California Fish and Game Commission

Compilation of Public Comments on Petition 2023-29MPA_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.

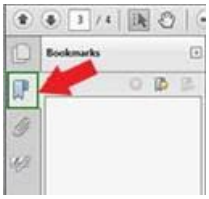
Note: Commission meeting materials include a representative selection of comments, rather than a comprehensive suite of all related comments received. Given the large volume of public comments received, the Commission has directed staff to summarize comments and provide a representative selection in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

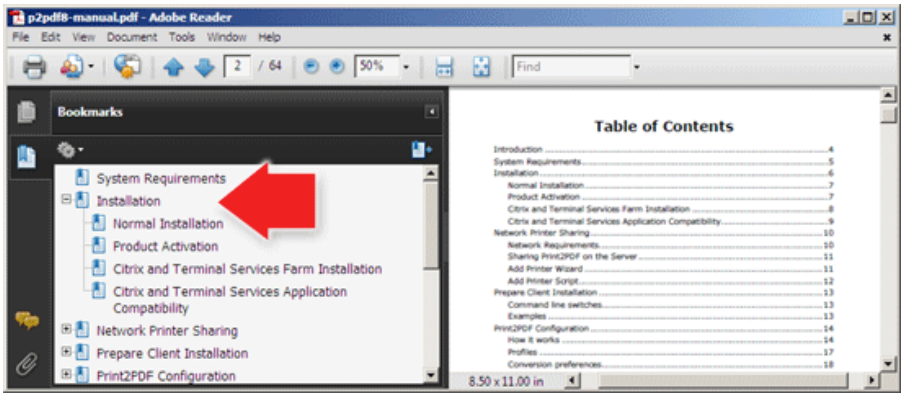
EASY GUIDE TO USING THE PACKET

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.

5. You can resize the two panels by placing your cursor in the dark, vertical line located between the panels and using a long click /tap to move in either direction.

6. You may also adjust the sizing of the documents by adjusting the sizing preferences located on the Page Display icons found in the top toolbar or in the View tab.

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

From: Andrew Raaf <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 03:38 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Mishopsho MPA proposal

Hello, please find the attached comment letter regarding the recent MPA proposals. Best,

Andrew Raaf - [redacted]
Environmental Manager
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District
Cell: [redacted]
Fax: 805-568-3434

130 E Victoria Street, Suite 200
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and Water Agency

130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 200, Santa Barbara, California 93101
(805) 568-3440 FAX: (805) 568-3434
Web: http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water

Scott McGolpin
Public Works Director

Walter Rubalcava
Deputy Public Works Director

January 17, 2024

RE: Proposed Mishopshno SMCA 2023-29MPA

TO: Fish and Game Commission and involved participants:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent MPA petitions.

Santa Barbara County Flood Control District does not generally take a position on fishing regulations; however the proposed boundaries and restrictions of the Mishopshno SMCA may have unintended consequences on the County's public safety obligations.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh, which I understand to be included in the proposed SMCA regulations, is a UC Natural Reserve and a cooperatively managed community drainage feature. The Salt Marsh serves an integral role in the Carpinteria Valley Watershed Project; as a managed ecosystem the Marsh requires periodic dredging and maintenance. Any proposed restrictions associated with SMCA designation should accommodate ongoing maintenance dredging and operations to retain public safety and to restore tidal influence to the Marsh. In 2023, for example, the marsh channels filled with sediment which eliminated most of the open-water habitat available to fish and other aquatic species. After dredging was performed to restore open water channels, we noted leopard sharks and striped mullet returning to the marsh almost immediately.

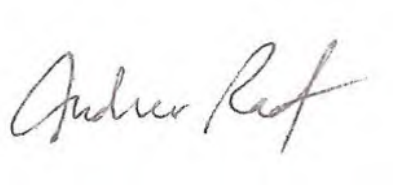
Carpinteria Salt Marsh is already a no-fishing zone due to its status as a UC Natural Reserve; the SMCA designation would not impart any additional environmentally protective status but could encumber operations and research projects already underway.

The area proposed for Mishopshno SMCA also includes nearshore waters at the Marsh mouth and eastward through Carpinteria City beaches. The nearshore waters at the Marsh mouth and Carpinteria beach access points are designated operational areas for flood control maintenance such as dredging and beach-sediment operations. While it is unclear what effect the SMCA designation may have on dredge discharge and beach operations, we are concerned that the designation may encumber important public safety efforts, beach nourishment, emergency operations, sea-level rise adaptation, dune restoration, and coastal flood response programs that have taken years to develop.

The County Public Works Department's recommendation would be to exclude Carpinteria Salt Marsh and the ¾ mile stretch of coastline from the Marsh mouth to Linden Ave beach from the SMCA proposal. The remaining

boundary of the proposed SMCA would still serve the intended purposes of the SMCA while not impeding important public works operations for the County and City of Carpinteria.

Thank you,



Andrew Raaf -
Environmental Manager
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District
Fax: 805-568-3434

From: Doug Bush <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Wildlife Kelp <[redacted]>
Cc: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: petition 2023-29MPA

Please be aware that there is a petition for consideration in the Feb FGC meeting 2023-29MPA to create a new MPA in the Summerland and Carpinteria area. The economic impacts considered in the application do not make any consideration of kelp harvest. There are beds in that proposed area that have been historically used for harvest and are presently included in our FGC approved mechanical kelp harvesting plan. Please ensure that this information is included in the binder and should require that this petition cannot proceed without further consideration by affected stakeholders.

_____

douglas bush
managing member/gm
the cultured abalone farm, llc
[redacted]

From: Erin Maker <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 3:13 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Nick Bobroff <[redacted]>; John Ilasin <[redacted]>; Michael Ramirez <[redacted]>
Subject: City of Carpinteria Comments RE: Agenda Item 10 Petition 2023-29MPA

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the City of Carpinteria's comments regarding Agenda Item 10 on the Fish and Game Commission's February agenda.

Thank you,

Erin Maker
Environmental Program Manager
Sustainability Division

Phone: [redacted]

www.carpinteriaca.gov

CITY of CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

January 31, 2024

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

RE: Proposed Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), as submitted by the National Resources Defense Council. We appreciate the chance to provide feedback on this important initiative aimed at preserving our coastal marine environment. The proposed SMCA would extend from north of Loon Point to the easternmost boundary of Carpinteria City Beach, with the intention of prohibiting the take of all living, geological, or cultural marine resources.

The City of Carpinteria recognizes the importance of preserving local natural resources and recognizes the significance of the coastal marine area, including the Carpinteria Reef, in providing diverse habitat for numerous species. However, the City seeks assurances that establishment of the Mishopshno SMCA will not interfere with existing City operations or preclude local citizens from accessing and enjoying the coastal marine area.

The City offers the following specific comments on the proposed SCMA:

1. **Subsistence Fishing/Recreational Fishing:** The Mishopshno SMCA provides a narrow exemption to the take regulations only for the federally recognized tribe of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The City is concerned this exemption is too narrow and blocks access to those subsistence and recreational fishermen who currently depend on the coast and local marine resources within the proposed SMCA area. The City believes it is essential to highlight the importance of access for individuals who may not have access to other fishing areas due to limitations such as mobility or transportation constraints. Providing opportunities for subsistence and recreational fishing within the proposed SMCA is crucial for ensuring equitable access to marine resources.

2. **Submerged Lands:** The City is unique in that a majority of its land area (4.7 square miles of the total 7.3 square mile area of the city) is in tidelands that extend from the shoreline a distance of two miles offshore. The City has approximately 2.5 miles of shoreline within the city limits (see attached map). This presents a unique situation that

5775 CARPINTERIA AVENUE • CARPINTERIA, CA 93013-2603
(805) 684-5405 • FAX (805) 684-5304
www.CarpinteriaCA.gov

must be carefully considered in the establishment of the Mishopshno SMCA. While the California Department of Fish and Wildlife retains authority over marine resources, it is important to acknowledge the jurisdictional complexities and ensure clarity in the management of these submerged lands within the MPA framework.

Operations and Maintenance: Carpinteria City Beach is highly impacted by coastal threats, such as coastal erosion, interrupted sediment transport due to creek channelization and upstream debris basins. Such threats have led to the decline of some native beach species and the loss of important ecosystem functions. Dunes and other beach habitats are critical in managing sand transport along the shoreline to create resilient beach morphologies, which can naturally adapt to the impacts of climate change. These systems can offer a nature-based adaptation approach, or living shoreline, as a form of protection for our coastlines. By restoring natural processes to the City's beaches, the Carpinteria Living Shoreline Project[1] aims to improve shoreline resiliency, protect landward development and infrastructure, and restore ecological functions as well as serve as a model for similar projects statewide. As currently proposed, the Mishopshno SMCA would interfere with the City's proposed Living Shoreline project and other beach maintenance, berm construction, and flood control projects. These projects are essential to preserve beach resources and to protect the City's infrastructure and private property from sea level rise and coastal flooding. We urge thorough consideration of existing City operations and maintenance activities within the proposed SMCA.

The Carpinteria City Beach is a popular public beach near an urban population center that has been and is currently used for a variety of different recreational activities. The City of Carpinteria is committed to working collaboratively towards the establishment of the Mishopshno SMCA, with careful consideration given to the concerns and priorities outlined above. As currently proposed, however, the Mishopshno SMCA is unnecessarily restrictive and should either be moved or modified to match all stakeholder interests and the practical realities of the area. Given the complexities of the proposal, we recommend the Mishopshno SMCA proposal be deferred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for further evaluation and public comment before final approval.

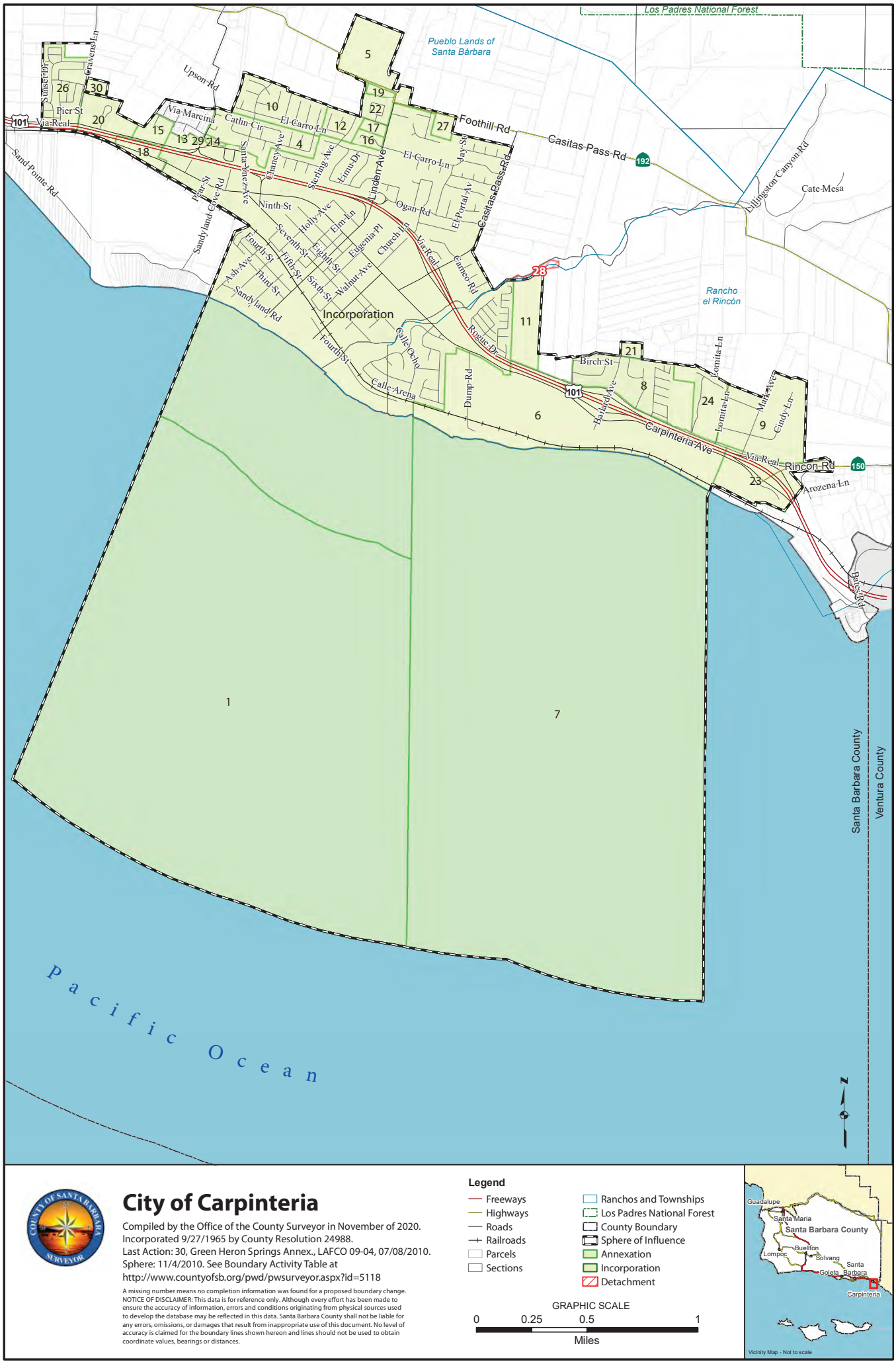
We look forward to continued engagement in this process to ensure the successful conservation and sustainable management of our coastal marine resources. Thank you for considering our comments and for your dedication to the protection of our natural environment. Please contact me if you have any questions at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Erin Maker
Environmental Program Manager

[1] Carpinteria Living Shoreline Project: https://carpinteriaca.gov/public-works/engineering-division/living-shoreline/

cc: Michael Ramirez, City Manager
John Ilasin, Public Works Director
Nick Bobroff, Community Development Director



City of Carpinteria

Compiled by the Office of the County Surveyor in November of 2020.
Incorporated 9/27/1965 by County Resolution 24988.
Last Action: 30, Green Heron Springs Annex., LAFCO 09-04, 07/08/2010.
Sphere: 11/4/2010. See Boundary Activity Table at
http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwsurveyor.aspx?id=5118

A missing number means no completion information was found for a proposed boundary change.
NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER: This data is for reference only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources used to develop the database may be reflected in this data. Santa Barbara County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or damages that result from inappropriate use of this document. No level of accuracy is claimed for the boundary lines shown hereon and lines should not be used to obtain coordinate values, bearings or distances.

Legend

- Freeways
- Highways
- Roads
- Railroads
- Parcels
- Sections
- Ranchos and Townships
- Los Padres National Forest
- County Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Annexation
- Incorporation
- Detachment

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 0.25 0.5 1

Miles

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
Find and join your local Collaborative

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 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 23:50:53.107		Bob	Nelson						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 23:27:03.35	Mr.	Christopher	Reiger		[redacted]	Santa Rosa	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 23:20:30.843		Fredrick	Robinson						US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-05 22:14:29.21		Michael	Schubert		[redacted]	San Anselmo	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
2024-02-05 21:00:30.373		Mike	Gorski						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-05 20:55:46.087		Barbara	Blackamore		[redacted]	Yorba Linda	CA	[redacted]	US	Petition Signed
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2024-02-03 10:43:14.297		David	Allen						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 10:39:46.707		Bryan	Maiorca						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 10:22:42.447		Evan	Livadas						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 10:00:36.227		Steve	Broadley						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 09:41:14.653		James	Derington						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 09:14:12.427		Ethan	Hall						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 09:10:51.607		Ralph	Puett						US	Petition Signed

2024-02-03 08:59:33.513		Trace	Pena						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 06:43:50.977		Mike	Barats						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 04:27:27.593		Arthur	Frick						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 03:29:29.203		Ben	Carter						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 03:16:19.52		Philip	Trompke						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 02:50:01.12		David	Modena						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 02:12:16.923		Andrew	Law						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 01:59:51.773		Michael	Hale						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 01:28:13.503		Jeff	Kafka						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 00:57:44.12		Scott	Brichan						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 00:44:29.22		Rosa	Zapata						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-03 00:04:29.733		Adam	Schaar						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:54:08.423		Daniel	Crouch						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:42:54.683		Joshua	Mann						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:37:53.183		Dave	Huebner						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:35:41.747		John	Aronson						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:34:49.057		Landon	Baggaley						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:18:58.11		Patrick	Young						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 23:14:05.52		Mark	Walline						US	Petition Signed
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
2024-02-02 21:27:23.713		Timothy	Padilla						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:22:05.84		Matthew	Broadley						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:08:03.4		Ryan	Tracey						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:05:54.64		Jose	Camarena						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:04:37.32		Erick	Burres						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 21:01:20.403		Adrian	Silveira						US	Petition Signed
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
2024-02-02 20:42:57.203		Alex	Selman						US	Petition Signed
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
2024-02-02 19:43:17.527		Eric	Bodjanac						US	Petition Signed
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
2024-02-02 19:15:32.903		SynKae	NG						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:15:13.213		Daniel	Silveira						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 19:06:32.177		Matthew	Bond						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:56:00.567		Cole	Pickford						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:55:34.027		Nick	DeFerrari						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:43:33.243		Cecilia	Giddings						US	Petition Signed
2024-02-02 18:05:26.83		Isaac	Beck						US	Petition Signed
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
2024-02-02 13:51:26.967		Jacob	Weber						US	Petition Signed
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

FGC@fgc

From: Alejandro Meruelo [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:48 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Oppose MPA expansion

Hello,

Hope all is well! My name is Alejandro Meruelo and I live in San Diego; I represent myself. I was writing in opposite to the proposed MPA expansion of Laguna Beach, Carpenteria, and the Monterey Peninsula. These are areas that rich in resources for selective spear fishers and kayakers who have little impact compared to commercial interests, and offer species unavailable in other areas of California.
It would be of great detriment to these groups of fishermen/women given that the areas are largely already surrounded by numerous MPAs that have served an important role in these areas.

Thank you for considering my opinion,
Alejandro

FGC@fgc

From: Patrick Spalding [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:49 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Opposition to Proposed petitions

Dear Commission,

I was born in San Francisco and have lived my entire life along the central California coast. I have been actively engaged in freedive spearfishing since 2011. Based on the current scientific research, I do not support expansion of any MPAs in California. I specifically request that the Commission deny the petitions listed below. I appreciate your consideration, and I'm grateful for your support of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Patrick Spalding

Petition 2023-23MPA

Petition 2023-33MPA

Petition 2023-34MPA

Petition 2023-29MPA:

Petition 2023-24MPA

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

From: Azsha Hudson <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 05:10 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Linda Krop <[redacted]>
Subject: August FGC Meeting: Written Comments for Item 6c

Hello,

Please see the attached file for our written comments for the upcoming FGC meeting.

Thank you

AZSHA HUDSON (she/her/hers)
MARINE CONSERVATION ANALYST &
PROGRAM MANAGER
906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
o: [redacted] c: [redacted]
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.

environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

July 31, 2024

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

Re: Petition for Anacapa State Marine Conservation Area – Agenda Item 6(c)

Dear President Murray and Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the Environmental Defense Center ("EDC"), please consider our comments regarding the Marine Protected Area ("MPA") petition process instigated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife's ("CDFW") release of the MPA Network Decadal Management Review ("DMR") report. EDC is a public interest law firm that defends nature and advances environmental justice on California's Central Coast through advocacy and legal action. We primarily work in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. We celebrate the success of California's MPA Network ("the Network") and submit this letter to inform the Fish and Game Commission ("Commission") and CDFW of our intent to update our petition (2023-27MPA) for Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area ("SMCA") based on conversations we continue to have with the public.

I. COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

We strongly support the Commission requesting and utilizing the feedback received from the public regarding next steps for the DMR process. We especially appreciate the centering of adaptive management as a guiding principle as we look to the next decadal review of the Network. In late 2023, the Commission requested that the public submit petitions for any changes to the Network; however, as this is an ever-evolving process, the Commission asked petitioners to prioritize community outreach following the deadline for petition submissions. We at EDC have done our part to inform our local community of the DMR process, as well as our Anacapa and Mishopshno (2023-29MPA) petitions, and we continue to engage our community.

906 Garden St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101
PHONE (805) 963-1622
www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

A. Legislators

Assemblymember Gregg Hart, 37th District – we met with Assemblymember Hart's staff, who indicated the Assemblymember was generally supportive of the MPA Network. When the Anacapa petition was explained, as well as the intent of EDC to flesh out alternative solutions, staff were supportive of continued community outreach to get their input. Staff agreed that a remedy should be identified to address the impacts of hard bottomed fishing gear on eelgrass.

Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 38th District – we met with Assemblymember Bennett's staff, who indicated the Assemblymember was generally supportive of the MPA Network. Assemblymember Bennett and his staff worked with EDC, Environment California, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Azul to write and deliver "ACR 210: Marine Protection Area" to the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, as a means of supporting and strengthening the Network. Assemblymember Bennett's staff were supportive of the Anacapa Petition. Staff agreed that a remedy should be identified to address the impacts of hard bottomed fishing gear on eelgrass.

Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams, 1st District – we met with Supervisor Williams, who expressed general support for the Network, as well as potential support for the creation of an MPA near Carpinteria. A follow up meeting is pending as EDC, along with partners, fleshes out the specifics of the Mishopshno MPA.

Santa Barbara County Supervisor-Elect Roy Lee, 1st District –we met with Mr. Lee, who expressed general support for the Network, as well as EDC's sponsorship of two petitions. He also asked about a possible petition to protect the harbor seal rookery east of Carpinteria State Beach.

U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal, 24th Congressional District – we met with Congressman Carbajal's staff, who indicated that the Congressman generally supports highly and fully protected MPAs. His staff expressed concern about equal access for all the community, especially children, to natural areas. Once assured that EDC's petition for Anacapa would not restrict public access, there were no further concerns raised.

B. Fishing Community

Spearfishers – we met with Santa Barbara local spearfishers multiple times to discuss both our Anacapa petition as well as the Mishopshno petition. The members of a local spearfisher group expressed concern with access to highly protected MPAs, however, they added that they have noticed an uptick in lobster traps in Anacapa Island SMCA that make it difficult and potentially dangerous for them to navigate through the water. The spearfishers were open to discussing alternative solutions to protecting the marine environment that took into consideration community access.

Anglers – we met with a few anglers based in San Diego and Los Angeles counties who expressed concern with the original Anacapa Island petition as submitted to CDFW on

November 30, 2023. They explained the harm re-classifying the SMCA to a fully protected State Marine Reserve ("SMR") would have on community members whose interaction with the ocean is low impact. When EDC expressed our willingness to consider alternative solutions to the two proposals listed in the submitted narrative, the anglers, while not happy with possibly losing some access, understood that a compromise was needed to protect the ecosystem from obvious harm.

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara – we met with Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara president Chris Voss and the Executive Director Kim Selkoe. Both expressed concerns with the MPA petition process in general, looking for economic impact analyses on local communities and fishing communities. They also expressed concern with petitions like Mishopshno connecting to tribal interests, as they are concerned that co-management would complicate enforcement. They stated that there is already oversight from federal and state entities and the inclusion of tribal enforcement could potentially add more limitations to commercial fishers. They stated interest in how the CEQA process will be integrated in the petition process, if it will at all.

Lobster fishers – we spoke with a couple of Santa Barbara County lobster fishers. They expressed general support for the Network, as they have directly benefited from the spillover effect. When the basis for our Anacapa petition was explained, most individuals supported protecting eelgrass. However, we are still looking to speak with a Channel Islands lobster fisher to get a more applied perspective.

C. Non-federally and federally recognized tribes

San Ynez Band of Chumash Indians – the Band is supportive of modifying the Anacapa SMCA to allow for the eelgrass meadow to be undisturbed and protected from lobster traps. They were slightly concerned with re-classifying the SMCA to an SMR; however, we explained that we are also considering some other options. We have listed some alternative ideas below, that we ask CDFW staff to review.

Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation – the Band is supportive of modifying Anacapa SMCA to allow for the eelgrass meadow to be undisturbed and protected from lobster traps. We have spoken with the Secretary of the Coastal band and an Elder who have helped connect us with the President for further discussion. We hope to hold a further conversation in the beginning of August.

Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians – EDC sent information on the MPA petition and DMR process, the original Anacapa petition narrative, and the narrative for the creation of Mishopshno SMCA. We are waiting for their review and an opportunity to discuss the petitions.

Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation – EDC sent information on the MPA petition and DMR process, the original Anacapa petition narrative, and the narrative for the creation of Mishopshno SMCA. We are waiting for their review and an opportunity to discuss the petitions.

D. Local Community

College students – We spoke with CalPIRG students as well as those who did not identify any affiliation to an environmental/marine conservation club. The University of California, Santa Barbara students, especially those that have been to the islands, are generally supportive of the MPA Network and communicated a strong desire to continue to protect the ocean via MPAs. They were supportive of protecting eelgrass at Anacapa Island SMCA.

Women in the Water – EDC participated in a gathering held by Women in the Water, for local women-identified and allied people who are connected by the water. We heard general support for the MPA Network from a group of about 30 Santa Barbara County locals. Many had questions about the petition process.

Santa Barbara Channel MPA Collaborative – EDC attended a meeting in late spring/early summer of this year. We heard concerns from several fishermen who believed that a concession was made during the initial conversations to establish the Network. They referenced a deal that resulted in the designation of the Campus point MPA rather than an MPA near Carpinteria. They voiced concerns that closing access near the Carpinteria State Beach would push fishing efforts into Ventura County or surrounding the Santa Barbara port. General support for the Network was expressed, however during the meeting, individual petitions were not discussed.

E. Agencies

We also spoke with multiple state and federal agencies, most notably the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), the National Park Service ("NPS"), and CDFW. Most agency staff were open to EDC's new alternatives and expressed the need for more direction from the Commission as to how to change the original petition request.

II. POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

As stated above, the FGC directed petitioners in late 2023 to prioritize community outreach. We were tasked with engaging the community to inform them of individual petitions to best inform our petition requests. EDC, like many petitioners, set about our task and occasionally combined efforts with other organizations to conduct community outreach. EDC conducted many conversations that led us to investigate alternative solutions that would still protect *Zostera marina* at Anacapa Island, as there is compelling evidence that seasonally occurring lobster trapping and anchoring in the SMCA is destroying the eelgrass beds that are otherwise thriving in the adjacent Anacapa SMR. Another goal petitioners, as well as CDFW and FGC, must engage in is adaptive management. As explained in the DMR, "adaptive management is an iterative process that facilitates learning from program actions to help determine those that are most effective."[1] Utilizing one of EDC's suggested solutions - or ones identified by CDFW in the future - will align with recently available scientific findings about the significant damage

[1] California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2022). California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review.

caused by lobster traps and boat anchoring, thus supporting adaptive management goals. We ask that CDFW staff evaluate the below alternatives (and others not listed here) that we have crafted from our community outreach and engagement.

A. Change current regulations to disallow lobster fishing year round

The species of eelgrass found at Anacapa Island, *Zostera pacifica*, has very short rootlets and typically grows within the top few centimeters of sediment.[2] This makes it extremely sensitive to disturbance, which is why it is found only in the most sheltered areas. Deploying and pulling hard bottomed items, like lobster traps and boat anchors, disturbs the sediment and dislodges the eelgrass and causes it to drift away.[3] Deploying and pulling traps is akin to anchoring, which is known to be a major threat to eelgrass beds world-wide. Due to the site-specific research conducted by Jessie Altstatt,[4] it is apparent that lobster traps are the biggest threat to Anacapa Island SMCA eelgrass meadows. We ask that CDFW evaluate the benefits and challenges that would come with changing the regulations for Anacapa Island SMCA to prohibit lobster fishing year-round.

B. Change current regulations to disallow hard bottomed fishing gear near eelgrass meadows

Similar justifications to alternative A can be applied to alternative B as well. We ask CDFW staff to evaluate the benefits and challenges of changing the regulations to restrict the gear type allowed for commercial lobster fishers. We recommend that a non-hard bottomed trap be evaluated for use at locations with sensitive eelgrass habitats.

C. Change the existing border, prohibiting the deployment of lobster traps from 0-20 feet to 0-30 meters

Eelgrass beds support complex food webs despite inhabiting a narrow range. They filter nutrients, and improve water quality, stabilize sediments, and serve as important refuge and nurseries for marine vertebrates and invertebrates.[5] Eelgrass beds are typically found from shallow waters down to depths of up to 30 meters (98 feet).[6] Based on the existing border around Anacapa Island as explained in the Final Environmental Document for Marine Protected Areas

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[2] 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).
[3] Richardson Bay: Eelgrass Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan (2023) https://rbra.ca.gov/files/38481beeb/8.2.1_2024-01-10_RAMP.pdf
[4] Jessica Altstatt (2021). Island Eelgrass (*Zostera pacifica*): Focused Assessment of Condition and Extent of Meadows and Biological Monitoring of Associated Fish and Invertebrate Communities
[5]Engle, J. M., & Miller, K. A. (2005, November). 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).
[6] marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/eelgrass/

in NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Volume I,[7] we ask CDFW to evaluate the benefits and challenges to changing the distance from 20 ft to 30 meters within Anacapa Island SMCA, or for the whole Island.

III. POACHING: IS IT AN ISSUE?

Given its ecological importance, eelgrass habitat restoration and conservation has been identified as a high priority by numerous federal and state policies and planning documents. Most community members surrounding Santa Barbra Channel are concerned about the environment, including marine ecosystems. Everyone we spoke with voiced some concern for the eelgrass meadows and the fishing pressure occurring within the SMCA. Many times, poaching as an issue was brought up in our conversations. This is not something EDC was able to determine with certainty and if it is as big an issue as some think, despite the endeavors we take to change the regulations, poaching will destroy those efforts. We ask that CDFW staff (if not already) compare the number of traps deployed to the number of permits to fish in the area to determine if poaching is a major concern at Anacapa Island.

IV. CONCLUSION

We celebrate the outcome of the DMR and the actions the FGC as well as CDFW have taken to center adaptive management in ongoing processes. The ecological benefits of eelgrass habitat and of fully protected areas allow for a higher abundance of commercially important species and can better support climate adaptation and resilience.[8,9] As the MPA Petition process evolves, we ask that CDFW staff and FGC evaluate the new alternatives listed in this letter when reviewing our Anacapa Island Petition (2023-27MPA).

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Azsha Hudson
Marine Conservation Analyst & Program Manager

[7] Ugoretz, John. (2002). Final 2002 environmental document : marine protected areas in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (sections 27.82, 630 and 632 Title 14, California code of regulations).
[8] Front Ecol Environ 2018; 16(7): 381–387, doi:10.1002/fee.1934
[9] Roberts, C. M., O'Leary, B. C., McCauley, D. J., Cury, P. M., Duarte, C. M., Lubchenco, J., ... & Castilla, J. C. (2017). Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *114*(24), 6167-6175.

Please Strengthen And Expand California's Marine Protected Area Network

David Jens Thomas Pedersen <[redacted]>
Sat 08/03/2024 10:00 PM
To:FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

I respectfully submit these comments to urge you to strengthen California's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Specifically, I ask that you please add two new MPAs to the existing network: Point Sal State Marine Reserve, and Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area. These two areas are ecologically rich and would provide significant science-based benefits to the overall health of our marine areas. The Mishopshno MPA would be strategically located in order to create greater connectivity for the whole network. In addition, both proposed MPAs have historic cultural significance for the Chumash people. On top of creating these new MPAs, I also ask that you please strengthen protections for and in the existing network by restricting or prohibiting activities that are shown to harm or risk harming the health of the network to ensure its longevity and availability as a resource to all.

Research on California's MPA network shows fish are larger and more abundant inside many of the protected areas, four-fifths (of the ones analyzed in the studies) had healthier populations than compared to unprotected areas, and the overall network had more coral, sponges, and other animals that are significantly associated with thriving habitats. While It is clear that we're seeing initial progress and that the existing protections are effective and work to benefit the overall health of our ocean, we must protect the existing network and go further to unlock the full potential benefits of the network.

Accordingly, I respectfully you to maintain California's status as an ocean conservation champion, especially in the face of ocean industrialization, marine crowding, and climate change. The ocean is a dynamic, constantly changing system with a bevy of uncertainties, which necessitates the adaptive management of MPAs to durably protect our shared marine resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

David Pedersen

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Erin Eastwood <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 4:21:06 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Written Comment for March 13 MRC Meeting

Hello,

Please see the written comment from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Environmental Defense Center, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, attached. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Erin Eastwood

Founder and Principal

Blue Spark Strategies, LLC

[redacted]

[redacted]

BLUE SPARK
STRATEGIES

February 28, 2025

Samantha Murray, Vice President
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95817

Submitted electronically to fgc@fgc.ca.gov

RE: Comments on Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee March 2025 Meeting Agenda Item 5 A II: *MPA Regulation Change Petitions*

Dear Vice President Murray and Commissioner Sklar:

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) submitted two petitions to designate new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Santa Barbara County:

- Petition 2023-28-MPA proposes a new MPA in the waters surrounding Point Sal.
- Petition 2023-29MPA, submitted with the co-sponsors, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI) and Environmental Defense Center (EDC), proposes a California-Chumash co-managed MPA off the coast of Carpinteria to be named Mishopshno.

For each petition, we conducted initial outreach during late Summer and Fall 2023 before submission to the Commission. More sustained outreach efforts began upon the petitions' formal acceptance by the Commission in December 2023. We provided an update on our outreach in July 2024, and this letter will describe our subsequent outreach efforts.

Since January 2024, our two organizations and Tribal nation have conducted over 100 meetings and phone calls with stakeholders and community members. Many of the meetings since July 2024 are follow up meetings where we have solicited feedback on the proposed boundaries and regulations and worked to build support for the petitions and address concerns with the proposals. Since the July update, we have conducted additional outreach to local Tribal members and organizations, local fishing representatives, elected officials, and local businesses and community members. We have attended community meetings, fishing association meetings, and hosted public webinars to reach and hear from as many stakeholders as possible. We plan to submit amendments for both of our petitions to the Fish & Game Commission by the March deadline. These amendments will reflect the discussions we have had with Tribes and fishers.

Throughout this process, we have prioritized 1) connecting with the local community, 2) responding to questions, ideas, and concerns, and 3) sharing information as broadly as possible so all interested parties can come to the table to inform upcoming decision-making moments. For the Mishopshno petition in particular, SYBCI, EDC, and NRDC have undertaken our outreach efforts as a team.

We have shared the following types of information throughout our outreach efforts:

- Background on the MPA Network, Marine Life Protection Act goals, Decadal Management Review and its findings, and the latest science

- Fish and Game Commission meeting updates
- MPA petition evaluation timeline and process updates
- Opportunities for public participation
- Research and outreach findings
- MPA petition details

Throughout our outreach, our organizations and Tribal nation have connected with hundreds of interested individuals via email, phone calls, 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
- 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

These conversations have improved our understanding of the Carpinteria and Point Sal regions, highlighted community support for protecting the coastal waters in those areas and concerns about how it is done, shaped our supplemental site-specific research, and informed our verbal and written public comments to the Commission. We hope the insight and supplemental information gathered through our outreach efforts maximize each petition's potential to strengthen our MPA Network.

In the coming months, we hope to build on the connections we've made thus far and to engage with key stakeholders and members of Tribal nations we haven't yet reached. We look forward to sharing our outreach and supplemental research findings with the CDFW and FGC teams to inform the evaluation of petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA.

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

Sincerely,

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

Sam Cohen
Government Affairs and Legal Officer

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Azsha Hudson
Marine Conservation Analyst & Program Manager
Environmental Defense Center

From: California Surf Fishing <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 07:18 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Sign-On Letter for the Mishopshno SMCA

Greetings! This is Kaspar Kazazian from www.californiasurffishing.net. After engaging with communities through the following outreach methods, we express support for the Mishopshno SMCA.

1. We worked with all of the Mishopshno petition co-sponsors as well as Fish On Conservation to build a consensus.

2. We had conversations with 6 experienced shore fishermen who frequently fish the Carpinteria area and are familiar with the different fishing areas. These were trusted individuals, many that we already knew as local fishermen and have fished with numerous times. Coupled with our knowledge of fishing the area over the years, we obtained a complete picture of what fishermen fish for in each of the beaches in the SMCA. We aim to respect all types of low impact fishing in this SMCA: Subsistence fishermen (croakers and perch at Carpinteria Beach and Santa Claus Beach), halibut fishermen (in the mixed sand and reef of Padaro / Loon Point, mostly catch and release), inlet fishermen (by Sand Point, for stripers, etc), Kayak fishermen (at the nearby offshore Carp Reef).

3. Through our social media page, we obtained ~1,000 signatures for fishermen's support of shore fishing in SMCA's, such as the Mishopshno SMCA:
https://www.change.org/p/allow-shore-fishing-in-smca-s

4. We support the petition to create the Mishopshno SMCA for the following reasons:
-Meet original scientific MPA connectivity guidelines by filling the gap that currently exists. We believe that filling this MPA connectivity gap will increase fish populations, benefitting both fishermen and the fish.
-Of all types of ocean fishing, recreational shore fishing and kayak fishing offer the lowest cost, the easiest access, and the least environmental impact to fish / kelp forests. From an equity perspective, shore fishing can be enjoyed by a diverse range of communities who are within driving distance to the coastline.
We believe that allowing recreational shore fishing and kayak fishing in SMCA's is in alignment with the state's Marine Life Protection Act (Goal #3 for recreation) and MPA Decadal Management Review (Recommendation #7 & #9 for equity & accessibility).
-The creation of this highly protected SMCA (in alignment with low impact fishing gear

criteria per the MPA Guide User Manual) will strengthen the state's MPA network, per state goals, including 30x30.

Sincerely,

Kaspar Kazazian

California Surf Fishing

www.californiasurffishing.net

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 01:43 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: 2023-29MPA Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area

ATTN: Fish & Game Commission

My name is William Ray, from Carpinteria, CA. I'm writing to you today with comments about 2023-29MPA: Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation for Carpinteria Reef. As a graduate student at UCSB specializing in benthic ecosystem research, I dive at Carpinteria Reef approximately 100 times per year and have firsthand knowledge of its ecological health and the role it plays in the local community. The arguments presented in favor of this MPA lack scientific justification and fail to consider the significant negative impacts it would have on the residents who rely on this area for subsistence fishing, research, and recreation.

Lack of Scientific Justification for MPA Designation

Proponents of the MPA claim that it will provide protection for juvenile white sharks. However, white sharks are already illegal to fish in California, making additional protections redundant. There is no evidence to suggest that an MPA would enhance their conservation beyond existing regulations.

Additionally, arguments citing "spillover effects" for commercially and recreationally important species such as lobster and rockfish are scientifically flawed in this context. Spillover effects occur when protected populations expand into adjacent fishable areas, but Carpinteria Reef is one of the only accessible reef structures in this section of coastline. With no significant adjacent reef habitats, the premise that an MPA here would enhance fisheries through larval dispersal or adult migration is unsupported. Furthermore, local hydrodynamics at Carpinteria Reef differ from other regional sites; currents here are primarily tide-driven rather than advection-based, making claims of larval transport benefits highly questionable.

Disproportionate Impact on Underrepresented Communities

Carpinteria is a diverse community, home to one of the largest and most densely populated

Hispanic populations in the Tri-County area. Many low-income families depend on this reef as a vital source of fresh, sustainable protein, particularly given the high cost of living. Restricting access to this resource would disproportionately impact these underrepresented communities while providing no demonstrated ecological benefit.

Additionally, while the proposal emphasizes increasing access for Native American communities, it does not explain how restricting public access achieves this goal. True inclusivity should focus on increasing opportunities for all local communities, not implementing exclusionary policies.

Sincerely,

William Ray

From: Kyle Murphy <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 07:44 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: 2023-29MPA: Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area

ATTN: Fish & Game Commission

My name is Kyle Murphy, from Carpinteria, CA. I'm writing to you today with comments about 2023-29MPA: Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area.

It is upsetting to hear about the proposed area between Carpinteria and Summerland becoming a Marine Conservation Area. This beautiful coastline with accessible reef structures close to shore offers the closest experience one can take part of in relation to the Channel Islands. If you don't own a boat like myself, Carpinteria reef specifically, is the closest experience of spearfishing/diving one can take part of with its offered kelp forest, rocky reef substrate, and diverse marine ecosystem. Carpinteria reef is an important resource to myself and my community. It allows for one to be in touch with nature in which one can forage their own food under the proper restrictions and guidelines implemented by Fish and Game. I take pride in myself and others who go out of their way to forage for food locally versus buying fish/invertebrates from the store, not knowing where they came from, not knowing if they were fished sustainably, and not knowing if they where marinated in chemicals/preservatives to extend their shelf life. Myself and others treat our next meals with the upmost respect.

Unfortunately, there are no other nearby reefs on this whole coastline that are accessible with the "spill over" benefits of this MPA. In terms of the juvenile white sharks needing protection, these marine vertebrates are already illegal to fish, so they don't need more protecting. I'm definitely for support of Tribal co-management of this area, however, increasing the access for one community doesn't have to be by excluding all the other users.

I hope you take my comments of this matter into consideration for not making this area into an Marine Conservation Area.

ROY LEE
First District Supervisor



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 15, 2025

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

Re: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the proposed Point Sal State Marine Reserve (Petition 2023-28MPA) near the city of Guadalupe, and the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria. A healthy ocean is the heartbeat of Santa Barbara County – residents, and visitors alike rely on our pristine waters, inviting beaches, and safe and accessible recreation. Conserving these two special areas will help protect and restore ocean health, enhance coastal recreation experiences, and help ensure Santa Barbara County's coastal economy thrives for decades to come. I urge you to approve these proposals.

Conserving Point Sal and Mishopshno MPAs will have powerful ripple effects:

- Conserve important habitats that support rich biodiversity such as kelp forests, rocky reefs, tidepools, sandy beaches, migratory whale corridors, important larval retention zones, and a seabird and sea lion rookeries.
- Bolster ocean resilience to keep our coastal waters healthy
- Encourage accessible recreation by local and visiting hikers, surfers, shore fishers, swimmers, kayakers, birdwatchers, beach walkers, and families of all ages.
- Create safe and sustainable conditions for commercial fishers
- Honor and strengthen the Chumash peoples' stewardship of the area and elevate their historical and present-day connection to the region.

The support for these two MPAs is well researched and representative of many interests. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), alongside the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and the Environmental Defense Center, conducted extensive outreach and research regarding the MPAs throughout Santa Barbara County. Since December 2023, the coalition has held over 100 meetings with Tribes, fishers, scientists, local leaders, and community members to gather input, share information, and refine proposals. Their outreach included webinars, public meetings, and direct engagement, emphasizing transparency and collaboration. These efforts

have informed petition amendments and supplemental research, ensuring both ecological goals and community priorities are reflected.

In response to feedback, the coalition modified proposed boundaries and regulations to address fishing concerns, Tribal perspectives, and local economic impacts—ensuring the petitions reflect both science and community values.

By making the ocean healthier and more resilient to climate change, strong marine protections help preserve everyone's ability to enjoy these areas through a variety of recreational activities, far into the future. And that's a huge boon to the economy – collectively, ocean-based recreational activities contribute to our state's $28 billion ocean tourism and recreation economy.[1] In 2023, coastal tourism brought just over $2 billion in travel-related spending to Santa Barbara County, and supported more than 20,000 jobs.[2]

The Commission's continued work to protect our state's biodiversity is critical, at a time when ocean conservation is more important than ever. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for these proposals that aim to fill a current gap in network design to improve ecological connectivity throughout the region, provide additional resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats.

Respectfully,



Roy Lee
Supervisor, First District
Santa Barbara County

[1] NOAA 2016, The National Significance of California's Ocean Economy https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/california-ocean-economy.pdf

[2] Visit California, 2024. The Economic Impact of Travel in California. https://industry.visitcalifornia.com/research/economic-impact

From: Langenhuizen, Gunnar <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 09:08 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Aylesworth, Sandy <[redacted]>; Azsha Hudson <[redacted]>
Subject: Office of Asm. Hart - Mishopshno & Point Sal MPAs

Hello,

Please see the attached letter from Assemblymember Hart regarding the petitions to establish the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area and the Point Sal State Marine Conservation Area. Thank you for your consideration of these petitions and please let me know if you have any questions of our office.

Best,

Gunnar

Gunnar Langenhuizen (He/Him/His)

Field Representative

Assemblymember Gregg Hart – AD37

Phone

[redacted]

Email

[redacted]

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037
DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
1111 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 101
SANTA MARIA, CA 93454
(805) 346-1237
EMAIL: Assemblymember.Hart@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature

GREGG HART
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 7
ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

May 15, 2025

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

Re: Support for Marine Protected Areas in Santa Barbara County

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to request your full and fair consideration of the petitions to establish the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) and the Point Sal State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-28MPA) in my district. Approving these petitions along the Central Coast would reinforce the California Fish and Game Commission's commitment to maintaining, enhancing, and strengthening the integrity of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network and the vital protections it provides, as directed by Assembly Concurrent Resolution 210.

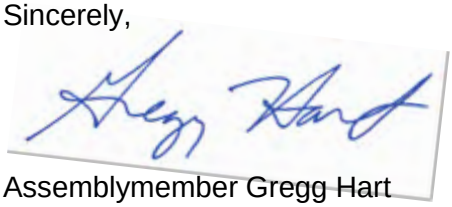
As the climate continues to change, we must act to protect sensitive areas and ecosystems both on land and in water. The California Legislature codified Governor Newsom's 30x30 Executive Order through SB 337, which calls for the state to conserve 30% of its state lands and waters by 2030. Adding new MPAs such as Mishopshno and Point Sal will help California advance its biodiversity, Tribal co-management, and equity goals associated with 30x30.

California's MPA network is a globally recognized success. It is now in the final stages of review for inclusion on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's "Green List," which would make it the first Green Listed site in the United States and the first scientifically designed MPA network ever included. The Channel Islands network was the recipient of the Marine Conservation Institute's prestigious Blue Parks Award in 2019. California has a strong history of protecting land and marine resources while advancing new ocean industries to help mitigate the climate crisis, and these MPAs align directly with those goals.

Spatial management tools, such as MPAs with high levels of protection, will help safeguard our ocean against existing and future stressors. The MPA adaptive management process creates an opportunity to revitalize parts of California's coast by supporting larger, more abundant fish populations and conserving critical habitats and marine wildlife.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your full and fair consideration of Petitions 2023-29MPA and 2023-28MPA to establish the Mishopshno and Point Sal State Marine Conservation Areas.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Gregg Hart

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]

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

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)

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,

Alexandra Heffner [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted]

(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,

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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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,

MAHOMED KHAN

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

LOS ANGELES

(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,

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

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,

Brenda Major [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] 93103

(A (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,

Marilynn Brewer
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(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,

Gerardo Arzate
(Print name)

(Email)

(Address)

Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(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,

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

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,

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,

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,

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,

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,

Lily Poehler
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara 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

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

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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

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Sincerely,

Yalda Khodadad
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

SB, 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,

Kathy Burke

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

(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,

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

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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

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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.

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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

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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)

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,

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)

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,

Patricia Park
(Print name)

(Email)

(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,



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.

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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,



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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

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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,

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

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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,

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

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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,

Cheryl Gring

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Carpinteria CA 93013

(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,

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)

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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,

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)

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,

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

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,

MARY SOLIS

(Print name) [redacted] (Email)

[redacted] (Address) SB 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,

Patricia Rose
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Carson, CA 90745
(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,

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

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,

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)

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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,

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

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,

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)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

Dear Fish & Game Commissioners,



Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

MARCO CERVANTES
(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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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

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

TOM MILLER
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

GOLETA CA 93111
(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,

ANDREW GARDNER

(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,

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Glenn Hallam

(P[redacted])

(Email)

[redacted]

(Address)

Oxnard, CA 93035

(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,

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

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

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,

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

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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,

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

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,

Enoc Gutierrez Gonzalez [redacted]

(Print name) (Email)

[redacted] Camarillo, CA, 93010

(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

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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

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,

Iah

(Print name)

(Email)

(Address)

ventura

(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,

Tanya

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Email)

(Address)

Ventura 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,

Kathleen Good
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted] Ventura
(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

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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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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,

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

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Sincerely,

Sean McArthur

(Print name)

[redacted]

(Address)

[redacted]

(Email)

Santa Barbara

(City, State, Zip)

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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

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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)

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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,

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

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Sincerely,

Sidney Loftman
(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

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.

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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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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

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

Sincerely,

Jessie Boswell
(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,

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.

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

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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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,

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

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 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

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

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

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

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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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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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,

Anna Ambriz
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Newbury Springs Ca 93365
(City, State, Zip)

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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,

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

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Sincerely,

Thomas Farrill
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

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

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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

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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,



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,

Sasha Schotthoefer
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

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

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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

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,

Hannah Jones
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677
(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,

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

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

Sincerely,

Maria Malafei

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

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:

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,

KATY DENEFF

[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,

Elorm Ladzekpo
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

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

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

Atentamente,

Arlie McNeil

(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,

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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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, 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,



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 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)

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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,

Arushi Lakhanpal
(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]
(Dirección)

[redacted]
(Correo electrónico)

SB 93101
(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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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,

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

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

Atentamente, Claire Art

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta, CA

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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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,

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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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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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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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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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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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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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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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Atentamente,

Chenen Bethel
(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, Lucero Torres

(Nombre en letra imprenta) [redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Santa Barbara, CA 93107

(Ciudad, Estado, Código postal)

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Autor de la foto: Brett Seymour, NPS

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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

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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,

Claire Cady
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Santa Barbara 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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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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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,

Pallas Lemarchand [redacted]

(Address)

[redacted] (Email)

Campbell, CA, 95008

(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,

Annie Gleason
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Centennial, CO, 80122
(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,

Betzaida Chavez

(Nombre en letra imprenta)

[redacted]

(Dirección)

[redacted]

(Correo electrónico)

Goleta

(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,

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

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,

Esther Flores
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

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, 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

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,

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

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Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Micah Littlepage
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Goleta, CA 93117
(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,

Delanie Valencia
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Lompoc, CA 93436
(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,

VIVIANA MARSANO
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

(Address)

(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,

Lauren Janson
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Email)

[redacted]
(Address)

Lompoc, CA, 93436
(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,

EVA GUILE
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Studio City, CA, 91604
(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.

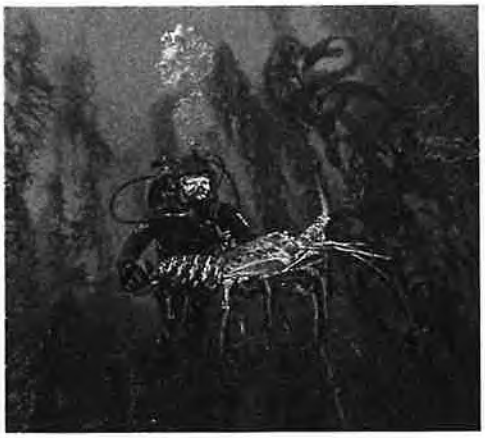


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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

Sincerely,

Abigail Raftery
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(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

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Sincerely,

Gratia Hill
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

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,

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,

Wyatt Sanchez
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address) Hills, CA, 91354

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

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

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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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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.

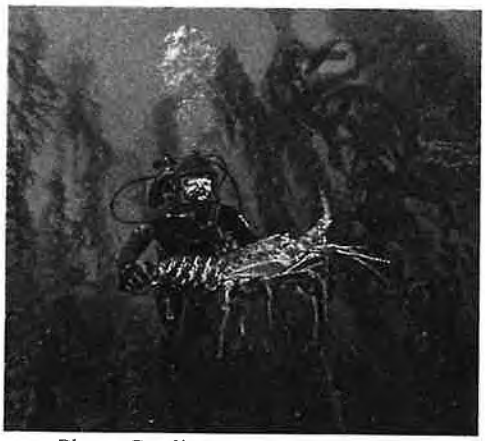


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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Sincerely,

Johnny McConville
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Santa Barbara, CA
(City, State, Zip)

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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, Angel Fajardo
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

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

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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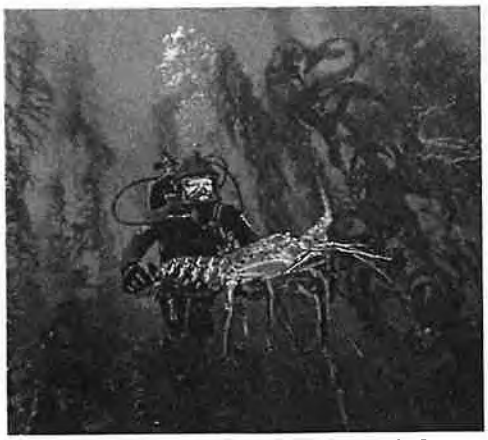


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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

Sincerely, RUGILE PEKUNAS
(Print name)

(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Ventura, CA 93004
(City, State, Zip)

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Please Protect Our Ocean

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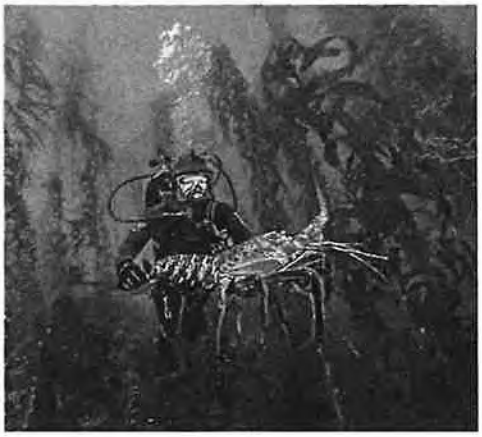


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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

Sincerely,

Alecia Locke
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(Email)

Ventura CA 93003
(City, State, Zip)

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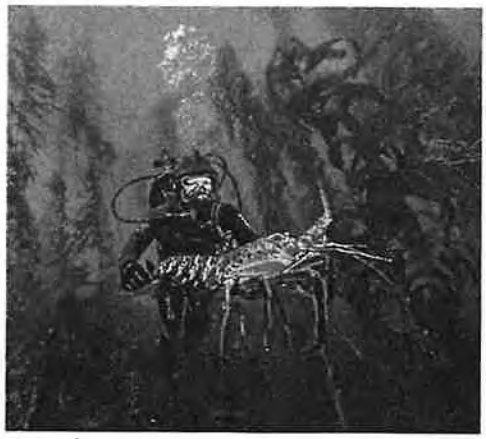


Photo Credit: Brett Seymour, NPS

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

Sincerely,

SOPHIA MILLER
(Print name)

[redacted]
(Address)

OAK VIEW, CA 93022

[redacted]
(Email)

(City, State, Zip)

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CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
RECEIVED 10/24/2025

Planning and Development
Lisa Plowman, Director
Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director
Elise Dale, Assistant Director

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

As Secretary of the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission, I am submitting the attached letter containing formal comments regarding the current Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions under consideration. This letter reflects the collective position of the full Commission, which includes signatures from all nine appointed members, representing diverse stakeholder groups within Santa Barbara County.

Our Commission has thoroughly reviewed the details of Petitions 2023-14MPA, 2023-15MPA-AM, 2023-18MPA, 2023-28MPA-AM, 2023-29MPA-AM, and 2023-33MPA-AM. As outlined in the attached document, our positions and recommendations were developed through numerous public meetings and extensive local input, based on decades of combined experience in fish and wildlife matters across the county.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion surrounding MPA management and thank the California Fish and Game Commission for its continued commitment to public engagement and science-informed decision-making. Should you or your staff require any further clarification or supporting materials, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Secretary, Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Phone: 805-934-6297
Email: castrot@countyofsb.org

one COUNTY one FUTURE

Planning and Development
Lisa Plowman, Director
Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director
Elise Dale, Assistant Director

October 20, 2025

To: Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson

Executive Director

California Fish and Game Commission

715 "P" St. 16th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission

c/o Santa Barbara County Planning and Development

624 W. Foster Road. Santa Maria, CA 93455

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

The Santa Barbara Fish and Wildlife Commission is a county commission consisting of nine members appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. The commission, among other things, aids the county board on active fish and wildlife related matters with our combined hundreds of years of local fish and wildlife experience between our fellow commissioners.

This comment letter serves to provide our input regarding the current MPA petitions requesting changes be made to the MPA network specifically around the Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands. We feel our county fish and wildlife commission's input on the MPA petition process may prove especially valuable due to our local experiences and local understanding of the ecosystem, as well as our variety of backgrounds, consisting of non-consumptive users, fishermen, and biological scientists. This letter serves as a culmination of many public meetings learning about the MPA petitions that have been proposed as well as fellow commissioners observations being involved in local discussions about the petitions outside of official meetings to gauge public input and sentiment. This county commission appreciates the opportunity to provide the following feedback on these local MPA petitions.

Petition2023-14MPA

Petition2023-14MPA requests changes to several State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs), one of which, the Naples SMCA, is within the County. Generally, SMCAs already allow for some form of limited take, this petition requests adding commercial take of sea urchins to the allowable methods list inside of the SMCAs in the petition.

Sea urchins are primarily taken commercially and are a core part of the County's commercial fishing sector. Urchins, and their tendency to graze on the root systems of local kelp forests, have recently posed problems with kelp rebuilding efforts after El Ninos in the 2010's reduced kelp forest size noticeably. Local fishermen cite urchin barrens inside of MPAs that cannot be touched and continue to spread to the surrounding area with no possible measures existing to remove the main mass from the MPA.

Recommendation: While cases may vary across different MPAs and counties, for the above reasons, this commission finds it reasonable to allow the proposed change and supports the petition for allowed sea urchin take at the Naples SMCA to help facilitate kelp forest regrowth. We kindly recommend this change be allowed at Naples.

Petition2023-15MPA-AM

Petition2023-15MPA requests changes to three joint State and Federal Marine Reserves (SMRs/FMRs), all of which, the Footprint SMR/FMR, Gull Island SMR/FMR, and Santa Barbara Island SMR/FMR, border the county. These MPAs, and others around the Channel Islands, are unique to the State network in that they were established through a joint process between State and Federal agencies before the coastal MLPA under the CINMS. The resulting network was a series of state and federal MPAs at the Channel Islands that covers federal water up to 6 nautical miles from the islands. All SMRs and FMRs the petition addresses are currently no-take areas.

The petition requests changing these areas to joint State and Federal Marine Conservation Areas, SMCAs and FMCAs, and proposes several options that allow for various forms of the limited take of pelagic finfish or highly migratory species recreationally and commercially. In addition, the petition provides possible sub-divisions of the Gull Island and Santa Barbara Island State MPAs into nearshore and offshore areas, similar to other State MPAs elsewhere. The primary arguments of the petition are the minimal impact pelagic fishing effort has on the local MPA ecosystem and goals, and the support of pelagic areas in the State's MPA Master Plans and other documents seen in the broader coastal network but apparent lack thereof in the pre-Master Plan Channel Islands network.

Several members of this commission were part of the original process at the Channel Islands over 20 years ago and the southern MLPA in 2012. We all understand that the primary factor for the MPA implementation at these island sites offshore was to originally protect species like groundfish and structure groundfish live on to rebuild overfished populations at the time. While MPA goals have changed since the 2000s, this fact is still key to understanding why these areas are the way they are today.

Pelagic fish, and the methods used to target them, are predominantly fished near the surface of the water column, offshore, and off the bottom. This type of effort avoids the nearshore or offshore rocky-bottom ecosystems local nearshore species or groundfish are predominantly found in. In addition, the pelagic species that would be taken in these areas are significantly less affected by these MPAs and the broader network due to them being very mobile, their relative abundance is not concentrated in an MPA compared to out of one. The MPA Master Plans from 2008 and 2016 discuss this, citing the lower effects that MPAs have on pelagic species and the need to have areas that allow for some form of limited pelagic take, aligning the petitioner's arguments with the Master Plans. In addition, the petition does point out an imbalance in pelagic allowed areas between the MLPA's coastal implementation phases that came after the first MPA Master Plan in 2008 and the Channel Islands Network implementation that came well before the first MPA Master Plan in the early 2000's.

Outside the Channel Islands, in the coastal network that came afterwards, most MPAs that overlap deeper waters pelagic species pass through allow for some form of take of pelagic finfish. Observing the Channel Islands, we can see a significantly higher overlap with offshore waters, namely due to the federal sections

of these MPAs. However, even with this significantly larger offshore encroachment, almost no pelagic allowed areas exist. Whether this difference was due to the Channel Islands process pre-dating the coastal process and the 2008 MPA Master Plan's outlook on pelagic species is up to debate, but the fact of the matter is the difference is noticeably present, and for no abundantly clear reason.

Recommendation: The subject of island MPAs allowing pelagic take, specifically these three, has been raised by the public several times prior at our meetings, and local MPA collaboratives our commissioners have attended. For these reasons, and those above, this commission supports this petition, and believes it should be accepted by the State Commission through one of the proposed "options" the petition lists that best fits the existing network.

Petition2023-18MPA

Petition2023-18MPA requests multiple changes to a variety of coastal and island MPAs within the county. Some of the changes are listed as "non-regulatory requests" by the Department while others make modifications to, or remove existing MPAs. All but one of the MPAs in the petition are within the County, they are the: Vandenberg SMR, Point Conception SMR, Kashtayit SMCA, Campus Point SMCA, and San Miguel Island Special Closure.

Of the changes, the proposal at Vandenberg SMR and San Miguel Island Special Closure are the two MPAs that would have the largest regulatory changes. At Vandenberg the petition requests a coastal SMCA be made that allows for only shore-based fishing by hook-and-line, citing an equity and enforcement concern between military base personnel and members of the public. Because military personnel are allowed to fish the shore of the SMR while members of the public outside the base cannot due to the SMR, both the equity and enforcement concerns are certainly present and should be addressed. The proposed solution of a shore based SMCA does seem to be a reasonable way to correct this problem.

At San Miguel and Anacapa (outside of the county) the petition requests the Special Closure(s) be removed in its entirety citing its original goal being to reduce disturbance to pinniped rookeries and seabird populations has been far exceeded and better methods have been developed on-site.

The remaining MPA requests are non-regulatory and include supported use for M2 radar monitoring at Point Conception SMR for better enforcement, a refined regulatory language for allowances at the Kashtayit SMCA, and using the color red instead of purple for distinguishing the Campus Point No-Take SMCA.

Recommendation: This commission finds all of the above modifications and requests more than reasonable, gives its support for them all. We recommend the FGC accept the petition in full.

Petition2023-28MPA-AM

Petition2023-28MPA requests to create a new MPA around Point Sal, designating it the Point Sal SMCA or a Tribally named SMCA, and listing it as a limited-take area with only an exception of a shore based finfish take allowance and tribal take allowance. The petitions driving reasons for the new MPA are that the area is ecologically significant in terms of local upwelling and relative to the landings that occur there the area is a small fraction of the State's commercial output, under 1%. The petition also cites tribal inclusivity and significance in the area as justification for its closure.

While the petition is accurate in the broader economic analysis, locally Point Sal is a very important area for both recreational and commercial operations out of Port San Luis (Avila), the local port to Point Sal.

Point Sal, and its surrounding waters, are essential for year-round and seasonal fisheries such as salmon, dungeness crab, groundfish, and halibut. This new MPA in addition to the existing network will significantly affect the local port's economic health due to Point Sal's being a significant fishing area for local commercial and recreational anglers. Namely, crab and groundfish boats out of Avila would be significantly affected by this change as per their testimony, over half their time is spent in the proposed area.

Recommendation: While the shore-based allowance is a welcome allowance, we believe this is still too costly on the local economy of Avila and its recreational and commercial fisheries to warrant its allowance. For this reason this commission has decided to be against this petition, and recommends the FGC deny it.

Petition2023-29MPA-AM

Petition2023-29MPA requests to create a new MPA around Carpinteria, designating it the Mishopshno SMCA. The petition asks to make take regulations for the area the same as the Point Sal petition, with an allowance of shore fishing of finfish and a tribal exception for those in the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians which would be able to still use tribal take methods inside of the SMCA. The proposed area's size was reduced when the petition was amended to include the shore allowance.

The petition's primary reasons for this MPA include this tribal allowance and co-management model along with the added reasons of MPA connectivity, spacing, and protecting juvenile great white shark nursery grounds. While this commission does agree that Tribal inclusion is a warranted piece of MPA and coastal management, we do not believe that a new MPA altogether is needed to accomplish this. MPAs across the coast can be modified themselves to allow for such co-management but the existing area offshore Carpinteria is currently open to the entire public, Tribes included.

Carpinteria's coast has been the subject of several MPA proposals over the years. During the MLPA the same area was looked into but was ultimately not selected, trading off two other SMCAs instead of establishing one at Carpinteria in a separate MLPA planning alternative. In 2020 this commission also followed a similar MPA petition in a smaller area to the current proposal that similarly advocated to protect juvenile great white sharks. That petition was ultimately rejected by CDFW due to the larger footprint white sharks, a pelagic species, covered relative to the coast of Carpinteria/California in general, and we believe the same reasons from 2020 are still relevant in 2024 against the petitioner's arguments.

Additionally, it should be said that Carpinteria Reef, the reef that would be almost entirely inside the MPA, is one of the last open reef areas to the fishing community. Removing this reef will see the end of local fishing access to coastal reefs, forcing anglers to travel further, coastally or to the islands, and burning more fuel to have similar opportunities. Commercial members of this commission are concerned for the areas of the proposed MPA that overlap the state halibut trawl grounds. These grounds are minimal already and have been reduced continuously over the years. This proposed MPA would cut a significant portion of the current open trawl area harming this unique fishery that the commission has repeatedly stated is well managed. Lastly, there is an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition specifically citing lost access to one of the last open reefs on the coast by boat and especially kayak.

Recommendation: For all of these reasons this commission has decided to be against this petition, and requests the FGC deny it.

Petition2023-33MPA-AM

Petition2023-33MPA requests for multiple MPA expansions and one MPA creation throughout the California coast, of which, three MPA expansions are within Santa Barbara at the Point Conception SMR, the Gull Island SMR, and the South Point SMR. Of the three expansions the South Point SMR expansion would be the largest, including all of the southwest side of Santa Rosa Island in the MPA and adding over 27.5 square miles to the SMR. This is followed by Point Conception SMR's expansion eastward adding over 14 more square miles to the SMR, and lastly by Gull Island SMR's smaller northward expansion adding over 1.5 square miles to the closure.

The driving force behind Petition2023-33MPA is kelp restoration. The petition claims growing these MPAs would allow for the now protected areas to rebuild their kelp forests under no fishing pressure which would also mean less traffic in general. Kelp restoration is a very important subject in Santa Barbara County as several sectors, consumptive and non-consumptive, depend on healthy levels of kelp for commercial and recreational use. That being said, this commission believes removing fishing access in these areas will do little to nothing to promote kelp regrowth and more-likely prevent kelp rebuilding projects (seeding, artificial reefs, and sea urchin removal programs) from directly assisting in the rebuilding of our kelp forests. Besides fishing, factors such as water quality, water temperature, storms, and swell need to be considered as larger drivers of kelp loss, not larger closed areas. There are several active projects locally and statewide dedicated to kelp rebuilding, none of which remove fishing access from areas in order to rebuild the kelp because there is no reason to. We believe the same applies in the areas this petition looks at. There are no reasons these specific areas need a fishing closure to help kelp forests regrow; therefore, there is no justification for their expansion, especially into waters predominantly too deep for kelp to root and grow. Similar to petition 29, there has been specific public outcry against this petition for all of the above reasons at MPA collaboratives, and public meetings.

Recommendation: For these reasons this commission has decided to be against this petition and recommends the FGC deny it.

Signed, the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Phil Beguhl (Chair) - 2nd District

Scott Cooper (Vice Chair) - 3rd District

Frank Abatemarco - 1st District

Chad Thomas - 4th District

David Morgan - 5th District

Jeff Landers - Santa Maria Sportsman's Association Representative

Whitney Uyeda - Santa Barbara Sport Fishing Representative

Jeff Maassen - Commercial Fisherman Representative

Steve Adam - Santa Ynez Valley Pistol and Bow Club Representative

County of Santa Barbara
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
North County
624 W. Foster Road, Suite C
Santa Maria, CA 93455-3623

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US POSTAGE

Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson Executive
Director
California Fish and Game Commission

715 "P" St. 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0038
(916) 319-2038
FAX (916) 319-2138

DISTRICT OFFICE
300 E. ESPLANADE DRIVE, SUITE 1790
OXNARD, CA 93036
(805) 485-4745
FAX (805) 485-4779

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Bennett@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature

STEVE BENNETT
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES, ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
ELECTIONS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

December 10, 2025

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

Re: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the proposed Point Sal State Marine Reserve (Petition 2023-28MPA) near the city of Guadalupe, and the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria. Conserving these two special areas will help protect and restore ocean health, enhance coastal recreation experiences, and help ensure the Central Coast region's ocean-based economy thrives for decades to come. I urge you to approve these proposals.

Both the proposed Point Sal and Mishopshno MPAs would conserve important habitats that support rich biodiversity, such as kelp forests, rocky reefs, tidepools, sandy beaches, migratory whale corridors, an important larval retention zone, and a seabird and sea lion rookery. Protecting these areas would have positive impacts that spread beyond their boundaries, bolstering ocean resilience and keeping our coastal waters healthy. These two areas hold cultural significance for several Indigenous communities in our region. Designating these MPAs would honor and strengthen the Chumash peoples' stewardship of the area, and elevate their historical and present-day connection to the region.

In addition, these areas hold special importance for ocean and coastal recreation communities. Point Sal is home to stunning coastal bluff trails that are frequented by local hikers and tourists to view wildlife, relax at the beach, and enjoy the remote and pristine area. Carpinteria is a popular area for surfers, shore fishers, swimmers, kayakers, birdwatchers, and beach walkers. By making the ocean healthier and more resilient to climate change, strong marine protections help preserve everyone's ability to enjoy these areas through a variety of recreational activities, far into the future.

This also benefits our economy – collectively, ocean-based recreational activities contribute to our state's $28 billion ocean tourism and recreation economy[1]. In 2024,

[1] NOAA 2016, The National Significance of California's Ocean Economy
https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/california-ocean-economy.pdf

coastal tourism brought just over $1.7 billion in travel-related spending to Ventura County, directly supporting no less than 16,600 jobs[2]. Ventura Harbor is home-base for Island Packers Cruises: the go-to transport company between the mainland and Channel Islands National Park (CINP). CINP officials reported that in 2022, 323,000 tourists visited the National Park, spending almost $22 million in neighboring communities, with a cumulative benefit to the local regional economy of $31.9 million[3].

The Commission's continued work to protect our state's biodiversity is critical, at a time when ocean conservation is more important than ever. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for these proposals that aim to fill a current gap in network design to improve ecological connectivity throughout the region, provide additional resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats.

Sincerely,

Steve Bennett

Assemblymember Steve Bennett
38th Assembly District

[2] Visit California, 2024. The Economic Impact of Travel in California.
https://industry.visitcalifornia.com/research/economic-impact

[3] Tourism to Channel Islands National Park Contributes $31.9 million to Local Economy
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/news/pr082523.htm

From: Sullivan, Isabella <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 10:59 AM
To: Commissioner Anderson <[redacted]>; Jacque Hostler-Carmesin <[redacted]>; [redacted] Eric Sklar <[redacted]>; Erika Zavaleta <[redacted]>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: [redacted] Azsha Hudson <[redacted]>; Aylesworth, Sandy <[redacted]>; Brown, Margaret <[redacted]>
Subject: Chumash Testimonies Letter

Dear Honorable Commissioners and FGC staff,

I hope this email finds you well and getting ready for the much needed holiday break! We are excited to share a project that has been in the works for a couple months. Working with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indian's Culture department, NRDC conducted interviews with various Chumash community members. to accompany the Mishopshno SMCA Petition 2023-29MPA. The purpose of these interviews was to convey Chumash peoples' sentiments and extensive knowledge of the area proposed to be protected, in a more expansive and informal format than a public meeting allows. These testimonies provide just a glimpse into the breadth of knowledge that Chumash people and cultures hold about their ancestral territories, ocean practices and traditions, and Tribal marine stewardship and management.

We hope you enjoy reading these testimonies, as they are deeply profound as well as informative. As always, thank you all for your work and time throughout the adaptive management process to safeguard our coast. Wishing you all happy winter holidays!

Sincerely,

Bella Sullivan

December 17, 2025

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Tribal testimonies and support for Petition 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners,

We are writing to share the testimonies of Chumash community members and additional history related to the proposed Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) are co-sponsors of Petition 2023-29MPA. The Mishopshno SMCA is named after a prominent Chumash coastal village of the same name that was historically proximate to the marine area under consideration. We share these testimonies to uplift the significance of the area and the SMCA proposal itself for individual Chumash community members, in addition to the SYBCI Tribal government that is co-sponsoring it.

Chumash people have inhabited the areas now known as the Santa Barbara Coast and Channel Islands for over 10,000 years.[1] Through the millennia, Chumash communities stewarded and lived in close connection to their lands and waters.[2] Beginning in earnest in the 18th century, settler colonialism and state-sponsored genocide in California disrupted the millennia-old Chumash relationships to the Central Coast – outlawing Chumash religion, language, and cultural and subsistence practices. In many cases settlers forcibly displaced Chumash people and communities and denied them access to their own territories.[3] Chumash people and communities resisted these efforts for centuries, and continue to fight today for stewardship and sovereignty of their ancestral territories, and the survivance and wellbeing of their respective cultures.

The Mishopshno SMCA seeks to advance Tribal co-stewardship, to honor the cultural and historical heritage of Chumash peoples in the area, and to conserve a unique and ecologically important area on the Southern California Coast. California is currently conducting its first-ever

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[1] McGinnis, Michael. 2022. *Co-Management of California-Chumash Marine Conservation Areas: A White Paper Produced for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians*, 4.
[2] Ibid., 7.
[3] *Chumash History*. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. (n.d.). https://chumash.gov/chumash-history.

MPA adaptive management process, and the state has the opportunity now to more thoroughly include the groups that were underrepresented during the initial implementation of the MPA network, including Tribes. This petition is one of the first Tribally proposed state MPAs in California, and its designation would pave the way for strengthening the role and authority of California Tribes in ocean management and marine life protection efforts. With a collaborative co-stewardship approach, the Mishopshno SCMA would also contribute to integrating Tribes in California's marine monitoring and management initiatives. Further, this proposal aligns with the state's goal of supporting Tribally-led conservation.[4,5]

Recognizing the deep connection and expertise Chumash people hold relative to the area of the proposed SMCA, NRDC interviewed community members from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians. The purpose of the interviews was to learn more about their connection to the ocean as Chumash people and why they support the designation of the Mishopshno SMCA. The testimonies below offer insight into perspectives around the designation of the Mishopshno SMCA and why increasing opportunities for Tribal marine stewardship is imperative.

The Santa Barbara Channel and Chumash Identity

Mishopshno Village was an important coastal site in the ancestral lands of the diverse Chumash people because of its use for boatbuilding and close proximity to the ocean. Members of the Portolá expedition who encountered the town on August 17, 1769 described it as "...at the very edge of the sea a large village or very regular town here at this point, appearing at a distance as though it were a shipyard, because at the moment they were building a canoe that still had its topmost plank lacking from it (dubbed by soldiers La Carpinteria, the Carpenter Shop)."[6] The canoes described here were tomol, Chumash watercraft built using wood and tar that seeps naturally in the region.[7] Chumash tomol paddlers still use this region today to practice for their annual crossing to Limuw, also known as Santa Cruz Island.[8]

Levi Zavalla, who is Sʰamala Chumash and also from the Maidu and Chemehuevi Tribes, described how he visualizes what the coast looked like before colonization.

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[4] California Ocean Protection Council, 2025. *Roadmap to Achieving 30x30 in California's Coastal Waters*. https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Roadmap-to-Achieving-30x30-in-Californias-Coastal-Waters-508.pdf
[5] California Department of Fish & Wildlife, 2022. *California's Marine Protected Area Network Decadal Management Review*, https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=209209&&inline
[6] "Chapter 4: Historic Chumash Settlements on the Mainland Coast," in *The Chumash World at European Contact: Power, Trade, and Feasting Among Complex Hunter-Gatherers*, by Lynn H. Gamble, 2011, 4.
[7] John Peabody Harrington et al., *TOMOL: Chumash Watercraft as Described in the Ethnographic Notes of John P. Harrington*, Ballena Press Anthropological Papers ; No. 9 (Socorro, N.M.: Ballena Press, 1978).
[8] National Marine Sanctuaries, *Homecoming:Journey to Limuw.* https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk259-stories-from-the-blue-chumash.html

> Here was the ‘aps right here– the houses, the tule houses– or was there kids playing on the beach? Some people gathering mussel shells or abalones? I visualize the tomols being out there in the kelp beds, fishing. It's bittersweet.[9]

Despite the impacts of colonization and displacement, Chumash people continue to maintain and revitalize ocean practices and traditions. Many of the interviewees described how these practices comprise a significant part of their life and identity today. Eva Pagaling, who is a S^{h}amala Chumash tomol paddling captain, explained the many lessons and values she has gained from tomol paddling as a central part of her life and upbringing.

> The feelings that I have when I'm paddling is it feels right to be there. And it [tomol paddling] asks you to be a stronger person in the things that you're facing and also gives you time to breathe and just take a break from the things that are heavy on your heart. I think it [tomol paddling] is just one of the ways, the canoe has been one of the ways that we've been able to access the medicine of the ocean for as long as we can remember. The most important person in our crew is the canoe and that helps us think outside of ourselves and actually move together as a community on the water.
>
> I think my takeaway is that we need to be paddling all the time. And we need to be able to be in that space with each other where the focus is supporting each other, just taking the individual out of the situation. We need more of that time together. We need to be able to curate and commit to spending time like that together as a community.[10]

Many of the Chumash people we spoke with shared that these coastal and ocean ecosystems are central to Chumash identity and culture. Interviewees talked about the importance of harvesting fish and other ocean animals for their traditional foods to feed their families and communities.Having healthy ocean plant and animal populations is essential to maintaining food sovereignty. Furthermore, access to traditional foods is not just for physical nourishment – even though traditional foods are most often healthier than alternatives – but is deeply connected to mental, spiritual and cultural wellbeing.[11] Levi Zavalla described certain harvesting practices.

> We do a lot of coastal foraging for mussels and limpets, keyhole limpets, trying to keep that traditional food intact, so that's one of the main ways we use the coast, for food, for feeding ourselves. We'll take it right home and cook it up and eat, have a feast and invite our families and friends to come.

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[9] Levi Zavalla, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 25, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA.
[10] Eva Pagaling, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, November 6, 2025, Santa Ynez, CA.
[11] Nguyen, Cassandra J et al. “Framing an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Research Agenda.” Health promotion practice vol. 24,6 (2023): 1117-1123. doi:10.1177/15248399231190362 https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12097726/#:~:text=While%20physical%20health%20impacts%20are,supported%20by%20Indigenous%20food%20sovereignty?

> My brother and I, we don't like to waste a lot of things. So if we're catching or harvesting these animals that have shells like the giant keyhole limpets or mussels or clams, we use those a lot in our jewelry. So it's not just, eat 'em and throw away, discard the shell.
>
> We'll make our money shells, our money beads, clam shells. We'll make abalone ornaments. And we try to stick with the traditional cuts instead of making different shapes and stuff. But yeah, we utilize everything that we bring back from the ocean, whether it's fertilizing the plants with the carcasses in our yard or cutting the jewelry, cutting abalone and clamshells for jewelry, or using them for gifts and trade. We don't just keep our abalone a lot, me and my brother. We go, "okay these ones we're gonna keep and cut with, and then these ones we're gonna gift with." Because we like to gift because that's just our way. [12]

Bobby Duran, who is Sʰamala Chumash, also spoke about how he harvests and uses ocean materials.

> I like to go there [the coast] and I like to gather things that I could use for my medicine or people that need it. Like I said, I gather shells and I make necklaces for people or there's different grasses out there and sea kelp and stuff like this. I like to use a lot of that stuff for my cultural things. We also gather a lot of tar that comes out naturally on the ocean, and we use that in a lot of our crafts and stuff. And our art, we take the tar and mix it with pine pitch and it makes a nice hard glue and when you cook it with the pine pitch, it eliminates all those ethanols so it doesn't have a sticky or smelly residue like oil would. [13]

Relationality to the coast, and the plants and animals within it, is inseparable from Chumash culture and spirituality. Hannah Lent, who is Sʰamala Chumash as well as Mono Lake Paiute and Yokut, spoke about how the ocean is at the center of Chumash life.

> I'm really thankful for where I come from and it's important to fight for where you come from. And I know a lot of Chumash people believe that in their soul. The ocean is so important to us whether you're here in Santa Ynez, in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Malibu, it's so important. And if that ocean wasn't there, if it was polluted for our people, our whole ecosystem would've collapsed. Our whole way of life would've collapsed. So it's so important for us to protect [the ocean]-- without it, we wouldn't be here. We literally wouldn't. [14]

Levi Zavalla described some of the many important Chumash traditions and spiritual beliefs centered around the ocean.

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[12] Zavalla, interview.
[13] Bobby Duran, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 24, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA.
[14] Hannah Lent, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 25, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA

> One of the main dances that they said every woman should know was the šutiwɨyɨš dance. And that dance comes from the island and we still practice that dance today. And just a few people only hold that dance unfortunately but that ties us to the ocean. We also have dances for the cormorant. We have dances for the swordfish. Obviously, we still paddle our tomols to the island, we're still connected in that way.
>
> And, we honor the ocean. We say the ocean is šuyuwačʰɨši, which just means, the ocean is of the spirit world. I thought that was beautiful seeing that."[15]

We also heard that the ocean is an important source of healing for Chumash people, as Bobby Duran describes.

> All those things [respecting the ocean] are like what our ancestors used to think about too. Maria used to say that the ocean is medicine. That was one of her things she used to say. And I remember being in my teenage years and feeling depressed and going out and just laying in the ocean, and getting out and feeling better.[16]

Bobby also talked about how reciprocal his relationship with the ocean is - how it provides healing to him, and at the same time he takes responsibility for the ocean's wellbeing.

> We sing songs. We talk to the ocean. We make sure that we go out there to have fun, but we're going out there to heal ourselves 'cause we struggle with whatever goes on with what life throws at us. We go out there to heal ourselves and we go out there to make sure the ocean's doing good and we talk to the ocean and all of its animals and we make sure we're giving back what it gives to us, in that sense.[17]

Improving ocean health in the waters within and surrounding the Mishopshno SMCA would support the essential Chumash cultural practices that are inextricable from peoples' identity and contribute to their physical and mental wellbeing.

Historic Abundance and Biodiversity Decline

Many of the interviewees described changes in the coast's ecological condition that are informed by their deep relationship to the coast and the ocean through their own lived experiences and through their ancestors' accounts. They explained the vastly different baselines between Indigenous ways of knowing and Western knowledge when it comes to the ocean's health. These different baselines are because

[15] Zavalla, interview.
[16] Duran, interview.
[17] Ibid.

traditional knowledge encompasses a drastically longer timescale than Western knowledge. The Chumash people we spoke with noted the significant and concerning decline of biodiversity in coastal and ocean ecosystems.

Bobby Duran recounted how coastal plant and animal populations have diminished from how his ancestor Maria Solares had described them.

> We have our, like I said, our Maria stories and her accounts of how the ocean was not like how it is [now] how we see it. How they seen it, how her generation seen it, how they gathered and where they went to gather and stuff like that. Those spots aren't around anymore.[18]

Levi Zavalla shared in detail the changes he has seen at the beach over the course of his life.

> When you go up the coast, 'cause that's the southern current, when you go up the coast in the north, you see a lot of these plants and animals still around, but just not as prevalent [near Santa Barbara]. And, that's just in my lifetime of going to the beach [near Santa Barbara] so much and just seeing all these tide pools and now you go to the same ones and they're basically empty now.
>
> When I was a kid, we'd go on the piers in Santa Barbara, Goleta, Avita Pier and we would catch fish all day. And, I go now to the piers and you don't catch anything, even bait fish, so it's just the waters are overfished. There's too much population here that just go out and fish. And so it's, you see those, it's a big difference since I was a kid. And that's why we mainly fish up north in Vandenberg because there's not a lot of public out there. And you can still catch these fish that you wouldn't be able to just a little further south.[19]

Chumash elder Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, who has direct lineage to Mishopshno Village, also shared these concerns about the consequences of overharvesting.

> The more people you have, the greater the taking. We used to go to Pismo Beach all the time. My dad would take us out there to get the Pismo Clams. And they regulated you. You could not get 'em under a certain size. Nobody's watching anymore and people are getting away with taking undersize everything. Again, that hurts the reproductive cycles. It doesn't give these animals a chance to just be them. And they all have a purpose there. They all have a reason for being just like we do.

[18] Duran, interview.
[19] Zavalla, interview.

> So it's the same thing. It's a greed, it's a misalignment of priorities. Is it just for your benefit? Or is the benefit for what we say seven generations ahead? Most people don't like hearing that.[20]

Eva Pagaling also spoke to the ways declining marine populations have affected her family's gathering and harvesting abilities, as well as the increase in boat traffic near Santa Barbara.

> When we have tomol practice, I definitely noticed from when I was younger to now, just the amount of people that are out at the harbor and the amount of traffic that's coming in and out has increased a lot. I'd say also whenever my dad would go gather mussels, the areas that he would go gather, started slimming over time. It seemed like he could pull off anywhere and go gather mussels. And now it's down to maybe one or two spots that he goes to in particular, like pretty regularly.[21]

Sofia Mata, who is Sʰamala Chumash, had similar sentiments about the way she's seen changes in the ocean.

> From the stories that I used to hear from my grandparents, they'd be talking about certain things that would happen that I never really got the chance to see, like certain stories where they would go fishing and they would see a certain amount of fish and then I'm going to the same area and I don't see the same things. So like another example would be, growing up I remember I would – every time I would go to the beach – I would see dolphins, you'd see a pod of dolphins. And it's so rare for me to go see them now… And now all there are is boats, a lot of fishing boats. So many fishing boats. And then a lot of 'em are recreation, so people just going out and just driving around out there.[22]

The Necessity of Tribal Management

The millenia-long relationship between Chumash people and the Central Coast means that, for many Chumash, they themselves are an integral part of the ecosystem. Chumash people were a part of a thriving and abundant ecological community for many thousands of years prior to settler colonialism. The Chumash connection to the ocean is largely relational, rather than extractive or primarily commercial. This interdependency of the coast, ocean, and Chumash peoples underscores not only how important the ocean is to Chumash identity but also to how important Chumash people are to a thriving ocean.

Sofia Mata explained,

[20] Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, August 17, 2025, Carpinteria, CA.
[21] Pagaling, interview.
[22] Sofia Mata, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 24, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA.

> The way I viewed our people, I viewed them as a part of the ecosystem. So once you take away us, or once you remove us out of the ecosystem, I think everything shifts then. Because removing us as stewards of the land or even just a part of the ecosystem itself, then everything shifts and then it's almost impossible to get back to where it was before if we aren't allowed to be in that same position that we were in before.[23]

Hannah Lent made a similar point.

> It's like a string, you pull it and it all comes together. And it's all connected. And if you remove one part, it's gonna mess up everything. And the Chumash people are a part of that. We're not outside looking in on this, this whole ecosystem. We were ingrained in it and it won't flourish unless we're actively engaging. And I say specifically Chumash people because we know. We know.[24]

Eva Pagaling also touched on the stewardship values and responsibilities that she learned from her relatives.

> We've always been told that it's our job to take care of the ocean. Ever since we were little, especially around the canoe. That's our job. We need to go out and take care. Then being around different community members and seeing what certain aunties do when they're gathering seaweed. And then what other aunties do conversely, on the terrestrial counterpart when they're on the land gathering and how they apply those same values and practices when we are gathering and caretaking.[25]

Protecting and restoring important ecological and cultural resources requires Indigenous knowledge and stewardship. Many of the interviewees described the Chumash concept of not taking more than one needs, and specific cultural protocol around subsistence. Bobby described how Chumash peoples had their own ways and rules to make sure they weren't taking too much fish, and how that information can help them effectively steward their own territories today. He also explained how ocean protection efforts should never exclude the Indigenous peoples and Tribes whose territory it is.

> All that stuff [stories from ancestor Maria] from when I was a kid made sense, about respecting the ocean and taking stuff that you might not want it to take or, you taking things from the ocean, how you take 'em, when you take them, 'cause even though there's these laws that we have now, we still had those kind of laws back in the day. Like when you should go get things or how you should go about getting them, or if you took too

[23] Mata, interview.
[24] Lent, interview.
[25] Pagaling, interview.

> much, or did you overfish? Did you take too much fish last time? Or even though you just caught maybe two or three fish, like maybe that was too much.
>
> All those things are what our ancestors used to think about too. Maria used to say that the ocean is medicine. That was one of her things she used to say…
>
> A lot of times what happens to Native Americans is they do get invited to these discussions and boards, but then they're still left out of whatever they're talking about. It's just like checking a box, oh they're checking a box, "yep, we have 'em here, we did our part" kind of thing, but I don't know. I think that, as the original stewards of the land, we should be taking over those kinds of things… It's nice talking about [this] because I love the ocean and I wanna see it protected. But I wanna also see involvement with our people. And, when you protect something, I don't want our people to feel like they're excluded from the protection. So it's like I said earlier, we, I, use the ocean for healing. If I wanted to go to an area like a protected area, I would like to use it as the symbiotic relationship that sanctuaries are trying to create. And as Chumash people we are part of that. All of that together. And our presence there is probably needed.[26]

Sofia Mata had similar sentiments about Chumash fishing and harvesting protocols, and how that same respect and vigilance would be carried through into marine stewardship today.

> I also know that we were cautious about fishing. We didn't overfish. We were very responsible in that sense. And we were respectful of our surroundings and everything that we were doing... Because a lot of it has to do with the ocean, keeping track of fishing. We were cautious about our fishing, we were cautious about the sea mammals that we would take.
>
> I would love to have our people regain stewardship. To be given the access to go to these areas, to hunt, to harvest… I feel, in a way it [the lack of authority in managing ancestral territories] is demeaning because it feels like someone's telling me that I don't have enough respect for our people's traditions and that we're just gonna go and take and not be responsible about it. Having that access to go back and to help with fires, help with restoring plants, help with removing invasive plants. Just being able to talk about or have an inserted opinion when it comes to overfishing.[27]

Recognizing the intrinsic need for Tribally-led management and Indigenous stewardship of ocean resources, the Mishopshno SMCA petition calls for Tribal co-management and continued

[26] Duran, interview.
[27] Mata, interview.

access to the shoreline and marine resources for traditional, ceremonial, cultural, and subsistence purposes for all Chumash people.

Visions for the Future

While understanding that a formal co-management plan between Tribes and the state of California would not be created until after designation, the Chumash people we interviewed expressed what they hoped the Mishopshno SMCA would achieve, as well as broader dreams for the future of Tribally led marine conservation and stewardship.

Levi talked about the opportunity the Mishopshno SMCA proposal holds for revitalizing a special area of the South Coast.

> These areas need to heal themselves. They need to revive themselves and that's where the co-management comes in, where we can go help 'em. A lot of our areas on the coast, like I said, are bare. And if this [the MPA designation] goes through and we get this area where we can protect it and, say 20 years down the line what it could potentially be then?[28]

Hannah Lent also described a similar vision for the future.

> When you feel something like that and you have something like that, it needs to be preserved. And I was reading something and it talks about how all the flora and fauna and everything there that used to be there is gone. So the way it [the area proposed for protection] looks right now isn't true, isn't correct. And we have the ability right now to correct something that's wrong. Whether that's in the ocean or on the shore, whatever it is, there's an ability to make it what it once was.
>
> It [the coast before colonization] is amazing. I can only think about it, in my mind and picture what I believe what it once looked like, but it deserves that respect and it deserves its recognition. We have the ability to protect it.[29]

Sofia Mata tied the ability to protect these places and animals to Chumash identity and experience.

> The animals that have been here should have a right to remain here….they shouldn't have to fight for the area that they're inhabiting….They should be protected. It's hard to say because, our people, we weren't protected like that. So if we can have the opportunity to

[28]Zavalla, interview.
[29] Lent, interview.

> in turn do that for something else that we couldn't do for ourselves, we're gonna advocate for that.[30]

Julie Tumamait-Stenslie had similar thoughts.

> So to protect the waters, definitely, our stories connect us to the life that's in the water, that sacred water that we see and that we're in, keeping it clean for those relatives who live in that water, who migrate back and forth, and perhaps even at some point that may spread into the land. People are starting to get it.

Emma Lombardi, who is S^{h}amala Chumash, described how she wants to see any part of their ancestral territory protected if there is an opportunity to do so.

> It [the area proposed for protection] is near and dear to our heart. So no matter how far we are from it [currently], we still had some connection no matter what. If we're able to protect any part of our land, then I want to be part of that.[31]

Eva Pagaling founded a non profit called Ocean Origins for the purpose of providing training and resources to build up Indigenous capacity to carry out marine stewardship and management responsibilities. She discusses the ways in which her community is not only ready, but deeply excited, for a prospective Mishopshno SMCA designation.

> Really it's all about being able to reconnect to the places that we know we're meant to be taking care of. Without our relationship to those places, a lot of who we are can get lost, or just be asleep.
>
> For us to be able to have that – be who we are, we need to have that connection and develop that relationship with those areas and take care of them in the ways that they're meant to be taken care of. I hope that if it does get approved, we can go back there and start helping and start teaching. I would see it as a teaching place. We're ready as a community to be able to manage that area and we have the understanding that as our culture evolves, the tools and the methodologies that we need to use to be able to keep up with the times. We have access to those now as well. And we have a lot of young people who are eager to help, who are ready, who are able, who are just chomping at the bit to be, to be home with each other, to be helping and to be in a space where we can be ourselves. Yeah, we're just, we're good to go!

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[30] Sofia Mata, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 24, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA.
[31] Emma Lombardi, interviewed by Isabella Sullivan, July 25, 2025, SYBCI Culture Department Office, Santa Ynez, CA.

The co-sponsors are hopeful that designation of the Mishopshno SMCA would help to advance Tribal co-management and stewardship of the region's coastal and marine resources. Designation of the Mishopshno SMCA would honor the cultural and historical significance of the area for Chumash people and would aim to revitalize the area's biodiversity to historical levels that are detailed in traditional knowledge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isabella Sullivan
Next Wave Oceans Fellow, Nature
Natural Resources Defense Council

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

Margaret Brown
Senior Director, Equity and Community Partnerships, Nature
Natural Resources Defense Council

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















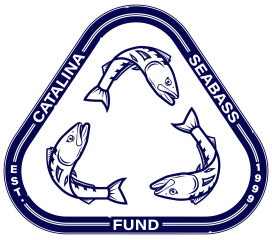














January 2026
Coalition Letter on Bin 2 MPA Petitions

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.

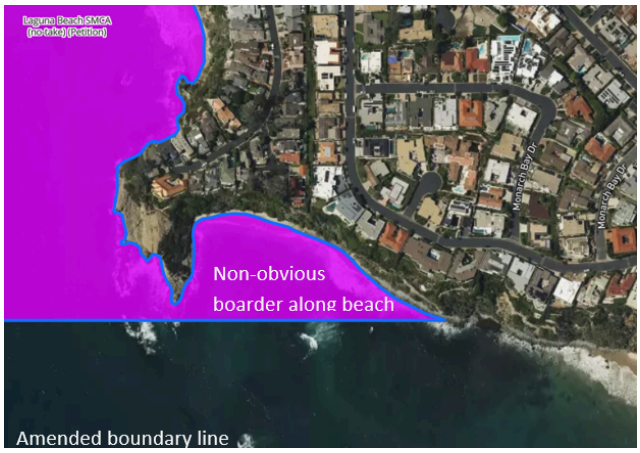
We believe the petition has reasonable goals, restoring kelp, but goes about this in the incorrect way. Regarding the specific MPA changes requested, we believe this petition should be rejected or modified. Acceptance would come at the additional loss of recreational fishing access to these SMCAs. Fishing 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.

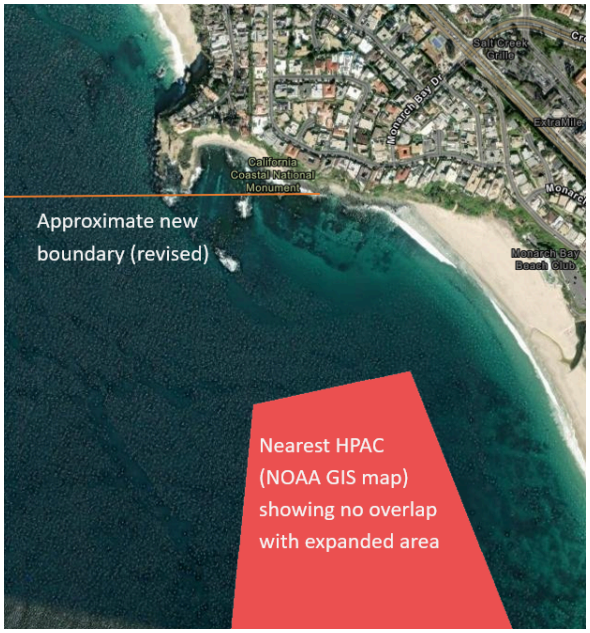
Petition2023-24MPA – Reject

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).

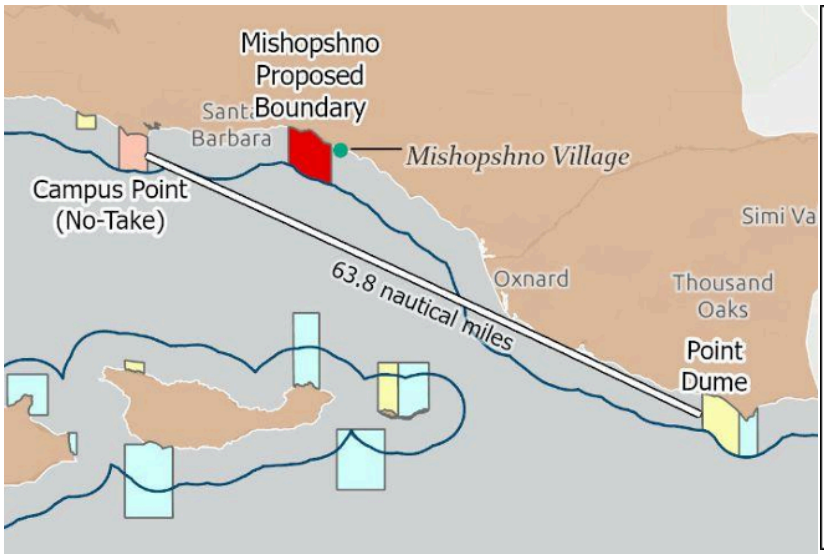


Image 1: Petition 29's image displaying proposed area and <u>claimed</u> spacing between existing Pt. Dume and Campus Point SMAs to be 63.8 nm (73.4 mi), which, if true, would exceed the southern MLPA MPA spacing requirements.

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).

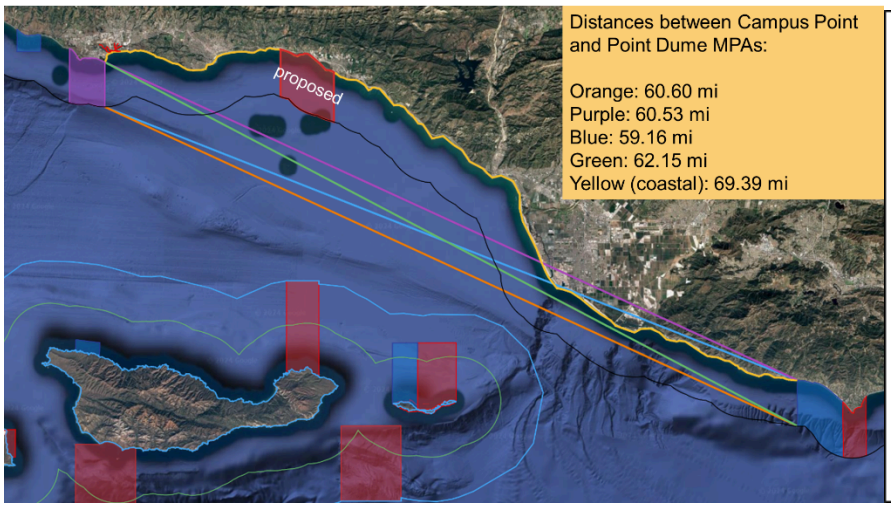


Image 2: Actual spacings between nearest existing MPAs around the proposed site. All but one straight line measurement exceeds 62 miles. The length that would be used by CDFW according to their provided input would be 60.60 mi (orange line) which falls within the spacing requirement.

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

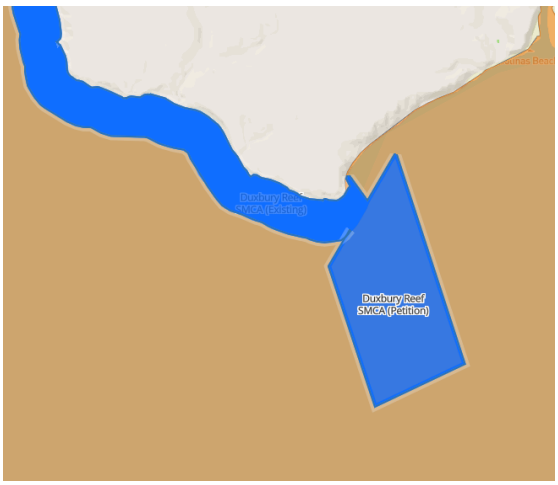
juvenile white sharks within the currently proposed area. This 2020 petition was rejected by the Department and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC), which stated that MPAs are designed to protect nearshore ecosystems rather than individual species, especially highly migratory species like white sharks. 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.

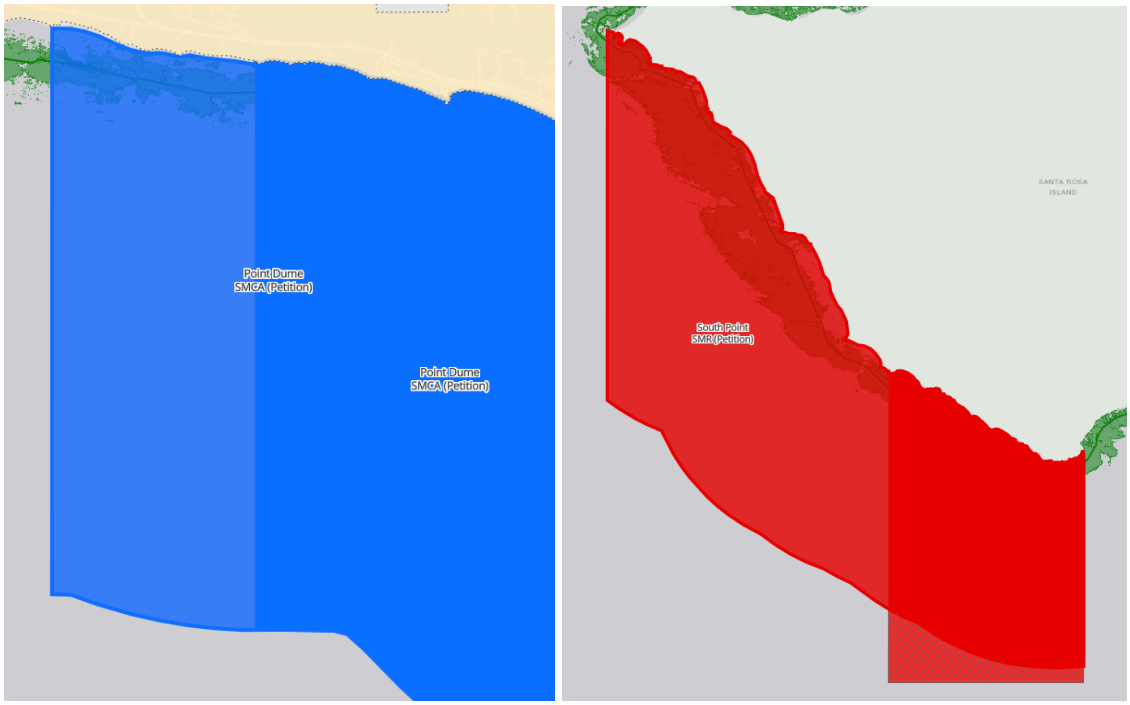
Regarding the original MPA expansion proposals, and even specifically the southern expansion (image above), the new covered area has a very asymmetric shape. This goes directly against MLPA guidelines for designating MPAs which state that MPAs with odd-asymmetric shapes are difficult to enforce and confusing 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)

January 2026
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.

From: Jennifer Sahn <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 9:59 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Point Sal and Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Areas

February 1, 2026

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

Re: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support of the proposed Point Sal State Marine Reserve (Petition 2023-28MPA) near the city of Guadalupe, and the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria. Conserving these two special areas will help protect and restore ocean health, enhance coastal recreation experiences, and help ensure Santa Barbara County's coastal economy thrives for decades to come.

Both the proposed Point Sal and Mishopshno MPAs would conserve essential habitats that support rich biodiversity, such as kelp forests, rocky reefs, tidepools, sandy beaches, migratory whale corridors, a larval retention zone, and a seabird and sea lion rookery. Protecting these areas would have positive impacts that spread well beyond their boundaries, bolstering ocean resilience and keeping our coastal waters healthy. These two areas hold cultural significance for several Indigenous communities in our region. Designating these MPAs would honor and strengthen the Chumash peoples' stewardship of the area, and elevate their historical and present-day connection to the region. What would be even better would be co-management agreements with the tribes.

In addition, these areas are treasured by ocean and coastal recreation communities. Point Sal is home to stunning coastal bluff trails frequented by local hikers. Carpinteria is a popular area for surfers, shore fishers, swimmers, kayakers, birdwatchers, and beach walkers. By making the ocean healthier and more resilient to climate change, strong marine protections help preserve everyone's ability to enjoy these areas through a variety of recreational activities, far into the future. This also benefits our economy – collectively, ocean-based recreational activities contribute to our state's $28 billion ocean tourism and recreation economy. In 2023, coastal tourism brought just over $2 billion in travel-related spending to Santa Barbara County, and supported more than 20,000 jobs.

The Commission's continued work to protect California's biodiversity is critical. And ocean

conservation is more important than ever, given escalating threats to our marine ecosystems. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for these proposals that aim to fill a current gap in network design to improve ecological connectivity throughout the region, boost resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats and ocean wildlife.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sahn

Santa Barbara, CA

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.

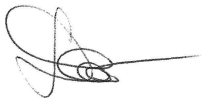
Clarifying my current perspectives on the MPA petitions:

- 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 at the California Fish and Game Commission
February 19, 2026

Hello FGC,

Our names are Ryder and Fisher Devoe. We live in both San Diego and Ventura and have been on the water around both areas participating recreationally and part-time commercially over the last 20 years in hook-and-line and free dive fisheries.

Our comment concerns the following MPA Petitions:

Petition 2023-34MPA: No Support
Petition 34 calls to close or further restrict two areas access to pelagic finfish. It is well known these species are less affected by MPAs and they should still be able to be targeted. We have areas that allow this all over the coast so calling these two areas "special" and have enforcement concerns justifying their closure is just an excuse to take more away. If enforcement does ok with all the limited take areas as they say, then there is nothing to be worried about.

Petition2023-33MPA: No Support
Petition 33 claims by expanding MPAs and closing down fishing access we will help regrow the kelp forests. How does fishing affect kelp growth in any way? Kelp growth and kelp breaking off is totally driven swell and water temperature. If you have no swell and water in the 60s kelp with thrive, but you get a major swell and water into the low 70s kelp will all break off its anchors and float away. Plain and simple, fishing does not affect kelp. Additionally, MPAs are made for biodiversity and ecosystems, they are not for kelp rebuilding, we have other projects for that. There appears to be several articles already out about the issues specifically with his petitions and those similar to it concerning kelp or eelgrass (petitions 24 and 27).

Petition2023-29MPA: No Support
Carpinteria reef is literally the only remaining coast reef remaining outside of MPAs between Point Conception and Point Mugu. Closing this area would effectively stop all calico bass fishing on the coast which is mainly catch and release. The petition claims the nearest MPAs are over 63 nautical miles apart (72 miles) which exceeds the 62-mile limit. Simply measuring the distance on maps shows the nearest MPAs, Campus Point and Pt. Dume are 61 miles apart and fall within the limit. This basic measurement displays the truth of this proposal, it's simply trying to take more away on top of what already was over 10 years ago. The petition also claims to be helping the White Sharks, we have already protected white sharks, and a great white will not be affected at all by a box as small as the proposal suggests due to how vast of an area they cover. Pelagic species are not affected by MPAs, especially Great Whites that travel so much.

Petition2023-24MPA: No Support
This petition is essentially another version of petition 33 trying to close more area for kelp forests that fishing has no effect on. The surrounding area is already saturated with MPAs in the local 4 MPA cluster, this expansion would just close even more off locally. The same

counter arguments for this petition apply from petition 33. Any argument for better enforcement for city limits is incorrect as city officials do not police the MPAs state wardens do and they are bound to no cities.

Petition2023-15MPA: Support
We fully support this proposed change. Participating on a smaller vessel in the swordfish fishery this petition really matters to us. The Channel Islands are significantly oversaturated with no-take areas that extend further offshore than anywhere else in the state. Pelagic fish or highly migratory species do not have the same effect on them or the surrounding area that local species do. The apparent Master Plan highlights this and calls to have areas open to these pelagic species but we do not see them anywhere relevant around the islands. The Channel Islands MPAs came before the rest of the network so it is understandable we were over cautious and implemented so many no-take areas but now that we know and have so many pelagic allowed area elsewhere, we need to update the Channel Islands to what we see in the rest of the state, a reasonable model where no-take areas are balanced with some pelagic allowed areas where they can be targeted offshore.

Petition2023-14MPA: Support
If we are trying to rebuild kelp anywhere this petition is a great starting point. Besides water temperature and swell, urchins contribute the most to wiping out entire forests of kelp. Allowing urchin access in there areas where it is restricted is a clear step in helping to mitigate the spread or sea urchins and the allow kelp the chance to grow inside these areas again where otherwise urchins would continue to eat all of it.

Thank you,

Ryder Devoe and Fisher Devoe

Received at California Fish and Game Commission
February 20, 2026

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

OUR MISSION

THE LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CONSERVES NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OPEN SPACES FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

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Jim Selbert
Scott Van Der Kar

February 17, 2026

Erika Zavaleta, President
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Support for Petition 2023-29MPA, proposed Mishopshno State Marine Reserve

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners,

On behalf of The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (Land Trust), I would like to express support for Petition 2023-29MPA to designate the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area off the coast of Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County. The Land Trust is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with a mission to conserve natural resources, agricultural land, and open spaces for the benefit of present and future generations. Over its 40-year history, the Land Trust has served Santa Barbara County by partnering with landowners and communities to conserve thousands of acres of agricultural land, natural resources and open spaces. We support the proposed Mishopshno SMCA to protect the natural resources and wildlife habitats of this area, and the central coast communities that rely on these waters for economic and climate resilience.

The Carpinteria coast supports significant coastal ecosystems, rich cultural resources, and Chumash heritage. The Land Trust has partnered with local communities to protect several important conservation areas in the region including the Carpinteria and Rincon Bluffs, and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh where the Land Trust's preserve would abut the proposed SMCA. The Carpinteria Salt Marsh is a critically important estuary in the region, that provides an interface between essential marine communities and near shore habitats, while providing an access point for the community to experience this coastal treasure. The proposed SMCA would complement and strengthen the onshore protection of this unique reserve.

Numerous sensitive species use these coastal and near shore habitats including snowy plover and salt marsh birdsbeak, among others. Climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, intensified storms, and altered precipitation patterns, threaten this delicate landscape. This area simultaneously faces mounting challenges from escalating development pressures, rapid urbanization,

infrastructure projects, and tourism, all of which jeopardize its resilience. The proposed SMCA would be dedicated to preserving the unique coastal ecosystems, rich cultural resources, and Chumash heritage of these regions, marking a key step in the resilience of this essential stretch of California coast.

Importantly, the SMCA is proposed and supported by Chumash bands from this region. Tribes have played a critical role in stewardship of this region for at least the past 10,000 years, and Chumash communities remain leaders in efforts to protect and maintain their natural and cultural heritage. Elevating the role of Chumash bands in both the naming and on-going management of the proposed SMCA is an important step in recognizing and empowering Chumash communities as central to the protection of these coasts and waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this designation process.

Sincerely,



Meredith Hendricks, Executive Director

Outlook

CFSB comment letters on two petitions

From Kim Selkoe <kim@cfsb.info>
Date Tue 02/24/2026 12:32 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc Shuman, Craig [redacted]; CHRISJVOSS@GMAIL.COM <CHRISJVOSS@GMAIL.COM>; Eckerle, Jenn@CNRA <Jenn.Eckerle@resources.ca.gov>

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached two comment letters from CFSB concerning Petitions 2023-29MPA_AM1 and 2023-33MPA-AM1 to be considered in the MPA Petition review process.

Please note that the CFSB Seasketch project referenced in these letters can be made available to members of the Commission and Department if it is of interest. The CFSB project focused on mapping the value of fishing grounds in the Santa Barbara Channel by gear type and species, as identified by 53 active commercial fishers, surveyed prior to the petition process. The methods are in the appendices to the letters.

Thank you,

Kim Selkoe

--
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Executive Director
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara
6 Harbor Way #155
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
[redacted]

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcfsb.info%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cfgc%40fgc.ca.gov%7Cd9e1be4fa6834c53364608de73e3b962%7C4b633c25efbf40069f1507442ba7aa0b%7C0%7C1%7C639075619489335515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SvipO%2F0Lzmsw6f1SiQUkP7XtjwQDfK4XpczKreGxEIw%3D&reserved=0
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COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN OF SANTA BARBARA

RE: Opposition to Petition 2023-29MPA-AM1 (Mishopshno SMCA)

February 17, 2026

To the California Fish and Game Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife:

For over 40 years, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara ("CFSB"), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been committed to making our local fishing community resilient and effective by providing healthy, high-quality seafood to local and global markets, ensuring the economic and biological sustainability of fisheries, and maintaining California's fishing heritage. CFSB currently has over 80 members. We represent the interests of a diverse set of fishermen, shellfish farmers, and seafood processors and distributors who are leaders in the commercial fishing industry.

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) respectfully submits this letter in opposition to Petition 2023-29MPA-AM1, which proposes establishing a new tribally-designated SMCA at Carpinteria. While we support the principle of tribal co-management across California's MPA network, this specific petition should be rejected. We have also submitted comments as a signatory of the CCA Coalition letter on Bin 2 Petitions submitted earlier this month, but we would like to reinforce that letter with further detail about our position below and new economic data relevant to this site.

Fisheries Connectivity Is Already High in This Region

Many of the key fishery species at this site—groundfish, lobster, crab, and urchin—are abundant throughout the adjacent coast and Channel Islands thanks to sound fisheries management. Therefore, a large fraction of larvae recruiting into the reserve network were spawned outside of it, and the role of the proposed MPA in boosting connectivity of the network would be vanishingly small. All of the targeted higher-volume fishery species at the site have pelagic larval durations exceeding two months (California Marine Species Portal). Surface currents in the Channel are ~0.3–0.4 m/s (~26–35 km/day), transport over **14–28 days would be ~360–980 km (~22–60+ miles)** under sustained flow, so two-month larval periods are creating high connectivity (Hendershot and Winant 1996, Washburn et al. 2002). MPAs at the Northern Channel Islands are well connected to the coastal MPAs due to cyclonic current flows in the Channel. In sum, larval connectivity is already functioning across broad spatial scales—there is no ecological basis for tighter MPA spacing to achieve it.

This closure will disrupt key fishery management plans and create undue economic impacts.

Carefully designed and negotiated spatial fishery management plans will be badly disrupted by this plan, namely Kelp Cutting and Halibut Trawl. There are few areas left to harvest kelp; the footprint of this MPA includes one of them. Further reduction in kelp cutting grounds would be an existential threat to The Cultured Abalone Farm's continuation. The California Halibut Trawl Grounds would be interrupted by the bounds of this MPA, creating impact of another highly limited fishery that cannot afford to lose any further area.

The proposed area encompasses the majority of offshore hard bottom substrate between Santa Barbara and Carpinteria (Figure 1). The existing Naples and Isla Vista MPAs have already protected large swaths of hard bottom that were high value grounds to many of our fisheries.



Fig. 1 The extent of hardbottom area (orange) in the coastal region, with approximate boundaries of proposed MPA. From California Seasketch portal.

The petition significantly understates the commercial fisheries activity and value in this area. We have referenced two sources of data that highlight the extreme importance of Block 652 and Carpinteria Reef to our commercial fisheries. More details about these data are in an appendix to this letter.

- CDFW block data for the Santa Barbara Channel from 2014–2023. These data were compiled by Mary Nishimoto in 2024 in her role as the Joint Oil and Fisheries Liaison for Padre's decommissioning activity planning for Platform Holly.
- Seasketch maps compiled prior to the MPA Petition process that record the value of fishing grounds in the Santa Barbara Channel, according to 53 commercial fishers at three ports in the Santa Barbara Channel, by species and gear type. This project was funded by ARPA-e MARINER program, administered by CFSB and carried out by Madeleine Berger of Seasketch in 2023 through the first quarter of 2024.

Key highlights of the CDFW data include the following statistics from Block 652:

- **100–200 fishing vessels** used this block over the last decade
- **1,000–2,500 distinct landing receipts** were recorded from the block
- **Over 200,000 lbs of trap-caught poundage** came from the block
- **Over 25,000 lbs of dive-caught poundage** came from the block

Key highlights of the Seasketch analysis are:

- The proposed area is ranked as **maximum value for box crab, lobster, ridgeback, rock crab, rockfish, sand dab, urchin, kelp**
- The area is ranked as **high value for halibut, kellet's whelk, sardines, anchovies, mackerel, white seabass, and yellowtail**
- For all fisheries data combined, the area is ranked as a mix of high and maximum fisheries value (Figure 2).

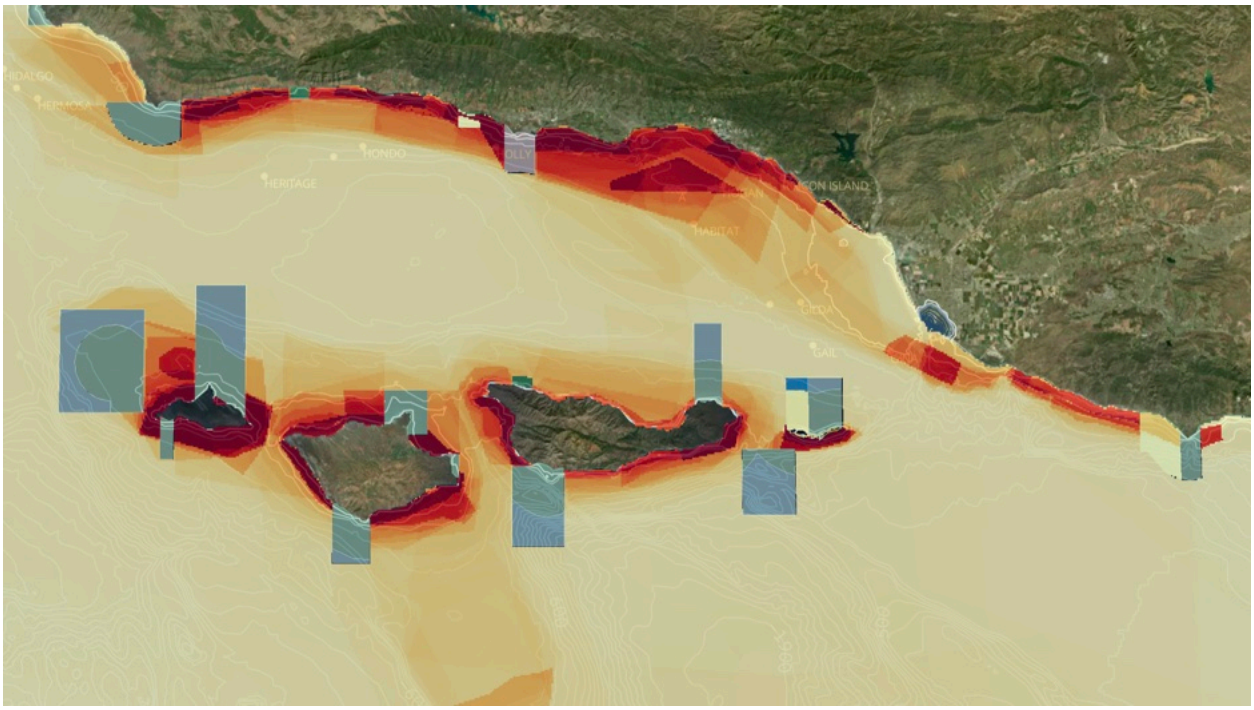


Fig. 2 Composite Seasketch heatmap showing the value of fishing grounds in the Santa Barbara Channel, for all 53 survey responses representing all species and gear types. Note that biases are possible, especially at the coastal margins, where fishers from other ports may more highly value grounds than the respondents. See appendix for more study information.

These data paint a very different picture than the petition's framing of "limited impact." The proposed SMCA would cover 18% of block 652, including the highest quality fishing grounds in the block, directly affecting the trap and dive fisheries, which constitute the majority of commercial activity in the area.

The petition states that commercial and recreational vessels "primarily visit the Channel Islands for fishing trips and **target the nearshore area around Carpinteria when weather conditions make travel to the islands unsafe or undesirable.**" The analyses in the attached CDFW and Seasketch data refute that claim – this area, very close to Santa Barbara Harbor, is essential to commercial fisheries. Moreover, in cases that it does function as a backup when conditions prevent safe passage to the islands, it is just as critical. Closing it eliminates the safety valve that allows our fishermen to remain productive during adverse weather windows—exactly when they need accessible nearshore grounds most.

Juvenile White Shark Protection Is Not an MPA Function—And This MPA Would Not Achieve It

A nearly identical petition (2020-012 AM1) was rejected by the Commission at this exact location just four years ago. The FGC correctly determined that California's MPAs are designed to protect nearshore ecosystems rather than individual highly migratory species like white sharks. This precedent applies directly to the current petition.

CDFW landing data for block 652 further expose the mismatch between the petition's stated rationale and its actual effect. Hook-and-line, gillnet, and trawl landings in this block were all relatively low over the past decade, while Block 652 was a key source of poundage for trap and dive fisheries (over 200,000 lbs trap-caught, over 25,000 lbs dive-caught). Shutting down commercial fisheries here is unjustified as they do not pose a meaningful bycatch risk to white sharks.

Leading white shark researcher Dr. Chris Lowe of CSU Long Beach confirmed that this **MPA design would not provide meaningful protection for juvenile white sharks** as measured by JWS mortality rates. He specified:

- **There is only one known fishing-related JWS mortality at this site**—from recreational hook-and-line gear, which would still be permitted under the proposed SMCA. Boat strikes and occasional recreational fishing are the primary human impacts to white shark at Carpinteria Reef, and these remain minor overall (C. Lowe, pers. comm.).
- **There is no rationale for interaction between white sharks and the majority gear types used commercially here.** Peer-reviewed research documents no trap or dive fishery interactions with JWS, the majority gear types used here (Lowe et al. 2012). Prohibiting trap and dive fisheries in the proposed MPA to protect white sharks lacks biological justification.
- **A 9 square mile MPA cannot meaningfully protect a species that uses the entire Southern California Bight as nursery habitat.** Tagging data show that young-of-year white sharks may travel over 3,000 miles in their first year, with their most precarious habitat use occurring in Mexican waters. Multiple nursery aggregation sites exist along the Southern California coastline and around Santa Cruz Island, with sharks moving freely between them. While JWS may spend weeks to months at Carpinteria, they regularly move to other sites (See Anderson et al. 2021 a and b, Logan et al. 2024 and Freedman et al. 2022).

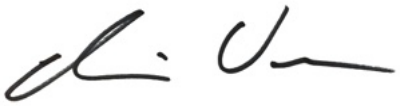
This Area Was Already Considered and Traded Off During the MLPA Process

The Carpinteria site was evaluated during the MLPA southern region process and was deliberately traded off in favor of the Naples and Kashtayit SMCAs. Approving this petition would undermine the stakeholder agreements reached during that process and destroy trust and respect for future policy processes. We have been told clearly by CDFW that prior negotiations to keep Carp Reef open would be respected in the petition process.

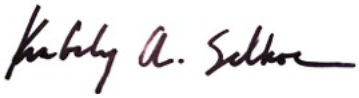
For these reasons, CFSB urges the Commission to reject Petition 2023-29MPA-AM1.

Respectfully submitted,

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara



Chris Voss, President



Kim Selkoe, Executive Director

Literature Cited

Anderson, James M., et al. *"Non-random Co-occurrence of Juvenile White Sharks (Carcharodon carcharias) at Seasonal Aggregation Sites in Southern California." Frontiers in Marine Science*, vol. 8, 2021, article 688505, https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.688505

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Freedman, Ryan M., et al. *"Evidence of Increasing Juvenile White Sharks' (Carcharodon carcharias) Habitat Use at the Northern Channel Islands." Journal of Fish Biology*, vol. 103, no. 5, Nov. 2023, pp. 1226–1231, https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.15503.

Hendershott, Myrl C., and C. D. Winant. "Surface Circulation in the Santa Barbara Channel." Oceanography, vol. 9, no. 2, 1996, pp. 114–121, https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.1996.14

Logan, Ryan K., et al. *"Long-Term Tracking Captures the Timing of Ontogenetic Niche Shifts in Northeast Pacific White Sharks." Ecosphere*, vol. 15, no. 1, 2024, e70034, https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.70034.

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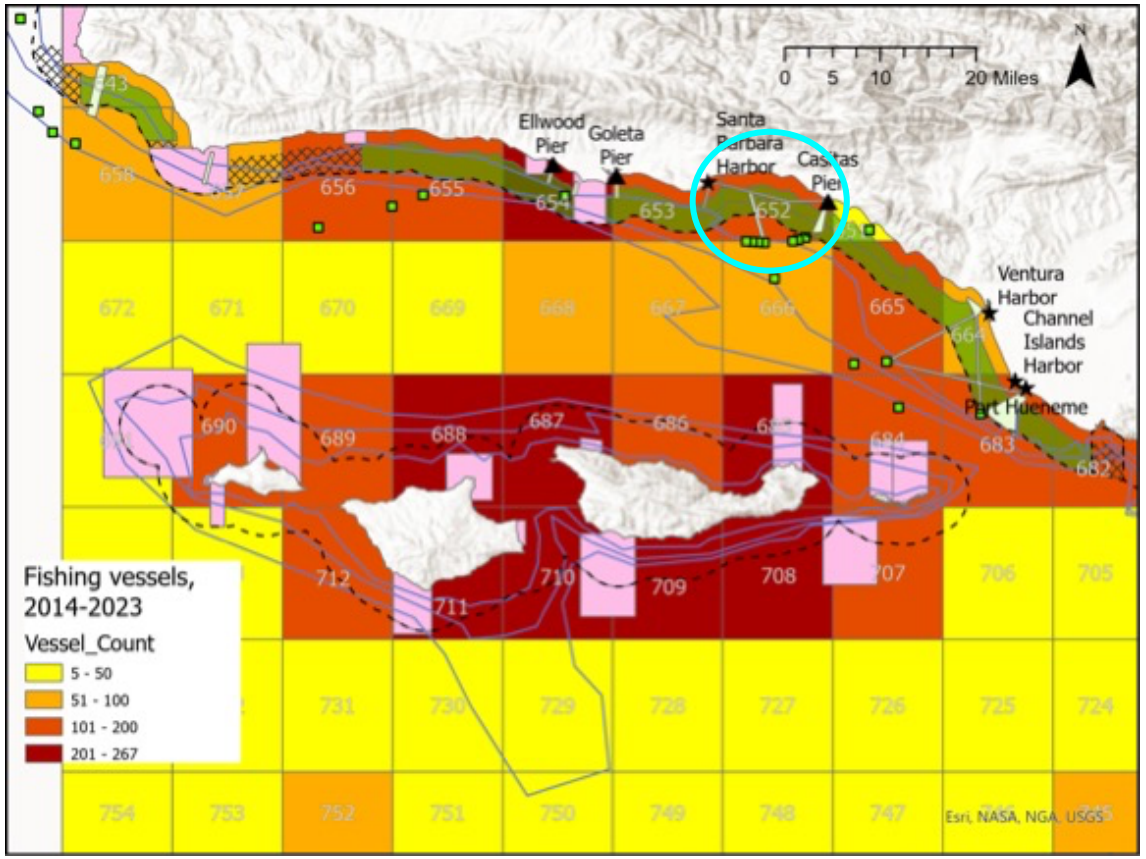
APPENDICES

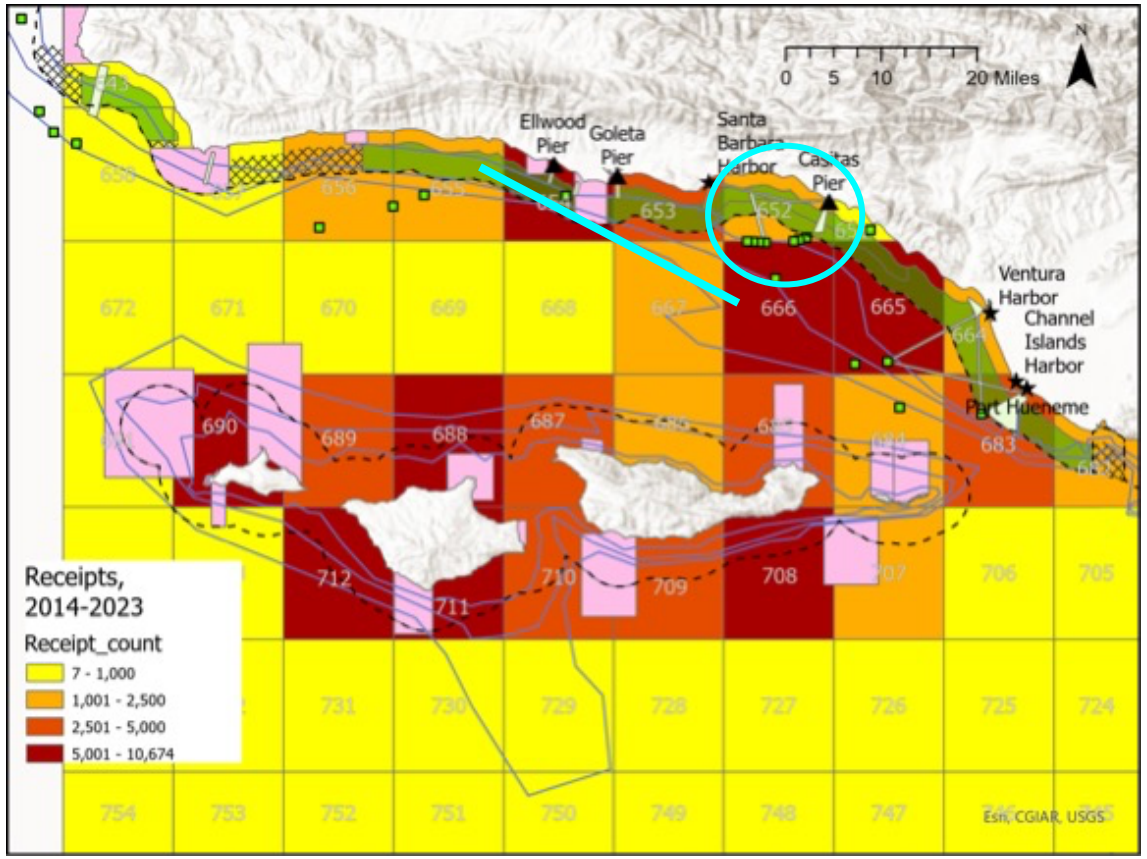
1. CDFW DATA
2. SEASKETCH METHODS

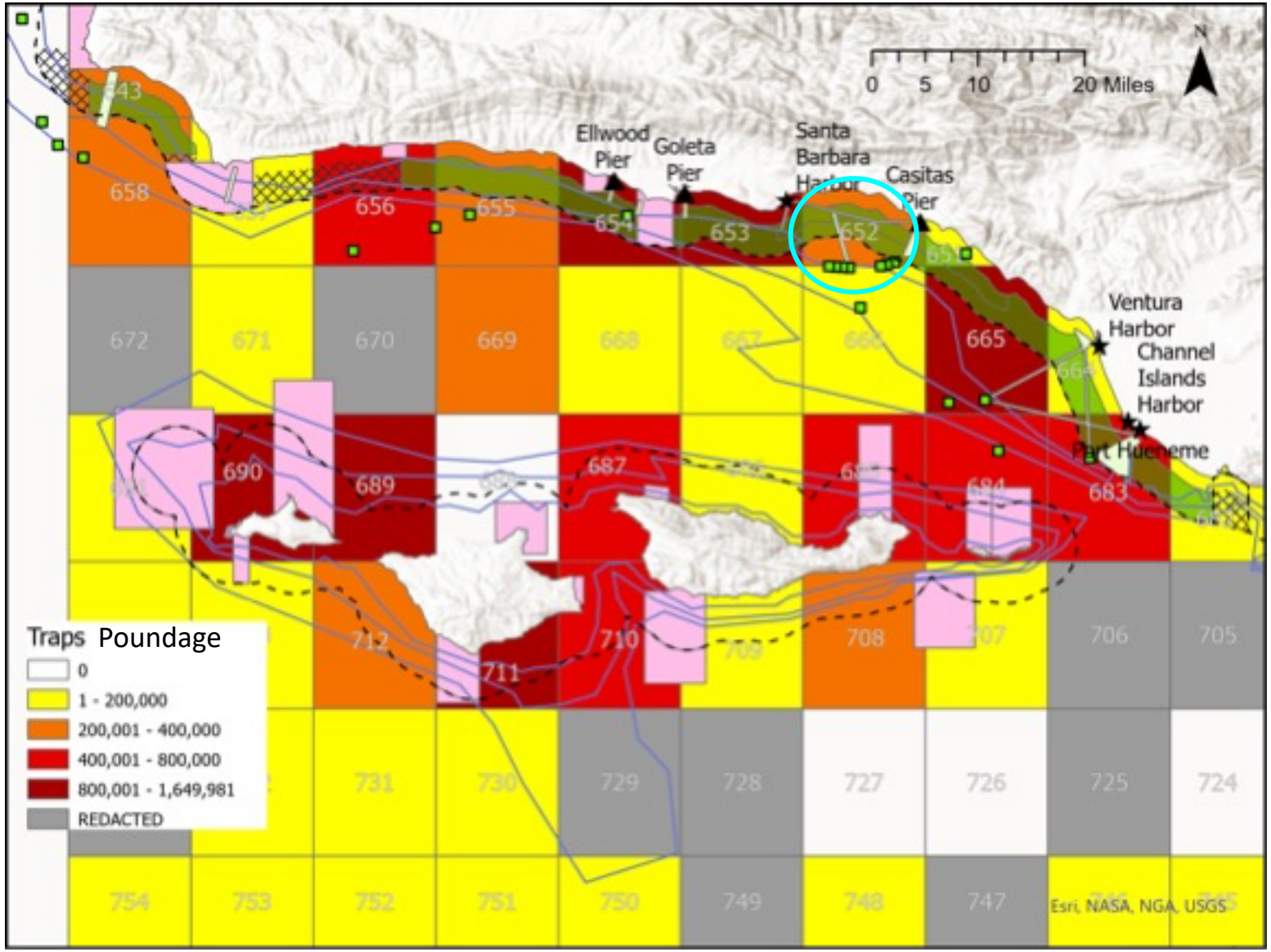
Data Compiled from CDFW records
by Mary Nishimoto, Ph.D.
shared with CFSB May 21, 2024

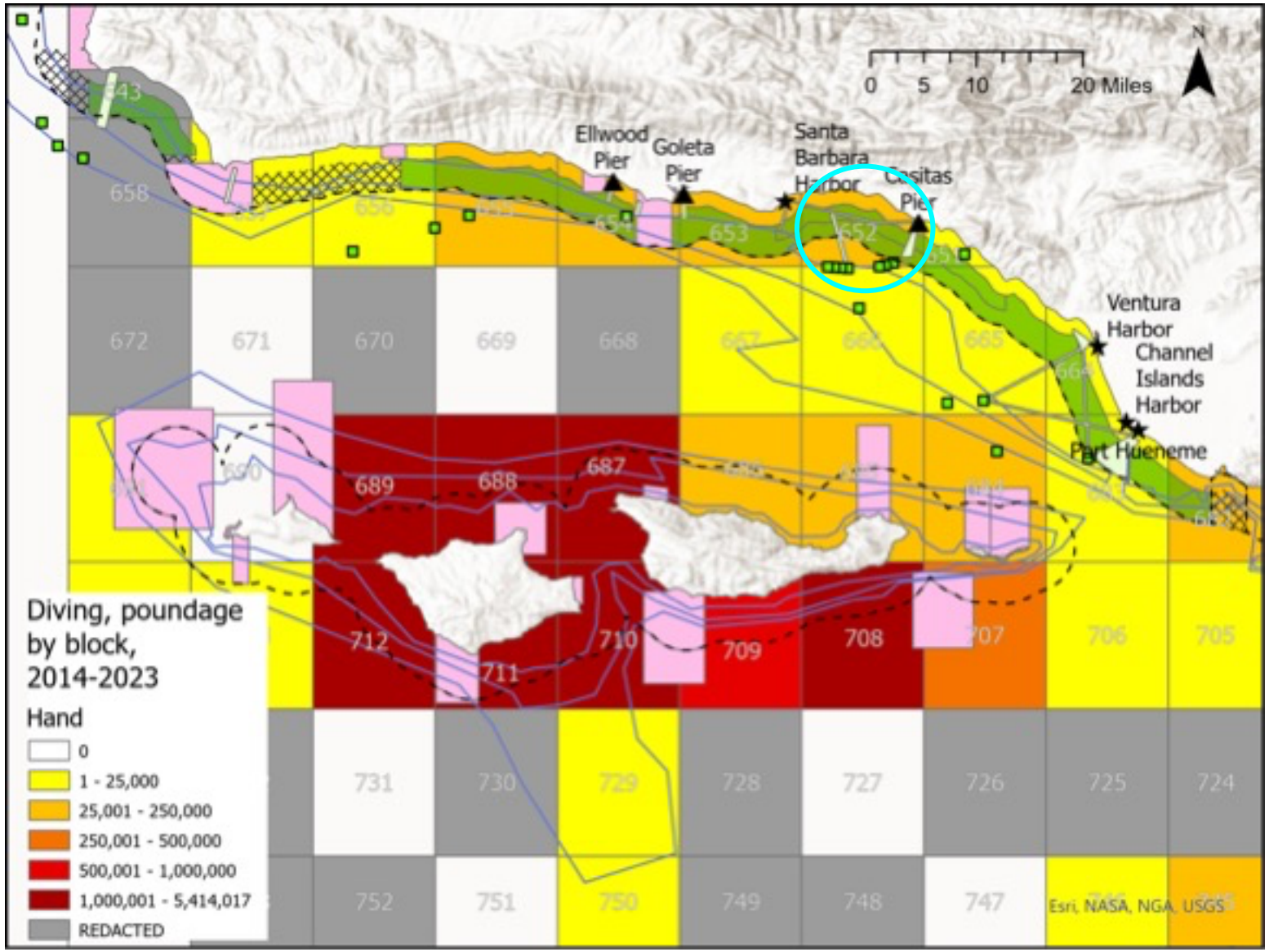
Blue circles added to highlight Block 652

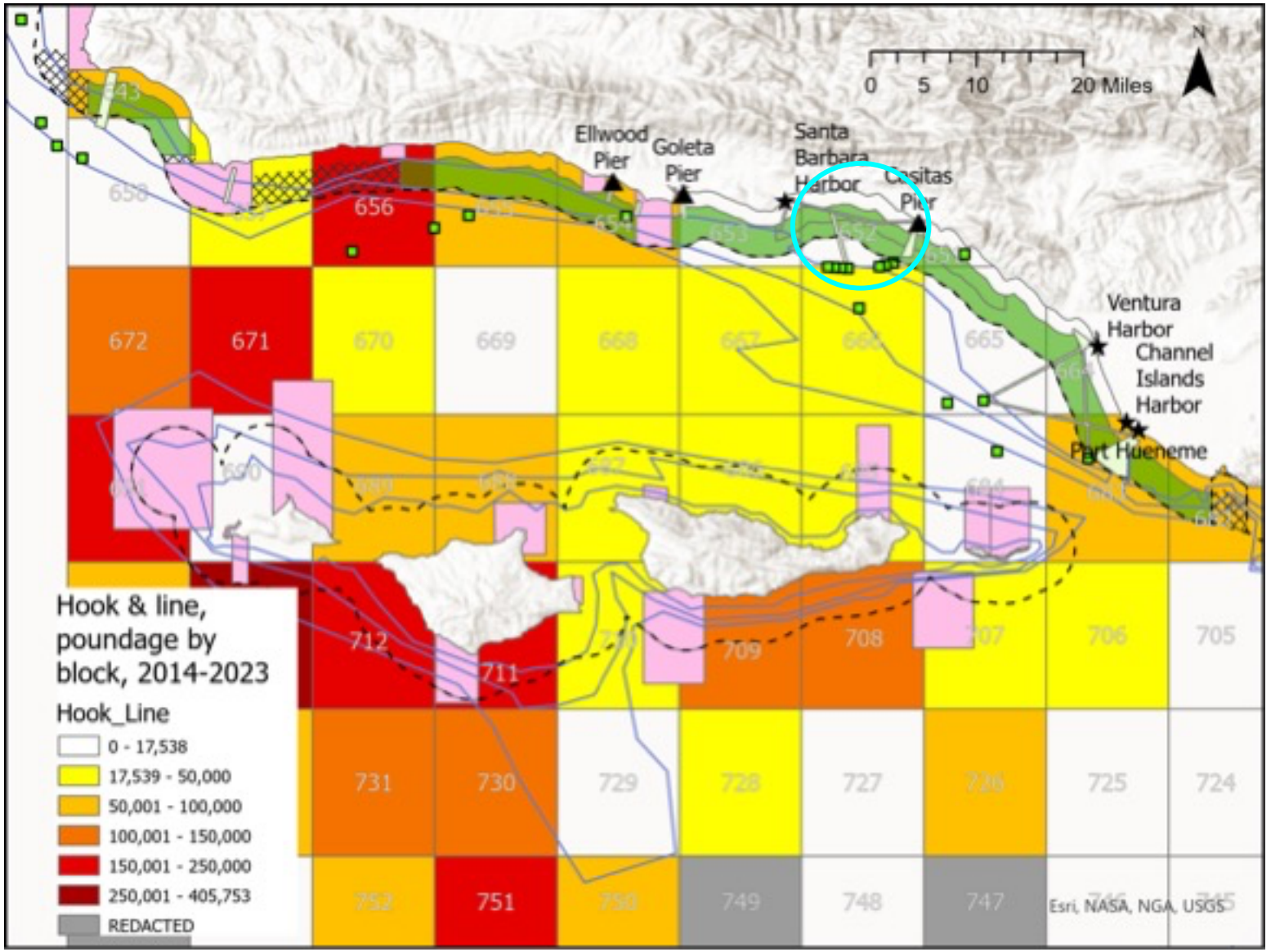
296 vessels landed catch in Santa Barbara port area in 2023

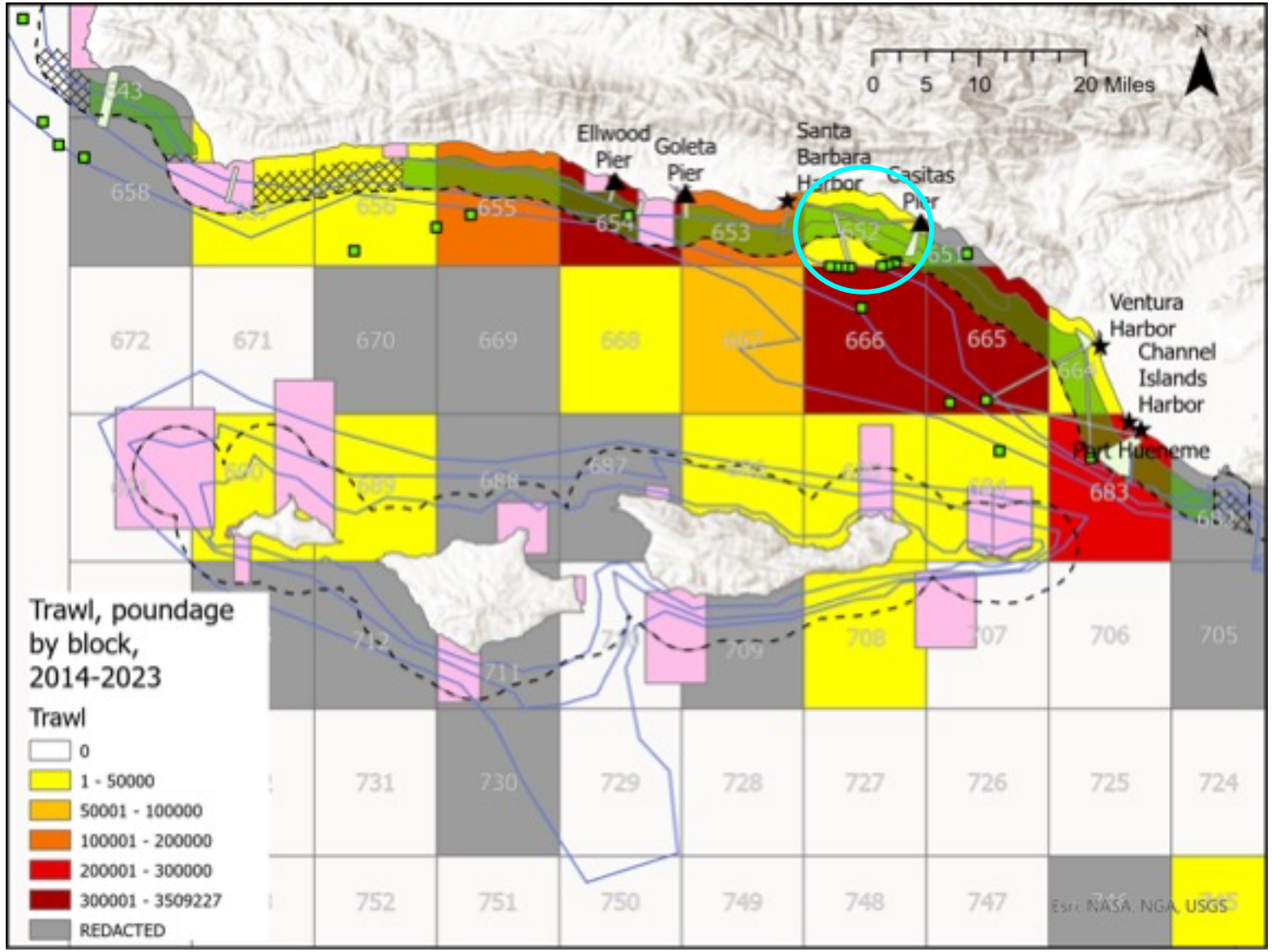


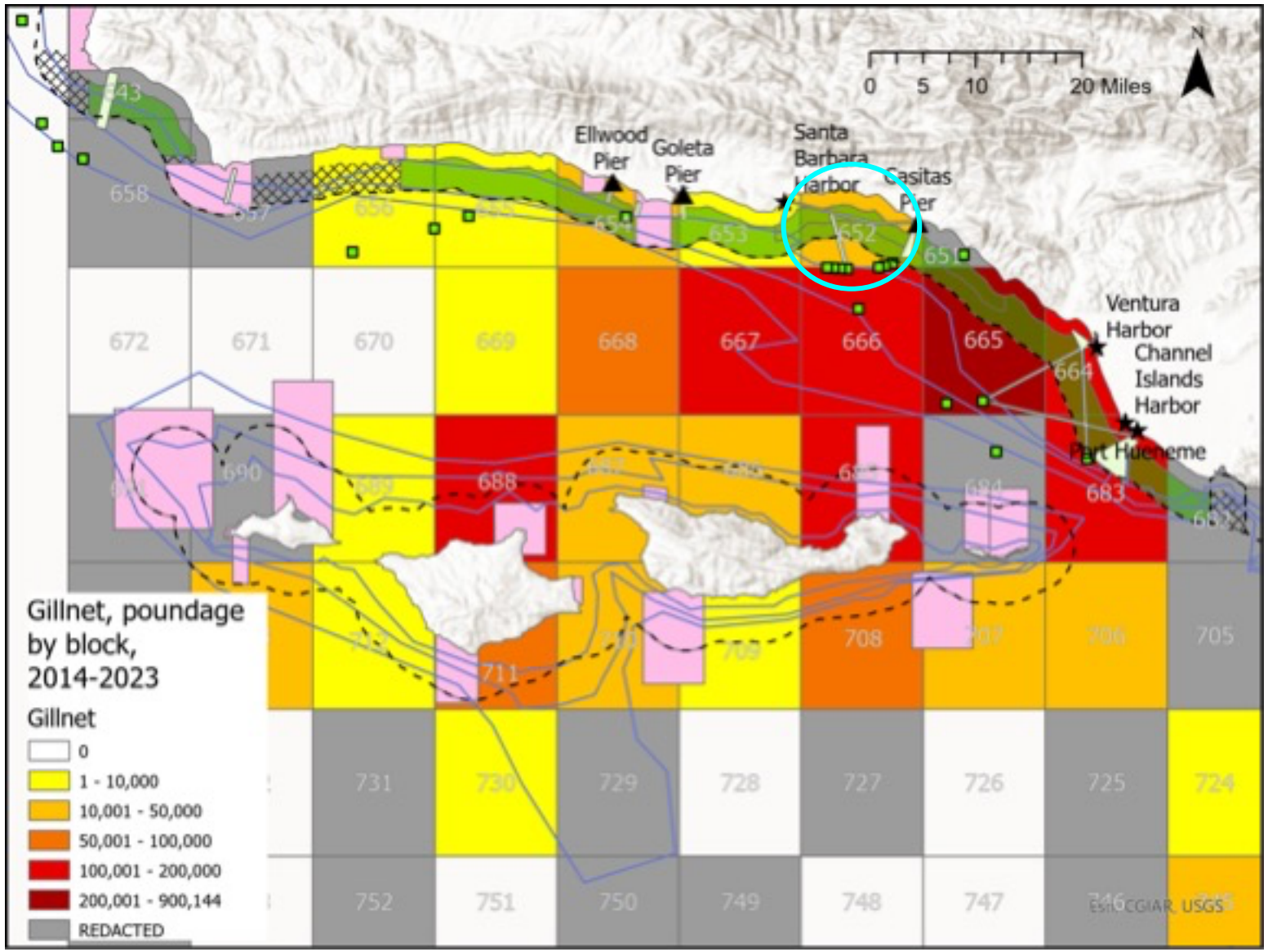



0 5 10 20 Miles
N
Ellwood Pier
Goleta Pier
Santa Barbara Harbor
Casitas Pier
Ventura Harbor
Channel Islands Harbor
Port Hueneme
Traps Poundage
0
1 - 200,000
200,001 - 400,000
400,001 - 800,000
800,001 - 1,649,981
REDACTED
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS


0 5 10 20 Miles
N
Ellwood Pier
Goleta Pier
Santa Barbara Harbor
Casitas Pier
Ventura Harbor
Channel Islands Harbor
Port Hueneme
Diving, poundage by block, 2014-2023
Hand
0
1 - 25,000
25,001 - 250,000
250,001 - 500,000
500,001 - 1,000,000
1,000,001 - 5,414,017
REDACTED
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS


0 5 10 20 Miles
N
Ellwood Pier
Goleta Pier
Santa Barbara Harbor
Casitas Pier
Ventura Harbor
Channel Islands Harbor
Port Hueneme
Hook & line, poundage by block, 2014-2023
Hook_Line
0 - 17,538
17,539 - 50,000
50,001 - 100,000
100,001 - 150,000
150,001 - 250,000
250,001 - 405,753
REDACTED
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS


0 5 10 20 Miles
N
Ellwood Pier
Goleta Pier
Santa Barbara Harbor
Casitas Pier
Ventura Harbor
Channel Islands Harbor
Port Hueneme
Trawl, poundage by block, 2014-2023
Trawl
0
1 - 50000
50001 - 100000
100001 - 200000
200001 - 300000
300001 - 3509227
REDACTED
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS


0 5 10 20 Miles
N
Ellwood Pier
Goleta Pier
Santa Barbara Harbor
Casitas Pier
Ventura Harbor
Channel Islands Harbor
Port Hueneme
Gillnet, poundage by block, 2014-2023
Gillnet
0
1 - 10,000
10,001 - 50,000
50,001 - 100,000
100,001 - 200,000
200,001 - 900,144
REDACTED
ESRI, CGIAR, USGS

SB Port Area ranked #1 in 2023 for vessel count

Port Area	Vessel Count		Fisher Count		Business Count		Landing Receipt Count	
Santa Barbara	296	(20.9%)	331	(22.5%)	117	(23.3%)	8577	(22.4%)
All Port Areas	1417		1472		502		38251	

SB Port Area ranked #2 in 2023 for poundage

Port Area	**Pounds**	**% Pounds**	**Value**	**% Value**
Santa Barbara	23,362,611	20.9%	$ 35,148,796	21.8%
Total, California	111,586,240		$ 161,221,551	

Number of commercial fishing vessels, fishers, and businesses reported on landing receipts from ports in the Santa Barbara Port Area and the percentage of the total from the port area in 2023.*

Port	Vessels		Fishers		Businesses		Receipts	
Santa Barbara Harbor	155	(52.4%)	175	(52.9%)	68	(58.1%)	4260	(49.7%)
Oxnard/Channel Islands Harbor	98	(33.1%)	112	(33.8%)	54	(46.2%)	2269	(26.5%)
Ventura Harbor	88	(29.7%)	97	(29.3%)	45	(38.5%)	1816	(21.2%)
Port Hueneme	21	(7.1%)	23	(6.9%)	10	(8.5%)	229	(2.7%)
Port Area Total	296		331		117		8577	

Volume and ex-vessel value of species landed in ports of the Santa Barbara Port Area in 2023. The value of each of the listed species landed in a port was $200,000 or greater.

Port: **Species**	**Pounds**	**Value**	**% Total Pounds**	**% Total Value**
Santa Barbara Harbor:				
Lobster, California spiny	308,118	$6,083,039	15.2%	48.6%
Sea urchin, red	799,178	$2,955,788	39.5%	23.6%
Crab, yellow rock	171,770	$444,900	8.5%	3.6%
Sablefish	141,701	$437,221	7.0%	3.5%
Rockfish, vermilion	107,392	$403,812	5.3%	3.2%
Halibut, California	66,144	$394,001	3.3%	3.1%
Prawn, spot	18,888	$369,819	0.9%	3.0%
Crab, red rock	180,900	$363,925	8.9%	2.9%
Thornyhead, shortspine	25,109	$281,859	1.2%	2.3%
Sea cucumber, giant red	37,659	$232,588	1.9%	1.9%
Additional species (93)	164,398	$543,764	8.1%	4.3%
Total	*2,021,257*	*$12,510,716*		

CFSB SeaSketch Mapping Project: Methodology Report

June 2024
Madeline Berger

Data Collection

Data was collected using the SeaSketch tool, via in-person or Zoom interviews with Santa Barbara fishermen. Ava Shulenberg conducted facilitated interviews with each respondent and operated the SeaSketch tool following guidance from the survey respondent. Respondents were identified via targeted outreach to the Santa Barbara and Ventura commercial fishing communities.

The survey consisted of a map on which respondents were asked to draw shapes representing oceans areas valuable for either boat transit or for commercial fishing. Respondents then assigned a numeric value to each shape, with higher numbers representing more valuable areas. Respondents were also asked to specify which gear types and which species were fished within the given shapes.

Analysis

Raw survey data was downloaded from SeaSketch and then cleaned using R statistical software[1]. All identifying information about respondents, such as names, were removed and non-spatial demographic information about respondents, including age and home harbor, were combined and summarized. Spatial data was cleaned and prepped for the heatmap tool by:

1. Normalizing the value assigned to each shape drawn by one a single respondent to a scale of 0 - 100
2. removing MPA areas from the shapes
3. clipping the shapes to the AOI, which is shown in Figure 1
4. making sure all shapes were valid geometries.

Shapes were also sorted into gear and species-specific datasets. We also made 3 extra commercial fishing datasets that omitted diving, trapping, and both. This resulted in 55 feature classes (Appendix A), one for all boat transit, one for all commercial fishing, and the rest gear and species-specific. Each feature class was then saved as individual shapefiles.

Shapefiles were then input into the open-source heatmap python tool created by Tim Welch. This tool represents an implementation of the methodology outlined in Yates and Shoeman (2013) [2], where the value of each shape is divided by the area of the shape in meters, and values of overlapping shapes are summed and gridded into heatmap rasters. Separate heatmaps were created for all boat transit shapes, all commercial fishing shapes and shapes for each species and gear type option in the survey.

After creating rasterized heatmaps using the heatmap tool, the rasters underwent final cleaning and refining by removing any areas that overlapped with the coast before being symbolized for final mapping.

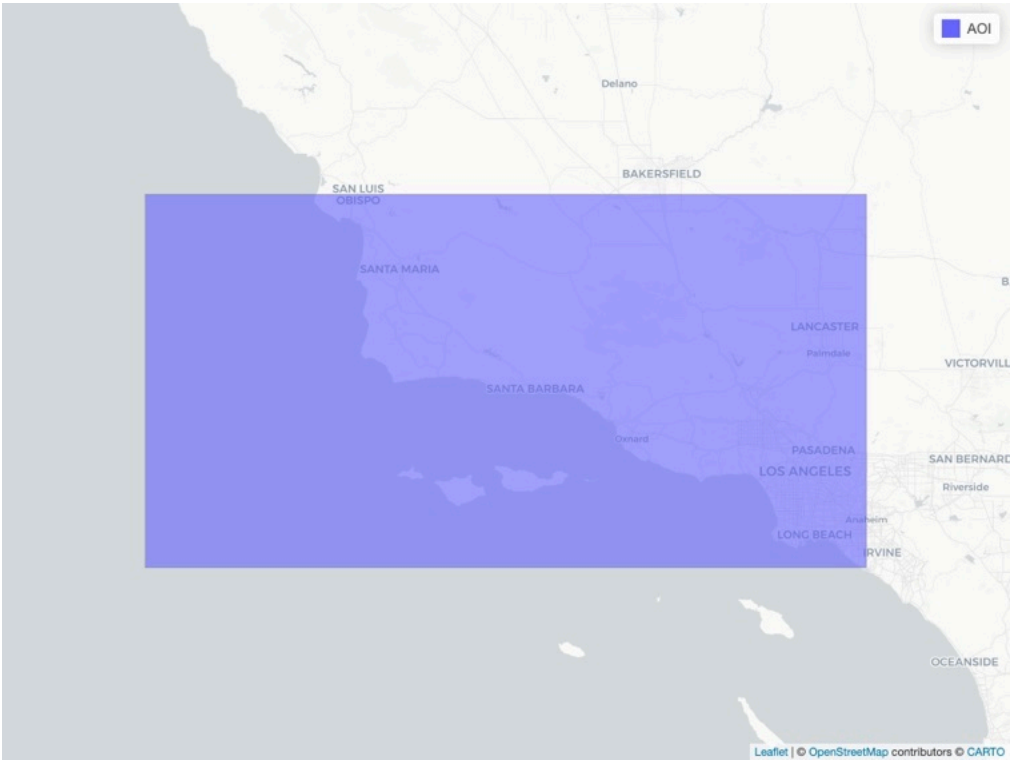


Figure 1: Map indicating AOI for this project. To ensure focus on the SB channel was maintained, all shapes were cropped to this AOI before creating rasters. The original data remains intact, under ownership of CFSB, in case there is a need to create future maps with a wider scope.

Survey Results

In 2023, 53 individuals completed the SeaSketch survey, with 52 drawing shapes indicating valued areas for both commercial fishing and boat transit and 1 drawing shapes for just boat transit.

Respondents were all male and ranged in age from 21 to 78 years of age, with an average age of 51. Table 1 provides the number of fishers interviewed from each landing harbor. 27 of all fishers interviewed, or 50%, indicated that they either currently, or expect in the future to, fish past Point Mugu (i.e. further south than the AOI for this project).

The survey respondents indicated that they used a wide variety of gear types and targeted many different species in the Santa Barbara Channel. Appendices 2 and 3 provide the number of respondents for each gear and species choice provided on the SeaSketch survey.

Table 1: Survey Respondents per Landing Harbor

Landing Harbor	Respondents
Santa Barbara	35
Ventura	8
Channel Islands	10

Maps

Below are still images of the cumulative maps. These maps are 100 x 100 meter rasters symbolized using a linear interpolation between the 1st and 99th percentile of values. All values outside these percentiles (i.e. extreme high or low outliers) are grouped into the end color bins. Outliers were further trimmed from these maps by excluding any values with more than 16 bits.

Maps are available by request at info@cfsb.info.

Worked Cited

1. R Core Team (2021). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria.https://www.R-project.org/.
2. Yates KL, Schoeman DS (2013) Spatial Access Priority Mapping (SAPM) with Fishers: A Quantitative GIS Method for Participatory Planning. PLoS ONE 8(7): e68424. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0068424

Appendix

A: Datasets created

A shapefile and raster were created for each of the following sectors, species fished and gear types used:

Sector / Activity Type (5)	Species (37)	Gear (13)
Commercial Fishing (all gear types) Commercial Fishing - omitting diving Commercial Fishing - omitting trapping Commercial Fishing - omitting diving and trapping Boat Transit	*Angel Shark* *Albacore* *Black cod* *Bonito* *Box Crab* *Dorado* *Halibut* *Kelp* *Kellet's Whelk* *Ling cod* *Lobster* *Louvar* *Mackerel/ sardines / anchovies* *Ocean Whitefish* *Octopus* *Opah* *Pelagic Shark* *Ridgeback shrimp* *Rock Crab* *Rockfish* *Salmon* *Sand Dab* *Sea Cucumber* *Sheephead* *Slime Eels* *Sole* *Spider Crab* *Spot Prawn* *Squid* *Swordfish* *Thornyhead* *Thresher shark* *Tuna* *Urchin* *White Seabass* *Yellowtail* *Other*	Deepset buoy line Deepset longline Dive/Rake/Bag Drag/Troll/Bottom Trawl Drift gillnet Harpoon Hook and Line / Longline Kelp cutter / harvester Lampara nets Purse seine Set gill net Trap Other

B. Responses per gear type

Fishers could select more than one gear type for each shape they drew, therefore the total respondents for each of these tables exceeds the total number of unique individuals that filled out the survey. Trap was the gear type with the most responses, and lampara nets and kelp cutters / harvesters were selected the least number of times.

	Responses	# of Shapes
kelp cutter / harvester	3	12
lampara nets	3	9
other	4	8
seine	7	30
harpoon	9	22
set gill net	9	24
drift gillnet	10	31
deepset buoy line	12	31
deepset longline	12	33
drag / troll	18	48
dive/rake/bag	22	91
hook and line / longline	29	89
trap	31	96

C. Responses per species

Fishers could select more than one species fished for each shape they drew, therefore the total respondents for each of these tables exceeds the total number of unique individuals that filled out the survey. The species most frequently selected was halibut, while the species with the fewest responses was louvar.

	Responses	# of Shapes
albacore	5	7
angel shark	12	29
black cod	12	27
bonito	8	16
box crab	9	24
dorado	5	6
halibut	38	101
kellet's whelk	11	29
kelp	5	17
lingcod	17	38
lobster	24	72
louvar	1	2
mackerel/ sardines / anchovies	18	52
ocean whitefish	25	68
octopus	3	6
opah	2	3
other	16	31
pelagic shark	13	35
ridgeback shrimp	10	26
rock crab	26	65
rockfish	32	84
salmon	13	24
sand dab	15	35
sea cucumber	14	49
sheephead	16	39
slime eels	3	4
sole	9	18
spider crab	11	25
spot prawn	9	26
squid	14	46
swordfish	15	30
thornyhead	11	21
thresher shark	15	34
tuna	19	40
urchin	21	80
white seabass	33	84
yellowtail	29	73

COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN OF SANTA BARBARA

February 23, 2026

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

RE: Opposition to Petition 2023-33MPA-AM1 — Proposed MPA Expansions in the Santa Barbara Channel and Northern Channel Islands

Dear Commissioners:

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) respectfully submits this letter in opposition to Petition 2023-33MPA-AM1.

For over 40 years, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara ("CFSB"), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been committed to making our local fishing community resilient and effective by providing healthy, high-quality seafood to local and global markets, ensuring the economic and biological sustainability of fisheries, and maintaining California's fishing heritage. CFSB currently has over 80 members. We represent the interests of a diverse set of fishermen, shellfish farmers, and seafood processors and distributors who are leaders in the commercial fishing industry.

While CFSB is fully committed to kelp ecosystem stewardship and actively engages in kelp restoration, we cannot support the proposed closures of fishing grounds proposed in Petition 33.

Our opposition to Petition 33 rests on three fundamental concerns: the scientific rationale for these closures is weak; the proposed MPAs could undermine more effective restoration strategies; and the economic harm to fishing communities would be substantial, long-term, and is inadequately analyzed.

This letter includes newly available data relevant to the proposed closures by Petition 33 in the Santa Barbara Channel in particular, at Point Conception, Santa Rosa Island, Gull Island, and Point Dume, areas which our fishing community especially depends upon.

I. The Scientific Rationale Does Not Support These Closures

The petition is misaligned with the drivers of kelp loss. The scientific literature is clear that disease epidemics in sea stars, ENSO dynamics, and marine heatwaves are the primary causes of kelp decline. Excluding fishing does nothing to address these factors. At the Northern Channel Islands, urchin barrens—not fishing pressure—are the inhibitor of kelp regrowth, and predators

generally do not feed on nutritionally depleted purple urchins in barrens due to their low caloric content; protecting predators will not resolve the barren state. At the coastal site proposed for new closure (Point Conception), food web dynamics are not evident as drivers of kelp abundance; few urchin barrens are even present on the SB Channel coast (according to urchin divers and abalone restoration divers recently diving there). Other factors, possibly pollution and sedimentation in addition to climatic factors, may be inhibiting kelp on the Gaviota coast. In neither case does the exclusion of fishing address the actual drivers of kelp loss.

The cited research does not justify new MPAs. Giraldo-Ospina et al. (2023) recommends three actions: monitoring sites for triggers warranting intervention, defending sites from threats, and studying mechanisms of resistance to marine heatwaves. The first two are better accomplished by preserving access by commercial divers, who cover far more territory than static subtidal transects and can monitor and rapidly mobilize to defend areas through purple urchin harvest. The third is better studied using the existing MPA network rather than establishing new closures that will take years to yield data. Notably, the study's identification of high-resilience kelp forests outside current MPA boundaries suggests that fisheries are not impairing kelp resilience to its main stressors. As noted by many other letter-writers, the scientific evidence for causal relationships between MPA protection and kelp resilience or MPA protection and biodiversity metrics in the Carr and Caselle (2021) report is too weak to justify the economic harm that could come from the closures in this petition. Other studies, such as Ovando et al. (2021), demonstrate no net biomass gain was associated with the MPA network in the Channel Islands and explain that in the absence of ongoing over-fishing (which is not occurring here), MPAs do not show broadscale net biodiversity gains.

The proposed closures extend far beyond kelp habitat. All but one of the proposed expansions (Gull Island) cover waters well beyond kelp's natural growing depth. The petition offers no rationale for closing deepwater areas to fisheries with no ecological connection to kelp ecosystems.

Scientific modeling tools exist to guide spatial placement of new area closures but have not been used. Many of these tools were developed in response to the previous California MPA Network process and should be leveraged if future changes to the MPA Network are warranted. These tools can present alternatives and evaluate trade-offs to simultaneously maximize intended biodiversity protections and minimize negative fishery impacts.

II. MPA Designation Could Undermine More Effective Restoration Strategies

MPA designation reduces the available toolkit. Designating these areas as MPAs makes implementation of commercial purple urchin harvest, kelp re-seeding, sea star outplanting, and importantly - future tech-based innovations yet to be developed - more time-consuming and difficult - or impossible - to permit for use in these places. The Ocean Protection Council's strategic plan commits to restoring at least 2,000 acres of kelp forest by 2030, with over $10 million recently allocated to kelp restoration projects. This substantial state investment in active restoration represents a more cost-effective and scientifically grounded approach than permanent fishery closures—particularly given the weak evidence that these fisheries negatively impact kelp recovery.

Commercial fishers are the most viable monitoring system. Subtidal monitoring using research transects covers less than one acre at largely static locations. Commercial divers routinely survey far greater areas and actively track kelp and urchin dynamics. Excluding them from these large areas eliminates the most practical, cost-effective system for detecting conditions that warrant intervention.

Active restoration is proving effective. CFSB has partnered with UC Santa Barbara, The Nature Conservancy, and The Bay Foundation to develop and demonstrate fishery-mediated kelp restoration. At a one-acre pilot site in Tyler Bight, San Miguel Island, commercial divers harvested 3,000 pounds of purple urchin between June and September 2025. PISCO-method monitoring at the harvest site and a nearby control site occurred in May 2025, October 2025, and January 2026. Our positive results echo those of TNC and The Bay Foundation in other parts of the State.

The results of our study in Figure 1 below demonstrate that commercial harvest can effectively restore kelp habitat:

- Purple urchin density was reduced (by harvest) to two-thirds, to approximately 35 per square meter in September 2025, and held at that level through January 2026 without further intervention
- Red urchin density remained unchanged—indistinguishable from pre-harvest levels and the control site
- Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) count increased from fewer than 5 plants pre-harvest to over 35 in October post-harvest
- Total algal count increased from fewer than 20 plants pre-harvest to over 280 in January post-harvest
- The nearby control site showed near-zero algal counts throughout the monitoring period, suggesting that kelp recovery at the harvest site benefited from the intervention

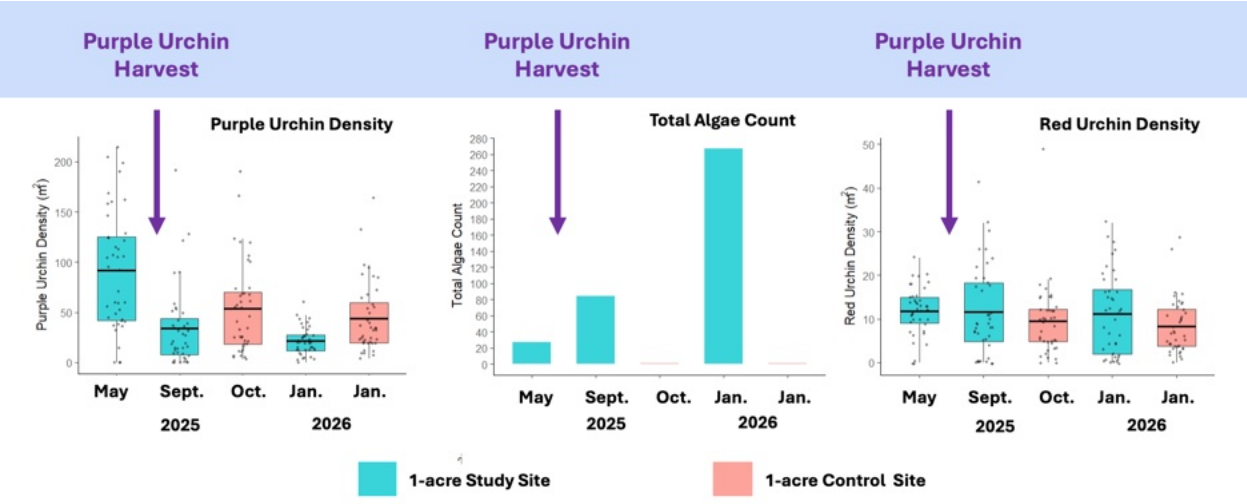


Figure 1. Results of CFSB's purple urchin removal pilot project at Tyler Bight in San Miguel Island that harvested 3,000 lbs of purple urchin in 1 acre. Data collected, analyzed and displayed by the Caselle Lab at UCSB.

We are simultaneously developing cost-effective market demand for harvested purple urchin to ensure this approach is economically sustainable at scale. The proposed MPAs would restrict our community's ability to expand these demonstrated strategies to other island and coastal sites in the Channel.

III. The Economic Harm Would Be Substantial and Inadequately Analyzed

The petition's economic analysis is insufficient. The assertion that these closures represent merely "short-term impacts" that will be "outweighed by larger benefits in the future" is unsupportable. The Coastal Fishing Communities Policy would suggest that a transparent, structured stakeholder engagement process and economic analysis of each proposed closure is required. This analysis must consider the full economic contribution of fisheries to coastal economies and must be predicated on place-based science using best-available science.

Spillover assumptions do not apply uniformly. The petition relies heavily on Lenihan et al. (2021), but lobster exhibits spillover dynamics that many other affected fisheries do not—particularly the sea urchin fishery, which is critical to our working waterfronts. The claim that "regional and statewide fishery landings and values do not appear to have been negatively impacted by MPAs" cannot be extrapolated here; these analyses must be conducted fishery by fishery and region by region for these specific proposed closures.

Displacement creates documented harm. These closures cannot rationally be characterized as short-term impacts. Displacement will create long-term fisheries compaction with documented negative ecological effects. As an example, Petition 2023-27MPA-AM1 regarding lobster fishing impacts on eelgrass at Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island, describes habitat impacts that began only after coastal MPAs forced fleet relocation. Compressing fisheries into crowded, suboptimal grounds reduces catch per unit effort and may intensify habitat impacts outside MPAs.

These grounds have irreplaceable value. CFSB conducted a Seasketch spatial assessment in 2023-2024 with 53 commercial fishers across three ports, funded by the ARPA-E MARINER program and analyzed by UCSB's Seasketch lab. The results show that the proposed closure areas rank among the highest-value (dark red, in Figure 2 below) for fishing grounds in the Santa Barbara Channel for multiple gear types, many of which have no scientific rationale for negative influence on kelp:

- **South Point, Santa Rosa Island:** Diving, Deep Set Buoy, Deep Set Longline, Harpoon, Lampara
- **Point Conception:** Deep Set Buoy, Deep Set Longline, Traps, Hook and Line, Kelp Cutting, Seine Net
- **Gull Island:** Diving, Traps, Deep Set Buoy, Deep Set Longline, Harpoon, Lampara, Hook and Line, Seine Net
- **Point Dume:** Diving, Hook and Line, Seine Net

Fishers invest decades learning to harvest strategically, sustainably and safely from specific grounds given weather, currents, tides, seasons, topography and ecology. As one urchin diver

stated, closing this area "is akin to taking away my college degree"—years of accumulated knowledge that cannot simply be transferred elsewhere.

Port viability is at stake. These closures threaten functional port economies reliant on commercial fishing, potentially pushing our ports below the minimum viable threshold needed to support fishing community resilience—including fully utilized shoreside infrastructure, intergenerational knowledge transmission, and local supply chains. This directly threatens California's food production capacity and the food security of our coastal communities. Santa Barbara was the State's top producing region in 2023, partly due to the declining rankings of other ports historically strong in Salmo and Dungeness. Hampering Santa Barbara is a nail in the coffin of wild, local and sustainable fisheries for the State.

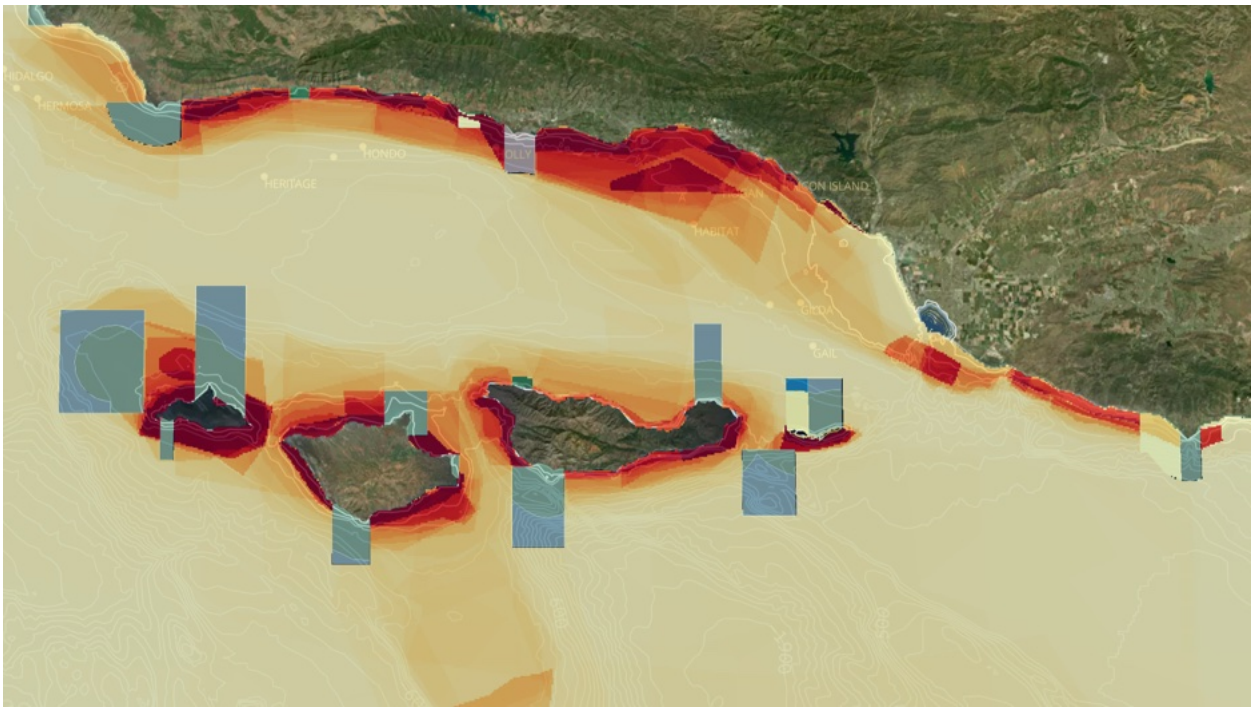


Figure 2. Composite Seasketch heatmap showing the value of fishing grounds in the Santa Barbara Channel to 53 fishers based in SB and Ventura. Note that biases are possible, especially at the coastal margins, where fishers from other ports may more highly value grounds than the respondents. See appendix for more study information.

Conclusion and Request

CFSB urges the Commission to deny Petition 2023-33MPA-AM1. The scientific rationale for these closures is insufficient - for all fisheries but particularly for fisheries that do not target kelp forest species. The proposed MPAs would restrict proven restoration strategies while imposing substantial, long-term economic harm on fishing communities that has not been adequately analyzed as required by the Coastal Fishing Communities Policy.

We recognize that many who support this petition share our commitment to kelp forest health. However, well-intentioned support cannot substitute for rigorous, site-specific analysis. The areas proposed for closure were not selected based on evidence that fishing is driving kelp loss at those sites, nor with adequate consideration of the impacts on fishing communities who depend on them.

If the Commission seeks new kelp protection measures, we respectfully request that any action:

1. Require rigorous, site-specific analysis of the proximate causes of kelp loss and the actual influence of each affected fishery
2. Conduct a full economic cost-benefit analysis in line with the Coastal Fishing Communities Policy
3. Exclude urchin fisheries from any restrictions, given that they target a kelp suppressor
4. Exclude fisheries with no connection to kelp forest dynamics, including pelagic and deepwater fisheries
5. Prioritize investment in active restoration strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of these concerns and welcome discussion.

Respectfully,

Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara

Chris Voss, President

Kim Selkoe, Executive Director

Appendix: Seasketch Methodology Report

CFSB SeaSketch Mapping Project: Methodology Report

June 2024
Madeline Berger

Data Collection

Data was collected using the SeaSketch tool, via in-person or Zoom interviews with Santa Barbara fishermen. Ava Shulenberg conducted facilitated interviews with each respondent and operated the SeaSketch tool following guidance from the survey respondent. Respondents were identified via targeted outreach to the Santa Barbara and Ventura commercial fishing communities.

The survey consisted of a map on which respondents were asked to draw shapes representing oceans areas valuable for either boat transit or for commercial fishing. Respondents then assigned a numeric value to each shape, with higher numbers representing more valuable areas. Respondents were also asked to specify which gear types and which species were fished within the given shapes.

Analysis

Raw survey data was downloaded from SeaSketch and then cleaned using R statistical software[1]. All identifying information about respondents, such as names, were removed and non-spatial demographic information about respondents, including age and home harbor, were combined and summarized. Spatial data was cleaned and prepped for the heatmap tool by:

1. Normalizing the value assigned to each shape drawn by one a single respondent to a scale of 0 - 100
2. removing MPA areas from the shapes
3. clipping the shapes to the AOI, which is shown in Figure 1
4. making sure all shapes were valid geometries.

Shapes were also sorted into gear and species-specific datasets. We also made 3 extra commercial fishing datasets that omitted diving, trapping, and both. This resulted in 55 feature classes (Appendix A), one for all boat transit, one for all commercial fishing, and the rest gear and species-specific. Each feature class was then saved as individual shapefiles.

Shapefiles were then input into the open-source heatmap python tool created by Tim Welch. This tool represents an implementation of the methodology outlined in Yates and Shoeman (2013) [2], where the value of each shape is divided by the area of the shape in meters, and values of overlapping shapes are summed and gridded into heatmap rasters. Separate heatmaps were created for all boat transit shapes, all commercial fishing shapes and shapes for each species and gear type option in the survey.

After creating rasterized heatmaps using the heatmap tool, the rasters underwent final cleaning and refining by removing any areas that overlapped with the coast before being symbolized for final mapping.

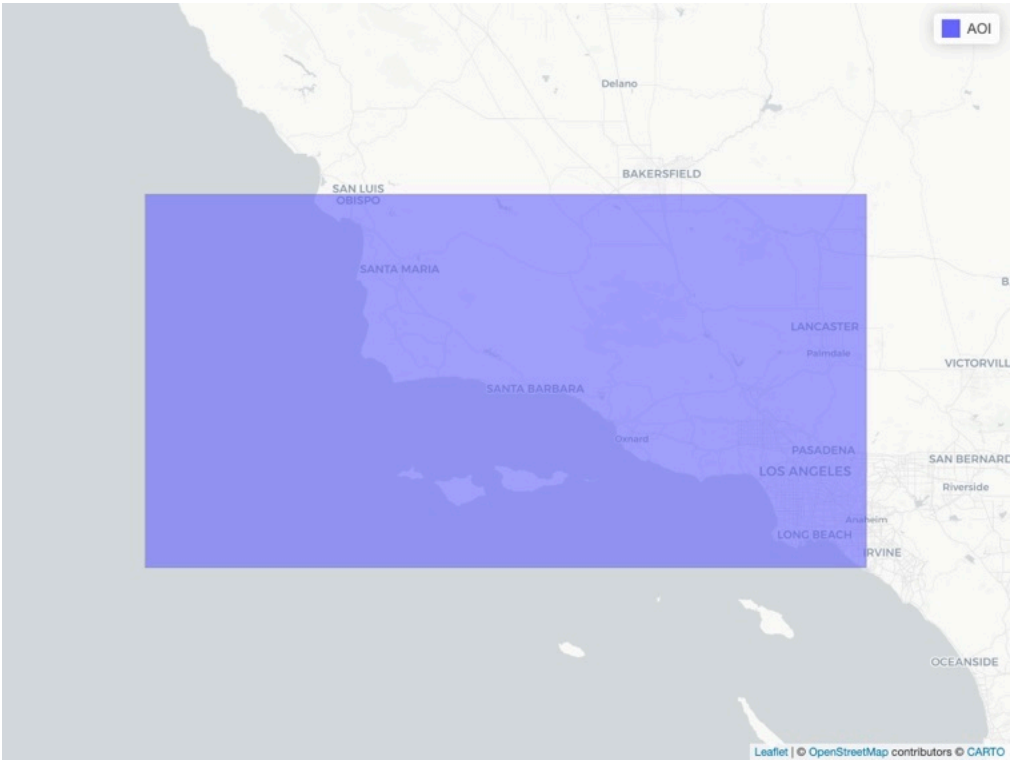


Figure 1: Map indicating AOI for this project. To ensure focus on the SB channel was maintained, all shapes were cropped to this AOI before creating rasters. The original data remains intact, under ownership of CFSB, in case there is a need to create future maps with a wider scope.

Survey Results

In 2023, 53 individuals completed the SeaSketch survey, with 52 drawing shapes indicating valued areas for both commercial fishing and boat transit and 1 drawing shapes for just boat transit.

Respondents were all male and ranged in age from 21 to 78 years of age, with an average age of 51. Table 1 provides the number of fishers interviewed from each landing harbor. 27 of all fishers interviewed, or 50%, indicated that they either currently, or expect in the future to, fish past Point Mugu (i.e. further south than the AOI for this project).

The survey respondents indicated that they used a wide variety of gear types and targeted many different species in the Santa Barbara Channel. Appendices 2 and 3 provide the number of respondents for each gear and species choice provided on the SeaSketch survey.

Table 1: Survey Respondents per Landing Harbor

Landing Harbor	Respondents
Santa Barbara	35
Ventura	8
Channel Islands	10

Maps

Below are still images of the cumulative maps. These maps are 100 x 100 meter rasters symbolized using a linear interpolation between the 1st and 99th percentile of values. All values outside these percentiles (i.e. extreme high or low outliers) are grouped into the end color bins. Outliers were further trimmed from these maps by excluding any values with more than 16 bits.

Worked Cited

1. R Core Team (2021). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria.https://www.R-project.org/.
2. Yates KL, Schoeman DS (2013) Spatial Access Priority Mapping (SAPM) with Fishers: A Quantitative GIS Method for Participatory Planning. PLoS ONE 8(7): e68424. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0068424

Appendix

A: Datasets created

A shapefile and raster were created for each of the following sectors, species fished and gear types used:

Sector / Activity Type (5)	Species (37)	Gear (13)
Commercial Fishing (all gear types) Commercial Fishing - omitting diving Commercial Fishing - omitting trapping Commercial Fishing - omitting diving and trapping Boat Transit	*Angel Shark* *Albacore* *Black cod* *Bonito* *Box Crab* *Dorado* *Halibut* *Kelp* *Kellet's Whelk* *Ling cod* *Lobster* *Louvar* *Mackerel/ sardines / anchovies* *Ocean Whitefish* *Octopus* *Opah* *Pelagic Shark* *Ridgeback shrimp* *Rock Crab* *Rockfish* *Salmon* *Sand Dab* *Sea Cucumber* *Sheephead* *Slime Eels* *Sole* *Spider Crab* *Spot Prawn* *Squid* *Swordfish* *Thornyhead* *Thresher shark* *Tuna* *Urchin* *White Seabass* *Yellowtail* *Other*	Deepset buoy line Deepset longline Dive/Rake/Bag Drag/Troll/Bottom Trawl Drift gillnet Harpoon Hook and Line / Longline Kelp cutter / harvester Lampara nets Purse seine Set gill net Trap Other

B. Responses per gear type

Fishers could select more than one gear type for each shape they drew, therefore the total respondents for each of these tables exceeds the total number of unique individuals that filled out the survey. Trap was the gear type with the most responses, and lampara nets and kelp cutters / harvesters were selected the least number of times.

	Responses	# of Shapes
kelp cutter / harvester	3	12
lampara nets	3	9
other	4	8
seine	7	30
harpoon	9	22
set gill net	9	24
drift gillnet	10	31
deepset buoy line	12	31
deepset longline	12	33
drag / troll	18	48
dive/rake/bag	22	91
hook and line / longline	29	89
trap	31	96

C. Responses per species

Fishers could select more than one species fished for each shape they drew, therefore the total respondents for each of these tables exceeds the total number of unique individuals that filled out the survey. The species most frequently selected was halibut, while the species with the fewest responses was louvar.

	Responses	# of Shapes
albacore	5	7
angel shark	12	29
black cod	12	27
bonito	8	16
box crab	9	24
dorado	5	6
halibut	38	101
kellet's whelk	11	29
kelp	5	17
lingcod	17	38
lobster	24	72
louvar	1	2
mackerel/ sardines / anchovies	18	52
ocean whitefish	25	68
octopus	3	6
opah	2	3
other	16	31
pelagic shark	13	35
ridgeback shrimp	10	26
rock crab	26	65
rockfish	32	84
salmon	13	24
sand dab	15	35
sea cucumber	14	49
sheephead	16	39
slime eels	3	4
sole	9	18
spider crab	11	25
spot prawn	9	26
squid	14	46
swordfish	15	30
thornyhead	11	21
thresher shark	15	34
tuna	19	40
urchin	21	80
white seabass	33	84
yellowtail	29	73

From: Ethan Olsen <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 7:46 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Reject MPA 2023-29!

Subject: Opposition to Proposed MPA Expansions in Carpinteria and Morro Bay

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

I am writing to respectfully voice my opposition to the proposed Marine Protected Area expansions affecting the Carpinteria and Morro Bay regions. As a fifth-generation fisherman who has grown up utilizing and respecting California's coastline, I strongly believe these additional restrictions are unnecessary and disproportionately impact responsible recreational anglers and coastal families. I support the CCA's position in rejecting the specific proposals that would further restrict access without clear, science-based justification demonstrating measurable benefit over existing regulations.

Fishing is not just recreation to me, it is heritage and a way of life passed down through generations. Expanding MPAs in these areas would significantly limit public access and further erode sustainable fishing traditions along our coast. I urge the Commission to carefully reconsider these proposals and prioritize balanced, data-driven management that protects marine resources while preserving public access for responsible fishermen.

Respectfully,

Ethan Olsen

Outlook

Fw: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

From: BILL WOODBRIDGE [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 04:39 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support of the proposed Point Sal State Marine Reserve (Petition 2023-28MPA) near the city of Guadalupe, and the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria. Conserving these two special areas will help protect and restore ocean health, enhance coastal recreation experiences, and help ensure Santa Barbara County's coastal economy thrives for decades to come. I urge you to approve these proposals.

Both the proposed Point Sal and Mishopshno MPAs would conserve essential habitats that support rich biodiversity, such as kelp forests, rocky reefs, tidepools, sandy beaches, migratory whale corridors, a larval retention zone, and a seabird and sea lion rookery. Protecting these areas would have positive impacts that spread well beyond their boundaries, bolstering ocean resilience and keeping our coastal waters healthy. These two areas hold cultural significance for several Indigenous communities in our region. Designating these MPAs would honor and strengthen the Chumash peoples' stewardship of the area, and elevate their historical and present-day connection to the region.

In addition, these areas are treasured by ocean and coastal recreation communities. Point Sal is home to stunning coastal bluff trails frequented by local hikers and tourists to view wildlife, relax at the beach, and enjoy the remote, pristine area. Carpinteria is a popular area for surfers, shore fishers, swimmers, kayakers, birdwatchers, and beach walkers. By making the ocean healthier and more resilient to climate change, strong marine protections help preserve everyone's ability to enjoy these areas through a variety of recreational activities, far into the future. This also benefits our economy – collectively, ocean-based recreational activities contribute to our state's $28 billion ocean tourism and recreation economy. In 2023, coastal tourism brought just over $2 billion in travel-related spending to Santa Barbara County, and supported more than 20,000 jobs.

The Commission's continued work to protect California's biodiversity is critical. And ocean conservation is more important than ever, given escalating threats to our marine ecosystems. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for these proposals that aim to fill a current gap in network design to improve ecological connectivity throughout the region, boost resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats and ocean wildlife.

Sincerely,

Bill Woodbridge
Santa Barbara

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."

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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."

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Petition 2023-33MPA

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i. Cabrillo SMR - expand westward and northward by 15.2 sq mi ~9.9 sq mi

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

Marine Conservation Institute
14301 Arnold Dr. Suite 25 • Glen Ellen, CA 95442 USA
www.marine-conservation.org

Received at California Fish and Game Commission
April 1, 2026

March 31, 2026

To:
The California Fish and Game Commission – Tribal Committee
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: April 14, 2026 Tribal Committee Meeting – Opposition to MPA Petition Actions Affecting the California Spiny Lobster Fishery

Dear Chair Hostler-Carmesin and Members of the Tribal Committee,

For over 26 years, the California Lobster & Trap Fishermen's Association (CLTFA), a 501(c)6 non-profit organization, has been established as a corporation to aid, encourage, and promote activities and affairs that maintain the populations of the California Spiny Lobster species off the coast and islands of the State of California at levels of maximum sustained yields as well as further the goal of viable and equitable access to such living marine resources by commercial fishermen licensed by the State of California. CLTFA is a well-respected organization within the California fishing community and represents the interests of vastly experienced trap fishermen from a variety of regions from Point Conception to San Diego. On behalf of CLTFA, we respectfully submit the following comments regarding Marine Protected Area (MPA) regulation change petitions.

First and foremost, we want to make it clear that we recognize and hold the utmost respect for the importance of Tribal stewardship, cultural connections to marine resources, and the role of Tribal perspectives in ocean governance. We support collaborative, co-management approaches where they are grounded in meaningful engagement, sound science, and equitable consideration of all affected communities. However, we must express strong opposition to the use of the MPA petition process as currently applied to expand or create new closures that disproportionately impact the California spiny lobster fishery (among other California commercial fisheries) without adequate justification.

Disproportionate Impacts to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Specifically

The California spiny lobster fishery is widely recognized as a sustainably managed fishery operating under strict regulatory controls. Our fishery is especially vulnerable to spatial closures. Unlike more mobile or pelagic fisheries, lobster fishing is highly dependent on specific, nearshore habitats that fishermen have developed knowledge of over decades; These are not interchangeable grounds.

Data presented in the petition opposition materials show that areas under consideration, such as Anacapa Island (Frenchy's Cove), Carpinteria Reef, and portions of the Santa Barbara Channel, are among the highest-value trap fishing grounds in the region. For example:

- According to CDFW landings data, in Block 652 near Carpinteria, over 200,000 pounds of trap-caught landings were recorded over the past decade, with 100–200 vessels utilizing the area and up to 2,500 landing receipts documented.
- Regional spatial mapping surveys conducted with 53 commercial fishermen using SeaSketch technology in 2024/25 identified multiple proposed closure areas as "high" to "maximum" value for trap fisheries, indicating their irreplaceable importance to fishing operations.

Loss of access to these areas cannot be mitigated by shifting effort elsewhere. Instead, closures result in fleet compression, compaction of available fishing zones, reduced catch efficiency, increased safety risks, and secondary ecological impacts from displaced effort.

Petition 27 (Anacapa) Demonstrates the Wrong Regulatory Approach

Petition 2023-27 (Anacapa SMR) is particularly illustrative of the broader issue. While eelgrass protection is a legitimate goal, the petition proposes permanent spatial closures through the MPA process rather than utilizing adaptive fishery management tools.

The best available information indicates eelgrass at Frenchy's Cove occurs primarily in the 20-45 ft depth range. Yet the petition proposes closures extending far deeper and across a broader area than the habitat footprint warrants.

The spiny lobster fishery already operates under a robust management framework—including seasonal limits, trap limits, size restrictions, and the ability to implement depth-based or temporal adjustments. A compromise such as targeted depth restrictions (e.g., modifying trap deployment depths at certain times) could protect eelgrass while maintaining access to fishing grounds.

Using MPAs as a substitute for fishery management creates rigid, difficult/impossible-to-reverse closures that are inconsistent with adaptive management principles and unnecessarily harmful to fishing communities and their beneficiaries.

Opposition to the Mishopshno (Carpinteria) Petition

CLTFA opposes Petition 2023-29 (Mishopshno SMCA at Carpinteria). While we support Tribal co-management in principle, this proposal would close one of the most economically important

nearshore areas for trap fisheries in the Santa Barbara Channel *without* clear ecological justification. The Carpinteria Reef/Block 652 area supports substantial trap-caught landings and is relied upon by a large number of vessels, particularly during weather-limited periods when access to offshore grounds is unsafe.

Additionally, the ecological rationale for this closure is weak with respect to lobster fishing. Existing data indicate high regional connectivity of key species and no demonstrated need for additional spatial protection at this site. The proposed SMCA would also disrupt carefully managed fisheries without meaningfully advancing stated conservation goals, making it both economically harmful and scientifically unsupported.

MPAs Do Not Address the Primary Drivers of Ecosystem Change

Petition 33 and related proposals cite ecosystem concerns such as kelp loss. However, the scientific record indicates that major drivers of kelp decline include marine heatwaves, disease events, and broader oceanographic conditions, *not* fishing pressure.

It is important to note that commercial fishermen, particularly divers and trap fishermen, play an active role in ecosystem monitoring and restoration. Evidence from recent pilot projects shows that targeted urchin removal by commercial operators can significantly increase kelp and algal recovery within months.

Expanding MPAs would restrict the very activities that have demonstrated success in restoring ecosystem function, while failing to address the underlying causes of decline.

Inadequate Consideration of Socioeconomic Impacts

Across the petitions, there is a consistent lack of rigorous socioeconomic analysis. There has been no comprehensive assessment of:

- Lost income and reduced catch per unit (CPUE) effort
- Displacement effects and safety implications
- Cumulative spatial loss across fisheries
- Impacts to supply chains, processors, and coastal economies

The Santa Barbara port complex alone supports hundreds of jobs and landed over 23 million pounds of seafood valued at more than $35 million in 2023. These figures underscore the scale of economic activity at stake.

For all of California's commercial fishing fleets including spiny lobster, additional closures compound existing and emerging spatial pressures, including offshore energy development, entanglement management zones, and other regulatory constraints. The cumulative effect is a continued and potentially irreversible shrinking operational footprint that threatens the long-term viability of the fleet.

Misuse of the MPA Petition Process

CLTFA is particularly concerned that the petition process is being used to pursue substantial changes to California's MPA network outside of the framework established in the 2016 Master Plan. This approach bypasses the comprehensive scientific review, stakeholder engagement, and transparency that are essential for decisions of this magnitude.

MPAs are not designed to function as primary fishery management tools. Applying them in this way without first exhausting adaptive management alternatives sets a concerning precedent and undermines confidence in California's fisheries governance system.

Tribal Committee Considerations

We respectfully ask the Tribal Committee to carefully consider how these petitions intersect with principles of equity, access, and working waterfront sustainability. California's commercial fishing communities, including lobster fishermen, represent longstanding cultural and economic traditions that are also worthy of protection.

We are in absolute support of Tribal co-management where it enhances stewardship and incorporates multiple knowledge systems. However, such efforts should not come at the expense of excluding existing small-scale, sustainable fisheries without *clear scientific justification*, meaningful engagement, and balanced consideration of impacts. Commercial fishermen and tribes in opposition with one another is certainly a highly undesired circumstance that we do not ever wish to be in, nor do we seek to be the case during this process.

We recognize the need to address historical injustices and support elevating Tribal priorities in ocean governance as they are in some of our neighboring states that we are fortunate to be able to learn from. However, these efforts should not result in the unnecessary displacement of existing fisheries without clear scientific justification and meaningful engagement. Commercial fishermen are often misunderstood, but we have no intention of being adversarial with tribes in the story of MPA co-management development. If we are presented with well founded scientific justifications to permanently close fishing grounds, we would have no leg to stand on, but given the fact that this entire process has been tremendously convoluted and immensely lacking in

concrete data, we request the Tribal Committee and full Fish & Game Commission to consider the impacts to California's already shrinking commercial lobster fleet and all commercial fleets comprised of small, family-owned fishing businesses.

CLTFA strongly urges the Commission and Tribal Committee to:

1. Deny or defer MPA petitions that lack *clear* scientific justification and adequate if not robust socioeconomic analysis
2. Prioritize adaptive fishery management tools over permanent spatial closures
3. Ensure meaningful, consistent engagement with affected fishing communities prior to any regulatory changes
4. Evaluate cumulative impacts to the spiny lobster fishery and broader commercial fleet
5. Adhere to the processes and standards established in the MLPA and 2016 Master Plan

To close, we offer a perspective shared by a commercial fisherman from Santa Barbara, Jason Woods - "... taking away fishing grounds is the equivalent of revoking a college degree - years of hard-earned knowledge and experience that cannot simply be transferred elsewhere." We would greatly appreciate the Tribal Committee and full Commission keeping this thought in mind when formulating opinions around MPA petitions that eliminate fishing grounds. To reiterate, we remain committed as a community to collaborative solutions that protect marine ecosystems while sustaining California's coastal fishing communities and food systems and we thank you for your time and consideration.

Ava Schulenberg
Executive Director, CLTFA

Cameron Cribben
President, CLTFA

From: Matthew Bond

Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 4:56 PM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: April 14 Tribal Committee Meeting Comment From Allwaters Re Tribal MPA Petition Review Process and Tribal MPA Petitions

Hello,

Please find our comment attached.

Thank you.

Matt Bond

Allwaters.

March 30, 2026

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

Submitted electronically to fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: 04/14/2026 Fish and Game Commission Tribal Committee Meeting Agenda Item 4

Dear Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin and Members of the Tribal Committee,

My name is Matt Bond and I'm commenting on behalf of Allwaters Protection and Access Coalition. Please accept our thoughts on the Tribally led or co-led MPA petitions being evaluated by the Commission.

Because we are now unclear as to the process being used to evaluate these petitions and it doesn't seem we will be able to comment on them at the bio regional meetings, we are taking this opportunity to share our recommendations and supporting analysis with the Commission. We are equally uncertain if the guidelines we have been working with for the past two and a half years are still valid for this set of petitions. Stakeholders, The Commission and The Department were working with the understanding that petition analysis and decisions would be based on SAT guidelines from original MLPA, The Master Plan for MPAs, as much as possible site specific or at least locally relevant scientific analysis, and other historically relevant information. We are no longer sure this is the case. We strongly encourage this Committee to recommend to the full Commission that these petitions continue to be evaluated by the Department in the same manner the non-tribal petitions were. Creating a separate framework, outside of what is called for by the MLPA, potentially serves as a barrier to trust and participation and may result in outcomes that harm both the marine resources you are charged with managing as well as the people who depend on them for health, recreation, and sustenance. The following are our opinions and corresponding rational, based on the original, agreed upon process.

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.

Petition2023-28MPA-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.

Petition2023-29MPA-AM1 – Reject

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).

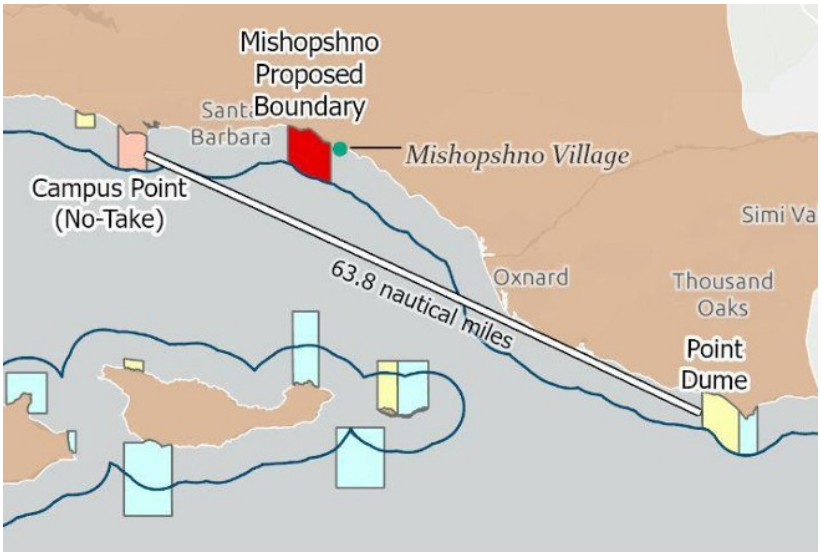


Image 1: Petition 29's image displaying proposed area and claimed spacing between existing Pt. Dume and Campus Point SMAs to be 63.8 nm (73.4 mi), which, if true, would exceed the southern MLPA MPA spacing requirements.

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).

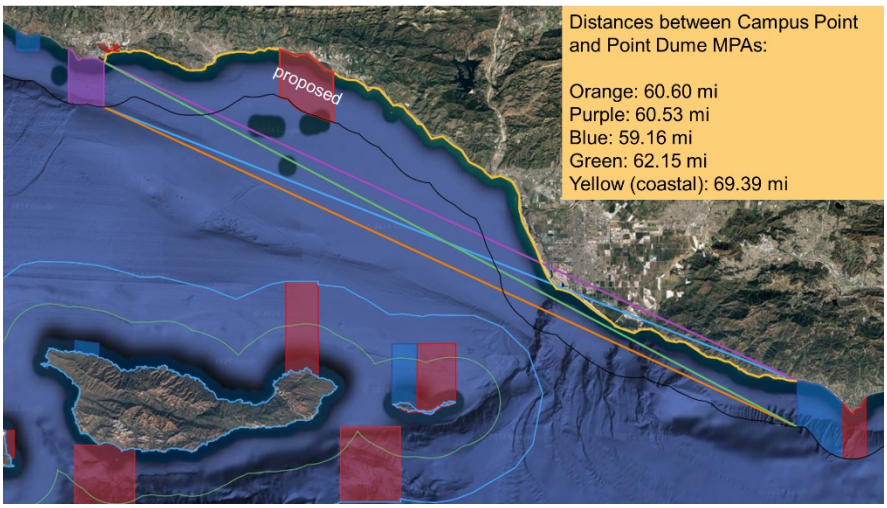


Image 2: Actual spacings between nearest existing MPAs around the proposed site. All but one straight line measurement exceeds 62 miles. The length that would be used by CDFW according to their provided input would be 60.60 mi (orange line) which falls within the spacing requirement.

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.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment and for your dedicated work in supporting both the interests of California's Tribal People as well as the health and perseverance of the natural resources shared in trust by all Californians.

Respectfully,

Matt Bond

Allwaters Protection and Access Coalition

FGC@FGC

From: John Hood
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 1:53 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Expanding California's Marine Protected Area

Categories: Exhibit

April 6, 2026

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

Re: Support for Petitions 2023-28MPA and 2023-29MPA

Dear President Zavaleta and Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my family's strong support of the proposed Point Sal State Marine Reserve (Petition 2023-28MPA) near the city of Guadalupe, and the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria. As a family with longstanding roots with these coastal regions, conserving these two special areas will help protect and restore ocean health. It will enhance coastal recreation experiences and help ensure Santa Barbara County's coastal economy thrives for decades to come. The Hood family urges you to approve these proposals.

Both the proposed Point Sal and Mishopshno MPAs would conserve essential habitats that support rich biodiversity, such as kelp forests, rocky reefs, tidepools, sandy beaches, migratory whale corridors, a larval retention zone, and a seabird and sea lion rookery. Protecting these areas would have positive impacts that spread well beyond their boundaries, bolstering ocean resilience, and keeping our coastal waters healthy. These two areas hold cultural significance for several Indigenous communities in our region. Designating these MPAs would honor and strengthen the Chumash peoples' stewardship of the area, and elevate their historical and present-day connection to the region.

In addition, these areas are treasured by ocean and coastal recreation communities. Point Sal is home to stunning coastal bluff trails frequented by local hikers and tourists to view wildlife, relax at the beach, and enjoy the remote, pristine area. Carpinteria is a popular area for surfers, shore fishers, swimmers, kayakers, birdwatchers, and beach walkers. By making the ocean healthier and more resilient to climate change, strong marine protections help preserve everyone's ability to enjoy these areas through a variety of recreational activities, far into the future. This also benefits our economy – collectively, ocean-based

recreational activities contribute to our state's $28 billion ocean tourism and recreation economy. In 2023, coastal tourism brought just over $2 billion in travel-related spending to Santa Barbara County and supported more than 20,000 jobs.

The Commission's continued work to protect California's biodiversity is critical. And ocean conservation is more important than ever, given escalating threats to our marine ecosystems. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for these proposals that aim to fill a current gap in network design to improve ecological connectivity throughout the region, boost resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats and ocean wildlife.

Sincerely,

John Hood

From: Dalia Aljawad
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 11:33 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: In Support of the Mishopshno SCMA (Petition 2023-29MPA)

President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

Dear President Sklar and Honorable Commissioners,

I am a California resident writing in strong support of the Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) (Petition 2023-29MPA) off the coast of Carpinteria.

The Mishopshno SMCA would protect important habitats that support rich biodiversity, such as kelp forest, rocky reef, sandy beaches, and a vital juvenile white shark habitat. Furthermore, I strongly support Mishopshno's tribal co-management by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as a concrete step towards Indigenous marine stewardship. The designation of this MPA would honor the Chumash peoples' historical and present-day relationship with the Santa Barbara coast, and strengthen their stewardship of the area.

Research has shown that marine protected areas (MPAs) can bolster ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, enhance local economies through tourism and ocean recreation, help overexploited fish and habitats bounce back, and keep our coasts healthier. The establishment of Mishopshno SMCA would also be a powerful step toward Governor Gavin Newsom's 30x30 goal, protecting California's marine life and coastal communities for generations to come."

We appreciate the Commission's work to protect our state's coastal habitats and biodiversity, which is critical now more than ever as we face the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. I urge you to approve this proposal that aims to honor Chumash cultural and historical connections to the area, provide additional resilience in the face of climate change, and protect critical marine habitats.

Sincerely,

Dalia Aljawad
Laguna Niguel, California

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."

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.

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

From: Jaime Diamond <info@stardustsportfishing.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 8:19 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: 4.14.26 Tribal Subcommittee MPA Bin 2 Tribal Petitions Agenda 4E

Please confirm receipt of this email and attachment.

--

Jaime Diamond

March 28, 2026

To: California Fish and Game Commission Tribal Subcommittee

From: Stardust Sportfishing and Santa Barbara Landing

Subject: Bin 2 Petition Analysis

Dear Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin,

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. In 2024 Capt. Jason and our son Matthew Diamond entered the commercial spiny lobster fishery.

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 recommendation to the tribal subcommittee for 1 tribal petition that would have a detrimental impact on our own business and the broader sportfishing community. 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.

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DENY based on the following:

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There is also an overwhelming amount of public outcry on this petition due to a lack of meaningful local outreach by the petitioners. The Carpinteria reef area is vital to the local community, economy, local charter businesses, commercial fishermen and tourism. Closing this area to fishing would ignore a 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---

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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
Commercial Lobster Fisherman

Matthew Diamond

Matthew Diamond
Commercial Lobster Fisherman