



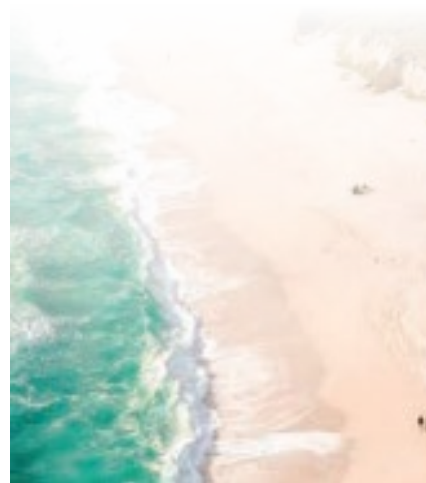
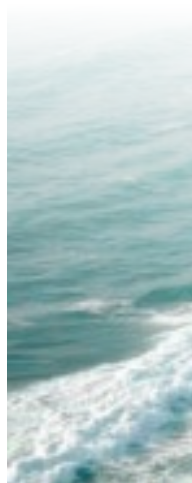
# OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 6, 2022 – January 24, 2023

*Providing an update on outcomes and accomplishments since the previous OPC Meeting.*



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## Budget Update

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.6 billion for nature-based solutions and \$1.3 billion for coastal resilience over multiple years. After two remarkable years of budget surplus, the state is now facing reduced revenue projections. To address this budget gap, Governor Newsom's [proposed FY 2023-24 budget](#) includes reductions but maintains \$1.3 billion (86 percent) of nature-based solutions funding and \$734 million (57 percent) of coastal resilience funding. If there is sufficient General Fund in January 2024, these reductions are expected to be restored.

Significant budget adjustments for OPC include:

- A reduction of \$15 million General Fund in FY2023/24 for protection of coastal and ocean ecosystems; and
- A reduction in \$64 million (\$54 million General Fund in FY2023-24 and \$10 million General Fund in FY2024-25) for local SLR adaptation planning to implement Senate Bill 1 (Atkins).

OPC maintains approximately \$139 million (64 percent) of the originally proposed funding.

Other notable adjustments include:

- **Protecting Fish and Wildlife from Changing Climate:** A reduction of \$35 million General Fund in 2023-24. This maintains approximately \$318 million (90 percent) for this purpose.
- **State Conservancy Nature-Based Solutions:** A reduction of \$100 million General Fund in 2023-24. This maintains approximately \$130 million (57 percent) of state conservancy nature-based solutions funding and \$662 million (87 percent) of all state conservancy funding within other areas of the budget.
- **San Francisco Bay Wetlands Support:** A reduction of \$10.4 million General Fund in 2022-23, which eliminates funding for this purpose.
- **Coastal Protection and Adaptation:** A reduction of \$175 million in 2022-23, \$297 million in 2023-24 and \$9 million in 2024-25 across various coastal protection and adaptation programs administered by the State Coastal Conservancy. This maintains approximately \$582 million (55 percent) for this purpose.

More detail on the Nature-based Solutions and Coastal Resilience components of the proposed budget can be found starting on page 53 of the budget summary linked above.

## **Updates By Strategic Plan Goal**

### ***Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change***

#### **Prop 68 Chapter 10 Project Funding: Improving Coastal Resilience**

In May 2022, OPC released a solicitation for projects that build resilience on the coast to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of sea-level rise (SLR). The request for proposals yielded 18 full proposals totaling \$25,530,128. Full proposals were reviewed in September 2022 by review panels composed of OPC staff, academic scientists, subject matter experts, and state agency staff. The panelists' scores and recommendations were used during internal project selection by OPC staff and OPC's Acting Executive Director. The six recommended projects for selection are on the January 24 Council meeting agenda under [Item 6a](#).

#### **Coastal Habitats Inventory**

In partnership with San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), OPC completed an update to the California Aquatic Resource Inventory (CARI) to estimate baseline acreages of coastal habitats including wetlands, beaches, rocky intertidal and eelgrass habitats. The process of updating the CARI database to estimate baseline acreages revealed both temporal and spatial gaps in the mapping datasets. This is currently being explored through a [collaboration with SFEI and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory](#) to incorporate remote sensing datasets into the coastal habitats basemap.

### ***Goal 2: Advance Equity Across Ocean and Coastal Policies and Actions***

#### **Tribal Engagement Strategy and Tribal Small Grants Program**

OPC has developed its first-ever Tribal Engagement Strategy, which will serve as a framework for enhanced communication and partnership between OPC and California Native American tribes on ocean and coastal issues. The Tribal Engagement Strategy, which will be considered for adoption by the Council at this

meeting (see staff recommendation for [Item 5](#)), was crafted in close collaboration with tribes, including early consultations and listening sessions held in Fall 2021, as well as further consultation on a draft Strategy held in Summer 2022. It provides specific actions that OPC will undertake to enhance tribal engagement in all aspects of its work, as well as approaches that OPC will pursue to improve communication with tribes.

A priority action in the Tribal Engagement Strategy that will also be considered by the Council at this meeting (see staff recommendation for Item 5) is the investment of \$1,000,000 to establish a dedicated Tribal Small Grants program. This program will provide dedicated funding to tribal governments and tribally-led nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in support of work that advances tribes' priorities for conservation, management, and stewardship, as well as the goals in OPC's Strategic Plan.

### ***Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity***

#### **California's engagement at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)**

A group of California leaders, including Secretary Crowfoot and seven legislative members, traveled to Montreal in December 2022 to showcase California's leadership at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Montreal. CNRA's Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, Dr. Jennifer Norris, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy/OPC Executive Director Jenn Eckerle, as well as OPC Senior Biodiversity Program Manager and Tribal Liaison Mike Esgro, were part of the California delegation. Through speaking engagements, panel discussions, and meetings with national and subnational leaders from across the globe, California highlighted its goal to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 and showed that protecting nature and fighting climate change are essential for economic security and prosperity. On December 19, 196 nations adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), an ambitious ten-year deal that sets targets in 22 areas – including a commitment to conserve 30% of the planet's lands and seas by 2030, a target California adopted in 2020.

## Conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030

In December 2022, OPC hosted a [virtual roundtable](#) to hear perspectives on 30x30 from members of California's diverse coastal communities. Specifically, the roundtable was intended to serve as a venue for open discussion on recommendations for conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030, consistent with the approaches in the *Pathways to 30x30* strategy, as well as feedback on how members of the public can most effectively be engaged as OPC moves forward with this effort. OPC has also released a [survey](#) to solicit feedback on recommendations, top threats to biodiversity within coastal waters, science needs, and enhancing transparent communication. Based on feedback received at the roundtable and through the survey, in the coming weeks, OPC will share additional opportunities for tribes, environmental justice organizations, conservation groups, fishermen, and others to participate in further discussions on 30x30 implementation.

## Marine Protected Area Network: Upcoming Release of the Decadal Management Review

Over the past decade, the State has been preparing for the first-ever review of the statewide network of 124 marine protected areas and its [MPA Management Program](#). Released in mid-January 2023, the [Decadal Management Review](#) (Review) assesses progress toward the goals of the [Marine Life Protection Act](#), identifies knowledge gaps and recommends adaptive management actions for the Management Program. The Review is structured around the four pillars of the Management Program: Research & Monitoring, Outreach & Education, Policy & Permitting, and Enforcement & Compliance. There will be many opportunities for the public to engage with report findings and recommendations following the release of the report in January:

- **February 2023:** The Review will be delivered to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) at their February 2023 meeting. The public and the CFGC will be able to read the report prior to the April CFGC meeting, where adaptive management recommendations will be considered.
- **March 15-16, 2023:** The MPA Day: Management Review Forum, a public event, will take place on March 15. Hosted by CDFW in partnership with OPC and CFGC, the Forum will be a public gathering to share the results of the Review and provide space for partners to highlight their collaborative work. The Forum will also provide an opportunity for two-way conversation about

the Review. A special Marine Resources Committee meeting dedicated to discussing the contents of the Review is scheduled for March 16. Both the MRC meeting and Review Forum will take place in Monterey.

- **April 2023:** The full CFGC will discuss the Review findings and adaptive management recommendations that will inform MPA Management Program activities moving forward at their April meeting and subsequent meetings in 2023.

### **Prop 68 Chapter 9 Project Funding: MPAs and Climate Resilience**

In July 2022, OPC launched a competitive solicitation for proposals that would deepen resource managers' understanding of the role of California's MPAs in mitigating climate impacts. This competitive call was prioritized in response to the release of the OPC-SAT report, "[Climate Resilience and California's Marine Protected Area Network](#)", which provides an overview of climate change impacts and scenarios for the California Current, catalogs potential mechanisms by which MPAs could provide resilience to climate change, and suggests research questions and methods that could guide the detection and understanding of climate resilience in California's MPAs going forward. The solicitation resulted in 33 letters of intent totaling \$15,738,183 in requested funds. Proposals were reviewed by OPC and CDFW staff, and four projects were selected for funding. These four projects are described in [Item 6b](#) for the January 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

### **Promoting Climate-Resilient Fisheries**

OPC staff are in the process of developing a strategic, collaborative vision for improving the climate resiliency of California fisheries. The goal is to identify priority areas where OPC can partner with CDFW, the Fish and Game Commission, industry, and external partners. These areas include modernizing data collection, expanding electronic monitoring, reducing risk of whale entanglement, advancing adaptive management of California fisheries, enhancing ecological resiliency, and building socio-economic resiliency within coastal fishing communities. This work is a priority for OPC and represents the first step in the process of broader engagement and increased targeted projects designed to help California achieve climate resilient fisheries. In support of advancing this priority, staff anticipates bringing a suite of fisheries-related pilot projects to the April 2023 Council meeting that will enhance recreational fisheries data collection, increase electronic monitoring in the California Dungeness Crab fishery and expand industry-led whale abundance surveys to better gauge whale entanglement risk.

## **CalCOFI conference**

OPC staff recently attended the annual California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) conference, held on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, December 5-7, 2022. This year's theme was "Innovative techniques and novel applications of time series data to marine resource management," with a broader objective to explore and refine data collection, processing, analysis, and tools used to support the management of marine resources, including fisheries, energy, aquaculture, sanctuaries, cultural heritage, and climate mitigation and adaptation. OPC staff attended presentations and panel discussions from various stakeholders, including academic researchers, resource managers, and commercial interests (specifically fishing and offshore wind), and engaged with conference attendees on how to better incorporate long-term monitoring products into OPC strategic priorities. OPC will continue to engage with the CalCOFI community as it seeks to refine the applicability of long-term ocean monitoring to achieve management objectives.

## **Once Through Cooling: Interim Mitigation**

OPC staff are working in closely with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality to initiate a project to update the interim mitigation costing since the analysis of the 2012 Expert Review Panel (ERP II) was completed in 2012, based on data derived from mitigation projects initiated since the ERP II and meet the statutory directive of Senate Bill 846 (Stats. 2022, ch. 239). The project is anticipated to evaluate and provide recommendations for the: (i) default cost of entrainment; (ii) site-specific cost of entrainment for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, consistent with Senate Bill 846; (iii) the costing multiplier for impingement; and (iv) evaluation of the state's proposed approach to update the annual inflation escalator consistent with federal and/or state inflation rates. The specific goals and objectives of this anticipated project are limited to the impingement and entrainment impacts associated with once-through cooling (OTC) intake consistent with the scope of Clean Water Act Section 316(b).

## **California Ocean Litter Strategy**

OPC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program facilitated a bi-annual [California Ocean Litter Strategy](#) webinar on November 17, 2022. The webinar included updates and development from a range of national, California agency, research, and public partners related to



implementation of the California Ocean Litter Strategy to address plastic and marine debris. A webinar recording and meeting materials are located on the California Ocean Litter Strategy [program webpage](#).

### **Statewide Microplastics Strategy: Research Solicitation**

Following the adoption of the Statewide Microplastics Strategy during the February 2022 Council Meeting, OPC committed to releasing a research proposal in partnership with California Sea Grant to leverage federal funding opportunities and advance the research priorities outlined in the Statewide Microplastics Strategy and California Ocean Litter Strategy. The anticipated release of the competitive research solicitation is late January 2023, following consideration of approval of the funding disbursement under [Item 7a](#) on the January 24 Council meeting agenda.

### **Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs): Science Advisory Panel Report**

The [Constituents of Emerging Concern \(CEC\) Science Advisory Panel for Aquatic Ecosystems \(Panel\)](#), facilitated by the Southern California Coastal Water Quality Project Authority (SCCWRP) and funded by OPC and the State Water Resources Control Board, released the [Draft Final Report, Monitoring Strategies for Constituents of Emerging Concern \(CECs\) in California's Aquatic Ecosystems, Recommendations of a Science Advisory Panel](#) on November 23, 2022. A public webinar was held December 12, 2022 to report out the content of the draft report and respond to questions received by the public. This draft report includes recommendations to monitor emerging contaminants in state waters and to guide the development of a statewide management strategy for emerging contaminants. It is anticipated the final report will be publicly available in January 2023.

### **Ocean Dumpsites: dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT)**

The Budget Act of 2022, Senate Bill 154 (Stats. 2022, ch. 43), appropriated \$5,600,000 to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to provide financial assistance for DDT cleanup near southern California. On December 6, 2022, the State Water Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Division of Water Quality to enter into a grant agreement with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego / California Sea Grant to administer research and community outreach that will support DDT cleanup near southern California. OPC has supported the State Water Board, in coordination with the Los Angeles



Regional Water Quality Control Board, in determining the scope of projects that meet the legislative intent and budget act requirements. The competitive research solicitation incorporates findings of a 2022 workshop and report by University of California Sea Grant, located in Los Angeles, and California Sea Grant, located in San Diego, anticipated to be released this month. A legislative briefing facilitated by the Ocean Science Trust will be held January 26, 2023 following the release of the report.

### **California's Water Supply Strategy: Desalination**

[California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#) (Water Supply Strategy), published in August 2022, established new 2030 and 2040 goals for water conservation, the production and use of recycled water, brackish groundwater and seawater desalination, and stormwater capture and use as well as specific implementation actions. OPC staff are participating in a Seawater Desalination Interagency Group convened by the State Water Board Division of Water Quality, which also includes staff from the Water Boards, the Department of Water Resources, California Coastal Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, National Marine Sanctuaries, and National Marine Fisheries Service to discuss siting criteria and potential available mitigation sites for seawater desalination. It is anticipated the Interagency Group will meet on monthly or bi-monthly basis to meet the June 30, 2023 deadline of developing criteria for siting of desalination facilities along the coast and recommending new standards to facilitate approval, and the June 30, 2024 deadline of identifying potential available mitigation sites as directed by in the Water Supply Strategy to improve clarity in the permitting process while ensuring seawater desalination is appropriately sited and designed to minimize impacts to the ocean and coastal environment.

## **Goal 4: Support Ocean Health Through Sustainable Blue Economy**

### **Offshore Wind Update**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) conducted its first-ever auction of offshore wind development areas on the west coast on December 6. The total lease sale exceeded \$750 million over the five lease areas offshore of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay. Following the lease sale, the five winning bidders are anticipated to submit a site and assessment plan to BOEM. Site assessment and characterization is anticipated to last for up to five years.

In parallel with efforts at the federal level, OPC and other state agencies continue to work together to meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525). Since October, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has led a series of workshops on sea space analysis, seaport, transmission, and the permitting roadmap. During the October 6 workshop, OPC staff presented two funded projects that model suitable areas for offshore wind development for stakeholders and decision makers. OPC continues to participate in the AB 525 working groups, which released draft reports on a [permitting roadmap](#) and [economic benefits](#) in December. To support sustainable fishing communities in the face of upcoming offshore wind development, OPC staff attended the sea space fishing outreach webinar led by CEC on December 8. OPC is working with the Coastal Commission to support the fishing working group required by a condition of its Consistency Determination through consideration of funding to the California Fishermen's Association to support the fishing community's participation ([Item 9](#)). As the process of offshore wind development is expected to move rapidly next year, OPC will play a key role in coordinating efforts and funding research and projects to support thoughtful and precautionary offshore wind development.

### **Aquaculture Action Plan**

OPC and the Aquaculture Leadership Team have brought authorship of this document back to the state and refined the scope to focus on improving the California's current system and management of existing operations in order to build a robust framework for future development to sustainably expand aquaculture in California. OPC has convened a working group of the Leadership Team that has identified priorities and policy recommendations and is in the process of collaboratively developing a draft Action Plan that meets state needs, reflects state priorities, and will lead to meaningful change and progress for sustainable aquaculture development in California. A complete working draft is expected in early summer 2023, with a robust tribal consultation and public engagement process to follow.

## Projects Approved by the Executive Director's Delegated Authority

Grantee	Project	Amount	Description
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA)	Enhancing Industry-to-Industry Cooperation on Offshore Wind Fishing Community Benefit Agreements	\$199,603	This funding will support the CFRA over an initial two years to develop community benefit agreements with offshore wind (OSW) lessees - one for power projects and one for subsea cable projects - to protect California's historic fishing industry while supporting California's ambitious clean energy goals through OSW deployment.
Windward Sciences, LLC (PI: Dr. Melissa Ward)	Assessing existing data, models, and opportunities for CA's coastal wetlands in the context of California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) 2027 Climate change scoping plan	\$9,630	This project will synthesize existing information on coastal wetlands related to carbon sequestration and management practices. It will also identify additional modeling needed to support the incorporation of coastal wetlands into CARB's 2027 Climate Change Scoping Plan. Although there are sufficient data and methods available for inventorying and estimating the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from coastal wetlands, projecting future GHG emissions/uptake is critical to integrating these data into the 2027 Scoping Plan. This project will identify (and refine, as appropriate) existing models to enable a greater coverage of coastal wetlands in the Scoping Plan.

## Legislation

The Legislature reconvened on January 4, 2023 with a bill introduction deadline of February 17, 2023. The following are coastal and ocean-related bills currently tracked by OPC staff, as of January 12, 2023:

### **[ACA 1 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) – Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.**

This constitutional amendment would create an additional exception to the 1% constitutional limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing; public infrastructure includes projects that provide water or protect water quality, the treatment of wastewater or reduction of pollution from stormwater runoff, protection of property from impacts of sea level rise, open space, among other purposes.

### **[ACA 2 \(Mathis\)](#) – Public resources: Water and Wildfire Resiliency Act of 2023.**

This constitutional amendment would establish the Water and Wildfire Resiliency Fund and would require the Treasurer to annually transfer an amount equal to 3% of all state revenues that may be appropriated as described from the General Fund to the Water and Wildfire Resiliency Fund; would allocate 50% of moneys for water supply and water recycling projects, including desalination and habitat restoration projects.

### **[AB 3 \(Zbur\)](#) – Offshore wind energy.**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to accelerate the approval, implementation, and operation of offshore wind energy projects necessary to meet California's climate action goals and the transition to a clean energy economy.

### **[AB 45 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#) – Coastal resources: coastal development permits: blue carbon demonstration projects: new development: greenhouse gas emissions.**

This bill would authorize the Coastal Commission to authorize blue carbon demonstration projects, as defined, in order to demonstrate and quantify the

carbon sequestration potential of these projects to help inform the state's natural and working lands and climate resilience strategies.

**[AB 72 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#) – Coastal resources: research: landslides and erosion: early warning system: County of San Diego.**

This bill would extend the deadline for statutorily required research on coastal cliff landslides and erosion in the County of San Diego by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be completed to January 1, 2026 and extend the deadline to report to the Legislature to March 30, 2026.

**[AB 80 \(Addis\)](#) – Offshore Wind Coastal Protection Act.**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation to create the Offshore Wind Coastal Compensation Fund for purposes of mitigating the impacts of the deployment of offshore wind infrastructure in California on the tourism industry, marine and other coastal wildlife, the fishing industry, and other entities, funding costs associated with the future decommissioning of obsolete offshore wind infrastructure, and providing funding to marine life sanctuaries, federally recognized tribes, cities, and counties.

**[AB 234 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#) – Microparticles.**

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would prohibit the sale in this state of rinse-off cosmetics, detergents, waxes, and polishes that contain intentionally added synthetic polymer microparticles, including products identified in the synthetic polymer microparticle Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) restrictions adopted by the European Union (EU).

## Personnel Notes



### **Megan Williams, Coastal Adaptation Program Manager**

Megan is joining OPC in February 2023 in a two-year limited-term position as OPC's Coastal Adaptation Program Manager. Megan will be helping lead efforts to support local and regional jurisdictions build resilience to SLR through adaptation plans and projects, as required in Senate Bill 1 (Atkins). Megan was OPC's 2022 California Sea Grant Fellow within the Climate Change program, where she led the Proposition 68 competitive solicitation for climate adaptation projects. She earned her MS in Biology from CSU Northridge, where she studied the impacts of climate change on shifting community structure of both Caribbean and Pacific coral reefs. Prior to graduate school, Megan worked on the conservation and restoration of Florida Keys reefs. She also holds a BS in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Miami. In her free time, Megan loves to be outdoors at the beach, diving, or hiking, or getting into a new artistic project.

**Elyse Goin**, OPC's 2022 Biodiversity Program Sea Grant fellow, will be leaving OPC at the end of January. Elyse has made important contributions to OPC's work on MPAs and 30x30, including significant work on the Proposition 68 MPAs and climate projects before the Council at its January 24 meeting. She was a voting member of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council for a portion of the last year and facilitated meetings for California Sea Grant, academia, and other state agencies. We wish Elyse the best of luck in this next chapter!

**2023 Summer Internship Program:** The application deadline for OPC's 10-week, full-time paid summer internship closed on January 6, 2023. OPC staff will begin reviewing applications soon and will select up to five interns to join us this summer.

**30x30 Environmental Scientist Positions (Coming Soon):** [AB 2278 \(Kalra\)](#) requires the Secretary for Natural Resources to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the progress towards meeting the state's goal of conserving 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. As the lead in implementing the coastal waters portion of the 30x30 initiative, OPC has received approval to hire two limited-term Environmental Scientists to help advance this work over the next two years. We

anticipate releasing the job announcement for these positions in the coming weeks.

## Calendar

### **March 15: [MPA Management Review Forum](#) – Monterey**

The MPA Day: Management Review Forum is an opportunity for OPC and CDFW, as well as state agency, NGO, and tribal partners, to share and discuss findings from the recently released Decadal Management Review of California's MPA network. Through presentations, panel discussions, and a poster session, MPA partners will highlight work that has contributed to the last ten years of MPA management in California. Members of the public are invited to attend and contribute their thoughts, questions, and perspectives.

### **March 16: [Fish and Game Commission, Marine Resources Committee Meeting](#) - Monterey**

This Marine Resources Committee meeting will provide a venue for detailed discussion of the findings and recommendations presented in the MPA Decadal Management Review, in preparation for a full Fish and Game Commission meeting in April where MPA adaptive management recommendations will be discussed.

### **April 11: California Ocean Day – Details coming soon – Sacramento**

California Ocean Day gives coast and ocean advocates an opportunity to meet with their state legislators on top priorities for 2023, hear from experts on current issues concerning the ocean, and celebrate California's marine life.

### **April 24: [OPC Quarterly Public Meeting](#) – Sacramento**

## Communications

### **2022 Communications and Outreach**

In December 2022 staff, created a metric tracking system for OPC's website and social media channels. Baseline metrics show OPC's website saw strong increases in engagement with a 43.41% increase in users and a 29.42% in unique page views in 2022 compared to the previous year. Social media channels showed stability with Instagram leading the way in growth at a 20.55% increase in engagement from 2021. Moving forward, OPC is in a better position to understand website and



social media activity on a monthly/quarterly/yearly basis in order to maximize our potential in reaching, informing, and engaging the public and other stakeholders in OPC's work. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

Also, in the second half of the year, staff transitioned OPC's email list service to the GovDelivery platform to improve our email outreach efforts. Since the transition, baseline metrics show a 37.5% open rate, well above the 28.77% government industry standard. We look forward to increasing and improving our email communications in 2023 with a consistent, bi-weekly email addition to our current efforts. Sign up online to [join our email lists](#).

**OPC in the Media:**

**Associated Press:** [California tribes will manage, protect state coastal areas](#)

**Government Executive:** [GovExec Daily: Partnering to Protect Coastal Areas](#)

**The Mendocino Voice:** [A healthy ocean means a healthy fleet': salmon, crab, kelp, and climate the focus of annual fisheries forum](#)

**San Francisco Chronicle:** [Hope for kelp restoration in California, as underwater forest returns to Monterey Bay](#)

**Turtle Island Restoration Network:** [Super Coalition of Electeds, Non-Profits, and California go global; Make monumental commitment to reverse the biodiversity crisis](#)

**Nature:** [Revenue loss due to whale entanglement mitigation and fishery closures](#)

**Nautilus Magazine:** [Why We Need Muck to Fight Rising Sea Levels](#)

**Resource Recycling:** [Litany of laws: Focus on plastics](#)

**Turtle Island Restoration Network:** [Super Coalition of Electeds, Non-Profits, and California go global; Make monumental commitment to reverse the biodiversity crisis](#)

**California Ocean News:**

**NRDC:** [The Next Wave of Ocean Conservation](#) (California Delegation at COP15)

**Newswire:** [Subnational governments in action](#) (California Delegation at COP15)

**San Francisco Examiner:** [California's biodiversity is under threat. Can its leadership make a difference at UN gathering?](#)

**The Guardian:** [Watered down: why negotiators at Cop15 are barely mentioning the ocean](#)

**San Francisco Chronicle:** [Gray whale numbers plunge almost 40% along California coast](#)

**Inside Climate News:** [California Passed a Landmark Law About Plastic Pollution. Why Are Some Environmentalists Still Concerned?](#)

**San Francisco Chronicle:** ['Wow that's right off our coast': What divers saw on rare trip to photograph wildlife at California marine sanctuary](#)

**The Mendocino Voice:** [Another humpback whale washes ashore in Fort Bragg, the third dead whale in 3 months](#)

**Monterey County Weekly:** [For local commercial fishermen, their work is also a passion and a relationship to Monterey Bay](#)

**Mercury News:** [Whales off California coast eat 10 million pieces of tiny plastic pollution a day, new Stanford study estimates](#)

**Newsweek:** [Dead Great White Shark on California Beach Was Killed by Fishing Gear](#)

**Fox Weather:** [Dungeness crab die-off underway along US West Coast](#)

**La Jolla Light:** [State leaders at La Jolla conference discuss success of a decade of marine protection](#)

**KPIX (NBC Bay Area):** [UC Santa Cruz Study Finds Microplastics in Anchovies, Seabirds, Coastal Waters](#)

**Associated Press:** [4 years running, whales off Calif. coast delay crab season](#)

**Hakai Magazine:** [California's Slightly Less Gray Laws on White Sharks](#)

**Lost Coast Outpost:** [North Coast Fisherman Fear for the Future of Commercial Fisheries as Offshore Wind Efforts Advance](#)

**Environment America:** [A photographic tour of California's marine protected areas](#)

**CNBC:** [First-ever California offshore wind auction surpasses \\$757 million in bids](#)

**Mirage News:** [All West Coast Abalones at Risk of Extinction on IUCN Red List](#)

**CalMatters:** [Will California keep up its climate momentum?](#)

**Orange County Register:** [California sea lions are frequently shot in violation of federal protections](#)

**The Mercury News:** [Scientists, lawmakers meet to discuss to Southern California's eroding beaches](#)

**NASA:** [NASA Launches International Mission to Survey Earth's Water](#)

**National Fisherman:** [California imposes 50 percent gear reduction for Dungeness opening New Year's Eve](#)

**San Francisco Examiner:** [Sea stars are critical to healthy oceans. Can they be saved from climate change?](#)

**San Francisco Chronicle:** [New law phases out fishing gear that kills dolphins and whales off the California coast](#)

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