

# The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan FAQs Sheet

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## About this Document

The purpose of this frequently asked question (FAQs) sheet is to help guide and answer commonly asked questions pertaining to “The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan.”

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**1. What is the “The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan (the Partnership Plan)”?**

The Partnership Plan is an overarching guidance document developed under the leadership of Ocean Protection (OPC) in collaboration with several state agencies for California state, federal, regional, local, and tribal governments, communities, non-governmental organizations, academic groups, private sector, and the general public on how to participate in the California Collaborative. The California Collaborative Approach is a bold new initiative, which promotes a partnership-based model for managing California’s network of marine protected areas (MPAs). This document outlines a shared vision of “top-down/bottom-up” management that links agencies and organizations across geographic and jurisdictional scales. In addition, it describes the experimental approach that taps into the existing energy, expertise, and resources at the local scale through a network of state-wide Community Collaboratives, which are the manifestation of the bottom-up element of the California Collaborative. In summary, the state is committed to an inclusive and collaborative path forward for MPA management and this document provides the blueprint.

**2. How do I submit public comment?**

The document can be found at <http://www.opc.ca.gov/> and comments can be submitted via email or hard copy.

Email: Please submit comments to [MPAcomments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MPAcomments@resources.ca.gov)

Mail: Please show comments in ink on the document itself, or include page and line numbers when you are referencing particular elements of the Partnership Plan. Comments can be mailed to:

MPA Partnership Plan  
c/o Liz Parissenti  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **3. Who participated in the development of the Partnership Plan?**

This document was developed through a collaborative and interagency effort of a Drafting Oversight Group, chaired by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and comprised of senior representatives from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Fish and Game Commission (FGC), California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Ocean Science Trust (OST), and California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). The participation of the state agencies involved in the development of this document is directed by key guiding policies and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Marine Life Protection Act, Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act, and California Ocean Protection Act (COPA) to engage in and advance management of California's MPA network. Furthermore, as described in the California Ocean Resource Stewardship of 2000, OST is unique among nonprofits because it leads the design and implementation of MPA monitoring in close collaboration with OPC and CDFW.

### **4. Why is the Ocean Protection Council taking the lead in the development of the Partnership Plan?**

SB 96, passed by the California legislature in September 2013, designated the OPC as having responsibility for the direction of MPA policy. Furthermore, COPA, the OPC's enabling legislation, directs to the OPC to "coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems to improve the effectiveness of state efforts to protect ocean resources within existing fiscal limitations." OPC is leading the development of the Partnership Plan, which serves as the framework for coordinating MPA management activities across jurisdictional and geographic scales

### **5. How were tribes consulted on the development of the Partnership Plan?**

The Partnership Plan reaffirms that state agencies are committed to collaborating with both federally and non-federally recognized tribes on MPA management, pursuant to Executive Order B-10-11 and the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy.

Prior to the release of this draft version of the Partnership Plan, OPC staff completed five advanced in-person and webinar outreach and informational sessions. These sessions were conducted throughout the state and engaged North Coast Tribes, Central Coast Tribes, and South Coast Tribes.

The goals of the initial outreach were to communicate the concept of the California Collaborative Approach and hear from tribes about their vision for partnership with the state. Based on these initial meetings, tribal comments informed the creation of the Tribal Partnership section of the Partnership Plan, which reflects the state's commitment to engaging tribes in marine management. Through this comment period, tribes have the opportunity to refine and clarify their goals in partnering with the state. The Partnership Plan will ultimately describe the process for tribal involvement in MPA implementation, and is a living document that reflects the evolving relationships that the state hopes to form with tribes.

OPC staff anticipates conducting government-to-government consultation with interested tribes to engage them in the California Collaborative Approach.

**6. What opportunities will I have to provide input to the Partnership Plan?**

There will be two comment periods, one for the general public and one targeted for tribal comment. The tribal comment period will run from May 26, 2014 to July 25, 2014. The general public comment period will run from May 30, 2014 to July 18, 2014.

In addition, OPC staff will be holding a workshop on the Partnership Plan prior to the meeting of the Council itself on June 10, 2014, in Sacramento, California. The workshop will begin at 9:30am and is expected to conclude at 11:30am. The goal of the workshop will be to address questions and gather additional input from the public. The workshop will be webcasted for those unable to participate in person. An agenda and a link to the webcast will be available on the OPC's website: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/>.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Council meeting, beginning after the workshop at 1pm. More information about the Council meeting agenda can be found at <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/>.

**7. Will there be a formal response to public or tribal comment?**

We will be capturing and considering all comments on the Partnership Plan shared by the public and incorporating them, as appropriate, into the final version of the document. This includes comments shared via email, mail, or at the Partnership Plan workshop on June 10<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a written response from the OPC or other agencies to any public comments provided. OPC will respond direct to any comments shared by tribes during the extended tribal comment period.

**8. How is this document related to the "Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas"?**

The Partnership Plan is written to be incorporated as an appendix into the state's "Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas," which is currently going through an update to emphasize the process for management of MPAs. Once the update is completed, it will go through an approval process with the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC). The "Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas" is a guidance document, not a regulatory document, required by law which describes detailed processes for management activities such as enforcement and regulations, adaptive management, and tribal consultation. It will house regional management plans and regional enforcement plans. The Partnership Plan is also a guidance document; however, it is NOT required by law. This document reinforces the state's full commitment to advancing MPA management.

**9. Does this document have any regulatory impacts and/or implications?**

No. As mentioned previously, it is a guiding document and does not hold any regulatory implications.

**10. Does this document outline a process for adaptive management of the MPA network?**

The Partnership Plan provides an overview of the commitment and philosophy for adaptive management by the OPC and the MPA Leadership team. The adaptive management process will be defined in the “Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas,” which is currently undergoing an update by DFW and eventually approved by the FGC. Once approved, the “Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas” will be the key guiding document that outlines the process for adaptive management of the MPA network, which is informed by monitoring of ecosystem and socioeconomic condition and trends and used to modify MPA siting or design.

The state, under the leadership of the OPC, will develop and lead a process for evaluating the effectiveness of collaboration and MPA management in order to inform adaptation of policy, governance, and the California Collaborative approach.

**11. How do I find out more about the California “Community Collaboratives” as described in the Partnership Plan?**

For more information on the California “Community Collaboratives,” please visit <http://www.mpacollaborative.org>. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Calla Allison, Director of Community Partnerships, MPA Collaborative Implementation Project at [calla.allison@resources.ca.gov](mailto:calla.allison@resources.ca.gov).

If you have additional specific questions pertaining to “The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan”, please contact [MPAcomments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MPAcomments@resources.ca.gov) or contact Liz Parissenti at 916-653-6598.