



# MARINE PROTECTED AREA STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP TEAM

WORK PLAN  
FISCAL YEARS  
21/22– 24/25

# MARINE PROTECTED AREA STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP TEAM

## WORK PLAN FISCAL YEARS 21/22- 24/25



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document was created through a collaborative effort among all members of the Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team). The Work Plan was reviewed and approved by the Secretary for Natural Resources, Wade Crowfoot, and by the Leadership Team's Executive Committee. In addition to the contributions to the development of this Work Plan made by the Leadership Team's Tribal Representatives, ongoing outreach and solicitation to California Native American Tribes on the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) list will continue to occur throughout the Work Plan's duration to ensure to provide opportunity for comments. Special thanks to Leadership Team Working Group Members and partners for their strategic vision, efforts in writing and editing this Work Plan, and dedication to the Leadership Team and California's MPA network. Listed in alphabetical order:

Calla Allison  
Susan Ashcraft  
Chris Bell  
Lindsay Bonito  
Marina Cazorla  
Jenn Eckerle  
Michael Esgro  
Rikki Eriksen  
Maren Farnum  
Sandra Fogg  
Aubrey Fowler  
Reno Franklin  
Kaitilin Gaffney

Karen Grimmer  
Tova Handelman  
Jocelyn Herbert  
Heather Holm  
Irina Irvine  
Rebecca Johnson  
Jessica Kauzer  
Eric Kord  
Jennifer Mattox  
Buffy McQuillen  
Paul Michel  
Melissa Miller-Henson  
Ryan Meyer

Becky Ota  
Nicole Palma  
Liz Parissenti  
Karen Reyna  
Teresa Romero  
Lorelle Ross  
Bill Standley  
Mike Stefanak  
Cassidy Teufel  
Megan Van Pelt  
Katherine Walsh  
Matthew Warham  
James Weigand  
Steve Wertz

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS .....	4
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.....	6
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION .....	7
ABOUT .....	8
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	10
ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS .....	12
ONGOING ACTIONS .....	15
REFERENCES.....	17
WORK PLAN CONTENTS .....	19
FOCAL AREA: OUTREACH AND EDUCATION .....	20
FOCAL AREA: POLICY AND PERMITTING .....	27
FOCAL AREA: ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE .....	32
FOCAL AREA: RESEARCH AND MONITORING .....	36

## SUGGESTED CITATION

Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team. (2021). Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan Fiscal Year 21/22-24/25. Sacramento, California.

Cover Photo: Lebid Volodymyr, Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AUV	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle
ASBS	Area of Special Biological Significance
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCFRP	California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program
CCS	Community and Citizen Science
CDAA	California District Attorneys Association
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDP	Coastal Development Permit
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
COP 15	Conference of the Parties 15
CN	MPA Collaborative Network
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
DA	District Attorney
DBW	California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
DEWG	Decadal Evaluation Working Group
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DTD	California Department of Fish and Wildlife Data & Technology Division
EAGL	Expert Assessment Group for the Green List
EDAR	Electronic Daily Activity Report
eDNA	Environmental DNA
eFINS	Electronic Fisheries Information Network System
EO	Executive Order
FGC	California Fish and Game Commission
GPS	Global Positioning System
IMPAC5	5 <sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress
ITK	Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LED	California Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division
LETAC	Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee
MLPA	Marine Life Protection Act
MMAIA	Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCEAS	National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis
NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NMS	National Marine Sanctuary
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
OAH	Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia
OCEO	California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Communications, Education, and Outreach
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ODP	California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform
OPC	California Ocean Protection Council
OPC-SAT	OPC Science Advisory Team
OST	California Ocean Science Trust
PORTS	Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students
PRC	California State Park and Recreation Commission
RLF	Resources Legacy Fund
RMS	Records Management System
SCP	Scientific Collecting Permit
SLC	California State Lands Commission
SMR	State Marine Reserve
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TMSN	Tribal Marine Stewards Network
USCG	United States Coast Guard

*Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve*



## GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

California's Native American Tribes are sovereign nations that have lived and thrived in the state for thousands of years. The State of California has an important relationship with Native American Tribes, as affirmed in state and federal law, and recognizes the inherent right of these Tribes to exercise sovereign authority over their members and territory. The Leadership Team reaffirms and incorporates the principles outlined in [Executive Order B-10-11](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Executive Order N-15-19](#)<sup>2</sup>, and Governor Newsom's [Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#)<sup>3</sup> and is committed to strengthening and sustaining effective government-to-government relationships between the State and the Tribes regarding the management of and information sharing about the MPA network and MPA Management Program. Collectively, the Leadership Team is committed to the following meaningful actions:

- Identify areas of mutual interest or concern with Tribes and work together to develop partnership and consensus
- Provide meaningful opportunities for Tribes to contribute to the development of MPA regulations, rules, policies, and legislation affecting Tribes and make recommendations on proposals
- Advocate to adopt and implement mutually beneficial policies regarding the co-management of the MPA network
- Engage in government-to-government consultation between Tribes and state agencies regarding MPA policies that may affect Tribal communities
- Facilitate ongoing communication and information sharing regarding the MPA Management Program and the activities of the Leadership Team
- Respect Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and recognize its role in MPA management in collaboration with Tribes

The Leadership Team respectfully recognizes the important contributions of the regional Tribal Representatives nominated and selected to serve on the Leadership Team. The [MPA Statewide Leadership Team Charter](#)<sup>4</sup> outlines the roles of and nomination process for the Tribal Representatives. While the expert guidance provided by Tribal Representatives informs the Leadership Team's consensus decisions and priority-setting, it does not supersede the need for the State to engage in consultation with Tribal governments or informal communication with Tribal communities.

For purposes of this document, the terms "California Native American Tribes", "Tribes", and "Tribal" include all Federally Recognized Tribes and other California Native Americans.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Leadership Team is collectively committed to the ongoing practice of the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the MPA Management Program. The Leadership Team recognizes the many diverse perspectives, interests, and rights of the people of California and California Native American Tribes, and that environmental burdens and benefits are not distributed equitably throughout communities. The Leadership Team aspires to identify and address these current and historical disparities and commits to consider the equity implications of all decisions made while undertaking existing and future projects and goals.

Together, the Leadership Team is dedicated to increasing transparency, trust, support, and accountability to DEI principles throughout the MPA Management Program. The Leadership Team is committed to the following meaningful actions:

- Respect Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and recognize its role in MPA management in collaboration with California Native American Tribes
- Provide meaningful opportunities for public engagement statewide, especially to communities subjected to barriers that have historically inhibited and currently inhibit participation in environmental policy
- Advocate for funding to be administered to underrepresented communities and communities entitled to environmental justice to support their engagement with MPA management and natural resource stewardship
- Elevate accessibility and equity goals throughout all decision-making, strategic planning, and policy development
- Identify gaps in cultural competency and develop strategies to improve inclusion throughout the work we do together as a Leadership Team
- Acknowledge the process of ongoing learning and adoption of DEI principles as a fundamental component of adaptive management of the MPA network
- Support the creation, continued implementation, and refinement of DEI principles, plans, and policies of Leadership Team members

The Leadership Team accepts and understands that these commitments require dedication to learn from any mistakes and hold itself accountable to prioritize and uphold these DEI values.

## ABOUT

### Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team

California's Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team enhances communication and collaboration among state and federal agencies, Tribal representatives, and partners to facilitate improved management of the statewide MPA network. The multi-sector collaboration of the Leadership Team is foundational to the effective management of the MPA network as each member brings unique perspective, knowledge, and resources in supporting the MPA Management Program. The Leadership Team focuses on leveraging resources and bridging interagency efforts that cut across jurisdictions and mandates to collectively advance MPA network management. The MPA Management Program is also rooted in partnerships between agencies and organizations inside and outside of government to provide a direct venue for local perspectives to be heard.

The MPA Statewide Leadership Team includes the following agencies, organizations, and representatives:

Bureau of Land Management  
California Coastal Commission  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Fish and Game Commission  
California Ocean Protection Council  
California State Lands Commission  
California Ocean Science Trust  
MPA Collaborative Network  
National Park Service  
Office of Marine National Sanctuaries  
Regional Tribal Representatives  
Resources Legacy Fund  
State Water Resources Control Board  
United States Coast Guard

Additional partners across the state also actively contribute to the implementation of this plan and are critical to the function of the MPA Management Program.

### Leadership Team Work Plan

The creation of a Work Plan was identified as a key task in [\*The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan\*](#) (Partnership Plan) <sup>5</sup>, which outlines the partnerships necessary to successfully implement the MPA Management Program. Based on best practices recommended worldwide for successful MPA management, the Leadership Team identified the following focal areas to guide its collaborative work: 1) Outreach and Education, 2) Research and Monitoring, 3) Enforcement and Compliance, and 4) Policy and Permitting <sup>6-9</sup>. Active, sustained engagement in each of these focal areas is integral to achieve the goals of California's MPA network.

This Work Plan covers a four-year period beginning at the start of the State's fiscal year in July 2021 and is a key tool in directing the MPA Management Program and holding members accountable for identified outcomes. The Work Plan provides a road map for the State and its partners anchored back to the legislation, *Partnership Plan* <sup>5</sup>, [\*California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas\*](#) (MLPA Master Plan) <sup>7</sup>, and other guidance documents related to California's MPA network. This Work Plan identifies shared strategic priorities, key actions, and outcomes for the MPA Management Program that can be used by government and non-government partners to ensure coordinated progress on achieving the goals of the [\*Marine Life Protection Act\*](#) (MLPA) <sup>10</sup>.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999, the California legislature passed the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) (MLPA) <sup>10</sup>. The MLPA required the State to redesign its existing system of MPAs to better support healthy and sustainable marine ecosystems. The fully redesigned statewide network of 124 MPAs was completed in 2012 through a science-based and stakeholder-driven process. The MPA network offers protections to 852 square miles, which will make a significant contribution toward the State's goal of conserving at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 as laid out in [Executive Order N-82-20](#) <sup>16</sup>.

Throughout the implementation and ongoing adaptive management of the MPA network, the state has been committed to a partnership-based approach. This approach was solidified in [The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan](#) <sup>5</sup> and the [MLPA Master Plan](#) <sup>7</sup>, and is supported by the MPA Statewide Leadership Team. The Leadership Team defined partner-specific roles and responsibilities within the MPA Management Program through the establishment of the [Memorandum Of Understanding for Implementation of the California Marine Life Protection Act](#) <sup>11</sup>, which is renewed every five years. Guidelines for the operational procedures of the Leadership Team are outlined in the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team Charter](#) <sup>4</sup>.

The [Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act](#) (MMAIA) <sup>12</sup> mandated that the Secretary for Natural Resources establish and chair a "State Interagency Coordinating Committee" as a standing body to ensure communication and collaboration among MPA network management partners. The MPA Statewide Leadership Team was formed and first convened by the Secretary in 2014. The Leadership Team includes entities and organizations that have significant interests or mandates related to the MPA network. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife manages the statewide MPA network, the Fish and Game Commission designates MPAs and regulates MPA-specific take, and the Ocean Protection Council serves as the state's policy lead for MPAs. The Department of Parks and Recreation is also a designated managing agency, and the Parks and Recreation Commission is authorized to designate MPAs. The California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and State Water Resources Control Board all have regulatory, permitting, or leasing jurisdictions that overlap with MPA management activities. The State Water Resources Control Board is also authorized to designate specified MPAs. The West Coast Regional Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Park Service, United States Coast Guard, and United States Bureau of Land Management also have regulatory and management jurisdictions that overlap with the State. Regional Tribal Representatives bring perspectives from California Tribes and Tribal governments in four coastal regions across the state. The California Ocean Science Trust is a non-profit advisory body that works with state agencies to support science-based decision making related to ocean and coastal management. The MPA Collaborative Network represents a consortium of 14 county-based groups that engage local experts and community members in MPA stewardship. The Resources Legacy Fund is a key philanthropic funder and partner in the MPA network.

The Leadership Team has updated the Work Plan for Fiscal Years 21/22 - 24/25 to set shared priorities and guide its partnership efforts related to the MPA Management Program. These priorities have been developed based on foundational guidance documents such as the [MLPA Master Plan](#) <sup>7</sup> and active dialogue among Leadership Team members, including formal and informal input from stakeholders. Ongoing outreach and solicitation to California Native

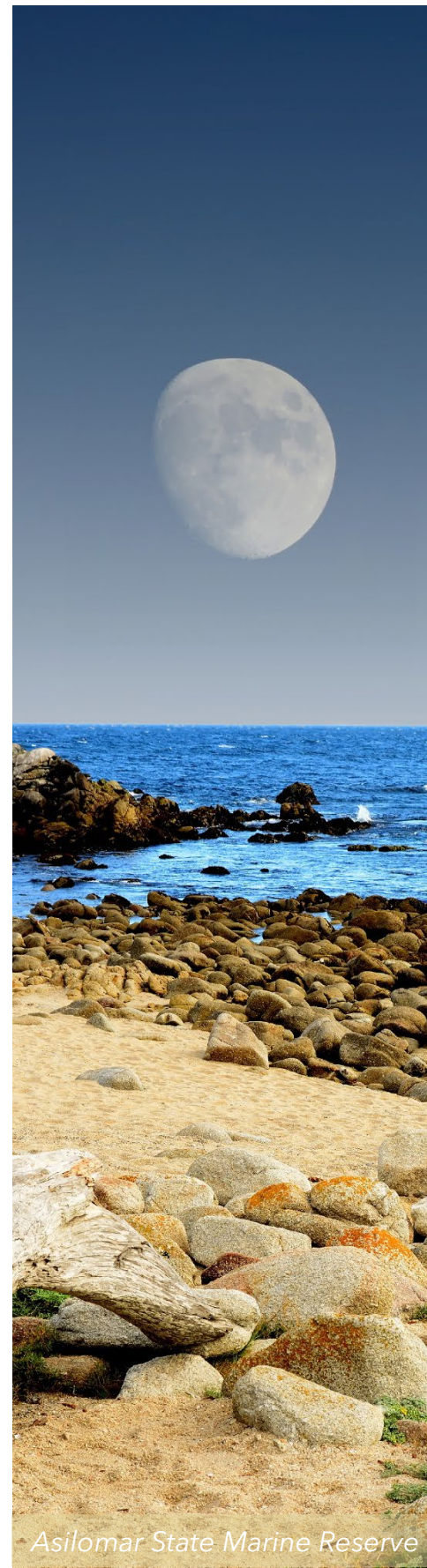
American Tribes on the California NAHC list will continue to occur throughout the Work Plan's duration to ensure opportunity for comments. Actions successfully completed throughout the term of the previous Work Plan and ongoing commitments of the Leadership Team are highlighted on pages 9-13.

The tasks outlined in this Work Plan advance the goals of the MLPA and the overarching goals of the four focal areas of the MPA Management Program:

- Outreach and Education: Raise awareness of the ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits of MPAs, improve understanding of regulations to increase compliance, and inspire stewardship of the MPA network
- Policy and Permitting: Ensure equitable, science-based governance of California's MPA network through adaptive management
- Enforcement and Compliance: Increase capacity and effectiveness of MPA enforcement and compliance statewide
- Research and Monitoring: Develop and implement research and monitoring efforts to evaluate MPA performance and address emerging questions to inform adaptive management

In addition to sustained engagement in these focal areas, the priorities outlined in this Work Plan encompass the Leadership Team's long-term vision for the MPA Management Program:

- Demonstrate the MPA network's ability to conserve biodiversity and abundance of marine life, protect threatened species and rebuild depleted marine life populations, support sustainable fisheries, enhance ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, sustain ecosystem services, improve recreational and educational opportunities, and enrich human well-being
- Ensure consistent and sustained funding for the MPA Management Program to realize the goals of the MLPA, meet statewide capacity needs, and equitably redistribute funds to Tribes and local communities to attend to unique needs based on geography and/or population
- Institutionalize inclusive partnerships among state and federal agencies, Tribal governments and representatives, and local communities to manage the state's MPA network efficiently, equitably, and collaboratively
- Establish California's MPA Management Program as an exceptional model of effective and adaptive MPA network management and pursue opportunities to advance ocean conservation goals worldwide through information and knowledge exchange with MPA managers across the globe



Asilomar State Marine Reserve

## ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS

Through communication, collaboration, and MPA partner initiative, the Leadership Team successfully accomplished key actions from the recently completed [Work Plan FY 18/19 - 20/21](#)<sup>13</sup> in all four focal areas.

### Outreach and Education

To increase awareness of notable MPA Management Program activities including compliance with MPA regulations, CDFW continues to prioritize online resources such as MPA blogs, articles, and videos. CDFW also released the [California Marine Protected Area Network Outreach and Education Guide](#)<sup>14</sup> to provide CDFW-approved MPA messaging for partners engaged in public outreach and education related to the MPA network. This guide helps partners use accurate messaging about MPA regulations and streamlines the review process so partners can effectively produce outreach materials.

With funds provided by OPC, RLF, and other private donors, the CN and partners statewide developed a wide range of educational resources for marine users of all ages such as videos, brochures, online activities and trainings, social media campaigns, and lesson plans for K-12 students. These resources covered topics including general information about the MPA network, Tribal traditions and uses, invasive species, and fishing and tide pooling guidance.

With support from an OPC grant, DPR developed new MPA outreach and education programs across eight coastal districts from Humboldt to San Diego Counties. State Parks interpreters delivered MPA messaging through in-person interpretive programs and events in coastal park units as well as online distance learning through the PORTS Program. In 2020, MPA interpreters played a pivotal role in the DPR's response to park and school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team of 12 State Parks interpreters delivered webinar-style virtual field trips through the spring semester, reaching thousands of K-12 learners and their families as they sheltered in place. Additionally, the team produced new digital educational resources that teachers, students, and families could utilize remotely, including the *Xplore: Dive into Point Lobos* app, more than 25 Microsoft Flipgrid topics, and several 360-degree tours of park units adjacent to MPAs. At the end of the year, two MPA interpreters joined the State Parks Dive Team and began training to deliver underwater MPA educational programs. By the end of 2020, the team had delivered a total of 924 MPA interpretive programs and directly reached more than 61,000 students and members of the public with MPA messaging, not including their hundreds of MPA-oriented social media posts which reached more than half a million members of the public.

### Policy and Permitting

As the State learns more about MPAs and associated challenges, it utilizes adaptive management to inform decision-making. To plan for adaptive strategies, partners must integrate MPA management into agency-specific priorities. Collectively, the Leadership Team updated its [MOU for the Implementation of the MPA Management Program](#)<sup>11</sup> to better define how the partners specifically contribute to MPA management within the scope of each partner's roles and responsibilities. The MOU commits the Leadership Team to continued

partnership from 2020-2025 and will be revised and renewed every five years. In October 2020, the Leadership Team also established a [Charter](#)<sup>4</sup> which serves as a guiding document for the operational procedures of the Leadership Team.

To the greatest extent possible, MPA network priorities, content, and messaging were integrated into agency-specific policy documents produced over the last three years. CCC integrated special permitting considerations into its updated Strategic Plan, which was adopted in November 2020. FGC adopted a co-management vision statement and definition in concert with CDFW and California Native American Tribes, which will help advance discussions going forward.

Prior to the implementation of California's MPA network, structures such as piers, intake pipes, and seawalls existed in some locations where MPAs have now been designated. CDFW coordinated with the Leadership Team to craft draft regulations to authorize incidental take of marine resources associated with repair, maintenance, removal, or replacement of these structures. Implementation of regulations to address this issue are anticipated in 2022 following possible adoption by FGC through a rulemaking.

In 2018, FGC initiated an annual report from CDFW to provide a high-level update on activities of the MPA Management Program in each of the four focal areas. In establishing an annual report, FGC ensured that its Commissioners and the public had a venue to learn about status of the MPA network and management, enforcement, monitoring, and policy activities.

## **Enforcement and Compliance**

Enforcement and compliance are essential to ensure that the MPA network can provide ecological benefits to its fullest potential. To facilitate more streamlined and efficient enforcement measures, CDFW LED acquired a statewide records management system (RMS) to collect, organize and track citation data. The RMS will transition the State toward more automated and connected tracking systems for multiple levels of regional enforcement personnel.

LED enforcement efforts were significantly increased due to collaborative funding with OPC. The funds supported enforcement officers, maintenance, and technology required for an effective presence both onshore and on the water. With the increased support, LED completed MPA enforcement trainings and increased the intensity of patrolling efforts around MPAs. LED also provided funding for the acquisition of another large patrol vessel to increase patrol capabilities.

Enforcement and compliance efforts led by the CN are still in progress and will continue under this Work Plan, but significant progress has already been accomplished during the first round of trainings for enforcement partners in 2016 and over the last three years. The CN continues to work in collaboration with LED to develop updated manuals to administer trainings for enforcement partners, and to track their enforcement efforts. Trainings for district attorneys and development of a DA taskforce has also been initiated. Funded by OPC and RLF, the CN also held community compliance forums for each coastal county to better understand stakeholder concerns and recommended local solutions to improve compliance. The community science program, MPA Watch, was further supported to increase data collection

efforts across the state, and 10 years of MPA Watch data were analyzed by experts at the UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science to better understand compliance trends.

## **Research and Monitoring**

Scientific research and monitoring help resource managers understand changes occurring inside and outside of MPAs, informing the adaptive management of California's MPA network. The Leadership Team and its partners have made significant progress in this focal area over the last three years, and scientific efforts are helping the State prepare for the first decadal management review of the MPA network in 2022.

In 2018, after peer review and a public comment period, both FGC and OPC adopted the [MPA Monitoring Action Plan](#) (Action Plan) <sup>15</sup>, which outlines priority metrics, habitats, sites, and species to target for long-term MPA monitoring into the future, as well as formalized inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in monitoring. The following year, OPC and CDFW selected and funded a suite of statewide long-term monitoring projects based on priorities in the Action Plan; the results of these projects will directly inform the decadal management review. Long-term MPA monitoring projects include comprehensive ecosystem monitoring of sandy beach, rocky intertidal, estuarine, kelp forest, and deep-water habitats statewide. To increase the transparency and accessibility of MPA data, OPC and CDFW have established a dedicated data repository on DataONE, a data sharing platform that will allow MPA monitoring data to be shared between agencies and with the public.

Community and citizen science contribute to the long-term monitoring of the MPA network and provides interesting insight for the MPA Management Program to consider. The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) has received substantial state support to continue hook-and-line monitoring of MPAs via its unique partnership between the academic and recreational angling communities. Reef Check California continues to engage volunteer recreational divers in monitoring California's kelp forest and rocky reef ecosystems. OPC and CDFW partnered with the California Academy of Sciences to better understand the ways in which community and citizen science data (such as observations made on iNaturalist) can enhance and complement conventional scientific monitoring.

In 2020-2021, two working groups of the OPC Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) provided science guidance for the decadal management review and explored the potential role of MPAs in providing climate resilience in California. To support that effort, three member agencies of the Leadership Team served on a policy advisory committee to provide guidance to the working groups related to State policy and management interests. Finally, in June 2020, OPC and CDFW partnered with four California Native American Tribes to launch the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot program, which is rooted in MPA monitoring priorities that are shared between Tribes and the State. This program is significantly enhancing California's efforts to support indigenous stewardship and will help to identify opportunities for co-management of the MPA network.

## ONGOING ACTIONS

In addition to the specific goals and projects outlined in the Work Plan to take place over the next four years, the Leadership Team is committed to several ongoing contributions that are essential for the MPA network to function effectively. The following sections detail the ongoing commitments of the Leadership Team to meet objectives in each of the focal areas of the MPA Management program.

### Outreach and Education

Communication strategies will continue, especially as messaging efforts around the decadal management review increase. Outreach efforts include developing readily available multimedia materials to be distributed on a range of platforms to communities interested in MPAs including harbors, dive shops, tackle shops, aquaria, museums, online forums, and other members and affiliates of the MPA Collaborative Network. Leadership Team members are committed to working with local communities to evaluate and improve permitted MPA signage as needed. Outreach efforts will include a focus on reaching a broader range of audiences, including translation of materials into additional languages as appropriate and feasible. Concerted effort will be made to continue formal and informal outreach and engagement specifically tailored to the interests and needs of California Native American Tribes.

The Leadership Team will also support outreach and education events to inform stakeholders, interagency staff, docents, and educators about topics within the scope of MPAs. Enhancing staff knowledge will be coupled with administering interpretive MPA programs to members of the public, thereby increasing an understanding of MPAs both inside and outside of state and federal government.

With one of the world's largest science-based and stakeholder-driven MPA networks with conservation goals specified in its founding legislation, California is globally recognized as a leader in MPA management. As such, the Leadership Team will continue to pursue opportunities to share knowledge with and learn from other MPA managers, educators, researchers, and enforcement personnel across the country and internationally. These efforts include participation in conferences and webinars, engagement with MPA managers through the National Marine Protected Areas Center, and maintaining relationships with MPA managers from British Columbia, Chile, Indonesia, Australia, and other locations worldwide as feasible. CDFW and OPC, with support from the Leadership Team, will continue its efforts to add the MPA network to the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas.

### Policy and Permitting

Active, open, and constructive communication between governmental and non-governmental parties within the Leadership Team is essential to its success. Members will continuously strive to raise emerging issues, elevate requests, and inform other interagency staff and organizations about concerns that may require regulatory or policy actions. The Leadership Team will also contribute feedback about pending decisions, regulations, or complementary protection designations that may impact MPAs as they arise. Through this coordinated approach, the Leadership Team strives to direct development activities outside of MPAs when feasible. When activities cannot be relocated, the Leadership Team works together to ensure

that projects are carried out in a manner that protects MPA resources to the maximum extent feasible.

The Leadership Team commits to continue outreach and engagement with California Native American Tribes, both through meaningful consultation and informal conversations, about policy matters that may affect Tribal communities. When collaborating with Tribes and Tribal Representatives on policies, documents, and projects, the Leadership Team will incorporate adequate time for Tribes to contribute to the process as well as for State agencies to be thoughtfully responsive. The Leadership Team will also continue to identify opportunities to advance co-management of the MPA network in close collaboration with Tribes.

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

Adequate enforcement resources are needed to promote MPA compliance. Priority enforcement areas and needs evolve over time and deployment of resources should be adjusted to address localized and statewide needs as they emerge. The Leadership Team will continue to support mechanisms that enable CDFW LED and law enforcement partners to have access to equipment and technology to effectively maintain and share enforcement and compliance data with each other and with the public when feasible. Additionally, the Leadership Team will continue to share MPA information and training materials with prosecutors to ensure appropriate outcomes of enforcement actions brought to the court system.

### **Research and Monitoring**

Ongoing research and monitoring efforts are fundamental to understand the MPA network dynamics over time and inform adaptive management. As new management challenges emerge, the Leadership Team will continue to reprioritize and align research, monitoring, data collection, and analyses approaches for biological, ecological, and human dimensions research needs.

As climate change amasses intensity in the coming decade, the Leadership Team will continue to incorporate emerging climate change research into the MPA Management Program. This entails engaging regional experts to explore approaches for assessing the impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems and resources and evaluating how a changing climate could alter the MPA network's ability to meet MPA management and policy goals. The Leadership Team has specifically identified ocean acidification as an impending threat to California's ocean and MPAs, so monitoring activities that geographically and temporally align MPA and ocean acidification and hypoxia will be prioritized.

The Leadership Team will ensure that stakeholders, members of the public, and decision-makers will have timely access to MPA research and monitoring results, and that information will be shared in a useful and understandable format. This could include making research results available on the web, producing synthesis reports, and hosting briefings or webinars. As research and monitoring results are obtained, the participating entities agree to draft effective, comprehensive reports or briefings for decision makers so that rulings and recommendations around MPAs can be appropriately determined.

## REFERENCES

1. Office of the Governor. (2011). Executive Order No. B-10-11. Retrieved from <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2011/09/19/news17223/index.html>.
2. Office of the Governor. (2019). Executive Order No. N-15-19. Retrieved from <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB25-PreConTrauma-02.pdf>.
3. Office of the Governor. (2020). Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands. Released on September 25, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.25.20-Native-Ancestral-Lands-Policy.pdf>
4. MPA Statewide Leadership Team. (2020). MPA Statewide Leadership Charter. Approved October 29, 2020. Retrieved from [https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media\\_library/2021/04/MSLT\\_Charter\\_Final.pdf](https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2021/04/MSLT_Charter_Final.pdf).
5. California Ocean Protection Council. (2014). The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan. Approved by the California Ocean Protection Council on December 2, 2014. Retrieved from [https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/mpa/APPROVED\\_FINAL\\_MPA\\_Partnership\\_Plan\\_12022014.pdf](https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/mpa/APPROVED_FINAL_MPA_Partnership_Plan_12022014.pdf).
6. Gleason M, Fox E, Ashcraft S, Vasques J, Whiteman E, Serpa P, Saarman E, Caldwell M, Frimodig A, Miller-Henson M, Kerlin J, Ota B, Pope E, Weber M, Wiseman K. (2013). Designing a network of marine protected areas in California: achievements, costs, lessons learned, and challenges ahead. *Ocean & Coastal Management*. 74:90-101. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S096456911200230X>.
7. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2016). California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas. Adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission on August 24, 2016. Retrieved from [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan).
8. Saarman ET, Owens B, Murray SN, Weisberg SB, Ambrose RF, Field JC, Nielsen KJ, Carr MH. (2018). An ecological framework for informing permitting decisions on scientific activities in protected areas. *PLOS ONE*. 13(6):e0199126. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0199126>.
9. Kelleher, G. (Ed.). (1999). *Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas*. Wales, UK: IUCN. Retrieved from <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/PAG-003.pdf>.
10. California Fish and Game Code. Marine Life Protection Act. Chapter 10.5, §2850-2863. (1999). Retrieved from [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=FGC&division=3.&title=&part=&chapter=10.5.&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=FGC&division=3.&title=&part=&chapter=10.5.&article=).
11. MPA Statewide Leadership Team. (2020). Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the California Marine Life Protection Act. Approved December 14, 2020. Retrieved from [https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media\\_library/2021/04/MSLT\\_MOU\\_with\\_signatures\\_Final.pdf](https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2021/04/MSLT_MOU_with_signatures_Final.pdf).
12. California Public Resources Code. (2000). Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act. Chapter 7, §36700-36900. Retrieved from [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=27.&title=&part=&chapter=7.&article=2](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=27.&title=&part=&chapter=7.&article=2).

13. Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team. (2018). Marine Protected Area Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. Retrieved from [https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda\\_items/20181025/Item4a\\_Exhibit%20A\\_MSLT-Work-Plan-Design-FINAL\\_10.15.18.pdf](https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20181025/Item4a_Exhibit%20A_MSLT-Work-Plan-Design-FINAL_10.15.18.pdf).
14. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2019). California Marine Protected Area Network Outreach and Education Guide. Retrieved from <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=169141&inline>.
15. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Ocean Protection Council. (2018). Marine Protected Area Monitoring Action Plan. Retrieved from <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161748&inline>.
16. Office of the Governor. (2022). Executive Order No. N-82-20. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/10.07.2020-EO-N-82-20-signed.pdf>.

*South La Jolla State Marine Reserve*



## WORK PLAN CONTENTS

Completion of the specific projects outlined in this Work Plan will advance the following goals and strategic priorities within the MPA Management Program's four focal areas:

### **Outreach and Education**

Raise awareness of the ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits of MPAs, improve understanding of regulations to increase compliance, and inspire stewardship of the MPA network

1. Develop consistent messaging with state, federal, Tribal, and public partners and pursue effective outreach methods aimed at a variety of audiences
2. Create and disseminate cohesive communications products to build awareness of and support for the State's MPA Management Program
3. Understand and address gaps in MPA messaging, especially in relation to diverse and underrepresented communities

### **Policy and Permitting**

Ensure equitable, science-based governance of California's MPA network through adaptive management

1. Complete the decadal management review in 2022 and ensure that outcomes of the review inform future decision-making
2. Adopt regulations and policies to address other uses or emerging issues in MPAs not specifically identified in the MLPA
3. Integrate MPA network goals and objectives into resource agencies' strategies and policies
4. Advance co-management of MPAs between the State and California Native American Tribes

### **Enforcement and Compliance**

Increase capacity and effectiveness of MPA enforcement and compliance statewide

1. Enhance enforcement capacity through efficient use of technology, training, equipment, and enforcement personnel and partnerships
2. Increase judicial system and enforcement officers' awareness of MPA regulations and understanding of the value of MPAs
3. Monitor MPA compliance and streamline reporting efforts

### **Research and Monitoring**

Overarching goal: Develop and implement research and monitoring efforts to evaluate MPA performance and address emerging questions to inform adaptive management

1. Link monitoring and human dimensions data to adaptive management of the MPA network
2. Pursue emerging research questions
3. Diversify monitoring collaborations including multiple sources of knowledge

FOCAL AREA: OUTREACH AND EDUCATION					
Overarching Goal: Raise awareness of the ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits of MPAs, improve understanding of regulations to increase compliance, and inspire stewardship of the MPA network					
Key Action	Outcome	Facilitator or Funder*	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Notes
<b>Strategic Priority 1 - Develop consistent messaging with state, federal, Tribal, and public partners and pursue effective outreach methods aimed at a variety of audiences</b>					
<b>OE 1.1</b> Share process and information ahead of the decadal management review in December 2022, provide and communicate opportunities for Tribes, stakeholders, and decision-makers to participate in the review, and summarize the process and lessons learned after the review	<b>OE 1.1.1</b> Implement the Outreach Strategy to meaningfully engage Tribes, the public, and decision-makers in the decadal management review process, and include their input in the review; maintain ongoing Tribal consultation as appropriate throughout	OPC	CDFW, FGC, OPC, CN	December 2022	To be accomplished in collaboration with Strategic Earth (contractor)
	<b>OE 1.1.2</b> Summarize the process and lessons learned after the 2022 decadal management review to serve as an example for other MPA managers and constituents and disseminate the information through national and international platforms	OPC	CDFW, FGC, OPC, CN	April 2023	To be accomplished in collaboration Strategic Earth (contractor)
<b>OE 1.2</b> Manage and assess statewide MPA signage efforts	<b>OE 1.2.1</b> Complete an inventory and assessment of existing MPA signs	OPC	CDFW, CN, OPC	August 2022	
	<b>OE 1.2.2</b> Create a mechanism for the public and partners to request new signs and maintenance of existing signs	OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	Currently being worked on through OPC grant to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, with subgrant to MPA CN for the MPA

## Outreach and Education

					Signage Round 3 efforts,
<b>OE 1.3</b> Elevate the national and international profile of California's MPA network and exchange knowledge with MPA managers around the world	<b>OE 1.3.1</b> California's MPA network is added to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas	CDFW, OPC	OPC	July 2022	
	<b>OE 1.3.2</b> Highlight the global significance of California's MPA network through CNRA participation in CBD COP 15	CDFW, OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	September 2022	
	<b>OE 1.3.3</b> Share successes and lessons learned from California's MPA network and represent CNRA at IMPAC5 in June 2022	CDFW, OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	September 2022	
	<b>OE 1.3.4</b> Explore potential for a West Coast MPA Alliance with Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia to increase communication among managers and advance shared goals within the California current	OPC	CDFW, OPC	June 2025	Leveraging gathering of international MPA managers at IMPAC5, scoping will begin in mid-2022. We anticipate 2-3 years would be necessary to scope this effort, given the need for coordination with multiple partners and governments.
	<b>OE 1.3.5</b> Support the promotion of California MPAs co-located with UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage nomination and designation of the California Current Conservation Complex, which includes Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank, and	NMS	NMS	December 2022	

## Outreach and Education

	Monterey Bay NMSs, and the state MPAs in that region				
<b>OE 1.4</b> State and federal MPA management agencies are effectively disseminating MPA messaging	<b>OE 1.4.1</b> Provide annual regional trainings to DPR coastal district uniformed staff (visitor services staff) and volunteers using training materials developed with MPA partners and collaborators that include tribal perspectives	CN, DPR	DPR	Annually by end of calendar year	
	<b>OE 1.4.2</b> Provide annual trainings to NMS staff and docents using training materials developed with MPA partners and collaborators that include tribal perspectives	CDFW, CN, NMS	NMS	Annually by end of calendar year	NMS to identify training dates and audience and schedule with CDFW/CN to provide training
	<b>OE 1.4.3</b> Update and expand accessibility of existing DPR educational resources as needed and develop one new digital education resource per coastal district	CDFW, DPR, OPC	DPR	December 2024	
	<b>OE 1.4.4</b> Insert MPA messaging into at least one existing outreach campaign of the DBW	DPR, OPC	DPR	December 2021	Completed. MPA messaging has been included in DBWs Boating Clean and Green Program (quarterly clean boating newsletter, The Changing Tides (6 articles), in 4 Partner Dockwalker trainings, and in a new bilingual binder card with an MPA section.)

## Outreach and Education

	<b>OE 1.4.5</b> Deliver at least eight live underwater interpretive programs and capture video footage from various MPA locations in partnership with State Parks Dive Team	DPR, OPC	DPR	December 2024	NPS and DPR to discuss partnering through Channel Islands live dive program
	<b>OE 1.4.6</b> Create infographic or document that describes the overlap of jurisdiction between federally protected areas and state MPAs	OPC	CDFW, NMS, NPS	July 2022	
<b>OE 1.5</b> Support communications and messaging regarding the MPA network throughout planning and implementation of Executive Order N-82-20	<b>OE 1.5.1</b> Assist the CANature/ESRI partnership, as needed, to produce a map of MPAs, ASBSs, NERRs, NMSs, Marine Parks, Biosphere reserves, etc. to help communicate statewide 30x30 efforts	OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	January 2022	
	<b>OE 1.5.2</b> Ensure transparency and communicate about 30x30 efforts to Tribes and the public as it pertains to the MPA network	OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	Ongoing	Efforts will be clarified further as plans develop as this is an ongoing evaluation of conservation efforts across the state which includes MPAs but is not solely focused on MPAs. RLF will consider including Hawaii in network analysis work and lessons sharing. Hawaii Marine 30x30 MOU and Work Plan includes evaluation of 58 existing marine managed areas and

## Outreach and Education

					will likely be done using novel ecological and socio-cultural design principles and indicators beginning Fall 2021.
<b>Strategic Priority 2 - Create and disseminate cohesive communications products to build awareness of and support for the State's MPA Management Program</b>					
<b>OE 2.1</b> Identify audiences, audience-specific messaging, and outreach methods	<b>OE 2.1.1</b> Create a communications strategic vision and direction, including key messages for each target audience, best practices, and recommendations	CDFW, OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	July 2022	To be accomplished in collaboration with Kearns & West (contractor)
<b>OE 2.2</b> Develop brand identity for MPA Management Program based on California MPAs logo	<b>OE 2.2.1</b> Design and produce digital and printed products such as infographics, icons, presentations, posters, etc. to highlight MPA regulations, research, science, and socioeconomic factors	CDFW, OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	April 2023	To be accomplished in collaboration with Kearns & West (contractor)
<b>OE 2.3</b> Update and consolidate MPA information across state websites	<b>OE 2.3.1</b> Redesign the State's MPA webpages to make information, maps, and regulations easy to find, increase visibility, improve search ranking, and establish a resources library	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	April 2023	To be accomplished in collaboration with Kearns & West (contractor)
<b>OE 2.4</b> Create and implement long-term communication strategies and tools for 2022-2032	<b>OE 2.4.1</b> Establish an evaluation process to assess and improve the effectiveness of communications, incorporating feedback from Tribes through formal and informal outreach	CDFW, OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	June 2025	

## Outreach and Education

	<b>OE 2.4.2</b> Develop long-term budget to implement campaign objectives	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	June 2025	
	<b>OE 2.4.3</b> Create consistent, public-facing communications about the State's and partners' investments in MPA management	CDFW, OPC, RLF	OPC	Annually, (end of year FGC update)	
<b>Strategic Priority 3 - Understand and address gaps in MPA messaging, especially in relation to diverse and underrepresented communities</b>					
<b>OE 3.1</b> Provide recommendations that could improve compliance through inclusive MPA outreach	<b>OE 3.1.1</b> Hold a series focusing on historically underrepresented communities to learn about effective messaging strategies	CN	CN	June 2022	
	<b>OE 3.1.2</b> Coordinate among Leadership Team members to ensure consistent messaging and leverage outreach efforts	OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	Annually	
<b>OE 3.2</b> Increase and improve accessibility of outreach and education materials to historically underrepresented communities	<b>OE 3.2.1</b> Identify key outreach materials in need of translation and distribute multi-lingual outreach and education materials	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	Translation and distribution will be an ongoing effort, but the goal to identify the outreach materials needed and the mechanism for translation should be met by December 2022 in time for the decadal management review.
<b>OE 3.3</b> Based on OPC's Tribal Engagement Strategy, implement methods to increase Tribal involvement in MPA outreach and education to	<b>OE 3.3.1</b> Produce guidance document or assessment to determine what outreach and education materials should include approved Tribal content, and define appropriate	OPC, Tribal Representatives	CN, OPC, Tribal Representatives	June 2022	

## Outreach and Education

ensure Tribal content is included in outreach products	pathways for developing approving Tribal content				
--	--	--	--	--	--

FOCAL AREA: POLICY AND PERMITTING					
Overarching Goal: Ensure equitable, science based governance of California's MPA network through adaptive management					
Key Action	Outcome	Facilitator or Funder*	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	NOTES
<b>Strategic Priority 1 - Complete the decadal management review in 2022 and ensure that outcomes of the review inform future decision-making</b>					
<b>PP 1.1</b> Engage key California legislators and decision-makers, including Tribes through formal and informal communications, in the decadal management review process and incorporate guidance and recommendations as feasible	<b>PP 1.1.1</b> Hold at least two briefings with FGC and its committees in 2021 and two briefings in 2022 to receive feedback on the decadal management review	CDFW, FGC, OPC	FGC	December 2022	FGC has formally referred this topic to MRC and MRC has had one briefing and discussion thus far. MRC will have 1-2 more, and this includes report-outs to FGC. FGC Tribal Committee will also receive briefings.
	<b>PP 1.1.2</b> Schedule, advertise, and facilitate formal and informal meetings and webinars as necessary to communicate with and engage Tribal leaders and communities in the decadal management review process	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	Strategic Earth (contractor) and OPC are helping with this effort, but Tribal consultation and informal outreach will be led by CDFW
	<b>PP 1.1.3</b> Prepare written and in-person briefings for Tribes, coastal legislators, and decision-makers on the decadal management review and summarize the outcomes of the review after completion	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	April 2023	
<b>PP 1.2</b> Coordinate with ODFW on network analyses, governance methods, and lessons learned through both	<b>PP 1.2.1</b> Hold at least one annual meeting leading up to California's review, and reciprocate at least one annual	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	2024	2021 meeting is set for September 29-30

## Policy and Permitting

California's and Oregon's network review processes	meeting to ODFW to share information and lessons learned				
<b>PP 1.3</b> Implement appropriate recommendations from the decadal management review and consider emerging policies and regulations that advance adaptive management and the goals of the MLPA	<b>PP 1.3.1</b> Analyze policy recommendations and transparently communicate why MPA management decisions are made	CDFW, FGC, OPC	CDFW, FGC, OPC	June 2025	
<b>Strategic Priority 2 - Adopt regulations and policies to address other uses or emerging issues in MPAs not specifically identified in the MLPA</b>					
<b>PP 2.1</b> Utilize CCS to inform adaptive management	<b>PP 2.1.1</b> Based on RM 3.2 (page 36), adopt a policy that provides guidance for the types of attributes (e.g. science advisory panel, testing of data collector, data quality control, etc.) that make a CCS program's data likely to be used to inform MPA management	CDFW, OPC	OPC	June 2023	This action is centered around the creation of policy/guidance around CCS in MPA management. Research & Monitoring section addresses the research/monitoring goals of CCS.
<b>PP 2.2</b> Address regulatory language to allow maintenance, repair, replacement, or removal of pre-existing structures in MPAs	<b>PP 2.2.1</b> Adopt regulations, and as needed, conduct CEQA-compliant analyses and environmental impact report for maintenance of structures that existed prior to MLPA	CDFW, FGC, OPC	FGC	December 2023	FGC is listed as the lead because they are ultimately responsible for the rulemaking. SLC, CCC, DPR, and others have been involved in this process and will continue to be involved but are not listed as leads for the sake of clarity.
<b>PP 2.3</b> Address needs for activities that may alter MPAs,	<b>PP 2.3.1</b> Adopt policies well-supported by current science that delineates types of	CCC, CDFW, DPR, OPC, SLC		June 2025	

## Policy and Permitting

such as research, restoration, and mitigation	alterations allowed in MPAs of varying protection levels, provides guidance on impact avoidance strategies, and incorporates MPA considerations in CEQA review		MPA Statewide Leadership Team		
	<b>PP 2.3.2</b> Define restoration needs and the associated goals for MPAs and develop policies that determine which MPAs or types of MPAs are suitable for certain restoration activities	CCC, CDFW, DPR, OPC, SLC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	June 2023	Leadership Team to continue discussions on how this task could inform Decadal Management Review efforts.
<b>PP 2.4</b> Consider opportunities to enhance water quality in MPAs through connections with SWQPA in accordance with Section 3.E of the California Ocean Plan	<b>PP 2.4.1</b> Prepare a summary paper for the Leadership Team, recommend actions to enhance water quality in MPAs, and consider presentations to Boards and Commissions as appropriate	OPC, SWRCB	SWRCB	June 2025	Could continue as an ongoing action after this Work Plan timeframe
<b>PP 2.5</b> Develop and implement strategies and policies that support a climate resilient MPA network.	<b>PP 2.5.1</b> Collaboratively define goals and pathways to adopt policies that holistically address the findings from RM 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, and 3.3 (pages 32-37)	OPC	OPC	June 2025	Efforts will be clarified further as plans develop, and additional members may be identified as Lead Responsibilities, Facilitators, and/or Funders.
<b>Strategic Priority 3 - Integrate MPA network goals and objectives into resource agencies' strategies and policies</b>					
<b>PP 3.1</b> Incorporate specific language to ensure special considerations of MPAs in permitting and policy decisions when updating or revising agency strategic plans	<b>PP 3.1.1</b> Adopt FGC Strategic Plan	FGC	FGC	December 2024	
	<b>PP 3.1.2</b> Adopt SLC Strategic Plan and/or Annual Implementation Plan	SLC	SLC	February 2021 (Strategic Plan)	Strategic Plan sets the vision for sustainable oceans and prioritizes partnerships. Implementation Plans will include specific

## Policy and Permitting

				Annually beginning January 2023 (Annual Implementation Plan)	reference to the work of the Leadership Team.  The first Annual Implementation plan will begin in January 2023 and will include the language and considerations outlined in PP 3.1.
	<b>PP 3.1.3</b> Plan for inclusion of MPA content in 2026-2030 CCC Strategic Plan	CCC	CCC	2025	
	<b>PP 3.1.4</b> Consider MPA related content during the next Ocean Plan Triennial Review	SWRCB	SWRCB	2023	Potential to shift to 2025 pending changes in Ocean Plan process.
	<b>PP 3.1.5</b> Adopt OPC Strategic Plan with renewed agency commitments to MPA science and policy	OPC	OPC	June 2025	
<b>PP 3.2</b> Clearly define agency roles and responsibilities to improve MPA partner coordination	<b>PP 3.2.1</b> Create public facing document discussing how agencies coordinate through the Leadership Team as well as in day-to-day operations, and broadly distribute to relevant stakeholders	OPC	OPC	June 2022	Kearns & West (contractor) to help create an infographic that describes the Leadership Team
	<b>PP 3.2.2</b> Develop internal coordination guidance document for MPA partner staff based on the MPA Partnership Plan, which summarizes partner roles and responsibilities as they pertain to MPA	OPC	OPC	June 2022	The intended audience is our MPA partners. The purpose is to provide points of contact for various MPA needs that may arise (SCPs, CDPs, general questions,

## Policy and Permitting

	management, and identifies an MPA point of contact				etc.) so partners can have a better sense of who to go to when they have a certain issue to discuss.
<b>PP 3.3</b> Leverage MPA network policies to contribute to the statewide biodiversity initiatives	<b>PP 3.3.1</b> Participate in and advise 30x30 efforts to assess how existing MPAs contribute to 30x30 goals	OPC	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	June 2025	Efforts will be clarified further as plans develop. This action focuses on the Leadership Team's participation (as needed/requested) in the 30x30 efforts. OE 1.5.2 focuses on communicating the State's 30x30 efforts to interested parties and especially how they are a separate effort from the decadal management review.
<b>Strategic Priority 4 - Advance co-management of MPAs between the State and California Native American Tribes</b>					
<b>PP 4.1</b> Develop co-management measures collaboratively with Tribes	<b>PP 4.1.1</b> Implement at least two meaningful MPA-specific co-management policies and documents in tandem with statewide policies, based on the co-management definition adopted by FGC in February 2020	BLM, OPC, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, FGC	June 2025	
	<b>PP 4.1.2</b> Adopt and implement a broadly supported definition of Tribal customary use	OPC, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, FGC, Tribal Representatives	December 2023	

FOCAL AREA: ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE					
Overarching Goal: Increase capacity and effectiveness of MPA enforcement and compliance statewide					
Key Action	Outcome	Facilitator or Funder*	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	NOTES
<b>Strategic Priority 1 - Enhance enforcement capacity through efficient use of technology, training, equipment, and enforcement personnel and partnerships</b>					
<b>EC 1.1</b> Utilize RMS and other data sources as appropriate to inform statewide compliance initiatives and MPA management decisions	<b>EC 1.1.1</b> Use RMS data to capture and query enforcement data through production of biannual reports to be delivered to the Executive Committee at MPA Milestones meetings	CDFW, OPC	LED	ongoing	
	<b>EC 1.1.2</b> Create a summary report on RMS capabilities, how RMS and other data sources (such as eFINS and EDARS) could be leveraged, and how enforcement data from RMS will inform MPA management reviews	CDFW, CN, OPC, RLF	LED	November 2022	
<b>EC 1.2</b> Consistent with past efforts, coordinate with private companies that produce tools that display or convey MPA regulatory information to the public (e.g. GPS layers, phone applications, etc.) as feasible	<b>EC 1.2.1</b> Commonly used GPS systems accurately depict MPA boundaries and other regulatory information	CDFW (DTD and OCEO)	CDFW, LED	June 2023, and June 2025	
<b>EC 1.3</b> Identify and address LED equipment and personnel needs for MPA enforcement	<b>EC 1.3.1</b> Complete a needs assessment based on available enforcement data and trends to determine appropriate staffing levels, officer recruitment from diverse communities, and requirements for fleet	LED	LED	April 2022	To be prepared for the September 2022 OPC Council meeting (see EC 1.3.2 below), this assessment should be completed by April 2022.

## Enforcement and Compliance

	maintenance, technology, and equipment				
	<b>EC 1.3.2</b> Identify sustained funds to address recommendations from the needs assessment	LED, OPC	LED	September 2022	Current LED contract with OPC expires December 2022. If OPC were to contribute additional funds, the Council should consider it at its September 2022 meeting. LED should consider leveraging other funding sources as well.
	<b>EC 1.3.3</b> Develop materials and facilitate trainings, including accurate and culturally sensitive information about Tribal customary use and exemptions, with MPA enforcement partners to enhance capacity and collaboration	LED, Tribal Representatives	CN, LED	June 2022	
	<b>EC 1.3.4</b> Through extensive Tribal community outreach, outline a Tribal Watchmen/Ranger program to support collaborative enforcement and outreach efforts through existing Tribal authority and/or through arrangements with MPA enforcement partners (e.g. Coastal Guardian and Watchmen Programs in British Columbia)	LED, OPC	LED, Tribal Representatives	June 2025	

## Enforcement and Compliance

	<b>EC 1.3.5</b> Identify sustained funds to establish and support a Tribal Watchmen/Ranger program	LED, OPC	LED, Tribal Representatives	June 2025	
	<b>EC 1.3.6</b> Deliver training every two years to interagency enforcement staff	LED, CN, DPR	LED	December 2022 December 2024	
<b>Strategic Priority 2 - Increase judicial system and enforcement officers' awareness of MPA regulations and understanding of the value of MPAs</b>					
<b>EC 2.1</b> Enhance MPA knowledge of judges, district attorneys, and court officers to inform decision making	<b>EC 2.1.1</b> Through extensive Tribal community outreach, ensure the inclusion of relevant Tribal content with appropriate legal, political, cultural, and historical context in all MPA materials and trainings	RLF, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, CN, Tribal Representatives	June 2025	
	<b>EC 2.1.2</b> Encourage individual DAs to designate a wildlife/marine specialist	LED, RLF	CN, OPC	June 2025	
	<b>EC 2.1.3</b> Facilitate MPA training for the judicial systems of all coastal counties	RLF	LED, CN, OPC	June 2025	
	<b>EC 2.1.4</b> Distribute MPA materials widely to court and enforcement officers	CDFW	CN	June 2025	
<b>Strategic Priority 3 - Monitor MPA compliance and streamline reporting efforts</b>					
<b>EC 3.1</b> Understand current compliance levels and factors affecting compliance dynamics	<b>EC 3.1.1</b> Develop and utilize strategies to assess compliance, identify compliance metrics, and understand factors that change compliance over time	CDFW, LED, OPC	CDFW, LED	March 2022	
	<b>EC 3.1.2</b> Assess current statewide MPA compliance to	CDFW, LED, OPC	CDFW, LED	August 2022	

## Enforcement and Compliance

	serve as a comparison for future management reviews				
<b>EC 3.2</b> Report, track, and share LED and MPA enforcement partner compliance statistics and coordination efforts	<b>EC 3.2.1</b> Produce a guidance document that establishes a shared definition of enforcement measures and actions between LED and MPA enforcement partners (e.g. NMS LETAC, USCG, BLM, NPS, DPR)	CN, LED	CN, LED	June 2023	
	<b>EC 3.2.2</b> Develop a sharing platform for MPA enforcement partners to easily report contacts and citations on a quarterly basis	CN, LED	CN, LED	June 2024	

<b>FOCAL AREA: RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>					
<b>Overarching Goal: Develop and implement research and monitoring efforts to evaluate MPA performance and address emerging questions to inform adaptive management</b>					
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Facilitator or Funder*</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b><u>NOTES</u></b>
<b>Strategic Priority 1 - Link monitoring and human dimensions data to adaptive management of the MPA network</b>					
<b>RM 1.1</b> Conduct monitoring and analyses leading up to 2022 review	<b>RM 1.1.1</b> Complete a suite of habitat-based long-term MPA monitoring and human dimensions projects to address MPA performance evaluation questions provided in the MPA Monitoring Action Plan and OPC-SAT DEWG report and include findings in 2022 review	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	
	<b>RM 1.1.2</b> In partnership with NCEAS, integrate and synthesize MPA-related data/information streams to update scientific guidance for network design, and include findings and recommendations in the 2022 review	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	
	<b>RM 1.1.3</b> Transition all MPA baseline data to DataONE, upload all habitat-based long-term monitoring data, and create MPA data portal in coordination with communications contractor efforts	OPC	OPC	June 2022	
<b>RM 1.2</b> Develop pathways for connecting monitoring data to management actions	<b>RM 1.2.1</b> Based on monitoring data and analyses, develop science-based options that CDFW and FGC could consider	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	NOAA is developing an approach or recommendations for climate resilient

## Research and Monitoring

	for adaptive management of the MPA network				oceans and fisheries based on Section 216(c) of 'Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (EO14008)' issued on 01/27/21. This could be a source of info for adaptive management strategies.
<b>RM 1.3</b> Develop a long-term monitoring plan for the state's MPA Monitoring Program post-2022	<b>RM 1.3.1</b> Based on recommendations from the decadal management review and OPC-SAT Working Group reports, draft a new MPA Monitoring Action Plan 2.0 which includes methods for streamlined, cost-effective monitoring into the future, and more explicitly addresses potential climate change impacts to MPAs, and expands the focus on human dimensions, Tribal monitoring, and TEK	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2023	
	<b>RM 1.3.2</b> Convene a human dimensions advisory team of trained natural resource social scientist across multiple disciplines to outline a human dimensions research agenda and monitoring program (including emerging research questions) for the CA MPA network that is responsive to management needs.	CDFW, OPC	OPC, OST	December 2023	

## Research and Monitoring

	<b>RM 1.3.3</b> Identify reliable funding streams to support long-term MPA monitoring beyond 2022 and develop regular and equitable process of reviewing and funding research and monitoring proposals	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2023	
	<b>RM 1.3.4</b> Utilize NMS vessels for MPA monitoring and NMS conservation science program staff expertise, as available	NMS	CDFW, NMS, OPC	Ongoing	
<b>Strategic Priority 2 - Pursue emerging research questions</b>					
<b>RM 2.1</b> Further explore role of MPAs in climate resilience	<b>RM 2.1.1</b> Prioritize and launch research projects addressing questions highlighted in OPC SAT Working Group "Climate Resilience and California's MPA Network" report	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	
	<b>RM 2.1.2</b> Develop and implement a climate research and monitoring plan for the MPA network guided by the OPC SAT Working Group report and aligned with existing state and federal climate plans	CDFW, ONMS, OPC	CDFW, OPC	June 2025	
<b>RM 2.2</b> Conduct research to understand the effects of climate-related stressors on water quality and MPAs, and potential mitigation approaches	<b>RM 2.2.1</b> Create map that illustrates where ASBSs and MPAs are co-located and where data for each monitoring program has been collected	OPC, SWRCB	OPC	December 2023	
	<b>RM 2.2.2</b> Create document that identifies overlaps in requirements, methodology, funding sources, and personnel between ASBSs and MPAs	OPC, SWRCB	OPC	December 2023	

## Research and Monitoring

	<b>RM 2.2.3</b> Develop research projects evaluating the effects of wildfire and/or subsequent mudslides to coastal habitats (e.g. effects of ash on marine life, toxicity of ash to marine life, etc.)	OPC, SWRCB	OPC	December 2022	
<b>RM 2.3</b> Identify and pursue novel research methods to inform MPA monitoring and management	<b>RM 2.3.1</b> Explore feasibility of incorporating emerging technologies into MPA monitoring efforts by supporting pilot projects (e.g. eDNA, drone/aerial surveys, drop cameras, AUVs, etc.)	OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2024	
<b>RM 2.4</b> Evaluate MPA human impact and compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic	<b>RM 2.4.1</b> Perform integrative analysis and synthesis on various data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic through traditional monitoring, CCS, and enforcement partners' reporting efforts	OPC	CN, OPC	June 2022	
<b>Strategic Priority 3 - Diversify monitoring collaborations including multiple sources of knowledge</b>					
<b>RM 3.1</b> Develop pathway in which ITK can be collected and shared in a respectful, appropriate manner in furtherance of adaptive management	<b>RM 3.1.1</b> Conduct listening sessions and other outreach as appropriate to engage Tribes to identify Tribal priorities for MPAs, and develop pathways for ensuring that these priorities are elevated in MPA monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, OPC	December 2022	
	<b>RM 3.1.2</b> Continue the Tribal Marine Stewards Network pilot project and develop a funding strategy to scale up this effort to	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	OPC	Ongoing	TMSN is focused on monitoring and ITK at the moment, but it could incorporate enforcement and

## Research and Monitoring

	include additional coastal Tribes throughout the state				management goals in the future as well.
	<b>RM 3.1.3</b> Establish data sharing and use guidelines for ITK in collaboration with Tribes	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	December 2023	
	<b>RM 3.1.4</b> Initiate collaborative research to understand the intersection of MPAs and Tribal stewardship and use of the coast and ocean (including by assessing the effectiveness of current Tribal take exemptions) as well as the cultural and ecological benefits of Tribal stewardship	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	CDFW, OPC	June 2023	
<b>RM 3.2</b> Understand and expand the ability of CCS monitoring programs to inform management decisions	<b>RM 3.2.1</b> Produce a report that summarizes the current status of CCS efforts to identify research successes and key knowledge gaps, and to the extent possible, inform management recommendations for the decadal management review	OPC, RLF	OPC, RLF	August 2022	
	<b>RM 3.2.2</b> Develop a funding strategy based on recommendations from the above report to inform future MPA monitoring and to address key knowledge gaps, specifically around CCS in underrepresented communities	OPC	OPC	December 2023	
<b>RM 3.3</b> Explore opportunities to integrate long-term MPA monitoring and fisheries monitoring to assess the effects	<b>RM 3.3.1</b> Identify key indicators, metrics, datasets, and ITK that can inform both MPA management and	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC, Tribal Representatives	March 2023	

## Research and Monitoring

of protected areas on fisheries (e.g. contribute to stock assessment data, fisheries management decisions, etc.)	sustainable, climate-ready fisheries and at multiple scales				
	<b>RM 3.3.2</b> Identify a subset of species where data collection can inform both MPA and fisheries management	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	March 2023	
	<b>RM 3.3.3</b> Develop and implement a framework of approaches to integrate MPA, climate, and fisheries monitoring efforts to support sustainable fisheries management, based on recommendations provided in Appendix 4 of the DEWG report and the "Readying California Fisheries for Climate Change" report	CDFW, OPC	CDFW, OPC	December 2024	
<b>RM 3.4</b> Increase collaboration with SWRCB to leverage existing resources and partnerships to better understand and manage water quality impacts in MPAs	<b>RM 3.4.1</b> Continue and improve coordination between Southern California Coastal Water Research Project BIGHT Monitoring Program and MPA Monitoring Program - Create document that lays out the two programs goals and objectives with a focus on identifying areas of alignment and opportunity for increased collaboration	CDFW, SWRCB, OPC	OPC	December 2023	
	<b>RM 3.4.2</b> Work with Water Monitoring Council to develop unified interagency strategy to identify overlaps in regulatory NPDES and MPA monitoring and create document that	SWRCB, OPC	OPC	December 2023	

Research and Monitoring

	identifies overlaps in requirements, methodology, funding sources, and personnel				
	<b>RM 3.4.3</b> Create map product that identifies water quality areas of concern in or adjacent to MPAs based on long-term BIGHT monitoring,	CDFW, SWRCB, OPC	OPC	June 2024	



## Footnotes

<b>FOOTNOTES</b>
<p><sup>^</sup> The Ocean Protection Council administers the MPA Statewide Leadership Team whose members include the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game Commission, Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Water Boards, Ocean Science Trust, MPA Collaborative Network and Regional Tribal Representatives.</p> <p><sup>*</sup> Where Tribal Representatives are identified as “Key Facilitator/Funder” or “Lead Responsibility”, OPC (and other MPA Statewide Leadership Team members as necessary) will provide support and/or resources for the Tribal Reps unless indicated otherwise.</p>