



California’s Ocean and Coast Report Card

The first ever California Ocean and Coast Report Card will use a scientific, indicator-based approach to grade the state of California’s ocean and coast. The Report Card is intended to serve as a tool to inform the public and decision-makers about the status of ocean health and to highlight areas where the state can focus solutions. The process of developing the Report Card will identify data gaps to inform future monitoring investments. The Report Card is being developed through a partnership between the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and Ocean Science Trust (OST).

Partnerships

- As a member of the West Coast Ocean Alliance, OPC is coordinating the Report Card closely with the West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard, a similar indicator-based approach to scoring ocean health in California, Oregon and Washington.
- The OPC Science Advisory Team, Environmental Justice Advisory Board, and other state agencies are providing valuable input on an ongoing basis to promote scientific rigor and policy relevance.
- The Report Card is being collaboratively developed with contributions from many UC and CSU scientists, existing observation and monitoring programs, federal and state agencies, and NGOs.
- OPC and OST are actively scoping opportunities to meaningfully partner with California Native American tribes on the development of the Report Card. This will include, at a minimum, two rounds of tribally-focused listening sessions as well as the solicitation of tribal scientists to join expert working groups.

Approach

The Report Card will include biological components, physical stressors, and human dimensions, in recognition that the ocean and coast are part of a **complex, social-ecological system**. This is an initial draft list of indicators that will be refined with additional input and as the scoring methodologies are further developed:

Biodiversity	Physical Stressors	Human Dimensions
Seabirds*	Ocean Acidification*	Ocean Economy*
Fishes*	Ocean Warming	Coastal Access*
Kelp*	Sea Level Rise	Equity*
Mammals*	Harmful Algal Blooms	Sea Level Rise Impacts
Rocky Intertidal	Marine Debris	Beach Water Quality
Wetlands		Beach Quality for Recreation
Seagrass		Wastewater Discharge
Invasive Species		

*Indicators marked with an * are planned to be presented in draft form in February 2025*

How was this list developed?

An initial list of indicators was developed by OPC's Science Advisory Team ([see the February 2024 SAT Report](#)). This initial list was refined through thoughtful and iterative consultation with partners in consideration of relevance, meaning, data availability, and OPC priorities. The list will be further refined based on additional feedback from the Council, expert discussions and the public.

Integrating equity into coastal and ocean science and research is a priority for OPC and the State. The process of integrating equity into the Report Card is being developed collaboratively with ocean equity and environmental justice experts from across the country, and with the advice of the OPC [Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#).

Working groups of subject matter experts from across California, including tribal experts, are developing metrics for these indicators using data from existing monitoring programs.

Timeline & Opportunities to Provide Input

- Fall 2024
 - OPC and OST will host a virtual public listening session and a tribally-focused listening session to solicit feedback on indicators and expressions of interest in contributing data and other resources to the Report Card. Sign up for the [OPC listserv](#) to receive date and registration announcements.
 - Expert groups convening to continue develop indicators
- January - March 2025
 - Draft Report Card presented at the February 27 [Council Meeting](#), piloting the Report Card design and indicator scoring approach, and offering an opportunity for public comment and feedback
 - OPC and OST will host a second tribally-focused listening session.
- Spring - Summer 2025
 - Further developing indicators and metrics
- December 2025/February 2026:
 - First Report Card complete and shared publicly

For More Information

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To receive timeline updates with events opportunities for public engagement please sign up for the [OPC listserv](#).