

MPA DECADAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW

THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network

California's Network of MPAs - finalized in 2012 - consists of 124 MPAs and 14 special closure areas. The Network was implemented following the passage of the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) (MLPA) in 1999.

The purpose of the MLPA and the MPA Network is to protect the integrity of marine ecosystems by safeguarding the diversity and abundance of marine organisms and their habitats for the long-term health of California's ocean. California has the largest network of MPAs in North America, encompassing approximately 842 square miles ([16% of state waters](#)). The Network was developed through an innovative science-guided, stakeholder-driven process. Human activity is restricted within MPAs and special closures, with particular restrictions - such as limits to access, collecting, and commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing - [varying by designation and location](#). More details about MPAs, the Network, and the implementation process can be found at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>.

Reflecting on 10 Years of MPA Management

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will develop a technical report reviewing the past ten years of the MPA Management Program, evaluating the performance of the MPA Network, and making recommendations for future adaptive management actions. The report will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission in late 2022 or early 2023. While the Fish and Game Commission is not expected to take formal action when they receive the technical report, it is expected at subsequent meetings the Commission will consider all available information and provide direction to California Department of Fish and Wildlife and implementation partners to help further the program towards meeting the goals of the MLPA. As with all Fish and Game Commission meetings, there will be an opportunity for public comment when the Fish and Game Commission receives the report and considers possible direction on next steps.

The Review report that will consider all available sources of information about the MPA Network, including scientific assessments of ecological and socioeconomic data, MPA enforcement data, and shared knowledge and data from California Tribes, and input from members of the broader ocean community. It 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. Recommendations will be focused on the 4 pillars of the MPA Management Program: Research & Monitoring, Enforcement & Compliance, Outreach & Education, Policy & Permitting.

Significance for the Ocean Community

The Decadal Management Review will be the first evaluation of how the MPA Management Program is meeting the goals of the MLPA, as well as an opportunity for the ocean community to provide feedback to the State that could inform future management efforts.

California Tribes 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. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council, will host a number of public engagement events during 2021 and 2022 to share information about the Decadal Management Review and gather input. A public symposium will be held to highlight the work and findings of partners across the state that inform the management of California's MPA Network.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

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.



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