



Staff Report

September 30, 2025

Item 8

Exhibit A: List of Current and Potential 30x30 Conservation Areas in California's Coastal Waters

Areas listed below are summarized from the publicly available [ProtectedSeas Navigator](#) database of 400+ marine managed areas in California's coastal waters.

Tribal Stewardship Areas: Areas of the ocean that are formally and collaboratively managed, stewarded, and cared for by California Native American tribes in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefit.

- **Currently qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas:** Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Marine Protected Areas: Areas of the ocean set aside for long-term conservation aims and listed in the [World Database on Protected Areas](#)

- **Currently qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas:** Fully or highly protected MPAs, according to the [Marine Protection Atlas](#)
 - California's MPA network
 - Scripps Coastal Reserve*
 - Hopkins Marine Life Refuge*
 - Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)*
 - Tijuana River NERR*
 - California Coastal National Monument – Point Arena-Stornetta Unit*
 - Cabrillo National Monument*
 - Farallon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)*
 - Marin Islands NWR*
 - Salinas River NWR*
 - Tijuana Slough NWR*

**Denotes areas that are fully overlapped by California's MPA network and therefore do not contribute to the current total percentage of coastal waters conserved*

- **May qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas, pending further evaluation:** Lightly protected MPAs that are not part of the state’s MPA network¹, according to the [Marine Protection Atlas](#)
 - Channel Islands National Park
 - Redwood National Park
 - Point Reyes National Seashore
 - Seal Beach NWR
 - Humboldt Bay NWR
 - San Pablo Bay NWR
 - San Diego Bay NWR
- **Do not currently qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas, but may qualify with strengthened protections:** Minimally protected MPAs, according to the [Marine Protection Atlas](#)
 - Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
 - Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 - Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR

Non-MPA areas: Areas of the ocean that are not formal MPAs, but may still contribute to biodiversity conservation

- **Currently qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas:** Ocean portions of University of California Natural Reserves
- **May qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas, pending further evaluation:**
 - Cargo Vessel Prohibition Zones
 - Essential Fish Habitat Areas Protected from Fishing
 - Essential Fish Habitat Areas Protected from Fishing – Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
 - Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas
 - Fishery Management Areas
 - Gear Restricted Areas
 - Groundfish Conservation Areas
 - Marine Mammal Reserves
 - Slow Speed Areas

¹ May qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas if and only if further evaluation determines these areas provide functionally equivalent protection as a fully or highly protected MPA.

- Species Restricted Areas
- State Water Quality Protected Areas
- Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Areas