

California's Marine Protected Area Management Program

Description and Costs

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Request

The FY 2015/2016 Budget Act, under Item 0540-001-0001, appropriated \$2.5 million dollars to "... be available for a contract or grant to support monitoring of marine protected areas."¹ Accompanying that appropriation was the following supplementary report language:

"Item 0540-001-0001—California Natural Resources Agency

1. Marine Life Protection Act Program Management Costs and Funding Sources. No later than January 10, 2016, the California Natural Resources Agency shall submit to the appropriate budget committees of each house a report on the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) program. Specifically, the report shall include a full analysis of management costs for the MLPA program, including ongoing funding sources, staffing, and department management designations."

This report is in response to that request and contains the first fully integrated accounting and analysis of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Program for California's network of 124 MPAs which is synonymous with the "MLPA program" in the request.

Background

A statewide network MPAs has been implemented in California pursuant to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). The MLPA directed the state to redesign and expand MPAs along the coast to better protect or conserve marine life and habitat. The MPA network, completed in 2012, spans the entire 1100 miles of California's coast and crosses jurisdictions and mandates of multiple agencies. The primary management responsibility for the network is assigned to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Fish and Game Commission (FGC) and is supported by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) which is tasked with the policy direction for the MPA Network. The scope and scale of the network has required a focus on developing and implementing a partnership-based approach that includes both governmental and non-governmental partners to develop and support an effective MPA Management Program.

Facilitated by OPC, the Ocean Science Trust (OST), DFW and FGC are leading the development of novel and innovative partnerships needed to develop and implement a statewide MPA Management Program. These partnerships and how they are anticipated to grow are laid out in ["The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Area Partnership Plan"](#)² (Partnership Plan) adopted by the OPC and endorsed by the FGC in 2014. In order to implement the Partnership Plan, Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird convened the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team) in early 2015. The Leadership Team has developed a comprehensive [Work Plan](#)³ (Appendix A) identifying all the required elements of the MPA Management Program, priority tasks, task assignments to the appropriate agencies and cost estimates required to build out the statewide MPA Management Program. The Leadership Team is led by the OPC and includes leadership from DFW, FGC, OST, Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Water

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB97

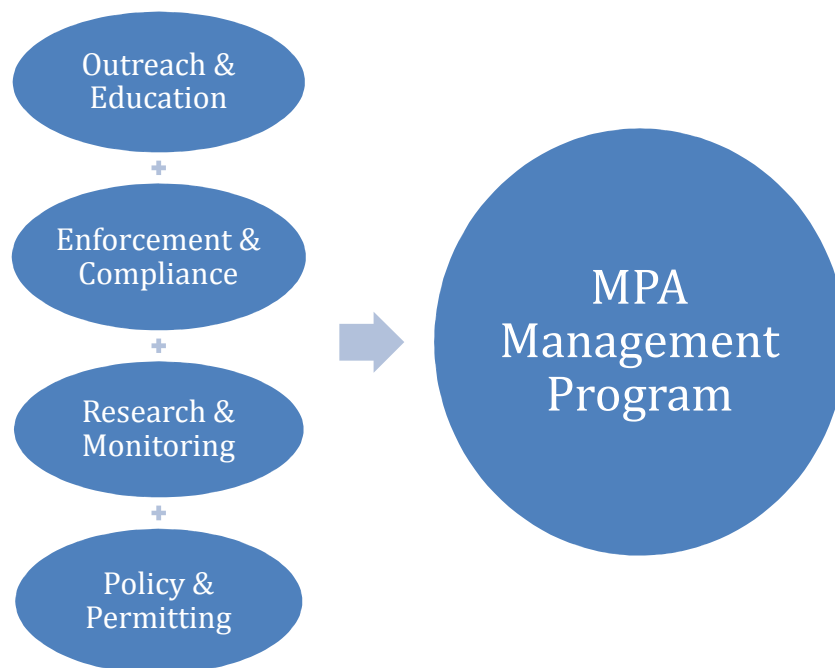
² <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2014/12/adopted-final-version-of-the-california-collaborative-approach-marine-protected-areas-partnership-plan/>

³ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20150922/Item5_Attach2_MPALeadershipTeam_Workplan_FINALv2.pdf

Resources Control Board, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region, philanthropic partners and the MPA Collaborative Network. The work of the [Leadership Team](#)⁴ and the Work Plan were endorsed by the OPC in September 2015.

California is transitioning from design, designation and implementation to the management phase of the MLPA. The endorsed Work Plan defines the components necessary for a comprehensive MPA Management Program (Figure 1) parsed into four focal areas: outreach and education, enforcement and compliance, research and monitoring and policy and permitting. Active engagement across all areas is required to effectively and efficiently manage the MPA Network.

Figure 1. Required components designated in four focal areas for a comprehensive statewide MPA Management Program.



The Work Plan was built on the guidance for effective management of the MPAs included in the current update of the [MLPA Master Plan](#)⁵. The MLPA Master Plan guides the adoption and implementation of the Marine Life Protection Program (MLPP) which includes all the components necessary to adaptively manage the state’s MPA network and is synonymous with the MPA Management Program described above.

Agency Responsibilities

Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the Leadership Team members provides important context for the MPA Management Program and associated costs. The Agencies, Council and Commissions that are part of the Leadership Team have varying levels of responsibility and mandates associated with the MPA Management Program (Appendix B).

⁴http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/media_library/2015/08/Item5_ResolutionMPAStatewideLeadershipWorkPlan_ADOPTED_9.22.2015.pdf

⁵ <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan>

Costs

As we transition to the management phase for the MPA network, private monetary support is being reduced. Ongoing management tasks identified in the Leadership Team Work Plan will need to be accomplished by the state because many tasks that were funded through the MLPA Initiative reverted back to the state in 2012. As mentioned above, all four focal areas, which cascade to varying degrees across the state members of the Leadership Team, need to be funded to effectively manage the MPA Network moving forward.

Enforcement and compliance are specifically mentioned in the MLPA which requires the MPA Management Program to include provisions for administering and enforcing MPA regulations in a manner that encourages public participation. The bulk of the enforcement duties fall to DFW Law Enforcement Division and they are actively seeking to continue to build partnerships and improve effectiveness. Compliance with regulations is directly linked to outreach and education efforts. The work of the Leadership Team ensures a close coordination among members in these strongly related areas. The significant increase in enforcement duties required by the MPA network, coupled with increased duties related to coordination with outreach and education efforts to implement the Work Plan, will require more dedicated staff time in out years.

Outreach and education are also a required element of the MLPA, mandating the creation of provisions for educating the public about MPAs to be included in the MPA Management Program. The majority of the Leadership Team members have established outreach and education programs. Some Leadership Team members, such as DFW and OPC, have been using these programs to directly address the significant needs in this area. Priorities identified in the Work Plan designate tasks to members that would greatly improve the state's efforts in this area by leveraging existing programs to expand their work by incorporating MPA network messaging into existing programs.

Research and monitoring at selected sites to facilitate adaptive management and evaluate the performance of the MPA network at meeting MLPA goals are also highlighted in the MLPA as required elements of the MPA Management Program. The state has invested \$16 million dollars in the [Baseline Program](#)⁶ to establish a comprehensive characterization of the ecological and socioeconomic conditions across the network at the time of implementation. Any future ecological and socioeconomic changes within the network will be compared to this baseline. The Baseline Program is already paying dividends by informing the development of the Statewide MPA Monitoring Program which is capitalizing on efficiencies and leveraging partnerships to reduce costs. Other state resource management priorities, such as sustainable fisheries, water quality and climate change adaptation, are also applying and benefiting from this work. Development of the Statewide MPA Monitoring Program is underway and will be completed during FY 16/17. This program builds on the learning from the Baseline Program, the existing regional monitoring plans, and [statewide MPA monitoring framework](#)⁷. Development of the Statewide Monitoring Program links directly to the needs identified by DFW to support their adaptive management and evaluation of the network. This focal area is deeply dependent on partnerships and leveraging opportunities developed through the Baseline Program. The allocation of \$2.5 million dollars of General Fund beginning in FY 15/16, coupled with a previous allocation of \$3 million dollars of Proposition 84 funds to support the program in the Central Coast Region, is sufficient to support the Statewide Monitoring Program through FY 17/18. As the one-time Proposition 84 allocation is spent and the regions transition from the Baseline

⁶ <http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring/regions>

⁷ http://oceanspaces.org/sites/default/files/regions/files/monitoring_framework.pdf

Program (North Central, Central Coast Regions complete; South Coast Region complete in 2016; and North Coast Region will complete in 2017) to the on-going monitoring phase, additional funds will be required to support the full Statewide MPA Monitoring Program.

Policy and permitting allow a consistent approach by the state and its partners to manage and govern the MPA network. The work of the Leadership Team focuses on improving existing communication and collaboration among state agencies regarding permitting and regulations associated with MPAs. Additional capacity in this area would formalize and bolster inter-agency collaboration on permitting, and may include the creation of technological tools that would improve current methods.

Below, we present charts and tables reflecting the current expenditures of the MPA Management Program for FY 15/16 and the projected funding level for the program for FY 16/17. The numbers were compiled through the work of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team in coordination with each member's organizational leadership. This reflects the first comprehensive assessment of current funding and projected needs for the management of the entire statewide network of MPAs. The Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18 was the primary document that informed this work, as it is a reflection of shared priorities of all state entities with significant authority or responsibilities related to the mandates of the MLPA. It is important to note that the significant progress made to date through implementation of the Partnership Plan, which enacted a partnership-based approach to the MPA Management Program, significantly reduced costs in all four focal areas when compared to estimates compiled during the MLPA Initiative process. All future requests for funding will be considered as part of the annual budget process.

Table 1. Projected MPA Management Program Expenditures for FY 15/16 and Funding for FY 16/17.

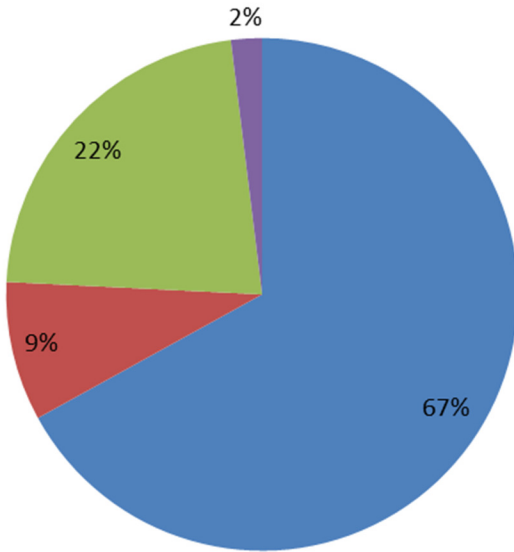
Focal Area		Projected Expenditures FY 15/16	Projected Funding FY 16/17
Enforcement and compliance*	cost	\$1,725,550	\$1,725,550
	py	8.35	8.35
Outreach and education	cost	\$1,744,096	\$1,511,125
	py	9.30	9.30
Research and monitoring	cost	\$7,243,338	\$6,544,700
	py	9.70	9.70
Policy and permitting	cost	\$1,955,870	\$1,955,870
	py	17.00	17.00
Administration and oversight*	cost	\$2,024,679	\$2,024,679
	py	0.81	0.81
TOTAL		\$14,693,533	\$13,761,924
PY		45.16	45.16
SOURCE			
General Fund		\$9,843,498	\$9,843,498
Environmental License Plate Fund		\$1,291,000	\$941,000
Proposition 84		\$3,271,634	\$2,690,025
State Park Recreation Fund		\$287,401	\$287,401

Notes on Expenditures: Currently there is no anticipated increase in funding levels for FY 16/17. A key point to highlight is the overall reduction in state spending between FY 15/16 and FY 16/17. The majority of that reduction can be explained by spending in the Research and Monitoring focal area. Closing out of expenditures for the Baseline Program in three regions (north central, central and south) will occur during FY 15/16. The remaining Baseline Program project on the north coast will close out in FY 16/17, further reducing Research and Monitoring spending in FY 17/18. The ongoing Statewide Research and Monitoring Program is anticipated to cost \$3.5 million dollars annually. A combination of general fund and Proposition 84 funds will finance the Research and Monitoring Program at that level through FY 17/18. Spending in the Outreach and Education focal area is also anticipated to drop in FY 16/17 as large, one time projects funded by Proposition 84 close out. As the state transitions during FY 15/16 to the management phase of the Marine Life Protection Act, the workload as prioritized in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan is anticipated to increase in ALL focal areas.

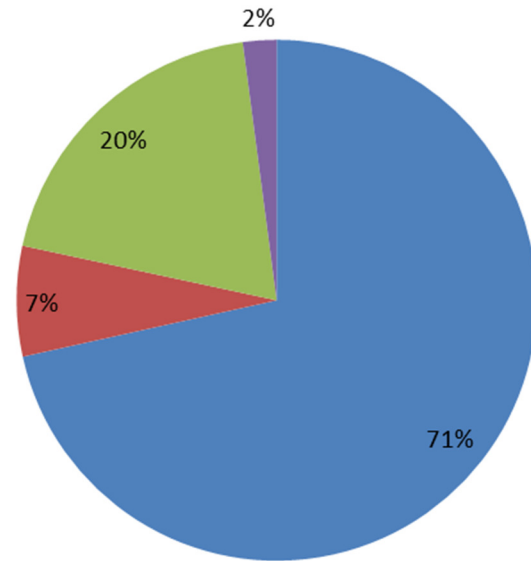
* Multi-funded programs that may include support from funds other than those noted.

Figure 2. Projected MPA Management Program costs broken down by percentage of funding source for (a) Expenditures FY 15/16 (b) Funding FY 16/17. Notice that the percentage of the budget supported by general funds will increase from FY 15/16 to FY 16/17 as one time projects supported by Proposition 84 funds close out.

(a)



(b)



■ General Fund ■ Environmental License Plate Fund ■ Proposition 84 ■ State Park Recreation Fund

Figure 3. Projected MPA Management Program broken down by focal area for Expenditures FY 15/16 and Funding FY 16/17.

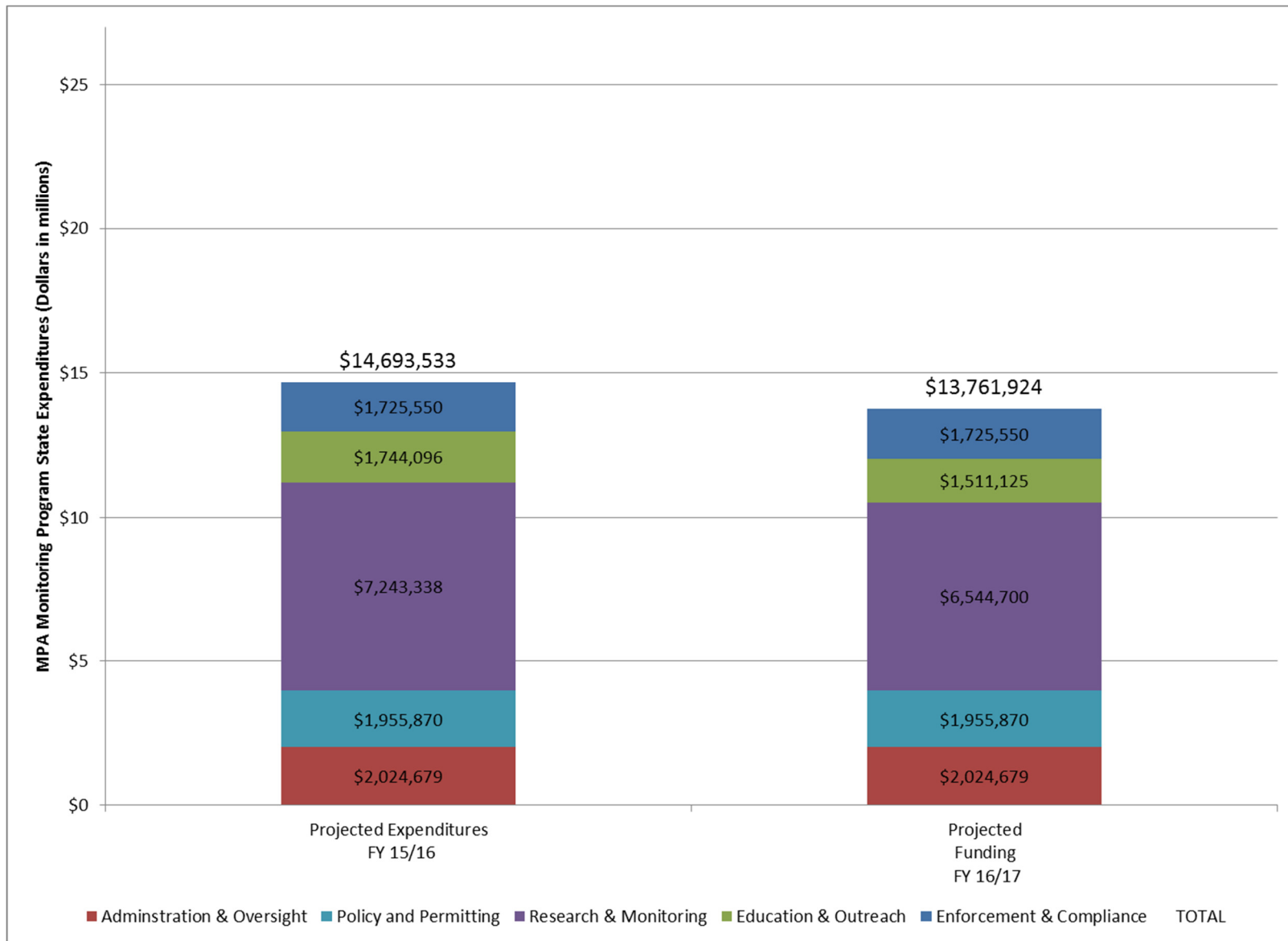


Table 2. Projected MPA Management Program Expenditures FY 15/16.

PROJECTED EXPEDITURES FY 15/16		Fish and Game Commission	Ocean Protection Council	Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Dept. of Park and Recreation	Coastal Commission	State Lands Commission	State Water Resources Control Board	Resources Legacy Fund	Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region		
Enforcement and Compliance	Cost	-	\$9,000	\$1,465,000*	\$251,550	-	-	-	\$500,000	\$39,500		
	py	-	0.1	6.4	1.85	-	-	-	-	0.2		
Outreach and Education	Cost	-	\$425,096	\$1,100,000	\$200,000	\$7,000	\$12,000	-	\$1,120,000	\$197,600		
	py	-	0.8	6.3	2.0	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.3		
Research and Monitoring	Cost	-	\$5,788,338	\$1,455,000	-	-	-	-	\$675,000	\$156,000		
	py	-	0.8	8.9	-	-	-	-	-			
Policy and Permitting	Cost	\$36,600	\$18,000	\$1,850,000	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$7,270	-	\$15,000		
	py	0.4	0.2	15.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	-			
Administration and Oversight	Cost	\$600	\$43,200	\$1,920,000*	-	\$25,000	\$24,000	\$11,879	-	\$27,800		
	py	0.01	0.35	-	-	0.2	0.15	0.1	-			
TOTAL		\$37,200	\$6,283,634	\$7,790,000	\$463,550	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149	\$2,295,000	\$435,901	\$14,693,533	\$17,424,433
PY TOTAL		0.41	2.25	37.00	4.35	0.60	0.35	0.20	-	0.50		
Funding Source	General Fund	\$37,200	\$2,500,000	\$7,011,000	\$176,149	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149			\$9,843,498	
	Environmental License Plate Fund		\$512,000	\$779,000							\$1,291,000	
	Proposition 84		\$3,271,633.78								\$3,271,634	
	State Park Recreation Fund				\$287,401						\$287,401	
	TOTAL	\$37,200	\$6,283,634	\$7,790,000	\$463,550	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149			\$14,693,533	

* Multi-funded programs that may include support from funds other than those noted.

Table 3. Projected MPA Management Program Funding FY 16/17[^].

PROJECTED FUNDING FY 16/17		Fish and Game Commission	Ocean Protection Council	Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Dept. of Park and Recreation	Coastal Commission	State Lands Commission	State Water Resources Control Board	Resources Legacy Fund	Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region		
Enforcement and Compliance	Cost	-	\$9,000	\$1,465,000*	\$251,550	-	-	-	\$400,000	\$39,500		
	PY	-	0.1	6.4	1.85	-	-	-	-	0.2		
Outreach and Education	Cost	-	\$192,125	\$1,100,000	\$200,000	\$7,000	\$12,000	-	\$950,000	\$197,600		
	PY	-	0.8	6.3	2.0	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.3		
Research and Monitoring	Cost	-	\$5,089,700	\$1,455,000	-	-	-	-	\$325,000	\$156,000		
	PY	-	0.8	8.9	-	-	-	-	-			
Policy and Permitting	Cost	\$36,600	\$18,000	\$1,850,000	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$7,270	-	\$15,000		
	PY	0.4	0.2	15.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	-			
Administration and Oversight	Cost	\$600	\$43,200	\$1,920,000*	-	\$25,000	\$24,000	\$11,879	-	\$27,800		
	PY	0.01	0.35	-	-	0.2	0.15	0.1	-			
TOTAL		\$37,200	\$5,352,025	\$7,790,000	\$463,550	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149	\$1,675,000	\$435,900	\$13,761,924	\$15,872,824
PY TOTAL		0.41	2.25	37	4.35	0.60	0.35	0.20	-	0.50		
Funding Source	General Fund	\$37,200	\$2,500,000	\$7,011,000	\$176,149	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149			\$9,843,498	
	Environmental License Plate Fund		\$162,000	\$779,000							\$941,000	
	Proposition 84		\$2,690,025								\$2,690,025	
	State Park Recreation Fund				\$287,401						\$287,401	
	TOTAL	\$37,200	\$5,352,025	\$7,790,000	\$463,550	\$52,000	\$48,000	\$19,149	\$0	\$0	\$13,761,924	

* Multi-funded programs that may include support from funds other than those noted.

[^] In out years, to fully implement the priorities in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan 2015 – 2018 additional capacity is needed primarily in the Enforcement and Compliance, Outreach and Education and Research and Monitoring focal areas. Selected Key Priority Tasks that will not be accomplished at current funding levels include: Enforcement and Compliance- Implementation of technological tools to increase efficiency of enforcement; Outreach and Education - Creation of Statewide MPA Outreach and Education Plan; and Research and Monitoring - Inadequate monitoring to evaluate network performance after FY 17/18.

APPENDIX A



CALIFORNIA STATE
**LANDS
COMMISSION**



MPA COLLABORATIVE
NETWORK

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Statewide Leadership Team **Work Plan FY 15/16 – 17/18**

The MPA Statewide Leadership Team

California's MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team) was convened with the goal of increasing communication and collaboration among agencies and partners to ensure the state is effectively managing the statewide MPA network. The Leadership Team includes state and federal agencies and other partners that play a direct or key support role in management of the network. MPA management encompasses a wide range of partners and activities that require active collaboration and communication to implement successfully. The state has recognized that no one agency or group has the knowledge, capacity or resources to effectively manage the MPA network in isolation. The Leadership Team focuses on leveraging resources and breaking down traditional silos to collaboratively address MPA network management which cuts across jurisdictions and mandates.

Members of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, led by the Ocean Protection Council (**OPC**), include: the Department of Fish and Wildlife (**DFW**), DFW Law Enforcement Division (**LED**), Fish and Game Commission (**FGC**), California Coastal Commission (**CCC**), California State Lands Commission (**CCSLC**), Department of Parks and Recreation (**DPR**), State Water Resources Control Board (**SWRCB**), California Ocean Science Trust (**OST**), MPA Collaborative Network (**CN**), and West Coast Regional Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (**ONMS**).

Approach to the Work Plan

The Leadership Team has identified the following focal areas as key to successful management of MPAs: Outreach and Education, Research and Monitoring, Enforcement and Compliance and Policy and Permitting. Active, sustained engagement in each of these focal areas is integral to achieve the goals of the Leadership Team. In practice, this means directing the work of the Leadership Team by identifying shared strategic priorities, key actions and outcomes. A key tool for this is the creation of a work plan that was identified as a key task in "[The California Collaborative Approach: Marine Protected Areas Partnership Plan](#)"⁸. The work plan covers a three year period beginning in 2015 and is a key tool in directing MPA management and holding members accountable for identified outcomes.

Work Plan Notations and Acronyms

* Indicates responsible agency will contract or award a grant to lead efforts to complete key action

"Agency" refers to federal, state, tribal, and local authorities.

Parks and Recreation Commission (**PRC**) Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (**PORTS**)

California Natural Resources Agency (**CNRA**)

Marine Life Protection Act (**MLPA**) Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (**MMAIA**)

[California Seafloor and Coastal Mapping Program \(CSCMP\)](#)⁹ California Environmental Quality Act (**CEQA**)

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System's [Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System \(CeNCOOS\)](#)¹⁰

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System's [Southern California Ocean Observing System \(SCOOS\)](#)¹¹

[Southern California Coastal Water Research Project \(SCCWRP\)](#)¹²

⁸ <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2010/03/mapping-californias-seafloor-2/>

⁹ <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2010/03/mapping-californias-seafloor-2/>

¹⁰ <http://www.cencoos.org/>

¹¹ <http://www.sccoos.org/>

¹² <http://www.sccwrp.org/Homepage.aspx>

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Focal Area: Outreach and Education (page 1-3)

Strategic Priority 1 - Build support and durability of the MPA network goals and performance through improved public awareness					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
1.1 Create statewide outreach and education plan	1.1.1 Engage MPA Partners (NGOs, tribes, agencies) in discussion of best practices in MPA messaging	MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, play an active role in ongoing development of messaging efforts and strategies	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC, CN	2016
	1.1.2 Compile and maintain inventory of MPA messaging and materials created by agency and non-agency partners	MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, have online access to a comprehensive inventory of MPA messaging and available resources (e.g. brochures, sign templates, etc.) developed by state, federal and NGO partners and can easily contribute to the inventory	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC*, CN	2016
	1.1.3 Identify priority audiences, audience-specific messages and outreach methods, and who will do the outreach	MPA partners, including MPA Collaborative Network members, contribute and have access to recommendations on how to maximize the effectiveness of their outreach to different audiences	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC*, CN	2016
	1.1.4 Identify opportunities to insert messaging into related, non MPA-specific efforts	Existing programs increase avenues for MPA messaging to a broad constituency without requiring additional investment from MPA SLT members	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC*	2016
	1.1.5 Implement outreach and education plan	Agencies and external partners work from a coordinated education and outreach strategy, improving the reach and effectiveness of MPA outreach and education	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC*	2016
1.2 Create MPA-focused outreach materials and host or participate in events	1.2.1 Produce printed outreach materials	Agency partners work with the MPA Collaborative Network members to continue producing locally specific materials	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC	2016
		Printed materials are readily available at key locations used by consumptive users (e.g. harbors, tackle shops, etc.)	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	DFW	2016 - 2018
		Printed materials are readily available at key locations used by non- consumptive users (e.g. aquaria, dive shops, etc.)	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	DFW	2016 - 2018
	1.2.2 Produce video/web/phone app-based materials	Web and video material produced by partners is promoted through Thank You Ocean and other venues	MPA non-agency partners	OPC	2016 - 2018
	1.2.3 Hold or take part in outreach and education events	Promote events through list-serves, Thank You Ocean and other partner websites	MPA non-agency partners	OPC	2016 - 2018

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Strategic Priority 2 - Create a broad understanding of regulations and increase compliance					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
2.1 Develop, install and maintain regulatory and interpretive signage statewide	2.1.1. Signage is properly permitted and installed in priority locations	Verification from grantee and contract manager of proper installation of signs	OPC, DFW, DPR, CCC and other non-agency partners	OPC*	2015
	2.1.2 Develop and implement project to install signs at remaining high and medium priority locations	Verification from grantee and contract manager of proper installation of signs	OPC, DFW, DPR, CCC and other non-agency partners	OPC*	2016
2.2 Continue production of DFW outreach materials focused on regulation compliance	2.2.1 Regionally specific materials including maps and booklets with regulations are produced	Outreach materials reach both traditional and non-traditional audiences	DFW, FGC	DFW	2016 -2018
	2.2.2 Continue to support production of additional products on different media (waterproof paper, mobile devices, etc.) to maximize reach and effectiveness	Outreach materials reach both traditional and non-traditional audiences	DFW, FGC	DFW	2016 -2018
2.3 Coordinate with private companies that produce products which provide information to the public about MPA regulations	2.3.1 Regularly monitor products (e.g. GPS layers, phone applications, etc.) to ensure accurate information is being disseminated	Commonly used GPS systems accurately depict MPAs	DFW, CN, LED	DFW	2015-2018
Strategic Priority 3 - Develop consistent messaging with state, federal and other partners					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
3.1 Create and distribute DFW Partnership Guide	3.1.1 Expand on existing DFW MPA Outreach Quick Reference Guide for partners	DFW Partnership Guide is posted widely on the web and provides specific detail on review process, available resources and roles of various partners and agencies in review of outreach materials	DFW, OPC and other non-agency partners	DFW	2016
3.2 DPR effectively disseminates MPA messaging and actively engages in MPA management support activities	3.2.1 Update webpage on "state underwater parks"	DPR website explains the department's history in identifying special underwater areas and how the term "underwater park" is no longer applicable since the MMAIA. Also includes link to DFW MPA webpage	DPR, OPC	DPR	2014
	3.2.2 Provide MPA training to staff and docents using a "train the trainer" model	OPC provides trainer and training materials developed in partnership with MPA partners and Collaborative members to coastal districts as requested	DPR, OPC	DPR	2015

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	3.2.3 Develop MPA-specific curriculum for Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) by leveraging existing materials	Existing coastal PORTS programs use MPA curriculum which is currently under development	DPR, DFW, OPC	DPR	2015
	3.2.4 Engage with Division of Boating and Waterways staff to identify opportunities to insert MPA messaging into existing outreach campaigns	MPA messaging is inserted in at least one ongoing Boating and Waterways outreach campaign	DPR, OPC	OPC	2016 - 2018
3.3 Create and distribute a map of California waters that includes all protected areas (state and federal)	3.3.1 Collect map layers of MPAs, Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERRs), National Marine Sanctuaries (NMSs), etc.	Agencies and the public can view the distribution of all protected areas in California in one place for the first time	DFW, DPR, OPC, OST, SWRCB	OST	2016
	3.3.2 Determine and distribute map showing state waters that receive full protection (e.g., % coverage of SMRs) and some protection (i.e., % coverage of all other protected areas)	The state and public have a more complete understanding of the percentage of CA state waters and coastal areas that are protected	DFW, DPR, OPC, OST, SWRCB	OST	2017
3.4 ONMS effectively disseminates MPA messaging and actively engages in MPA management support activities	3.4.1 Communicate and depict Federal/State jurisdictions to clarify their complementary nature	Explanatory infographic or other messaging concept is broadly distributed to state and federal agencies as well as public audiences to ensure types of allowed use are clearly understood	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC	2017
	3.4.2 Provide MPA training to staff and docents	OPC provides trainer and training materials as requested to ensure ONMS staff and docents have accurate and updated information about the state's MPA network	ONMS, OPC	OPC	2015
3.5 Effectively disseminate MPA messaging through OPC	3.5.1 Update content and structure of OPC website to better reflect current MPA programs and partnerships, ensuring consistency with partner web pages by using links where appropriate	OPC website hosts or links to relevant documents related to the design, designation, implementation and management of the MPA Network	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC	2016
		OPC website describes OPC's current role in MPA management and highlights current and previous MPA projects	OPC	OPC	2016
		OPC website links to and describes partner agencies and organizations	OPC	OPC	2016
	3.5.2 Update content on CNRA website	CNRA website accurately describes current work of OPC and other key management agencies including DFW and DPR	OPC, DFW, DPR	OPC	2015
	3.5.3 Use Thank You Ocean Campaign to update constituents about MPA Collaboratives and significant MPA events	Thank You Ocean and MPA Collaboratives serve as conduits of information regarding MPA efforts	OPC	OPC	2015 - 2018
		Thank You Ocean website links to mpacollaboratives.org	OPC	OPC	2015
Relevant MPA news is included in monthly Thank You Ocean newsletter and shared via Thank You Ocean social media platforms		OPC	OPC	2015 - 2018	

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Focal Area: Enforcement and Compliance (page 4)

Strategic Priority 1 - Increase capacity and effectiveness of enforcement					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
1.1 Use technology and other tools to increase effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement resources in the field	1.1.1 Develop statewide Records Management System (RMS) to collect, organize and track citation data.	DFW implements an RMS to improve its ability to collect, store, and query law enforcement data in the field	DFW	LED	2016-2018
		DFW Submits AB 2402 report to the legislature on a feasibility study for electronic data management	DFW	DFW	2016
	1.1.2 Identify enforcement priority areas based on poaching hotspots, seasonal trends, potential for resource impact, level of use, and potential for violations	RMS allows accurate analysis of the enforcement efforts/needs for specific MPAs	DFW	LED	2016-2018
	1.1.3 Explore existing and emerging technologies and enforcement monitoring systems to enhance MPA enforcement	Regularly assess available technologies and deploy those with potential to enhance MPA enforcement	DFW	LED	2015-2018
1.2 Maintain and enhance cooperative enforcement efforts with local, state and federal agencies	1.2.1 Promote interagency cooperation and collaboration for more effective MPA enforcement	Develop and facilitate MPA Collaborative Network programs for statewide MPA enforcement	LED, CN	CN	2015-2018
1.3 Increase judicial system and law enforcement officer awareness of the value of MPAs and knowledge of MPA regulations	1.3.1 Develop educational tools specifically for judges and district attorneys	Develop MPA enforcement video and distribute widely to court and enforcement officers	LED, CN	LED, CN	2016-2018
		Design and facilitate MPA training to be provided to the judicial system within all CA coastal counties	LED, CN	LED, CN	2016-2018
		Encourage designation of at least one wildlife/marine specialist within each DA office	LED, CN	LED, CN	2016-2018
	1.3.2 Hold Enforcement Trainings for court officers	Hold at least one training in each county and conduct training effectiveness evaluations	LED, CN	LED, CN	2015-2016
1.4 Plan and conduct an LED Needs Assessment to determine if they have the resources to effectively enforce MPA regulations	1.4.1 Identify and address LED personnel needs for MPA enforcement	Identifying appropriate staffing levels and equipment requirements for existing and anticipated future needs, including recruiting officers from diverse communities	DFW	LED	2016 - 2018
	1.4.2 Identify and address LED equipment needs for MPA enforcement	Identify funding source(s) to purchase items needed for MPA enforcement	DFW, OPC	LED	2016 - 2018

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Focal Area: Research and Monitoring (page 5 - 8)

Strategic Priority 1 - Establish a benchmark of ecosystem and socioeconomic condition in all MLPA coastal regions that informs the initial five-year regional MPA network management reviews (management reviews)					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
1.1 Identify and pursue opportunities to bring additional results to bear on establishing a benchmark of conditions in each region (i.e., projects and programs outside the official MPA monitoring programs)	1.1.1 Coordinate state and federal entities to incorporate relevant oceanographic and physical habitat data and results	CSCMP spatial data inform management reviews	OST	OST	2015
		CeNCOOS, SCOOS, and other partners' oceanographic data inform management reviews	OST	OST	2015
	1.1.2 Coordinate with SCCWRP and member agencies to incorporate relevant water quality data and results	SCCWRP's Bight Regional Monitoring Program data inform management reviews	OST, SCCWRP	OST	2015-2018
	1.1.3 Coordinate with agency, tribal, academic and citizen scientists to ensure relevant scientifically robust datasets are incorporated	Relevant datasets from agency, academic, tribal and citizen scientists are incorporated as appropriate into management	OST	OST	2015-2018
1.2 Develop State of the Region assessments to inform management reviews	1.2.1 Synthesize results and explain methodology of each baseline program and other monitoring efforts in the regions to build a snapshot of baseline conditions for each region	Ensure that the monitoring programs and results are cohesive, align with program purposes, and realize value beyond MPAs	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2015-2018
		MPA monitoring results and reporting in the North Coast incorporate traditional ecological knowledge	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2017
		Build a more comprehensive understanding of ecosystem condition and trends to support management decisions and inform the approach to long-term monitoring	DFW, OPC, OST, FGC	OST	2015-2018
		Information sharing among agencies and tribal governments results in a common understanding of ecosystem condition and trends	DFW, OPC, OST, FGC	OST	2015-2018
1.3 Engage with California's diverse ocean communities to share results from the baseline programs	1.3.1 Share results of baseline monitoring broadly through a variety of venues, including community meetings and the Western Society of Naturalists (WSN) Annual Meeting	Diverse constituencies, including scientists, fishing communities, tribes, and decision makers see baseline monitoring results as credible, accessible, and useful for management	DFW, OPC, OST, FGC	OST	2015-2016
	1.3.2 Maintain communication with California's ocean community and tribes, including through the MPA Collaboratives, and encourage contributions to oceanspaces.org	Build trust in MPA monitoring results before and after they are released	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2015-2018
		Tribal governments are engaged in the monitoring program	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2015-2018

Strategic Priority 2 - Design and implement a partnership-based monitoring program that assesses MPA network performance and informs multiple mandates					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
2.1 Align marine and water quality protected area (i.e., ASBSs, MPAs) monitoring programs to leverage resources, capacity and expertise across mandates and jurisdictions	2.1.1 Compare goals for ASBS and MPA monitoring programs and identify potential areas of overlap	Evaluation of whether the two programs aim to meet similar objectives or if there are discrepancies	OST, SWRCB	OST	2016
		Agencies involved in ASBS & MPA monitoring better understand goals of each other's programs	OST, SWRCB	OST	2016
	2.1.2 At a regional scale, review monitoring plans, reports and/or work plans to identify overlaps in program components	Map illustrates where ASBSs and MPAs are co-located and where data for each monitoring program has been collected	OST, SWRCB	OST	2015-2016
		Internal document identifies overlaps in requirements, methodology, funding sources, and personnel	OST, SWRCB	OST	2015-2016
		Highlight overlapping areas with potential for collaboration between the two programs	OST, SWRCB	OST	2015-2016
	2.1.3 Assess whether current structure of ASBS and MPA monitoring programs hinders or limits progress in achieving program goals	Deficiencies or problematic components in the two programs are identified	OST, SWRCB	SWRCB	2016
		Ways to address identified impediments are identified	OST, SWRCB	SWRCB	2016
2.1.4 Develop and begin to implement interagency strategy to resolve any inconsistencies between monitoring programs that hinder accomplishment of program goals	Agencies involved in ASBS and MPA monitoring improve collaborative efforts	OST, SWRCB	OST	2016-2017	
2.2 Align fisheries and MPA monitoring to leverage resources, capacity and expertise across mandates	2.2.1 Prioritize and align data collection and approaches that can inform both 1) essential fisheries information needed for stock assessments and fisheries management decisions, and 2) ecological information needed to assess the condition and trends of marine ecosystems	Key indicators, metrics, and datasets that can inform both fisheries and MPA management at multiple scales are identified	DFW, OST, OPC	DFW	2015-2016
		Focal MPAs where data collection could inform both MPA and fisheries management are identified	DFW, OST, OPC	DFW	2016-2017
2.3 Develop and adopt a comprehensive data and information management plan for MPA monitoring that	2.3.1 Work with data management experts to identify opportunities and develop a written plan to leverage existing technology solutions	Adopted plan is cost-effective and feasible to implement	DFW, OST	OST	2015
		MPA monitoring data and results are easily accessible and curated for long-term, public accessibility	DFW, OST	OST	2015-2018

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leverages existing technology solutions and ensures long-term, public accessibility	2.3.2 Implement plan as part of long-term monitoring	Plan is added as appendix to regional long-term monitoring work plan	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2015-2018
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2.4 Develop an MPA Monitoring Plan for the North Coast region to be submitted to the Fish & Game Commission for consideration as an appendix to the MLPA Master Plan	2.4.1 Identify metrics that consider management and community priorities, and are informed by results from the North Coast MPA Baseline Program	Monitoring metrics are based on the best available science and reflect management and community priorities	DFW, OST	OST	2017
	2.4.2 Develop an inventory of short- and long-term evaluation questions	Monitoring program is designed to answer evaluation questions	DFW, OST	OST	2016-2017
	2.4.3 Conduct peer-review process of technical components of plan	Monitoring approaches identified by plan are scientifically rigorous and feasible	DFW, OST	OST	2017
2.5 Diversify monitoring collaborations and include multiple sources of knowledge (e.g. agency, academic, tribal, local) to broaden participation and deepen understanding of MPA network and relevant ocean conditions	2.5.1 Develop and begin to implement an approach for integrating multiple sources of knowledge (e.g., traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), ecological data, socioeconomic data)	Guiding document provides a framework for integrating traditional ecological knowledge with other sources of information into long-term monitoring statewide	OST	OST	2015-2016
		Data use guidelines for North Coast baseline monitoring results are complete and can be applied to long-term MPA monitoring activities	OST	OST	2015-2016
	2.5.2 Develop an inventory of relevant citizen science monitoring programs that exist statewide	Extent and capacity of existing citizen science monitoring programs informs approach to long-term monitoring in each region	OST	OST	2016-2018

Strategic Priority 3 - Develop an approach to statewide MPA network assessment (network assessment) that builds upon the monitoring framework to inform management decisions at a statewide scale

Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
3.1 Increase alignment of research activities with state priorities, to increase usefulness for management decisions across agencies	3.1.1 Consider MPA network goals in state agency-contracted research on ocean issues and align research activities with these goals when feasible	Deliberate consideration of statewide MPA network goals in agency-contracted ocean/fisheries-related research	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OST	2016-2018
3.2 Pursue MPA	3.2.1 Identify and pursue opportunities for alignment of research activities with information needs for fisheries management	MPA network assessment informs fisheries management	DFW, OST	DFW	2016

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research and monitoring activities that have the potential to inform and/or align multiple management mandates and priorities	3.2.2 Incorporate monitoring approaches and strategies identified by the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) Science Panel	MPA and OAH monitoring activities are geographically and temporally aligned	OPC, OST	OPC	2016
		OAH research and modeling activities informs and are informed by MPA monitoring	DFW, OPC SAT	OST	2016-2018
	3.2.3 Engage regional experts to develop and recommend approaches for assessing impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems and resources and evaluate how a changing climate may affect our ability to meet MPA management and policy goals	Long-term MPA monitoring produces data that contributes to our understanding of climate change impacts	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2016-2018
		MPA monitoring and network assessment help determine climate change impacts to ecosystem structure and function	OPC, OST	OST	2016-2017
3.3 Develop and implement an ecological impact assessment tool to identify potential cumulative impacts to MPAs from research, monitoring and education activities to inform issuing Scientific Collecting Permits (SCP)	3.3.1 Develop a framework for an automated ecological impact assessment to help inform management decisions about issuing SCPs	OPC working group with DFW , DPR, FGC convened to clarify roles and responsibilities in SCP for marine areas adjacent to park units	DFW, DPR, OPC, FGC	OPC	2016
		Published manuscript that describes the assessment tool's purpose, function and components	DFW, OPC SAT	DFW	2015-2016
3.4 Develop a statewide monitoring approach document that is distinct from regional monitoring plans and work plans	3.4.1 Clarify respective roles and purposes for regional and statewide monitoring	Strengthened decision support for adaptive management	DFW, OPC, OST	OST	2016
	3.4.2 Develop guidelines for incorporating a broad range of data into statewide monitoring including information on management, outreach, education and other activities	Build efficiency into monitoring programs across state mandates	DFW, OST	OST	2015-2017
		MPA monitoring data (ecological, socioeconomic) are considered together with oceanographic monitoring and enforcement/compliance monitoring to build a more robust understanding of the state of the network	DFW, OST	OST	2015-2017
		Fisheries, coastal zone and water quality management both inform and are informed by MPA monitoring	DFW, OST	OST	2015-2017

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Focal Area: Policy and Permitting (page 9 – 11)

Strategic Priority 1 - Improve governance of MPA network through adaptive management					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
1.1 FGC and PRC develop and convey process for receiving requests for changes to MPA network	1.1.1 Post guidance on relevant agency websites detailing appropriate process	Members of the public can easily access information that clearly articulates how, if, and when FGC and PRC will receive and evaluate proposals and hear discussion about potential changes to the MPA network, as well as the criteria used to determine if action by either commission is warranted	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	FGC, PRC	2017
1.2 Oversee and maintain effective MPA regulations	1.2.1 Adopt regulations that are clear accurate and enforceable	Regulatory ambiguities, inaccuracies, needs or enforcement challenges are addressed through the rulemaking process	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	FGC, DFW, DPR, PRC	2015 - 2018
1.3 Partner agencies identify emerging issues and develop recommendations to address them	1.3.1 MPA SLT serves as a forum for agency communication about emerging issues identified by staff or constituents that may require a response by more than one agency	Members of the MPA SLT raise emerging issues to staff at partner agencies and elevate them when appropriate, including at the biannual “MPA Milestones” meetings that all MPA SLT agency Directors attend	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	FGC, PRC	2015 - 2018
1.4 Assess pending agency regulations for potential impacts to MPAs	1.4.1 Partner agencies provide informal input to proposed regulations that may affect MPAs early in the process	Proposed new or revised regulations that could affect MPAs are brought to MPA SLT meetings for discussion prior to adoption	Coastal Regulatory Agencies (CCC, CSLC, FGC, DFW, DPR, PRC, SWRCB)	OPC	2015 - 2018
1.5 Clarify MPA network objectives	1.5.1 Conduct review of original intent regarding placement, design, and regulations of the MPA network	Coastal Regulatory Commissions have access to a comprehensive inventory that captures existing documentation regarding design considerations for each MPA in the network	FGC, CN, OPC, DFW	FGC, DFW	2018
	1.5.2 Assess whether stated goals and objectives of MPAs are compatible with the design considerations	FGC identifies any MPAs that may be out of alignment with the adopted design considerations	FGC, DFW	FGC, DFW	2018
1.6 Continue discussions with tribal governments about management	1.6.1 Respond to requests for information sharing and tribal consultations	Hold meetings with Tribal governments for the purpose of identifying areas of common ground and areas of disagreement that will help inform further discussion.	DFW, FGC, OPC	FGC, DFW	2015 - 2018
Strategic Priority 2 Integrate MLPA and MPA network goals, objectives and partnership-based management approach into relevant management documents					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
2.1 Update MLPA Master Plan (Master Plan)	2.1.1 Update language regarding MPA management review cycle	MLPA Master Plan update includes a clearly defined management review cycle that is explicitly connected to adaptive management of the MPA network	DFW, OPC, FGC	DFW	2015

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	2.1.2 Align monitoring section with other relevant documents	Monitoring section of the MLPA Master Plan is aligned with the existing MPA monitoring framework and regional monitoring plans	DFW, OPC, OST, FGC	DFW	2015
2.2 Insert relevant content into MLMA Master Plan update	2.2.1 Describe role and value of partnerships	Relevant sections of the MLMA Master Plan update (such as development of FMPs, assessing impacts on non-consumptive users, and public involvement strategy) include language about partnerships	DFW, FGC, OPC	DFW	2016 - 2018
	2.2.2 Highlight value of MPA monitoring data	MLMA Master Plan update references MPA monitoring data in relevant contexts	DFW, FGC, OPC, OST	DFW	2016 - 2018
2.3 As SWRCB planning and policy documents are updated, insert relevant content	2.3.1 Integrate considerations of the MPA network during development of Once Through Cooling (OTC) policy amendment where relevant	Adopted amendment to SWRCB OTC Policy includes relevant references to MPA network goals, objectives, and partnership-based management	OPC, SWRCB	SWRCB	2016
2.4 Insert relevant content into agency Strategic Plan updates	2.4.1 CSLC Strategic Plan update reflects CSLC commitments regarding MPAs	Relevant portions of the CSLC Strategic Plan reference MPAs and CSLC's specific role with respect to MPA management	OPC, CSLC	CSLC	2015
	2.4.2 CCC Strategic Plan update reflects CCC commitments regarding MPAs	Relevant portions of the CCC Strategic Plan reference MPAs and CCC's specific role with respect to MPA management	OPC, CCC	CCC	2018
Strategic Priority 3 – Enhanced protection for MPA resources is provided in relevant resource agency authorizations					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
3.1 Create tools to improve and highlight inter-agency coordination	3.1.1 Conduct inventory of existing interagency MPA coordination procedures	White paper outlining and summarizing: legislative or policy foundations for special consideration of MPAs, current agency practices, and recommendations to improve communication and coordination is created and distributed to agency staff	CSLC, CCC, SWRCB, OPC	OPC	2015
		Public document discussing how agencies coordinate is broadly distributed to relevant stakeholders	OPC	OPC	2015
3.2 Improve consistency in approach to analyzing impacts of projects to MPAs	3.2.1 Develop internal interagency coordination guidance document for staff use	Interagency coordination document includes an identified MPA point of contact for each agency	OPC	OPC	2015 – 2016
	3.2.2 Guidance document for using CEQA for MPAs	Develop guidance document for state agencies that serve as lead for CEQA review which includes broadly applicable suggestions on avoiding and minimizing impacts to MPAs	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC	2017

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	3.2.3 Draft MPA-specific guidance for potential inclusion in next Office of Planning and Research CEQA guideline update	CEQA guidelines require lead agencies to consider factors such as sediment re-suspension, invasive species introduction, substrate disturbance, noise effects on living organisms, and water quality impacts when determining the significance of project impacts to MPAs	MPA Statewide Leadership Team	OPC/CNRA	2018
Strategic Priority 4 - Identify marine resource enhancement/mitigation opportunities and impact avoidance strategies within or associated with MPAs					
Key Action	Action Summary	Outcome Required/ Performance Indicator	Responsibility	Lead Responsibility	Completion Date
4.1 Develop knowledge base from existing data regarding marine resource enhancement, mitigation, and impact avoidance strategies pertinent to MPAs	4.1.1 Review MPA monitoring results to identify areas that may benefit from marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies	Develop regional lists and/or maps that identify opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies in the MPA network	DFW, OST, OPC	OST	2016
	4.1.2 Consult with local MPA Collaboratives about opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance	Regional lists and maps developed under 4.1.1 depict opportunities identified by local MPA Collaboratives	DFW, OST, OPC, CN	OPC and CN	2016
	4.1.3 Inventory projects related to marine resource enhancement, mitigation and impact avoidance strategies that could benefit the MPA network	Regional lists identify successful/unsuccessful projects as well as projects that require additional funding to reach completion	DFW, DPR, SWRCB, CSLC, OPC, OST, CCC	OPC	2016
4.2 Use regulatory/policy tools to carry out marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies	4.2.1 Identify opportunities for marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies in current regulatory/policy requirements at participating MPA SLT agencies	Create internal document summarizing relevant regulatory/policy requirements relevant to marine resource enhancement, mitigation, or impact avoidance strategies	DFW, CSLC, CCC, SWRCB, OPC	OPC	2017
4.3 Identify and support research projects on MPA mitigation	4.3.1. Utilize existing and promote new research to evaluate MPA mitigation projects	State agencies on the Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) assert the importance of funding research proposals that assess potential MPA mitigation strategies	CSLC, CCC SWRCB, DFW, OPC	OPC	2016 - 2018

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Statewide Leadership Team Roles and responsibilities related to the MPA Management Program

- The Fish and Game Commission is the primary regulatory decision-making authority for regulations related to California's MPAs. The Commission provides a venue for public comment and formal review to act upon MPA proposals, stakeholder petitions and proposed regulatory changes.
- The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages California's MPAs through engagement in all components of the MPA Management Program. DFW is responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulations set by the Commission, as well as providing biological data and expertise to inform the Commission's decision-making process.
- The Ocean Protection Council is delegated the responsibility for the direction of policy of the state's MPAs. To fulfill this mandate, OPC works with both agency and private partners to identify areas that would benefit from policy development. These policies direct all agencies under California Natural Resources Agency in their actions related to MPAs. This approach is grounded in the foundational agency relationship between OPC, DFW and the FGC that informs actions in support of the MPA network. This support takes several forms, from formalizing and leading coordination bodies like the Leadership Team to actively engaging private partners in collaborative dialogues with state agencies.
- The Ocean Science Trust is an independent non-profit created by California statute that recognized the value of independent science to support decisions. OST is a lead partner in the development and implementation of the MPA Monitoring Program to establish baseline conditions, manage and coordinate long-term monitoring and evaluate the performance of the network at meeting the goals of the MLPA. Funding for OST is received from philanthropic, federal and state sources.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation provides interpretation and education to visitors about the importance of MPAs and the significance of MPA resources. Thirty percent of the existing MPA network is directly adjacent to California State Park units. DPR develops, installs, and maintains MPA-related regulatory and interpretive signage. The DPR manages one State Marine Park. The State Park and Recreation Commission has the authority and responsibility for classifying units of the State Park System, including some marine areas.
- The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, divisions of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government. The Coastal Commission works closely with other permitting agencies to ensure consistent application of existing laws in relation to MPAs.
- The State Lands Commission manages the state's 4 million acres of tidelands and submerged lands and the beds of navigable rivers, streams, lakes, bays, estuaries, inlets, and straits. The Commission also monitors sovereign lands granted in trust to approximately 75 local jurisdictions and administers the mineral rights on lands under the jurisdiction of other agencies. The Commission also manages lands granted by Congress to support California's public schools. State Lands Commission works closely with other permitting agencies to ensure consistent application of existing laws in relations to MPAs.
- The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) is a designating entity of marine managed areas called state water quality protection areas (a.k.a. areas of special biological significance (ASBS)). There are 34 ocean areas designated as ASBS statewide that are monitored and managed for water quality by the SWRCB. All 34 ASBS are located within or adjacent (≤ 5 miles) to MPAs.
- The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region is the governing office for National Marine Sanctuaries along the entire west coast of the United States including the four in California: Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, Monterey Bay and Channel Islands. The Sanctuaries provide significant in kind support to outreach and education as well as research and monitoring components of the MPA Management Program.
- The Collaborative Network provides a localized, comprehensive approach to ocean resource management by bringing together local experts and authorities to engage them in local MPA stewardship. The Collaborative Network provides the information, structure, support, and inter-agency communication necessary to facilitate the creation of marine protected area collaborative groups that are uniquely suited to local needs. Currently, there are 14 Collaboratives associated with the coastal counties. They currently receive their funding from philanthropic sources.
- Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) advances the conservation of natural resources through aggregating funds from philanthropic foundations and developing comprehensive strategies to disburse those funds to meet the goals of its donors. RLF was the key organization in the private public partnership with the state to form the MLPA Initiative which resulted in a science based stakeholder driven process to designate 124 MPAs statewide under the MLPA. RLF continues to invest in supporting the stewardship and building the durability of the MPA network.