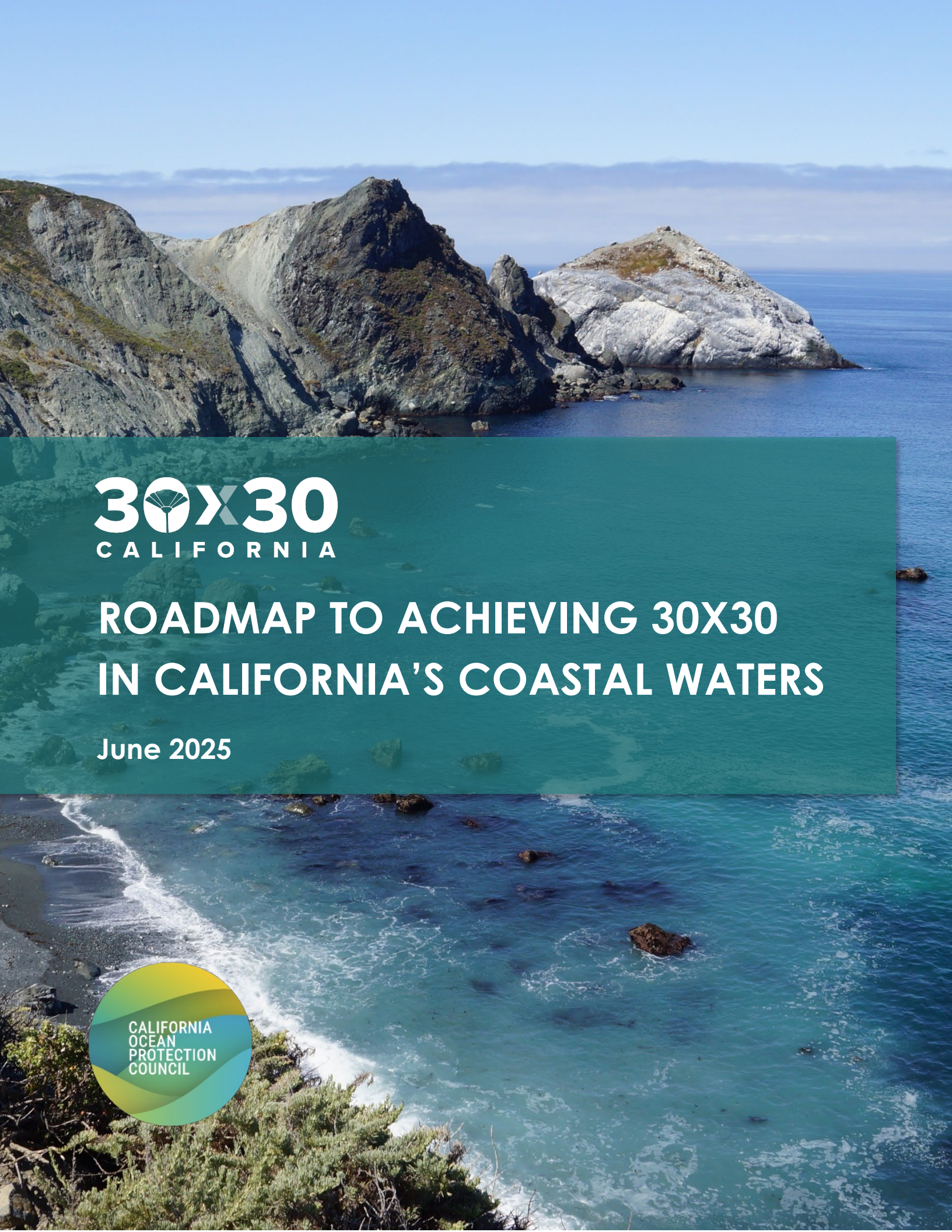


30x30 CALIFORNIA

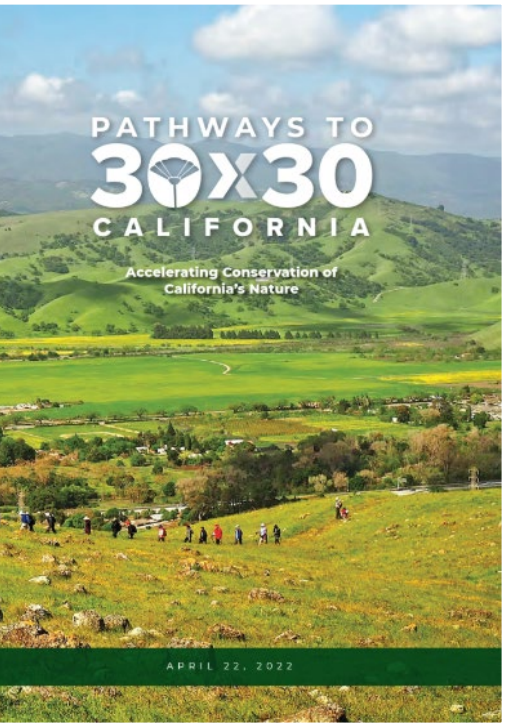
ROADMAP TO ACHIEVING 30X30 IN CALIFORNIA'S COASTAL WATERS

June 2025

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

California's 30x30 Goal

In October 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20, which advanced environmental conservation as an Administration priority and elevated the role of nature in combatting climate change. A cornerstone of this Executive Order committed California to conserving 30% of its lands and coastal waters by 2030 (the "30x30" or "30 by 30" target) – placing our state on the leading edge of an international movement to protect and restore nature.



In 2022, the California Natural Resources Agency released Pathways to 30x30, a groundbreaking strategy that defines 30x30 Conservation Areas, highlights the breadth of conservation that is consistent with this definition, and establishes 10 pathways to achieve 30x30 in California.

30x30 Objectives

Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity

The primary objective of 30x30 is to protect and restore California's biodiversity – our state's exceptional variety of life, from individual species to ecosystems. California is considered one of the world's 36 biodiversity "hotspots," which are areas with exceptionally high species diversity that are also under threat. Recent crises in California's coastal waters, including the collapse of more than 95% of Northern California's kelp forests over the last decade, underscore the need to conserve our state's irreplaceable coastal and marine ecosystems. At the same time, land-based threats such as drought and wildfire are increasingly impacting California's coast and ocean, illustrating the fundamental linkage between land and sea.

Specific biodiversity priorities identified in *Pathways to 30x30* include the conservation of rare habitat types, habitat corridors, and areas of high species diversity, as well as the restoration of degraded habitats and the protection of places that support "biocultural" significance, or the interconnectedness of nature and people. Importantly, 30x30 is an area-based and biodiversity-driven goal. Although California's coast and ocean are well protected by a host of environmental laws and regulations, only area-based designations that are managed to

conserve biodiversity can count toward the numeric 30x30 target in coastal waters.

Expanding Access to Nature and Building Resilience to Climate Change

In addition to protecting and restoring biodiversity, *Pathways to 30x30* identifies two other key objectives: expanding access to nature and mitigating and building resilience to climate change. Where possible, achieving 30x30 in coastal waters should support these priorities – for example, by providing for a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences, protecting tribal ancestral lands, or removing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Pathways to 30x30 encourages actions that help people and nature thrive together. This means that achieving 30x30 in coastal waters can both protect ecosystems and biodiversity and allow sustainably managed recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and diving, so long as biodiversity impacts are minimized.

Progress to Date

Since the establishment of 30x30, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has been working with California Native American tribes, state and federal agency partners, commercial and recreational fishermen, conservation organizations, and coastal communities to expand coastal and ocean conservation and chart a course for reaching 30x30 in coastal waters. 30x30 is part of OPC's broader work to conserve coastal and marine biodiversity, which over the past five years has included:

- Investing in sea level rise adaptation planning and resilience projects, including wetland and dune restoration
- Funding modeling and coordinated monitoring to better understand the causes and impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia
- Supporting long-term monitoring of marine protected areas (MPAs) across the state, providing data to inform the first Decadal Management Review of California's MPA network

- Partnering with scientists, divers, and commercial fishermen to protect and restore vulnerable kelp forests through innovative research and restoration projects

- Investing in data collection, gear innovation, and entanglement response to protect wildlife from being entangled in fishing gear while supporting commercial fishing communities

Additionally, in the last five years OPC has emerged as a global leader in marine conservation, joining high-level California delegations to major international conferences to champion biodiversity action and build global partnerships. One key example is California's co-leadership of the High Ambition Coalition Subnational Government Task Force, which is helping to advance 30x30 at the subnational level and is actively attracting new members from around the world.

To initially account for conservation in coastal waters within the 30x30 initiative, OPC counted the acreage of coastal waters within the state's MPA network. However, following the publication of *Pathways to 30x30*, OPC and partners embarked on a process to develop refined guidance for applying California's strong definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area to coastal and marine areas, and to update the state's accounting of conserved acres in coastal waters.

Defining Conservation in Coastal Waters

Five years into the 30x30 effort, and halfway to the initiative's target date, OPC has developed this roadmap to chart our progress to achieve 30x30 in coastal waters. The roadmap reflects not only expert scientific guidance, but also OPC's engagement with over a thousand Californians who care deeply about our coast and ocean. It is intended to provide clear and transparent guidance for how OPC will identify 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters and achieve our ambitious conservation target in a way that enables people and nature to thrive together.

How This Roadmap Was Developed

In June 2024, OPC released a Draft Decision-Making Framework for 30x30 in Coastal Waters. The draft framework was informed by a Technical Advisory Panel of scientific experts, and its release kicked off a 120-day public comment and tribal consultation period. During this period, OPC hosted in-person public workshops and tribal roundtables in San Diego, Monterey, and Arcata, offering tribes and members of the public across the state an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft framework, discuss local threats to coastal and marine biodiversity, and identify ways in which 30x30 could support conservation in their region. In addition to these workshops and roundtables, OPC staff also held virtual workshops on the draft framework, presented to National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils, and met extensively with scientists, members of the fishing community, and conservation organizations. Finally, OPC had unique opportunities to gather input on the draft framework at California's annual 30x30 Summit and the 16th United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 16) in Fall 2024.

All in all, more than one thousand people provided input on the draft framework. Comments were received from scientists, conservation groups, environmental justice advocates, commercial and recreational fishermen, divers, surfers, and youth leaders. OPC also received feedback from 14 California Native American tribes, including through government-to-government consultation. Even after the close of the formal public comment and tribal consultation period, OPC has continued to engage with many of these partners to develop this final roadmap – a testament to the passion and commitment of California's diverse communities.

An important part of this roadmap is to apply California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area to coastal waters, expanding the pathways to achieve durable environmental conservation in coastal and marine environments. *Pathways to 30x30* defines 30x30 Conservation Areas as **"land and coastal water areas that are durably protected and managed to sustain functional ecosystems, both intact and restored, and the diversity of life that they support."**

On land, protected areas in California are classified by the USGS GAP Analysis Program (GAP), which uses a classification system (1–4) to indicate the degree of biodiversity protection a particular area receives. According to *Pathways to 30x30*, GAP status codes 1 and 2 are generally aligned with California's definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas, as they include areas with a high degree of biodiversity protection.

In coastal waters, however, GAP codes have been applied incompletely and inconsistently, which poses a problem because California's coastal waters are a complex mosaic of overlapping designations that vary widely in purpose, level of protection, managing agency, and expected biodiversity benefits. Some of these designations are consistent with California's strong definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area, while others are not.

The international scientific community has developed approaches for evaluating the degree of biodiversity protection provided by marine managed areas, including: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidance on recognizing and respecting Indigenous Conserved Areas; *The MPA Guide*, a science-based tool to identify different types of MPAs and their expected outcomes for biodiversity; and IUCN guidance on "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures," or areas that are not formal protected areas but are managed in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefits.

Using science-based, broad guidance – carefully applied to California's unique management context – can fulfill the same purpose as the GAP status codes on land. The approach outlined below ensures that protections provided by 30x30 Conservation Areas achieve significant biodiversity benefits. However, it also recognizes that conservation is not "one size fits all" – in other words, different types of areas in

coastal waters have different goals and may use different criteria to evaluate progress toward those goals.

Evaluation Criteria

In order to be considered a 30x30 Conservation Area in California's coastal waters, areas must meet both of the fundamental elements of the definition in *Pathways to 30x30*:

1. **Durably protected.** Durably protected areas are defined in *Pathways to 30x30* as "areas with species and habitat protection designations that have gone through a formal rulemaking or other enforceable decision-making process not subject to simple reversal." For example, California's MPA network, which is established through California Fish and Game code, would meet this criterion, while a temporary or seasonal fisheries closure would not.

2. **Managed to sustain functional ecosystems and the diversity of life that they support.** 30x30 Conservation Areas can take many forms. However, areas must have a high degree of ecological protection – meaning they must be conserved in a manner that maintains ecosystems and protects biodiversity – to contribute to 30x30. Coastal waters areas may meet this criterion in several ways:

   ***Tribal Stewardship Areas*.** Tribes have stewarded the lands and waters of what is now known as California since time immemorial, and they hold inherent and unceded rights and responsibilities to care for their ancestral territories. As noted in *Pathways to 30x30*, conservation and stewardship are part of tribal cultural lifeways, and tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and waters is central not just to tribal sovereignty, but also ecosystem function. In fact, the forceful separation of tribes from their ancestral territories and traditional stewardship practices in California has caused significant harm to nature.

   Revitalizing tribally-led conservation and protecting places with biocultural significance – deep interconnectedness of people and place – is critical to protecting and restoring nature. Areas that are formally and collaboratively managed, stewarded, and

cared for by California Native American tribes in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefits meet commitments made in *Pathways to 30x30* and qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas. This inclusion aligns with global guidance to recognize and respect indigenous conserved areas, as affirmed by IUCN, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and international human rights law.

One notable example of a Tribal Stewardship Area in California's coastal waters is the new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off California's central coast. The designation of this Sanctuary was led by Chumash tribes and protects highly productive, ecologically important waters to conserve both marine life and cultural heritage. The Sanctuary's explicit and binding framework for collaborative co-stewardship with Chumash tribes, its focus on tribal priorities for biodiversity conservation, and its ecosystem-based, indigenous-shaped management plan all elevate tribes as the original stewards of California's coastal waters and provide a pathway for tribal, federal, and state governments to collaborate to strengthen the protection of marine biodiversity within the Sanctuary's boundaries.

Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSAs), a new concept in California, may also qualify for inclusion in 30x30 via this pathway as mechanisms for their recognition and co-stewardship are established, and if their management plans are built to support biodiversity conservation. OPC is currently working with tribes to explore administrative or regulatory mechanisms for the establishment, recognition, and co-stewardship of IMSAs; more detail on next steps for this important pathway are provided below.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These are areas of the ocean set aside for long-term conservation aims and listed in the World Database on Protected Areas, the world's official repository of terrestrial and marine protected area information. *The MPA Guide* can help to evaluate the degree of biodiversity protection in an MPA.

- Fully or highly protected MPAs allow only light extractive or destructive activities, with low total impact on biodiversity. These MPAs have the greatest potential to protect biodiversity, support climate resilience, and benefit both ecosystems and people; they are analogous to GAP 1 and 2 protected areas on land and meet California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area. One notable example in coastal waters is our state's ecologically connected network of 124 MPAs, which functions as one cohesive highly protected site as described in *Pathways to 30x30*.

- Lightly protected MPAs allow some extractive or destructive activities, with moderate total impact on biodiversity. In some cases, such areas may be analogous to GAP 2 protected areas on land and may meet California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area, but they should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to better understand threats to biodiversity, conservation benefits, and potential opportunities to strengthen biodiversity protection.

- Minimally protected MPAs allow significant extractive or destructive activities, with high total impact on biodiversity. These areas do not meet California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area. However, despite not counting toward 30x30, these areas may provide significant economic or recreational value as "working waters," fulfilling similar purposes as working lands in the terrestrial environment.

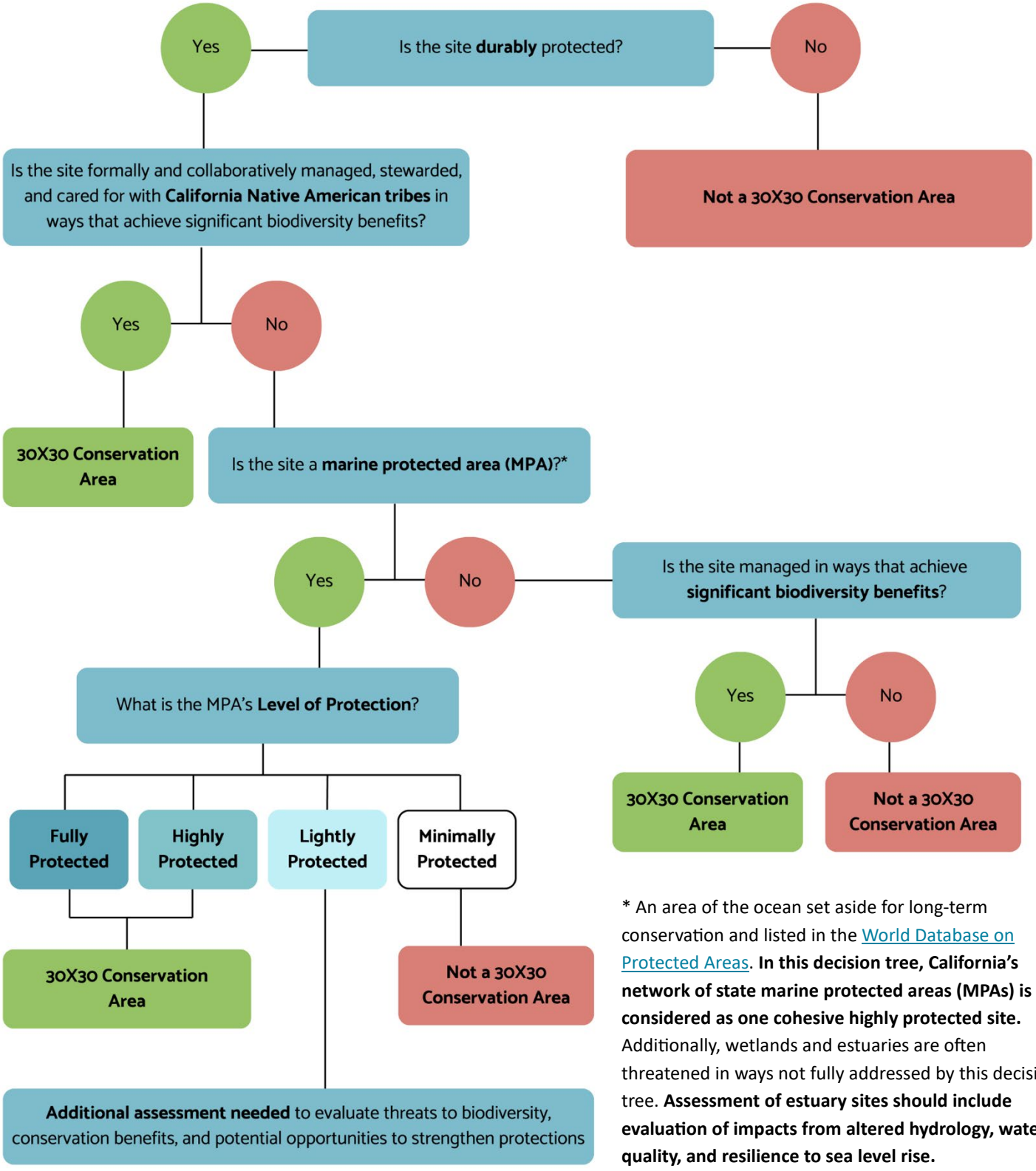
Areas that are not MPAs but are managed in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefit. California's coastal waters contain many designations that are not MPAs but may still contribute to biodiversity conservation. Such areas should be evaluated for inclusion in 30x30 on a case-by-case basis. The IUCN guidance referenced above, which focuses on the extent to which these areas provide meaningful ecosystem-level protection, can help to evaluate potential alignment with California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area.

Examples of areas in California's coastal waters that are not MPAs but are managed in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefit include the coastal portions of University of California Natural Reserves, which restrict recreational and commercial activity in order to make undisturbed lands and waters available to university students, teachers, and researchers, as well as K-12 classes and members of the public. However, areas established solely for the purposes of sustainable harvest, or areas that only protect a single species, would not meet California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area.

Under this definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas, California currently stands at 21.9% of coastal waters conserved:

- State MPA network: 546,000 acres (16.2%)
- Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: 191,000 additional acres (5.7%)
- University of California Natural Reserves: 150 additional acres (< 1%)

Decision Tree for Identifying 30x30 Conservation Areas in California's Coastal Waters



* An area of the ocean set aside for long-term conservation and listed in the World Database on Protected Areas. **In this decision tree, California's network of state marine protected areas (MPAs) is considered as one cohesive highly protected site.** Additionally, wetlands and estuaries are often threatened in ways not fully addressed by this decision tree. **Assessment of estuary sites should include evaluation of impacts from altered hydrology, water quality, and resilience to sea level rise.**

Conserving California's Estuaries

California's nearly 500,000 acres of bays, estuaries, and coastal wetlands are some of the most biodiverse, yet vulnerable ecosystems in California. These areas provide critical habitat for important species such as sea otters, migratory birds, and a variety of fishes and invertebrates. They are often referred to as "the nurseries of the sea," as many species depend on their sheltered, nutrient-rich waters for reproduction and development. Estuaries also provide abundant natural resources, places for recreation, and opportunities for scientific study. However, they are also among the state's most threatened habitats, impacted by urban development, habitat loss, water quality impairments, and climate change. Importantly, threats to estuary ecosystems are often different from threats to ecosystems on the open coast, and the tools utilized in OPC's decision-making around 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters do not fully capture the unique needs of these places. Key additional questions to consider when evaluating estuary sites as potential 30x30 Conservation Areas include: impacts of altered hydrology, impacts on water quality from point and/or non-point source pollution, and sea level rise resilience. Additionally, biodiversity impacts resulting from nearby land-based activities must be considered and addressed.

OPC is committed to strengthening biodiversity protection in estuaries, both in existing 30x30 Conservation Areas (e.g. California's 23 estuarine MPAs) as well as potential future 30x30 Conservation Areas. To accomplish this, OPC looks forward to working with key partners – including a work group of estuary scientists and managers created to help ensure estuaries are durably protected as part of California's 30x30 initiative – to assess the landscape of estuary protection across the state, identify potential threats, and advocate for management action to ensure the resilience of these systems into the future.

Moving Forward

Designating 30x30 Conservation Areas is only one step to achieve the objectives of California's 30x30 initiative. To effectively protect and restore biodiversity, expand access to nature, and build resilience to climate change, 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters must be adaptively managed to ensure continued positive outcomes for nature and people. While individual 30x30 Conservation Areas can and should have their own management plans, and use program- and location-specific criteria to evaluate biodiversity benefits, management of all areas should include the following fundamentals:

1. Long-term environmental and biological monitoring, informed by both Traditional Knowledges and non-indigenous science. Monitoring is essential for tracking indicators of ecosystem and community health over time.

2. Actions aimed at supporting climate resilience, including conservation of climate refuges and habitats that remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, such as eelgrass beds.

3. Early, often, and meaningful consultation and collaboration with California Native American tribes, as well as the direct involvement of local communities.

4. Increased access to coastal and marine environments, especially for underserved communities who have historically been excluded from these environments.

We are nearly three-quarters of the way to our goal. However, we will need to mobilize across sectors and act quickly to conserve an additional 275,000 acres of coastal waters by 2030. OPC has identified four key approaches for achieving 30x30 in coastal waters. Coordinated action across each of these approaches, in close partnership with tribes, agency partners, and key stakeholder groups, will keep California on track to achieve the 30x30 target.

1. Sustain Ongoing Adaptive Management of the State's MPA Network

Adaptively managing California's MPAs to ensure they continue to provide strong protections for coastal and marine biodiversity, especially in the face of climate change, is a key component of achieving the 30x30 goal. The first Decadal Management Review of California's MPA network, completed in 2023, demonstrates that MPAs are working to protect ocean health, with more and bigger sea life found inside many MPAs compared to unprotected areas across the state. However, ongoing adaptive management – regularly making science-based adjustments to the MPA network to better align MPAs with their goals or address emerging concerns – is a cornerstone of MPA governance in California.

Following completion of the Decadal Management Review, the California Fish and Game Commission received 20 petitions for adaptive management changes to the MPA network. Although MPAs remain a core component of 30x30, the 30x30 target is not driving the state's adaptive management actions. Instead, MPA petitions are being reviewed against the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act and in consideration of new or emerging data, changed conditions, and enhanced MPA governance or network performance. OPC is working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Commission staff to evaluate MPA petitions and inform the Commission's public decision-making process.

While there is not a separate process to expand existing or create new MPAs to achieve the 30x30 target, OPC recognizes that management action beyond the Commission's petition process may be warranted to ensure MPAs meet their goals. Based on recommendations in the Decadal Management Review, OPC is working closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Commission to explore actions like strengthening water quality protection across the MPA network, updating the MPA Monitoring Action Plan, and developing a pathway for tribal co-management of MPAs.

Relevant priority actions in *Pathways to 30x30*:

4.4. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of ocean and coastal health to improve conservation outcomes of federal and state management.

9.4. Consider the development of a state water quality protected areas designation process to protect the MPA network from land-based pollution.

10.10. Further explore the role of California's MPA network in building climate resilience for coastal and marine ecosystems.

2. Strengthen Biodiversity Conservation in National Marine Sanctuaries

California's state waters are home to four federally-managed National Marine Sanctuaries. These special places were established to conserve unique natural and cultural resources, and they include areas of exceptionally high biodiversity. While Sanctuaries provide important conservation and access benefits, each Sanctuary has different regulations and policies that will need to be assessed individually to determine alignment with California's definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area.

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is the first Sanctuary to count toward 30x30 in California's coastal waters. As described above, this Sanctuary is unique because of its focus on biocultural protection, its explicit binding framework for collaborative co-stewardship with local Chumash tribes, and its biodiversity-focused management plan that includes tribal priorities.

OPC remains committed to working closely with federal partners to identify threats to Sanctuary resources (such as water quality impairments or whale ship strikes) and opportunities to address these threats through strengthened biodiversity protections. This includes OPC's ongoing collaboration with the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to help align their management plan update with 30x30 conservation priorities. OPC also looks forward to identifying opportunities to strengthen collaborative co-stewardship of Sanctuaries with local tribes, based on the model of the Chumash Sanctuary.

Ultimately, some Sanctuaries may not count toward 30x30 because they are minimally protected – in other words, they allow high levels of extractive activity, such as commercial fishing with high-impact gear. This does not mean that these "working waters" are unimportant for nature or for people. As noted in *Pathways to 30x30,* a network of 30x30 Conservation Areas connected to mixed-use areas fosters a resilient California. A spectrum of conservation approaches is essential to ensure that both nature and people can thrive long into the future.

Relevant priority actions in *Pathways to 30x30*:

4.5. Explore possible new measures and initiatives to address threats to biodiversity within National Marine Sanctuaries in partnership with California Native American tribes, scientists, federal resource managers, and key stakeholder groups, such as strengthening water quality and invasive species protections, exploring mandatory vessel speed reductions to protect whales, and enhancing the durability of existing restrictions on fishing gear and methods.

4.6. Identify high priority science needs related to strengthening conservation within National Marine Sanctuaries.

3. Support Tribally-Led Conservation

Native American tribes are the original stewards of California's ecosystems, and strengthening tribal partnerships is a core commitment of the 30x30 initiative across the state. One important way in which OPC is upholding this commitment is by supporting the designation and stewardship of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSAs), which will advance biodiversity conservation priorities shared between tribes and the state. As defined in *Pathways to 30x30,* IMSAs are envisioned as special areas within state waters designated and managed by tribes. Governance of IMSAs can include specific actions aimed at biodiversity conservation (such as the protection and restoration of culturally sensitive habitats) as well as tribally-led stewardship activities (such as monitoring and enforcement). Tribally-managed protected lands and waters are common in other parts of the world, but are a new concept in California. In 2023, three north coast tribes designated the state's first IMSA through tribal resolution.

OPC is committed to supporting tribally-led conservation by developing a formal pathway for state recognition and co-stewardship of IMSAs, funding the development of IMSA management plans, and funding tribally-led monitoring and stewardship programs, such as the Tribal Marine Stewards Network. IMSAs can contribute to state priorities for tribal stewardship more broadly and can be linked to other efforts to support tribes, such as ancestral land return. OPC is also committed to exploring opportunities to advance tribally-led stewardship through other efforts and designations.

Relevant priority actions in *Pathways to 30x30*:

6.13. Partner with California Native American tribes to apply tribal expertise and traditional and tribal knowledges to restoration efforts for the coast and ocean and co-develop restoration projects with tribes in support of shared priorities.

7.7. Develop programs that provide stable, long-term support for tribal establishment and administration of tribally protected landscapes and other tribally managed or co-managed areas, terrestrial and marine, including support for a set-aside for tribal conservation and related research.

7.8. Work with California Native American tribes to develop a definition and appropriate counting mechanisms for tribal areas to fit within California's 30x30 Conserved Areas.

7.10. Explore administrative or regulatory mechanisms for California Native American tribes to establish Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSA) focused on enhancing biodiversity and resilience.

4. Explore the Role of Other Coastal and Marine Designations in Conserving Biodiversity

California's coastal waters include a wide variety of coastal and marine designations that have not yet been fully assessed for consistency with our definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area. This includes protected areas that are not part of the state's MPA network or the National Marine Sanctuary system, such as National Wildlife Refuges, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and the ocean portions of National Parks

and National Seashores. Many of these areas are lightly protected and therefore need to be more closely evaluated, on a case-by-case basis, to understand how management is conserving biodiversity in the face of localized threats and pressures.

Over the next year, OPC will undertake this evaluation in partnership with relevant managing agencies, key ocean data partners such as Marine Protection Atlas and ProtectedSeas, and previously established independent scientific working groups, including a coalition of California scientists focused on estuary conservation. OPC will also consult directly with local tribes and other partners to deliver results by fall 2026, which will include any updates to current conserved acres as well as recommendations on how OPC and other state agencies might work with managers of these areas to strengthen biodiversity protections and improve alignment with the definition of a 30x30 Conservation Area. Improving water quality and addressing threats unique to California's vulnerable estuaries and wetlands are high priorities for OPC.

Relevant priority actions in *Pathways to 30x30*:

9.3. Evaluate potential biodiversity benefits of complementary conservation measures in our coast and ocean environments, including restrictions and closures established for the purposes of conservation-based fisheries management in California's coastal waters.

9.7. Support research to improve scientific understanding of environmental benefits from conservation practices that currently fall outside of 30x30 Conservation Areas. Determine if and how these conservation measures can be counted toward 30x30 targets in the future.

In addition to these four approaches, OPC is also committed to expanding and accelerating environmental restoration and stewardship in furtherance of the 30x30 goal. Accomplishing the actions in this roadmap will require science to address knowledge gaps, active restoration and stewardship to safeguard our coastal and

underwater ecosystems, and support for the tribal communities that have stewarded California's coastal resources since time immemorial. Over the next five years, OPC plans to commit significant funding to projects that advance these objectives, including through a $10 million competitive call that will accompany this roadmap. This competitive call will fund: 1) action-oriented science that drives forward the four approaches listed above, 2) local restoration and stewardship action, and 3) the revitalization of tribally-led stewardship. These funding priorities will help to support the long-term success of 30x30 Conservation Areas.

Relevant priority actions in *Pathways to 30x30*:

6.12. Prioritize coastal habitats and degraded seascapes for restoration through science-based assessment.

6.14. Work with state and federal agencies to restore coastal wetlands, seagrass beds, and kelp forests to improve biodiversity, protect blue carbon stores, and build resilience to sea level rise, storm surge, and ocean acidification.

6.16. Restore essential habitats near coastal upwelling zones that are important for salmon, seabirds, and other species.

6.17. Implement restoration that allows for habitats to transgress inland as sea levels rise and protect near-shore areas from storm surge or sea level rise.

6.18. Manage invasive marine species in coastal waters.

10.7. Partner with local recreation, hunting, and fishing groups to expand environmental monitoring in protected areas. Improved ecosystem-scale monitoring will enhance data collection and help support effective management and recreational use.

The Time is Now

30x30 is about more than simply designating areas as “conserved” on a map. It is a call to action. While this roadmap sets the standard for 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters, OPC looks forward to working with partner agencies to further establish 30x30 as a shared state initiative and drive coordinated action on the priorities listed above. 30x30 also represents a unique and historic opportunity for state government to engage more deeply with California Native American tribes and coastal communities, improving conservation outcomes while expanding access and building resilience to climate change.

In the face of a “triple planetary crisis” – biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution – 30x30 is a beacon of hope. OPC looks forward to strengthening partnerships established during the development of this roadmap, serving as a global model, and achieving 30x30 in a way that benefits all Californians.