



Informational Item
September 14, 2021

Update on California's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Management Program and Planning for the 2022 Adaptive Management Review of the MPA Network

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LOCATION: Statewide

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S): Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity;
Objective 3.1: Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A: Letters of Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

California's [124 marine protected areas](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs)¹ (MPAs), which span the state's 1,100-mile coastline, are unique in size, scale, biogeographic and cultural setting, and status as an ecologically connected network. As North America's largest MPA network encompassing [16% of state waters](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Statistics)², California's MPAs aim to protect and sustain marine ecosystems for the long-term health of California's ocean and associated benefits as defined by its founding legislation, the [Marine Life Protection Act](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA)³ (MLPA). The Network was developed through an innovative science-guided, stakeholder-driven process, which was completed in 2012. Nearly a decade after implementation, California is starting to see encouraging results regarding the positive impact MPAs have had on ecosystem health. Some older, highly protected MPAs have already demonstrated positive responses to protection, including bigger and more abundant sea life. Research has shown that some MPAs may help to support fisheries via a "spillover" effect in which larval and adult organisms are exported from MPAs to adjacent fished areas.

The MLPA called for an evaluation of the MPA Network and the [2016 Master Plan for MPAs](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan#31841349-2016-master-plan-for-mpas)⁴

¹ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>

² <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Statistics>

³ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA>

⁴ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan#31841349-2016-master-plan-for-mpas>

required the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to conduct a review of the MPA Network and broader MPA Management Program every 10 years. The [Decadal Management Review](#)⁵ is a report that will consider a broad range of information about the MPA Network, including scientific assessments of ecological and socioeconomic data, enforcement data, and shared knowledge and data from California Tribes and Tribal communities, partners of the MPA Management Program, and input from members of the broader ocean community. The Decadal Management Review will be available to the public and will include an assessment of the MPA Network's progress toward MLPA goals, a summary of knowledge gaps and future opportunities, and specific management recommendations for both the Management Program itself and the Network.

California's MPAs are managed as a statewide network through the MPA Management Program.. The MPA Management Program was designed to facilitate the [adaptive management](#)⁶ of California's MPA Network as an interconnected system of protected areas along the entire California coast. The MPA Management Program and its components are guided by several foundational documents including the [2016 Master Plan for MPAs](#)⁷, the [MPA Partnership Plan](#)⁸, and the [MPA Monitoring Action Plan](#)⁹. The MPA Management Program is a collaboration between CDFW as the lead managing agency, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), the Fish and Game Commission (FGC), and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team). This novel partnership-based approach ensures California's MPA Network is adaptively managed and informed by engaged [partnerships](#)¹⁰.

Significant investments by the State and philanthropy, staff time, and in-kind donations from non-governmental partners have been made to establish and implement the State's MPA Management Program over the past decade. As the MPA Network and associated MPA Management Program approaches the first Decadal Management Review in 2022, this informational item provides an overview of the notable advancements and partnerships made since the designation of California's MPA Network and looks ahead to what is to come.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CALIFORNIA'S MPA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FROM THE PAST DECADE:

MPA Statewide Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is an advisory body to the Secretary for Natural Resources and is made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, California Native American Tribes, and non-governmental partners that are actively engaged in the MPA Management Program. Since its establishment in 2014, the Leadership Team's strategic priorities have been collaboratively developed and outlined in its four-year Work Plan. The Leadership Team's 2021-2025 Work Plan is undergoing its final approval process and will be posted on the [Leadership Team's webpage](#)¹¹ in the Fall of 2021.

⁵ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/Decadal-Review>

⁶ https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Definitions#ad_man

⁷ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan>

⁸ <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=156913&inline>

⁹ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/monitoring/action-plan>

¹⁰ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management>

¹¹ <https://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/partnerships/>

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 Army Corps of Engineers
- 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.

The Leadership Team's 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. The 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 MLPA and the foundational documents mentioned above.

MPA Management Program's Four Focal Areas

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 & Education, 2) Policy & Permitting, 3) Enforcement & Compliance, and 4) Research & Monitoring^{12,13,14,15}. Active, sustained engagement in each of these focal areas is integral to achieve the goals of California's MPA Network. Over the past 10 years, the State, philanthropic partners, and non-governmental organizations have contributed significant financial investments,

¹² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S096456911200230X>

¹³ www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

¹⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0199126>

¹⁵ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/PAG-003.pdf>

staff time, and in-kind donations to achieve considerable accomplishments across these focal areas, several of which are highlighted below.

Outreach & Education

With funds provided by state agencies, community partners, and private donors, CDFW and partners statewide developed a wide range of educational resources for all ages such as videos, brochures, online activities and trainings, social media campaigns, and lesson plans for K-12 students^{16,17,18,19}. These resources cover topics including general information about the MPA Network and its regulations, Tribal traditions and uses, invasive species, and fishing and tide pooling guidance. CDFW also released the [California Marine Protected Area Network Outreach and Education Guide](#)²⁰ 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 so partners can effectively produce outreach materials.

With support from an OPC grant, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) 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 [Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students \(PORTS\) Program](#)²¹. In 2020, MPA interpreters played a remarkable role in State Parks' response to park and school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. State Parks interpreters delivered webinar-style virtual field trips, 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](#)²² app, more than 25 [Microsoft Flipgrid topics](#)²³, and several [360-degree tours](#)²⁴ of park units adjacent to MPAs; State Parks took their programming a step further 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.

OPC and the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) funded a social media campaign led by the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to build broader interest in California's MPAs. The campaign created social media content for partners to coordinate posts across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using the hashtags #CalifMPAs and #CaliforniaMPAs. Within one year from June 2020-2021, the campaign generated over 2,000 posts, reaching over 538,000 unique users and over 131,500 engagement points (comments, likes, and shares) across the platforms.

¹⁶ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Outreach-Materials#26716426-mpa-guidebooks-and-brochures>

¹⁷ <https://californiampas.org/outreach-toolkit>

¹⁸ <https://www.mpacollaborative.org/project-library/>

¹⁹ <https://www.mpacollaborative.org/project-library/>

²⁰ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=169141&inline>

²¹ <https://www.ports-ca.us/home/mpas>

²² <https://www.ports-ca.us/about/news/climb-high-dive-deep>

²³ <https://admin.flipgrid.com/discovery/collections/14/details/22310>

²⁴ <https://www.ports-ca.us/home/mpas>

With funding from OPC, Coastal Quest administered a competitive [small grants program](#)²⁵ to increase MPA outreach and education efforts statewide. Matching funds from philanthropic partners assisted projects that directly benefit communities entitled to environmental justice. The grant program distributed funding directly to 12 community organizations. These projects will be completed in March 2022 and are already producing deliverables such as an [MPA Coloring Book](#)²⁶ with interactive virtual reality coloring pages created by the San Luis Obispo and Monterey Bay MPA Collaboratives and an [educational video](#)^{27,28} for anglers about MPA fishing regulations created by The Bay Foundation. Both products are available in English and Spanish.

Outreach and communication efforts are ongoing, with increased outreach in the Decadal Management Review. As one of the world's largest science-based and stakeholder-driven MPA networks, 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 MPA Center, and strengthening relationships with 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 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected Areas. The Expert Assessment Group is currently concluding its evaluation process, and the MPA Network is expected to be included on the IUCN Green List in 2022.

Policy & Permitting

The Leadership Team has focused on improving existing communication and collaboration among state agencies regarding permitting and regulation issues associated with MPAs to advance a consistent approach. Partner agencies in the Leadership Team have integrated MPA Network priorities, content, and messaging to the greatest extent possible into agency-specific policy documents.

The State and Leadership Team also continue outreach and engagement with California Native American Tribes, both through consultation and informal conversations, about policy matters that may affect Tribal communities. Both Tribes and the State recognize the significant benefits of increased Tribal engagement in MPA management. In February 2020, FGC adopted a [co-management vision statement and definition](#)²⁹ in concert with CDFW and California Native American Tribes, which will help advance discussions going forward as the State continues to identify opportunities to advance co-management of the MPA Network in close collaboration with Tribes.

While the State prepares for its first decadal management review, Governor Newsom launched a parallel effort to protect California's biodiversity and build climate resilience by establishing a state goal of conserving at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 ([Executive](#)

²⁵ <https://www.coastal-quest.org/?p=250>

²⁶ Available in English and Spanish: https://www.mpacollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MPA_colorbook_final_digital.pdf

²⁷ Available in English with English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkGFK8MRSMo>

²⁸ Available in English with Spanish subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkGFK8MRSMo>

²⁹ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=184474>

[Order N-82-20](#)³⁰). The pathways to 30x30 document is scheduled for completion early in 2023. While the MPA Network is a fundamental component to meeting California's 30 x 30 goals, the Executive Order's commitment to reaching 30 percent of coastal marine conservation is also based on advancing measures beyond the MPAs (such as enhancing biodiversity safeguards in National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuary Programs, and Areas of Special Biological Significance) and through the collaborative stakeholder process. The state will not consider MPA Network expansion as a component of meeting the state's 30 x 30 marine conservation goals prior to completion of the Decadal Management Review in 2022.

Enforcement & 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 Law Enforcement Division (LED) acquired a statewide records management system to collect, organize and track citation data. The records management system will transition the State toward more automated and connected tracking systems for multiple levels of regional enforcement personnel.

In 2019, CDFW LED enforcement efforts were significantly increased due to collaborative funding between CDFW and OPC. The funds supported enforcement officers, maintenance, and technology required for an effective presence both onshore and on the water. With the increased support, CDFW LED completed MPA enforcement trainings and increased the intensity of patrolling efforts around MPAs. CDFW LED also provided funding for the acquisition of another large patrol vessel to increase patrol capabilities. The vessel is scheduled for completion in November 2021.

Partner organizations also support a range of enforcement and compliance efforts. The MPA Collaborative Network continues to work in collaboration with CDFW LED to develop updated manuals to administer trainings for enforcement partners, and to track their enforcement efforts. With support from OPC's Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program, a webinar was held in May 2020 to provide MPA training to California district attorneys and other prosecutors. The webinar included presentations from the California District Attorneys Association environmental director, a wildlife officer with CDFW LED, the MPA Collaborative Network, and two district attorneys presenting on how to prosecute MPA cases under both criminal and civil law. A new MPA Prosecutors Task Force will be launched in September 2021 to facilitate sharing of information and improve coordination related to prosecution of MPA cases statewide.

Funded by OPC and RLF, the MPA Collaborative Network also held [community compliance forums](#)³¹ 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.

Led by OPC partners, the electronic Fisheries Information Network System (eFINS) is an innovative, geospatial data-driven tool that demonstrates the value of new technology to MPA management. First piloted in the Channel Islands in 2014 and since expanded coastwide, eFINS is a mobile

³⁰ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/10.07.2020-EO-N-82-20-.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.mpacollaborative.org/project-library/>

application that can capture data, develop maps and reports relevant to management, promote economic and efficient use of enforcement assets, and encourage cooperation between enforcement agencies. eFINS is currently being used by CDFW patrol vessels statewide as well as by National Park Service Channel Islands rangers, and the City of San Diego Lifeguards. eFINS also inspired development of a similar app (O-FISH) currently being used in Galapagos National Park, Ecuador, and other locations globally.

Research & Monitoring

California has established a statewide MPA monitoring program that is already helping resource managers understand MPA effects. From 2007-2016, teams of scientists conducted [baseline monitoring](#)³² of California's MPA Network to obtain a "snapshot" of ecological and socioeconomic conditions along our coast at the time that MPAs were implemented. Since 2019, guided by the State's [MPA Monitoring Action Plan](#)³³, scientists have been conducting [long-term monitoring](#)³⁴ in important habitats inside and outside MPAs – rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, estuaries and wetlands, kelp forests, and deep rocky reefs – to track changes relative to baseline conditions in important population-level metrics such as fish density, size, and biomass, as well as community-level metrics such as species diversity. Additional research teams are exploring the human dimensions of MPAs, including MPA impacts on recreational and commercial fisheries, and helping to disentangle MPA effects from natural ocean phenomena such as marine heat waves. The state's significant investment in baseline and long-term MPA monitoring has resulted in a wealth of data, analyses, and technical reports that are publicly available and can be accessed on the [California Ocean Protection Council Data Repository](#)³⁵.

Importantly, California is partnering on MPA monitoring with coastal Native American Tribes through the recently launched [Tribal Marine Stewards Network](#)³⁶, which is providing data on the health of culturally important species and places and is also empowering Tribes to monitor their ancestral lands and waters. This pilot program is composed of four partner Tribes (Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, Resighini Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and the Ama Mutsun Tribal Band), supported by two nongovernmental organizations (the California Indian Environmental Alliance and Ecotrust). Successful indigenous monitoring programs have been implemented in many different parts of the world, from the [Coastal Guardian Watchmen](#)³⁷ in British Columbia to the [Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers](#)³⁸ in Queensland, Australia. These programs empower indigenous peoples to monitor, protect, and restore the cultural and natural resources of their territories. In California, Tribes have served as valuable partners in several state-funded ocean and coastal monitoring efforts to date. In California, Tribes have served as valuable partners in several state-funded ocean and coastal monitoring efforts to date. For example, a collaborative partnership of four north coast Tribes worked to gather Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) through interviews and archival research during the MPA baseline monitoring period, significantly enhancing resource managers' understanding of ocean health in that region. The Tribal Marine Stewards Network seeks to expand on these successes and build a statewide program that will support meaningful co-management measures.

³² <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/Monitoring#533952037-mpa-baseline-monitoring>

³³ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/monitoring/action-plan>

³⁴ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/Monitoring#533962038-long-term-monitoring>

³⁵ <https://opc.dataone.org/data>

³⁶ https://opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20200619/Item6a_TribalMarineStewardsNetwork_FINAL.pdf

³⁷ <https://coastalfirstnations.ca/our-environment/programs/coastal-guardian-watchmen-support/>

³⁸ <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/conservation/community/land-sea-rangers>

In addition to State and Tribal monitoring programs, community and citizen science programs contribute to monitoring efforts of the MPA Network and provide valuable data for the MPA Management Program. [Reef Check California](https://www.reefcheck.org/california-program/)³⁹ continues to engage volunteer recreational divers in monitoring California's kelp forest and rocky reef ecosystems focusing on MPAs and control sites. 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](https://www.inaturalist.org/)⁴⁰) can enhance and complement conventional scientific monitoring. [MPA Watch](https://mpawatch.org/)⁴¹ trains volunteers to observe and collect data on human uses of coastal and marine resources both inside and outside of MPAs.

In preparation for the upcoming decadal management review, two working groups of the [OPC Science Advisory Team](https://www.opc.ca.gov/science-advisory-team/)⁴² provided [science guidance for the decadal management review](https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2021/07/Evaluating-Californias-Marine-Protected-Area-Network-2021_ADA_OST.pdf)⁴³ and explored the potential [role of MPAs in providing climate resilience in California](https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2021/07/Climate-Resilience-and-Californias-MPA-Network-2021_final_ADA_OST.pdf)⁴⁴. In February 2021, OPC funded a project led by the [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/)⁴⁵ to integrate existing analyses and perform new analyses as needed to provide answers to MPA performance evaluation questions in support of the decadal management review. The project will also evaluate and provide updated recommendations to the MPA design criteria established during the creation of the MPA Network.

Given the immense amount of effort since implementation began in 2007 to monitor the MPA Network, California is starting to see encouraging results regarding the positive impact MPAs have had on coastal resources. Some older, highly protected MPAs such as [Point Lobos State Marine Reserve](https://www.piscoweb.org/sites/default/files/portfolios/CI_10-Yr_Brochure_web.pdf)⁴⁶ and the [Northern Channel Islands MPAs](https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=302122&org=NSF&from=news)⁴⁷ have already demonstrated positive responses to protection, including bigger and more abundant sea life. Research has shown that some MPAs may help to support fisheries via a “spillover” effect in which larval and adult organisms are exported from MPAs to adjacent fished areas, as seen in the [Santa Barbara lobster fishery](https://mlml.sjsu.edu/ccfrp/)⁴⁸. The [California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program](https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/news/mpa-update-sport-anglers-reel-in-fisheries-data)⁴⁹, a long-term monitoring program leveraging a unique partnership between researchers and recreational anglers, has shown that in addition to providing critical fisheries data to MPA and fisheries managers, CCFRP participants [develop more positive attitudes towards MPAs](https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/news/mpa-update-sport-anglers-reel-in-fisheries-data)⁵⁰.

FIRST DECADAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF CALIFORNIA'S MPA NETWORK

The Decadal Management Review will be the first comprehensive review of the MPA Management Program and evaluation of the progress of the MPA Network towards meeting the goals of the MLPA. It will also be an opportunity for Tribes, stakeholders, and the general public to provide

³⁹ <https://www.reefcheck.org/california-program/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

⁴¹ <https://mpawatch.org/>

⁴² <https://www.opc.ca.gov/science-advisory-team/>

⁴³ https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2021/07/Evaluating-Californias-Marine-Protected-Area-Network-2021_ADA_OST.pdf

⁴⁴ https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2021/07/Climate-Resilience-and-Californias-MPA-Network-2021_final_ADA_OST.pdf

⁴⁵ <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/>

⁴⁶ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0118502>

⁴⁷ http://www.piscoweb.org/sites/default/files/portfolios/CI_10-Yr_Brochure_web.pdf

⁴⁸ https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=302122&org=NSF&from=news

⁴⁹ <https://mlml.sjsu.edu/ccfrp/>

⁵⁰ <https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/news/mpa-update-sport-anglers-reel-in-fisheries-data>

feedback to the State that could inform and improve future management efforts. The Decadal Management Review will be structured around the four pillars of the MPA Management Program: Outreach and Education, Research and Monitoring, Enforcement and Compliance, and Policy and Permitting, and will consider all available sources of information about the MPA Network, including scientific assessments of ecological and socioeconomic monitoring results, MPA enforcement data, input from Tribal representatives and members, and input from members of the broader ocean community. The Review final report and associated presentations will be publicly available, and will contain the following components:

- An assessment of the MPA Network's progress toward [MLPA goals](#)⁵¹;
- A summary of knowledge gaps and opportunities for next steps;
- A framework for translating performance evaluation results and knowledge gaps into management recommendations;
- Specific adaptive management recommendations and next steps, framed within the [four pillars of the MPA Management Program](#)⁵²;
- A summary of actions taken to engage Tribes and the ocean community and feedback received leading up to and during the Review, as well as future steps to follow up on feedback.

Recommendations will consider ecological, socioeconomic, and governance aspects of the MPA Network. In preparation for the Decadal Management Review, the OPC Science Advisory Team was convened an independent scientific working group to provide [technical guidance](#)⁵³ to CDFW. Their work included updated science-based performance evaluation questions and metrics which will help identify trends and overall progress toward MLPA goals.

California Tribes and Tribal communities and the broader ocean community will be actively invited to provide their perspectives on priorities, definitions of success, and the roles of their respective communities in state management of the MPA Network. CDFW, in collaboration with OPC, will host public engagement events in 2021 and 2022 to share information about the Decadal Management Review and gather input. A public symposium will be held prior to the December 2022 FGC meeting to highlight the work and findings of partners across the state that inform the management of California's MPA Network. CDFW will produce a final report, which it will present to the FGC in December 2022. Members of the Council and the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If it is the Council's preference, a summary of the report and outcomes from the FGC meeting can also be included on the February 2023 Council meeting agenda.

To learn more about the 2022 MPA Decadal Management Review, receive status updates, and view informational materials please visit:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/Decadal-Review>. Questions and comments can be submitted to MPAManagementReview@wildlife.ca.gov.

⁵¹ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/MLPA>

⁵² <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management#focalareas>

⁵³ https://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2021/07/Evaluating-Californias-Marine-Protected-Area-Network-2021_ADA_OST.pdf