management component of the Marine Life Protection Act.

In 2023 the "draft evaluation framework (Draft Framework) was developed for the 15 Bin 2 Petitions that propose changes to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network that were received by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) and referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in 2023. CDFW developed the Draft Framework, with support from staff at the CFGC and Ocean Protection Council (OPC), based on the adaptive management process outlined in chapter 4 of the 2016 Master Plan for MPAs. The 2016 Master Plan directs CDFW and CFGC to use the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) goals and mandates, MPA objectives, and design considerations as the primary basis for any action taken to make changes to the MPA Network. The Draft Framework also draws from the Decadal Management Review (DMR) and recommendations, and the MPA Regulation Change Petition Framework approved by CFGC at their August 2023 meeting, which is rooted in the DMR recommendation cornerstones of MPA Governance, MPA Management Program Activities, and MPA Network Performance." (Evaluation Framework for 2023 Marine Protected Area Bin 2 Petitions at https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=232901&inline).

Within this framework there were 18 approved target questions, 3 of which contained follow-on components which brought the total to 21. The CDFW has diligently provided a question-by-question analysis for each proposed action within each of the 10 non-tribal bin 2 proposals. A simplified 3-column table provides a brief summary of the results of these analyses along with a concise recommendation for each action.

We appreciate and complement the Department on their having held these 21 goalposts firm in their analyses, supporting these primary objectives.

- The proposed change is consistent with the goals of the MPA, as identified in the MLPA Initiative planning process, and may help further advance these goals.
- The proposed change improves the overall design of the MPA.
- The proposed change aligns with the original intent of the MPA.
- The proposed change advances management of the MPA Network.

We support the Department's work product and recommendations. We find that the Department has exhaustively researched and cited the components of the MLPAI process which illuminate the choices and considerations within that process and used that information to guide their analyses and recommendations.

Below we provide our recommendations to the Commission for those non-tribal petitions that would have important impacts to our fleet. We consider the implications of the proposed actions that have the greatest potential to impact our ability to provide public access to the state's rich and sustainably managed marine resources, our continued economic vitality and the overall continued sustainable management of our fisheries.

Petition 2023-23MPA

This petition proposes to reclassify Duxbury Reef SMCA to an SMR and Expand the Southern and Northern Boundaries

Deny all proposed new restrictions to take and seaward boundary expansions in concurrence with the CDFW recommendations

The CDFW notes the following: "The petitioner asserts that current regulations cause confusion and that there has been an increase in non-compliance relative to other Marin County MPAs. These claims are unsubstantiated by CDFW enforcement data. The proposed change would not result in additional regulatory protection for the rocky intertidal habitat that the current MPA was designed to protect, and it would unnecessarily eliminate established uses previously vetted during the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative planning process."

Member vessel owners and operators with the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association (GGFA a SAC affiliate member) note "Our member vessels provide access to California's public fisheries for thousands of residents and visitors each year, many of whom would otherwise have no opportunity to fish due to economic, physical, or geographic limitations. Any expansion of the Duxbury Reef MPA would further restrict access to these public trust resources and disproportionately impact underprivileged and local community members who rely on affordable and equitable access to the ocean...Further closures in areas like Duxbury Reef remove historically important fishing grounds without sufficient consideration of social, economic, and access-related impacts."

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success already achieved through existing regulations. Limiting access does not equate to equity, nor does it automatically result in improved resource outcomes."

The SAC as a whole concurs with these SAC members' perspective.

The GGFA respects the CDFW's support for extending the intertidal invertebrate protections within this proposal "Grant in concept." This would allow the public's continued access to fish from shore. Most of our clients participate in surf fishing as well. Many if not most were first introduced to the rewards and the personal gratification that comes from harvesting one's own foods from the wild by it.

Petition 2023-24 proposal to expand the spatial extent of the prohibition of public access for fishing off the City of Laguna Beach.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

The Department found that the proposal does not "address a current or emerging MPA management challenge or align with the original intent of these MPAs as established during the MLPA Initiative planning process." They found that the proposed action would not further the proposer's stated objectives within their petition – ease of enforcement, kelp protection, whale entanglement risk.

We concur. We also note that the proposer's purpose appeared contrary to providing equitable access to a public trust resource for underserved communities (fishing within the state's submerged lands).

Rather, the intent appears to be an effort to further the relative exclusion of the public from the shorelines and coastal waters offshore of the economically exclusive community of Laguna Beach.

Our fleet out of Dana Point Harbor regularly takes the public to fish in the waters proposed for closure, a 1.3-mile stretch of some of the most scenic coastline in the state. The loss of access to fish these waters would halve the beautiful near-coastal fishing area north of Dana Point Harbor, where rocky headlands and deep secluded coves predominate.

A roughly 2.5-mile stretch immediately up-coast of the Dana Point Harbor, it is precisely these coves and headlands where the charter fleet out of Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching takes organized groups of underserved youth, disabled veterans and others that are on limited time schedules or mobility challenged to experience recreational fishing in beautiful and inspiring surroundings.

Petition2023-27MPA-AM1 – new restrictions on anchoring within the existing Anacapa Island SMR/SMCA complex.

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

There is little evidence that the current allowance of anchoring in these waters is having an enduring negative impact on seagrass beds in this area. Seagrass in the area is predominantly Zostera Marina, a resilient flowering plant that propagates predominantly through sub-benthic rhyzomes lying buried beneath the seafloor in soft bottom substrates.

Its appearance and density above the bottom varies seasonally and season to season. Primary influences on its abundance are lighting (water clarity and depth), appropriate substrate,

surge and current strength. The impact of anchoring, should it happen to be within an area colonized by Zostera, is minimal and temporary. Current levels of anchoring in the area are relatively low and sea grass beds disturbed quickly recover.

Members or our fleet do fish within this SMCA and appreciate the access to coastal pelagic species there. Anchoring is part of that activity and this proposal leaves open the potential for an anchoring prohibition that would adversely impact that fishing opportunity for the public.

Petition 2023-33MPA

This petition proposes the following MPA expansions and new MPAs

i. Cabrillo SMR - expand westward and northward by 15.2 sq mi ~9.9 sq mi

ii. Point Dume SMCA - expand westward by 4.6 sq mi

iii. South Point SMR - expand westward by 26.3 sq mi

iv. Gull Island SMR - expand northward by 1.8 sq mi

v. Point Conception SMR - expand eastward by 14.6 sq mi

vi. Natural Bridges SMR - expand southward by 13.7 sq mi, eastward to the edge of Natural Bridges State Beach by ~14.5 sq mi

vii. Pleasure Point, Santa Cruz - designate 3.2 sq mi as a new State Marine Reserve Conservation Area

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

This petition is a bold "land grab" which proposes to turn vast areas of prime, valued rocky reef habitat, especially in waters of less than 100 meters, into marine parks that ban fishing. This habitat type is already over-represented within our MPA network as compared to its natural occurrence in state waters. These proposed actions are completely out of line with the guidance provided for adaptive management measures to be considered by the Commission, which offered that this would not be MLPA-2.

To date our award winning MPA network has shown that a larger biomass-per-area of the species that fisheries target has developed within our MPAs. This state-wide result is driven by differences observed in the southern regions.

What has not been observed within the scientific monitoring effort was a difference in fish diversity, or ecosystem resistance to change (due to the recent marine heat wave). While these kinds of benefits have been observed globally that they were not here indicates two things.

The first is if there are differences in ecosystem resilience or species diversity between waters inside and outside of MPAs in California, the scale of the difference is likely to be small.

The second is quite revealing and illuminates that the existing robust fisheries management and environmental protections are already protecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience at a very high level statewide. What's missing is only robust protections from future industrialization. However, this is something that is provided for within the National Marine Sanctuary waters.

The petitioners proposed actions would exclude fishing from vast areas of rocky bottom habitat in waters less than 100 meters. It is precisely this habitat type that our captains most depend on to provide successful fishing for our customers.

While the proposed actions are state-wide in nature, they disproportionately cost public access from Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz harbors. In areas closed to fishing the lost fishing access has so far not been compensated for by additional public participation based on an area being closed to fishing. Fishing participation transcends physical ability, socioeconomic strata, educational levels, cultural backgrounds, creeds and colors in ways SCUBA diving and underwater photography participation commonly does not.

Petition 2023-34MPA

Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA to an SMR and Limit Allowable Uses at Farnsworth Onshore and Offshore SMCAs to Recreational Spearfishing

Deny (in concurrence with the CDFW recommendation and rationale)

Within their analysis the Department notes the extensive deliberations by the various stakeholders during the 2-year Southern Region MLPAI Regional Stakeholder Group process. The take allowances at the Farnsworth MPA cluster were carefully considered and vetted, resulting in the current configuration and take allowances.

These take allowances provide important public access to mobile species which largely do not benefit from spatially based protections. At the same time the cluster provides spatially based protections for demersal, sessile and resident species including Stylaster hydrocoral, at scale.

The Farnsworth Bank is very important to our Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor based partyboats' access to target squid, bonito, yellowtail, white sea bass and other species. The regionally famous "Farnsworth mossback yellows" are fish of legend – difficult to land once hooked but a true prize and badge of honor if successful.

The Department's analysis of these proposed actions (2023-34MPA_2 & 2023-34_3) provide "...further reductions to the fishing grounds and restricting take to spearfishing only would impose socioeconomic costs without clear ecological benefit. From an MPA Network design perspective, the Farnsworth SMCAs fulfill their intended role as partial-take MPAs with a High LOP..."

The Farnsworth is a site where avid anglers desire to fish big-game -- where the challenge is elevated but so is the potential reward.

Petition 2023-29MPA, and absent CDFW recommendations,

DENY (based on the following)

Petitioners propose the establishment of a new State Marine Conservation Area off the coast of Carpinteria. This proposal is redundant, scientifically unsupported, reduces public access to all but the documented members of the Federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash. It creates an undue burden on a region already heavily impacted MPA fisheries closures.

Tribal Stewardship and Co-Management

We continue to support California's commitment to tribal sovereignty and co-management of native resources. However, we emphasize that tribal stewardship does not require the creation of new MPAs.
Tribal stewardship is currently a component of the MPA framework under the MLPA Master Plan. There are four MPA's allowing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash exclusive fishing access at Anacapa SMCA, Naples Reef SMCA, Point Dume SMCA, and Kashtayit SMCA. Tribal exemptions allow traditional and ceremonial take. These examples demonstrate that the state can honor its commitment to tribal sovereignty and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by modifying current regulations without closing additional area to public access for fishing. This was most recently done at the August 22, 2018 FGC meeting.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash previously submitted a petition for Tribal Take within several existing MPA's. In 2018, after a full analysis, the FGC approved their petition. (FGC Decision Document 08-22-2018) The new petition 2023-29MPA is exclusionary in nature. The area they propose is currently open and accessible to the public and all tribal members regardless of federal recognition. If implemented this new closure would exclude access for all others, including descendants of local Chumash who also have ancestral ties to these waters but are not registered members of the Santa Ynez Band. True collaborative co-management should be explored across California's entire MPA network to ensure equitable access for all tribal members. We encourage you to prioritize collaborative management at these existing sites. Additional closures which eliminate access for non-federally recognized tribes and the public are not needed, nor appropriate.

Scientific Rationale for Denial

The scientific justifications provided in the petition are fundamentally flawed:
Connectivity: The petition argues for a new MPA to fill a gap in the network. However, official measurements show the spacing between existing MPAs at Campus Point and Point Dume is 60.60 miles, which falls within the state's recommended 31–62 mile spacing guideline, making a new designation unnecessary.

Species-Specific Protection: The petition focuses heavily on protecting juvenile white shark nurseries. The Fish and Game Commission established clear precedent in 2020 when it denied a nearly identical petition for this exact location, stating that MPAs are intended to protect entire ecosystems, not individual, highly mobile species like sharks.

The petitioner proposes allowing shore-based finfish take, which reduces the area's Level of Protection to moderate-low. Under the MLPAI SAT guidance this LOP would not support MPA connectivity goal.

Disproportionate Regional Impact

The Santa Barbara Channel is already one of the most protected regions in California With 19 MPA's. Currently, 21% of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary waters in this area are protected, significantly exceeding the state average of 16%. Furthermore, 96.41% of the Channel Islands MPA network is designated as no-take, compared to a 60% average for the

rest of the state. Closing Carpinteria would further marginalize local recreational fishermen who have already seen their traditional grounds significantly reduced.

Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the proposed MPA, is one of relatively few reef areas close to harbor for fishing. Approving this petition will be the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs. It will totally exclude opportunity for those who cannot afford or safely travel across to the Channel Islands such as skiffs, kayak fishermen and freedivers. The reefs in the protected waters of the proposed MPA are where charter boats take first timers, trips with special needs children, and our wounded warriors due to close proximity to the harbor, generally protected area from weather, and the variety of fish habitat in this zone. There is also an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition due to a lack of meaningful local outreach. The Carpinteria reef area is vital to the local community, economy, local charter businesses, and tourism. Closing this area to fishing would ignore carefully negotiated outcome for this region during the MLPAI process. It would greatly reduce access for all non-Santa Ynez Band Chumash tribal people as well as create regulatory conflicts in the planned decommissioning of oil infrastructure in the area. We respectfully urge you to deny Petition 2023-29MPA---

In conclusion, we applaud the efforts of the scientists, regulators and staff from CDFW and the CFGC for their extraordinary effort to review and communicate with the community on this important topic. We strongly feel working together we can continue to strengthen the network through research, monitoring and targeting water quality issues.

Sincerely,



Ken Franke
President

Outlook

Marine Conservation Institute Comments on CDFW Recommendations for MPA Petitions

From Ali Rubin <ali.rubin@marine-conservation.org>
Date Tue 03/31/2026 03:02 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Marine Conservation Institute, please find attached our comments on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Evaluations and Recommendations for the ten non-Tribally-led Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions released on March 20, 2026 .

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and your continued work to advance effective marine conservation in California.

Sincerely,
Ali Rubin

Ali Rubin
Marine Conservation Scientist

Marine Conservation Institute

ali.rubin@marine-conservation.org
marine-conservation.org



March 31, 2026

President Eric Sklar
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Submitted electronically to: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Comments from Marine Conservation Institute on petitions to amend the State's MPA network.

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

On behalf of Marine Conservation Institute, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments following the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Evaluations and Recommendations for the ten non-Tribally-led Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions released on March 20, 2026.

Marine Conservation Institute works to secure strong protection for the ocean's most important places. Through our Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas), we assess marine protected areas globally using The MPA Guide, a peer-reviewed framework that evaluates the level of protection and expected conservation outcomes of MPAs. Our work supports governments and partners, including in California, in advancing effective, science-based marine conservation and achieving 30x30 goals.

We recognize the significant effort undertaken by CDFW to evaluate these petitions based on the information available as of March 2025, and we appreciate the Department's acknowledgment that additional information may continue to inform Commission deliberations. As California works toward protecting 30% of state waters by 2030, maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the existing MPA network is essential to achieving meaningful conservation outcomes.

As part of this effort, we conducted an analysis to determine the likely biodiversity outcomes of the petitions submitted to the State using The MPA Guide framework. This approach applies a consistent, science-based method to evaluate how proposed changes would affect protection levels and conservation outcomes across California's MPA network.

We strongly support CDFW's recommendations to deny petitions that would lower protection levels within California's MPA network by allowing additional recreational or commercial take of marine life. Scientific evidence consistently demonstrates that the greatest ecological benefits such as increased biomass, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience are achieved in MPAs that are fully or highly protected from extractive activities.

We also acknowledge that localized ecological pressures, such as sea urchin overpopulation and kelp loss, may require active management. In these cases, we encourage the Commission to explore adaptive, site-specific management strategies that address these threats without reducing protection levels or opening extractive fisheries within MPAs.

In particular, we support the recommendations to deny the following petitions:

- Modify Take in 9 SMCAs to Allow Commercial Take of Sea Urchins (2023-14MPA)[1]
- Reclassify Footprint, Gull Island, and Santa Barbara Island SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Take of Highly Migratory Species (2023-15MPA_AM)
- Reclassify Stewarts Point and Bodega Head SMRs to SMCAs to Allow Commercial Salmon Trolling (2023-16MPA)
- Modify Allowed Uses at Several Santa Barbara Channel MPAs and Special Closures: Vandenberg SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, and San Miguel and Anacapa Special Closures (2023-18MPA)

1: With the exception of the Point Vicente no-take SMCA, petition 2023-14MPA does not lower the Highly Protected status of the named MPAs per our MPA Guide analysis, and may provide ecological benefits through the restoration effort of urchin culling. However, while ecosystem restoration and conservation may be complementary, they are non-substitutable actions where priority should be given to preventing the degradation of intact ecosystems.

These petitions propose changes that would reduce the level of protection in areas that currently contribute to the ecological performance of California's MPA network. Downgrading protections risks undermining biodiversity gains, weakening ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, and compromising California's leadership in marine conservation.

To advance the state's goal of protecting 30% of nature by 2030, we do believe that the following proposals will modestly strengthen the network and urge the commission to support them:

- Designate new MPA as Chitqawi SMCA (2023-19MPA)
- Redesignate Point Buchon SMCA as Chumash SMCA to support tribal co-management and take provisions; extend northern boundary of Point Buchon SMR (2023-20MPA)
- Multiple changes to Pyramid Point SMCA (2023-21MPA)
- Reclassify all or part of Anacapa Island SMR (2023-27MPA)
- Designate new MPA as Point Sal SMR (2023-28MPA)
- Add new MPA as Mishopshno SMCA near Carpinteria (2023-29MPA)
- Reclassify and expand Duxbury Reef SMCA (2023-32MPA)
- Reclassify Point Buchon SMCA and modify regulations in Farnsworth MPAs (2023-34MPA)

California's MPA network is widely recognized as a global model for science-based ocean protection. Maintaining strong protections within this network is critical not only for achieving the State's 30x30 commitments, but also for ensuring long-term conservation benefits for marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

We respectfully urge the Commission to uphold CDFW's recommendations to deny these petitions and to continue advancing policies that strengthen, rather than diminish, the effectiveness of California's MPA network.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lance E. Morgan, President
Nikki Harasta, Marine Conservation Scientist I
Alexandra Rubin, Marine Conservation Scientist I

Outlook

Comment Letter re Agenda Item 2 April FGC

From Azsha Hudson <ahudson@environmentaldefensecenter.org>
Date Wed 04/01/2026 01:41 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Hi,

For the April FGC meeting agenda item 2, please see the attached letter that addresses CDFWs recommendations (**2023-27-MPA-AM**) and new data that shows eelgrass recovery within the SMR but significant eelgrass loss within the SMCA. Thank you!

AZSHA HUDSON (she/her/hers)
MARINE CONSERVATION ANALYST & PROGRAM MANAGER
906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
o: 805.963.1622 X 105 c: 805.263.7071
www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

We recognize that EDC sits on occupied, unceded, stolen lands of the Chumash Peoples, on Shmuwich Territory, who have called this area home for time immemorial. We commit today to make space to elevate indigenous voices and support our local Chumash and indigenous communities in our work to protect our environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: The information contained in this communication may be confidential, is intended only for the use of the recipient named above, and maybe legally privileged. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication, or any of its contents, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please re-send this communication to the sender and delete the original message and any copy of it from your computer system. Thank you.

April 1, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
Marine Resources Committee
P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Fish and Game Commission Agenda Item 2 re New Science and Historical Rationale Not Considered in CDFW Evaluation of Anacapa Island SMCA Petition (2023-27-MPA-AM)

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Anderson, and Honorable Commissioners:

We urge the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to consider our response below to California Department Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) assessment of Petition 2023-27-MPA-AM. CDFWs recommendation ignores the hyper local science that has been conducted at Anacapa Island since the early 2000s and the inclusion of habitat protection in the intentions set for the Channel Island MPAs. We urge the FGC to rely upon the most up to date science to adaptively manage[1] the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network, and below we provide a synopsis of **new data**, including geo-located eelgrass habitat surveys at Anacapa from 2024, as well as **historical intent** to underscore the need for additional regulatory protections at Anacapa Island and the importance of approving petition 2023-27-MPA-AM.

I. KNOWN IMPACTS ON EELGRASS AT ANACAPA ISLAND

Over the past decade, significant research has been conducted at Anacapa Island within the specific MPAs referenced in petition 2023-27-MPA to better understand how policy protections can support eelgrass ecosystem recovery and safeguard this critical species. Available data demonstrates that lobster traps set in Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) cause significant harm to eelgrass recovery efforts.[2] Scientific habitat surveys since 2009 have shown that eelgrass beds in the nearby Anacapa State Marine Reserve (SMR) were healthy,

[1] "Adaptive management processes being the collection of information and judgments regarding the performance of individual MPAs and of networks at an ecosystem level, to change the configuration and regulations of the MPA to reflect new information and experience." California Department of Fish & Game. California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas. Revised Draft January 2008. Pg 83.
[2] Jessica Altstatt (2021). Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities.

906 Garden St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101
PHONE (805) 963-1622
www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

while those in the SMCA were degraded or nonexistent following lobster season. Notably, as the SMCA and SMR are next to each other, any macro impact (i.e. climate change, pollution, ocean warming events like the 2014-2016 marine heat wave, etc.) and/or site-specific attributes (i.e. "temperature, currents, and suitable substrate to sustain eelgrass") to the SMCA would also have an impact on the eelgrass located within the SMR. The primary difference between sites is that the SMCA allows for commercial and lobster traps during a two month season each year.

A. Eelgrass is Impacted by Lobster Traps as Shown by the Many Surveys Conducted at Anacapa Island Specifically and Globally.

Anacapa-specific research has demonstrated negative impacts from lobster fishing traps and bottom gear. In the paper "Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities" by Alstatt et al (2021):

- "Observations and data collected at the restoration site in 2011 and 2012 suggested that something was impacting the soft bottom habitat within Frenchy's Cove. Information gained from mariners and National Park rangers confirmed that the cove was being targeted by trap fishing during the commercial season months of November and December."[3]
- [Our findings] "determine that the commercial lobster trap fishery had severely impacted the epicenter of our restored eelgrass bed within the Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area at Frenchy's Cove. Eelgrass occurring within the neighboring marine reserve was flourishing."[4]

Attachment A: Petition 2023-27MPA Supplemental Information

- "The fishing pressure within the Special Closure in Frenchy's Cove is extremely intense during the two months that the commercial fishermen are allowed to enter (Nov, Dec). I (Jessie Altstatt) have routinely counted over one hundred traps within a small area. The traps are repeatedly picked up, re-baited and dropped again (~every 72 hours). In a natural system, a bat ray may create a feeding pit which disturbs an area of eelgrass possibly ~ 1 meter across, but then the ray moves on, and that area can gradually recover vegetatively growing in from all sides towards the center of the pit. My permanent transects went from nearly 100% healthy eelgrass in 2011, to ~60% cover, half of which was severely distressed."
- The picture below is from a presentation Jessie Altstatt gave at the 2016 California Islands Symposium, showing the main permanent transect within the restoration area at
- Frenchy's, within the SMCA where trap fishing is currently allowed. Note the abandoned trap in the Figure 1.

[3] *Id.* At page 2.
[4] *Id.* At page 3.



Figure 1. Replanted eelgrass within Anapaca SMCA in 2009, and the same transect site in 2012 where eelgrass was no longer present, and an abandoned lobster trap was found instead.

Figure 2: NEW DATA - Eelgrass Distribution at Anacapa Island

- Data used to inform the map in Figure 2 comes from a 2009 survey via snorkel after restoration efforts, a 2012 survey conducted via snorkel after restoration efforts, and a **2024 SCUBA and surface snorkel survey** at the 2009 and 2012 survey sites, all collected by scientific survey teams at Anacapa SMCA and SMR.

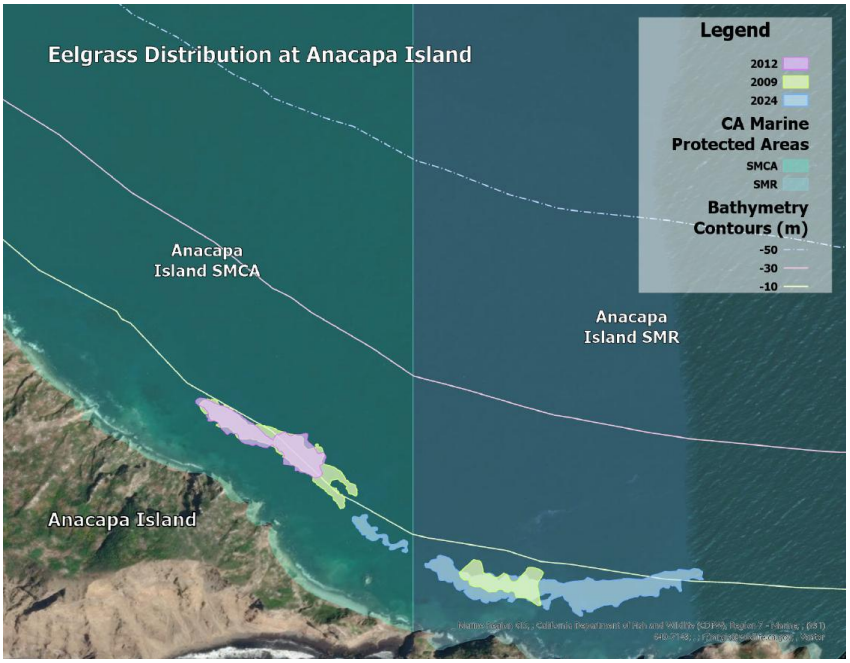


Figure 2.

B. New 2024 Data Shows that Eelgrass Coverage has Only Declined in the Anacapa SMCA Where Lobster Fishing is Permitted.

As shown in Figure 2, the 2000s replantation efforts of Altstatt and her team have been diminished in the SMCA as of 2024, while the eelgrass located within the SMR has grown. CDFWs assertion that other factors like warming events and site-specific characteristics are what are "contributing to the lack of recovery of eelgrass in Frenchy's Cove"[5] within the SMCA ignore the data that eelgrass in the adjacent SMR is thriving. The two MPAs have dramatically different eelgrass distributions due to the main management difference: two months of lobster trap season within the SMCA. Research conducted at Anacapa Island points to lobster traps as the main transgressor at Frenchy's Cove within Anacapa SMCA. The two-month window that allows for bottom contact fishing gear has led to such a significant decline in eelgrass currently that it is imperative that we adaptively manage this MPA and modify the regulations to protect eelgrass so that the small remaining amount can recover.

II. THE CHANNEL ISLANDS WERE EXPLICITLY ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT HABITATS INCLUDING EELGRASS.

CDFW suggests that all the options presented in Petition 2023-27-MPA-AM "deviate from the original intent of the Anacapa Island SMCA"[6] because there may be potential consumptive losses to commercial and recreational fishing. However, this ignores research from nearby MPAs within Santa Barbara which show that SMRs enhance commercial lobster catches by more than 225%[7]. Furthermore, the common theme found within the Channel Islands Environmental Document, Master Plan, Decadal Management Report, the Marine Life Protection Act, and other foundational documents, is adaptive management is an "open-ended tool" that takes results gathered from monitoring efforts to develop adaptive management strategies, and that a primary goal of adaptive management should be to protect at least 25 acres of rare eelgrass habitats – and up to 30% of existing eelgrass meadows - within each of Anacapa's MPAs as feasible.[8]

A. The MPAs at the Channel Islands were Established to Conserve Eelgrass.

Eelgrass is one of the key habitats that must be protected through MPAs as identified by the Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), and this petition supports the continued effective

[5] California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Evaluation of 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine Protected Area Petition: March 2026. Amend Existing Anacapa Island SMCA or Special Closure to Protect Eelgrass (2023-27MPA_AM). Pg 7.
[6] *Id.*
[7] Lenihan HS, *et.al.* Evidence that spillover from Marine Protected Areas benefits the spiny lobster (Panulirus interruptus) fishery in southern California. Sci Rep. 2021 Jan 29;11(1):2663. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-82371-5. PMID: 33514853; PMCID: PMC7846765. Pg 5.
[8] California Department of Fish & Game. California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas. Revised Draft January 2008. Pg 74-75.

protection of a key SAT priority eelgrass habitat. [9] If approved, it would prevent lobster traps from degrading habitat and reducing eelgrass coverage per the SAT's guidelines:

> "For the three sub-habitats eelgrass, tidal flats, and coastal marsh to be considered present, a minimum of 25 acres of each must be included within an MPA. The SAT recommends that wherever possible, a mixture of estuarine subhabitats be protected in close proximity to one another to allow for the movement of species among sub-habitats." [10]

As research shows that lobster traps are directly responsible for substantially degrading eelgrass habitat, proposed management updates would help to meet SAT guidelines and increase connectivity between the MPAs by protecting eelgrass habitats across both the SMR and the SMCA. The following lists some additional goals from the Channel Islands Environmental Document that CDFW's recommendations fail to consider:

Longstanding Channel Island management priorities underscore the need to protect eelgrass habitats. The Final Environmental Document Marine Protected Areas in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Volume I explicitly calls out eelgrass protection as a management priority:

- "Given the criteria that MPAs should include at least 30 percent of existing eelgrass meadows, and that large and contiguous MPAs are most effective for conservation"[11]
- "One of the goals for MPAs is to protect populations of special concern, which include species of economic importance, keystone species, declining, threatened or endangered species, and habitat-forming species."[12]
- "The proposed conservation area is an extension of the North Anacapa SMR to provide additional habitat and species protection."[13]

B. Petition 2023-27-MPA-AM Aligns with the Marine Life Protection Act Goals, Particularly Goals 1, 2, and 3.

Goal 1: Protecting the eelgrass from uprooting by hard bottomed items will directly "protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems"[14] by removing a significant and specific threat to eelgrass – recreational and commercial lobster fishing. In its absence, the 2021 study authors explicitly

[9] California Natural Resources Agency. (2009). California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative: Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region. Pg 9.
[10] California Natural Resources Agency. (2009). California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative: Draft Methods Used to Evaluate Marine Protected Area Proposals in the MLPA South Coast Study Region. Pg 11.
[11] Final Environmental Document Marine Protected Areas in NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Volume I. Pg 5-13
[12] *Id.*
[13] *Id.* At page 5-25
[14] MLPA, 2853.b.1

state: **"Our restoration work showed that eelgrass will rapidly colonize and thrive if anthropogenic disturbance (trapping) were to cease."**[15]

Goal 2: Petition 2023-27MPA also "sustains, conserves, and protects marine life populations"[16] of both eelgrass and a wide range of marine species that rely on and benefit from eelgrass, as shown by studies indicating higher biodiversity in areas with eelgrass versus the bare sandy bottom that results from lobster trapping and damage from boat anchors.[17] Global research has also shown that fully protected MPAs confer biodiversity and biomass benefits,[18] which further supports the request of this petition.

Goal 3: Anacapa's transplanted eelgrass beds are a critical "study opportunity"[19] for understanding how to restore eelgrass in other parts of California and temperate climates. Anacapa Island is an important natural laboratory that has been used by researchers to inform broader eelgrass management efforts since the 1980s.[20] Increasing eelgrass research and recovery is a priority for agencies including OPC and NOAA. The proposed alternative solutions can support that important work by helping restore eelgrass beds where they are currently harmed by fishing pressures.

C. Petition 2023-27-MPA-AM Aligns with the MPA Master Plan Adaptive Management Objectives, Particularly Objective 1, 2, 4, and 5[21]

Objective 1: Approving Petition 2023-27MPA will allow the eelgrass restoration efforts by Jessica Alstatt to not be voided by annual, recurring damage from lobster traps. Allowing the eelgrass within the SMCA to grow, hopefully to historic levels, directly benefits the structure and function of that ecosystem.[22]

Objective 2: Eelgrass has been categorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for species managed under the Pacific Salmon and Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plans.[23] Approving any of the petition's three alternative solutions would "improve native marine life populations" through improved health and distribution of eelgrass habitat.

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[15] Jessica Altstatt (2021). Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities
[16] MLPA, 2853.b.2
[17] Jessica Altstatt (2021). Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities
[18] Grorud-Colvert, *et.al.* (2021). The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean. Science, 373(6560), eabf0861.
[19] MLPA, 2853.b.3
[20] Engle, J. M., & Miller, K. A. (2005). Distribution and morphology of eelgrass (Zostera marina L.) at the California Channel Islands. In *Proceedings of the Sixth California Islands Symposium. Institute for Wildlife Studies, Arcata, CA* (pp. 405-414).
[21] California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2016). California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas. Pg 42. Adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission on August 24, 2016. Retrieved from www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan.
[22] *Id.*
[23] https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/habitat-conservation/habitat-areas-particular-concern-west-coast

Objective 4: Protecting a known eelgrass meadow and allowing it to grow without impacts from commercial lobster fishing will "ensure comprehensive representation of all key habitats". The eelgrass replantation/restoration efforts done by Jessica Alstatt and her team occurred at both the SMCA and State Marine Reserve (SMR) at Anacapa Island where the "dramatic increase in fishing effort along all SMR boundaries (regardless of bottom type) has degraded the eelgrass meadow habitat and has extirpated eelgrass from within the Anacapa SMCA".[24]

Objective 5: Information gathered from multiple dives at Anacapa Island following the implementation of the MPAs in the early 2000s has informed the petition. The approval of this petition would be in line with adaptive management directives.

D. Lobster Fisheries Benefits Significantly from MPA Protections.

CDFW argues that there would be significant impacts to the commercial lobster fishery, despite recent studies showing how that the lobster fishery benefits significantly from highly protected MPAs. A 2021 study by Lenihan et al in the Santa Barbara Channel found that a "35% reduction in fishing area resulting from MPA designation was compensated for by a 225% increase in total catch after 6-years,"[25] indicating that on a local scale the fishery benefited from spatial protections. In another report it was found that MPA protections led to an increase in lobster biomass, density, size, and species richness within the MPA boundaries.[26] Additionally, while the intention for the SMCA at Anacapa included consideration for impacts to the lobster fishery, it also tasks CDFW, FGC, and other relevant agencies/science advisors to re-evaluate the MPAs and make modifications to improve performance.[27]

III. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FGC TO ADAPTIVELY MANAGE THE NETWORK AS PRESCRIBED BY THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT AND MASTER PLAN.

We acknowledge that CDFW highlighted option one as the only option that would align with CDFW feasibility guidelines, increase enforceability, and enhance protections.[28] Studies conducted at Anacapa Island have shown that the success of eelgrass restoration efforts within the SMCA have been harmed, largely due to the fishing gear used by commercial lobster fishers.

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[24] Jessica Altstatt (2021). Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities. Pg 24.
[25] Lenihan HS, *et.al.* Evidence that spillover from Marine Protected Areas benefits the spiny lobster (Panulirus interruptus) fishery in southern California. Sci Rep. 2021 Jan 29;11(1):2663. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-82371-5. PMID: 33514853; PMCID: PMC7846765. Pg 5.
[26] Spanier, E. (2024). Marine protected areas–a review of their potential effects on lobster population size & structure and fisheries management. *Fisheries Research*, *275*, 107025.
[27] Final Environmental Document Marine Protected Areas in NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Volume I. Pg 2-17.
[28] California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Evaluation of 2023 Decadal Management Review Marine Protected Area Petition: March 2026. Amend Existing Anacapa Island SMCA or Special Closure to Protect Eelgrass (2023-27MPA_AM). Pages 14-16.

As CDFW has flagged option one as the most feasible we urge the commission to approve Petition 2023-27_MPA-AM under option one, to change Anacapa Island SMCA regulations to disallow commercial California spiny lobster (Panulirus interruptus) fishing year-round.

At minimum, the commission should consider option three, to change the border of the Anacapa Island Special Closure, prohibiting the deployment of lobster traps from 0-30 meters (0-98.43 feet) instead of the existing 0-20 feet deep. As shown in Figure 2, the existing eelgrass coverage (blue shapefile) extends past 10 meters (approximately 33 feet). We urge the commission to weigh option three with a reduction in range, extending the existing border out to at least 50 feet in depth but ideally to a depth of 30 m to allow for easier compliance along established fathom and mapping lines.

IV. CONCLUSION: APPROVAL IS WARRANTED TO ADEQUATELY ADAPTIVELY MANAGE ANACAPA

By approving one of the three alternative solutions, the FGC will integrate the best available science into MPA policy; support the goals of the MLPA; advance federal and state policies advocating for the recovery and protection of eelgrass; and directly support the DMR's goal of adaptively managing MPAs based on findings from the past decade. We urge the Commission to rely upon science in making the decision for all petitions and come to the conclusion to approve Petition 2023-27_MPA-AM.

Sincerely,

Azsha Hudson
Marine Conservation Analyst

Maggie Hall
Deputy Chief Counsel

Attachments:

A: Letter to Erika Zavaleta responding to questions the Commissioner posed at the February 14, 2024 Fish and Game Commission meeting. Petition 2023-27MPA Supplemental Information

Attachment A

Petition 2023-27MPA Response to Questions posed by Commissioner's

Please see the below report responding to questions (bolded) posed by Commissioner Zavaleta in a follow up email after the February 14, 2024 Fish and Game Commission meeting. The response to Commissioner Zavaleta's questions were addressed by Jessie Altstatt, a researcher that has studied eelgrass at Anacapa island for years and wrote a report on her findings that prompted us at the Environmental Defense Center to submit an MPA petition.

Clarifying the spatial and temporal extent of impact on eelgrass beds from the traps and anchoring that you identified as damaging to those beds. For example, how do anchorage pits compare in size and density to natural disturbances (such as feeding pits, storm events) to eelgrass?

The species of eelgrass found at Anacapa Island, *Zostera pacifica*, has very short rootlets and typically grows within the top few centimeters of sediment. This makes it extremely sensitive to disturbance, which is why it is found only in the most sheltered areas. Deploying and pulling traps disturbs the sediment and dislodges the eelgrass and causes it to drift away. It will only "grow back" if there is still material left behind. Deploying and pulling traps is akin to anchoring, which is known to be a major threat to eelgrass beds world-wide, and it's no coincidence that Channel Islands National Marine Sanctury ("CINMS") is very concerned about anchoring and disturbing the seafloor in areas of eelgrass.

I (Jessie Altstatt) have attached a figure from a talk I gave at the 2016 California Islands Symposium, showing the main permanent transect within my restoration area at Frenchy's. Note the abandoned trap.

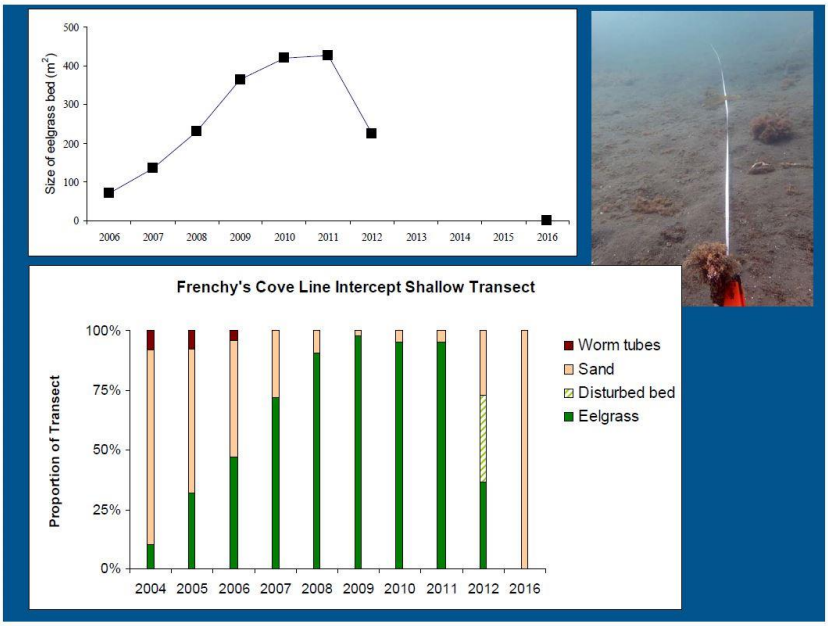


How long does it take for the eelgrass to grow back from each of these disturbance types? In terrestrial grasslands (which I [Commissioner Zavaleta] understand are different), for example, patchy disturbances increase overall biodiversity and vegetation recovery in them is quick.

To answer the question, how long does it take for recovery, I (Jessie Alstatt) would argue that it could take many decades if there was not a wild source of seeds or vegetative material upstream. The closest bed up current of Frenchy's is at Smugglers, > 4 miles away and across a channel between the islands. And, for any recovery, the fishing effort needs to stop. There is no other lobster fishing area that I (Jessie Altstatt) know of that specifically targets soft-sediment bottom. Frenchy's once had the largest eelgrass bed at Anacapa island (Jack Engle data). We were on our way to seeing recovery following our restoration work, and now it is gone.

The fishing pressure within the Special Closure in Frenchy's Cove is extremely intense during the two months that the commercial fishermen are allowed to enter (Nov, Dec). I (Jessie Altstatt) have routinely counted over one hundred traps within a small area. The traps are repeatedly picked up, re-baited and dropped again (~every 72 hours). In a natural system, a bat ray may create a feeding pit which disturbs an area of eelgrass possibly ~ 1 meter across, but then the ray moves on, and that area can gradually recover vegetatively growing in from all sides towards the center of the pit. My permanent transects went from nearly 100% healthy eelgrass in 2011, to ~60% cover, half of which was severely distressed.

Another figure shows numerical data (size of restoration area in square meters) and % cover along a permanent transect). During the restoration work, it took > 5 years to reach solid cover of eelgrass, and this was destroyed within a year (although I do not have the quantitative survey data from 2013-2015, I learned from other divers that most of the solid grass bed was gone by 2013).



I (Jessie Altstatt) have also attached (see below) a picture from 2016 from within Frenchy's Cove, showing how damaged the eelgrass bed was at that time. Note that the abandoned trap contains the bones of a drowned cormorant.



I (Commissioner Zavaleta) want to understand not whether there are effects of fishing and boat anchorages, but how large, spatially extensive (what % of a meadow?) and long-lasting they are.

In support of my (Jessie Altstatt) observation that traps were responsible for the damage, in 2016 there were still a few scattered eelgrass plants within the cove, but they were shallower than 20' as that is the inner limit for trap fishing. However, there is very limited habitat of the right sediment grain size in shallower than 20' due to wave action.

To address the wave action question, eelgrass is very limited by depth to areas where there is not much exposure to wave action. Frenchy's Cove is the most protected area at Anacapa Island, which is why the historic bed once grew as shallow as 20' depth.

Please also note that recently CINMS performed a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and protecting eelgrass habitat was among the top 2 proposals discussed by the group. There was a list of action items created by the group, and excluding trap fishing was on that list- but ultimately NMS has no control over state-managed fisheries.