



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2030

Safeguarding Our Coast and Ocean
for All Californians



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL





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Wade Crowfoot
SECRETARY FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES, COUNCIL CHAIR

Ben Allen
STATE SENATOR

Yana Garcia
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Alexis Jackson
PUBLIC MEMBER

Megan Rocha
PUBLIC MEMBER

Eleni Kounalakis
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
STATE LANDS COMMISSION CHAIR

Dawn Addis
STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER



CALIFORNIA
**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**



INTRODUCTION

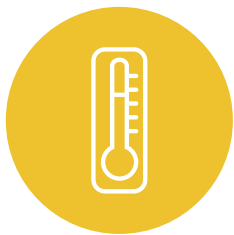
California's awe-inspiring and iconic coastline stretches over 1,110 miles and is beloved for its sandy beaches, world-class surf breaks, majestic kelp forests, and diverse wildlife. It is home to extraordinary biodiversity and has been stewarded and cared for by California Native American tribes since time immemorial. California's coast and ocean provides a place for recreation, connection to nature, spiritual and traditional practice, and drives a thriving \$45 billion coastal economy that supports local jobs and businesses. For California, the coast and ocean aren't just natural wonders—they are a cornerstone of our state's health and identity.

But impacts to our coast and ocean, including sea level rise, warming and acidifying waters, increased pollution, and habitat loss, are threatening biodiversity, coastal access, and the future of coastal communities. Now more than ever, California must lead, serving as a model for how to tackle these challenges with integrity, urgency, and innovation. Strong partnerships with state, local and federal agencies, California Native American tribes, residents, educators, scientists, fishermen, and other leaders and groups are essential to secure solutions that will protect people and nature.





The Ocean Protection Council (OPC)'s 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan provides an ambitious, science-based roadmap for protecting and restoring California's coast and ocean through the end of this decade. It is anchored by four interconnected goals:



Goal 1: Build Resilience to Climate Change



Goal 3: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Biodiversity



Goal 2: Maximize Community Benefits and Stewardship



Goal 4: Enable a Sustainable Blue Economy That Protects Ocean Health

Achieving these goals requires OPC's leadership and contributions by an extensive network of partners and institutions. This Plan is both a blueprint for our work at OPC and a broader call to action to enable a healthy, thriving coast and ocean now and for the generations to come.

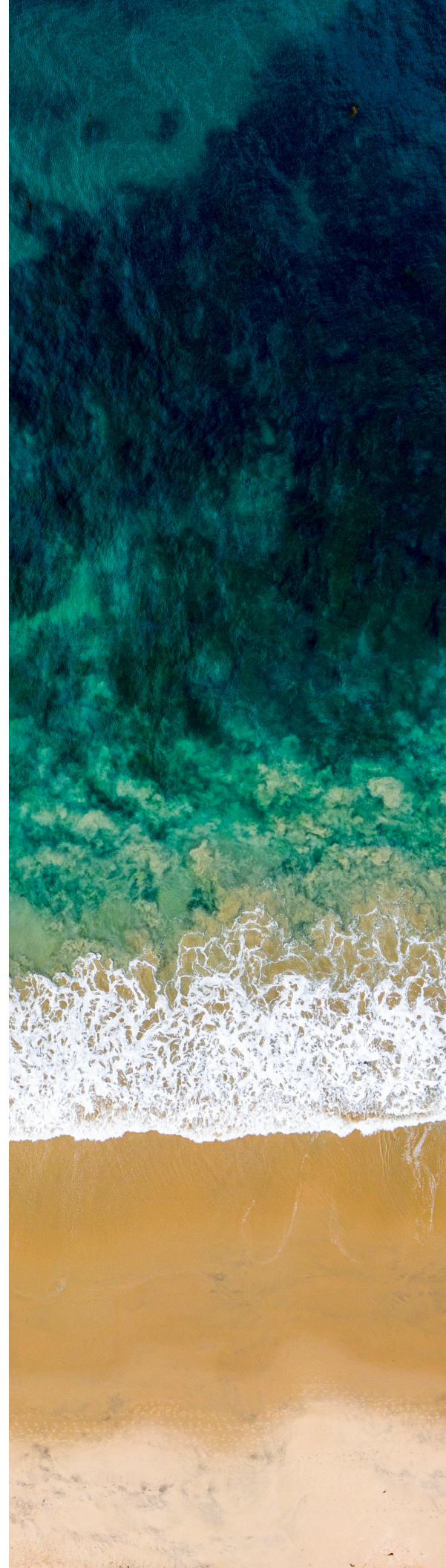
WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Protecting California's
Coast and Ocean

VISION

Healthy and Resilient
Coastal and Ocean
Ecosystems for Current
and Future Generations



CORE VALUES

SERVICE: We work on behalf of all Californians and prioritize actions that will maximize benefits across the state. We are committed to transparency in decision-making and accountability to track the progress and success of our actions.

.....

STEWARDSHIP: We safeguard California’s coast and ocean to conserve biodiversity, build climate change resilience, and protect coastal communities. We take this responsibility seriously and with humility.

.....

COLLABORATION: We partner with agencies, tribes, scientists, and community members to identify solutions, align efforts, and leverage collective expertise and resources.

.....

INCLUSIVITY: Our actions will reflect the diversity of perspectives and needs of California’s communities.

.....

INTEGRITY: We build and foster relationships based on trust and respect.

.....

INNOVATION: We proactively seek new and creative approaches to understand change and address threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems.



THE COUNCIL



OPC was created in 2004 by the California Ocean Protection Act. The seven-member Council is chaired by the Secretary for Natural Resources and includes the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Chair of the State Lands Commission, two public members, and two members of the Legislature – one from the Senate and one from the Assembly (ex-officio members). OPC is led by an Executive Director who also serves as the Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy for the California Natural Resources Agency.

How We Work

OPC protects and restores California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration.

As a Cabinet-level state policy body nested within the California Natural Resources Agency, OPC serves as the Governor's advisor on coastal and ocean issues, provides best available science to decision-makers and the public, and invests in research, monitoring, planning, and on-the-ground restoration and coastal resilience projects.

Partnerships

OPC does its work in partnership with leaders and organizations across California. We help to align priorities and actions across other state agencies working to protect California's coastal and marine ecosystems, and those of external partners including local, federal, and tribal governments,

academic institutions, non-profit organizations, community groups, fishermen, scientists, California's two Sea Grant programs, and others. These collaborative partnerships underpin coordinated science, policy and management, and efforts to maximize benefits for the coast and the communities that rely on a healthy ocean.

OPC works closely with the California Ocean Science Trust (OST), an organization established in statute to grow capacity and resources for policy-relevant research and bring coordinated science to ocean policy and management in the state. OST applies this aligned mission to advance OPC's strategic priorities in its role as Science Advisor to the Ocean Protection Council and as the Secretariat for OPC's Science Advisory Team. The Science Advisory Team activates a network of scientists across California's universities and science institutions, providing interdisciplinary expertise to address state priorities and elevate emerging issues and scientific advancements.

ABOUT THE 2026–2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to articulate OPC's goals over the next five years and to direct policy and investment priorities through 2030. It also provides our partners and all Californians with a clear understanding of what we want to accomplish with the aim of aligning collective action toward these goals. The Plan includes clear targets to track progress and success, ensuring accountability and transparency in OPC's work. This Strategic Plan aims to institutionalize our core values and maintain critical momentum and continuity for staff and partners through the end of the decade. Investments have been prioritized to maximize impact and the ability to inform and catalyze broader external efforts that build on state funding.

Update Process

This Strategic Plan is similarly ambitious to our previous strategic plan but provides increased focus on actions that OPC will lead, as well as elevating actions that are key priorities for OPC's collaborative work with state agencies and other partners. The Plan provides a high-level framework of OPC priorities and maintains flexibility to respond to new strategies and integrate emerging issues. It will guide more specific work plans to achieve these objectives. The Plan will also help advance commitments outlined in several state plans including [Pathways to 30x30](#), [Outdoors for All](#), [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#), [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#), [Water Supply Strategy](#), and [Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#).



This Strategic Plan was shaped through extensive outreach and engagement with Council members, OPC's Environmental Justice Advisory Board, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, fishermen, scientists, community members, and the general public. This engagement included a range of opportunities:

- OPC held an initial discussion to guide development of this Plan at its public Council meeting in September 2024.
- OPC staff hosted virtual and in-person listening sessions and tribal roundtables across the state between November 2024 and February 2025 including meetings in Arcata, San Francisco, Pacific Grove, Morro Bay, Long Beach, and Imperial Beach. These sessions resulted in participation by over 150 members of the public.
- OPC staff gathered public input through an online form, which provided nearly 100 written comments, all of which provided early input into the priorities for the draft Plan.
- The draft Plan was discussed at the June 2025 public Council meeting and followed by a public webinar, continued tribal consultation, and a public comment period through July 2025.
- The final Strategic Plan reflects revisions to the draft based on tribal, agency and public input. The Final Plan was posted publicly in mid-November for final adoption at the Council's December 2025 meeting.

The 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan builds on the four key goals in OPC's prior 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan (climate change, equity, biodiversity, and a sustainable blue economy) and carries forward many objectives that remain relevant. The Plan also elevates issues that were not included in the previous plan, such as conserving 30 percent of California's coastal waters by 2030 (30x30).



TRACKING CHANGE OVER TIME

Science has always underpinned our work and must continue to guide our actions to protect the coast and ocean. Fighting complex and interrelated threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution requires consistent, coordinated data collection and reporting. Long-term environmental and biological monitoring helps resource managers detect changes in real time, track important patterns and trends, and identify priorities for action. Support for ongoing monitoring is especially important in the face of a changing ocean, where catastrophic shifts such as kelp collapse, harmful algal blooms, or salmon declines are becoming more frequent and severe.

Utilizing science and monitoring over coming years is also important to track OPC's progress implementing this strategic plan. Doing so will help us understand the impact of our investments and actions and identify any changes or additional actions that must be taken to achieve our Strategic Plan goals.

Over the next five years, OPC will build on existing, successful monitoring programs – such as the multi-institution monitoring groups collecting data across our state's Marine Protected Area Network and other regional monitoring programs – to strengthen cohesiveness, better integrate environmental and biological monitoring, and

ensure that monitoring results are efficiently and effectively communicated to resource managers. These efforts will help OPC, partner agencies, and coastal communities better understand the health of California's coast and ocean. Top priorities over the next five years include:

- Strengthening **coordination** across ocean and coastal monitoring programs.
- Elevating the role of **Traditional Knowledges** in state decision-making and support **tribally-led** monitoring efforts.
- Enabling **innovative scientific research**, such as modeling, to help forecast expected changes in coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Integrating **community science** into existing monitoring programs to diversify research partners and help embed social and cultural priorities.
- Supporting the development of innovative tools and technology to **improve efficiency** and cost-effectiveness of monitoring.
- Ensuring that monitoring results are **effectively communicated** to decision-makers and the public, through OPC's State of the Coast and Ocean Report and other products.

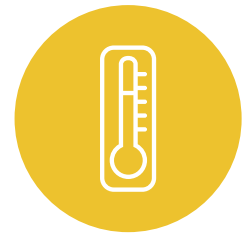




KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE 2020 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the last five years, OPC has made significant progress in understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on the coast, protecting ocean health and conserving biodiversity, and increasing benefits from our work for coastal communities and California Native American tribes. Details of these accomplishments can be found in our 2021-2024 Annual Reports. A summary of our key accomplishments from the previous strategic plan is provided in Appendix A.

GOAL 1: BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change is profoundly impacting California's coast. Sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion, increased storm frequency and intensity, ocean acidification and hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, and warming ocean temperatures threaten marine life and habitats, public health and safety, livelihoods, critical infrastructure, private property, and public access.

To protect communities and the environment, it is essential that the state continue to support cutting-edge science, adaptation planning, coastal resilience projects, and coordinated action across local, state, tribal, and federal partners. OPC will continue to advance the collective priorities of the Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support

Collaborative and the State Sea Level Rise Action Plan, and fund essential sea level rise adaptation plans and projects with a focus on nature-based adaptation efforts, in close partnership with the Coastal Commission, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, and others. Together agencies will advance implementation of Senate Bills 1 and 272, which mandate the inclusion of sea level rise considerations in land use plans. OPC will also continue investments in scientific research and monitoring and support improved management strategies to minimize impacts from other climate-driven changes on the coast and ocean.

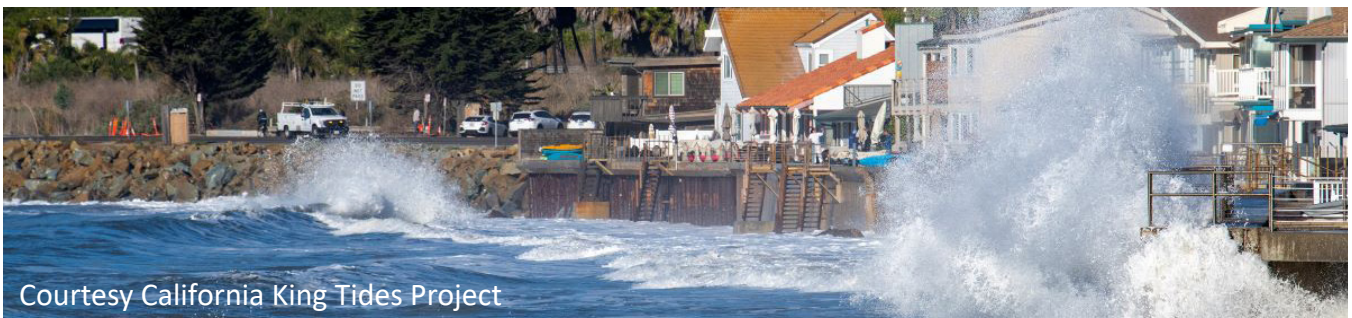


OBJECTIVE 1.1:

Protect communities and ecosystems from the impacts of sea level rise, coastal storms, erosion, and flooding.

Targets:

- 1.1.1** By 2029, update the State of California’s Sea Level Rise Guidance with best available science and recommendations for use in adaptation plans and projects.
-
- 1.1.2** Fund the development and implementation of sea level rise adaptation plans to protect people and nature. Ensure that plans are in place for the entire California coast by 2034 and fund at least ten projects by 2030 that implement strategies in approved adaptation plans.
-
- 1.1.3** By 2027, identify beaches and coastal parks most at risk from sea level rise, erosion, and coastal flooding; fund at least five priority adaptation projects to preserve public access and habitat along the coast by 2030.
-
- 1.1.4** By 2027, building on previous collaborative efforts and in partnership with local communities, identify contaminated sites most vulnerable to rising groundwater and sea levels and share through a regularly updated public dashboard; fund at least three projects by 2030 to address contamination risks to underserved communities¹ and the environment, with a focus on improving public access and restoring impacted habitats.
-
- 1.1.5** By 2028, leverage existing efforts and collaborate with partner agencies and others to develop a statewide strategy and guidance to support sediment management and beneficial reuse of dredged materials for coastal adaptation and resiliency projects.



Courtesy California King Tides Project

OBJECTIVE 1.2:

Limit causes and impacts of ocean acidification, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms.

Targets:

- 1.2.1** By 2027, fund at least three monitoring, research, or modeling projects that increase the state's ability to understand, anticipate, and respond to the effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia on ecosystems and coastal economies.
-
- 1.2.2** By 2028, enhance early warning systems for coastal harmful algal blooms, improving detection and real-time response to protect marine life, fisheries, public health, and seafood safety.
-
- 1.2.3** By 2030, address nutrient impacts on coastal and ocean health by achieving the State Water Resources Control Board's existing requirements and supporting its establishment of new water quality objectives, as needed.
-
- 1.2.4** Through 2030 and beyond, work with the State Water Resources Control Board to achieve wastewater recycling goals, consistent with the *Water Supply Strategy for a Hotter, Drier California*, advance coordinated investments for multi-benefit infrastructure upgrades for wastewater recycling that reduce nutrients to California's coast and ocean.



GOAL 2: MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND STEWARDSHIP



The State of California has taken significant steps in recent years to acknowledge and redress historical wrongs that caused systemic environmental and social injustices that are still felt today, including a history of state-sanctioned genocide and dispossession of California Native American tribes and redlining practices that targeted and marginalized communities of color. While progress has been made, much work remains to remedy previous harms, respect tribal sovereignty, and reconnect tribes and underserved communities to the coast.

This goal advances OPC's overarching vision for a more inclusive and resilient ocean and coast by centering tribal and community needs, increasing stewardship and coastal access, and strengthening partnerships. OPC will prioritize investments in projects that provide direct and meaningful benefits to underserved communities, including at least 40% of OPC's Climate Bond funding, alongside efforts to build a more

inclusive ocean and coastal workforce, and better integrate diverse knowledge systems (including Traditional Knowledges) into science, research, and policy. Through the [Environmental Justice Advisory Board for California's Coast and Ocean](#), OPC will elevate perspectives from underserved and tribal communities across California ocean and coastal programs, and increase partnerships with communities across the state. Expanding technical assistance across all OPC funding programs, building from the technical assistance already provided by the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program, will help more communities apply for and access state funding.

Implementation of OPC's [Tribal Engagement Strategy](#) and [Equity Plan](#) further reinforce these commitments and provide in-depth guidance ensuring this work is sustained, community-informed, and accountable.

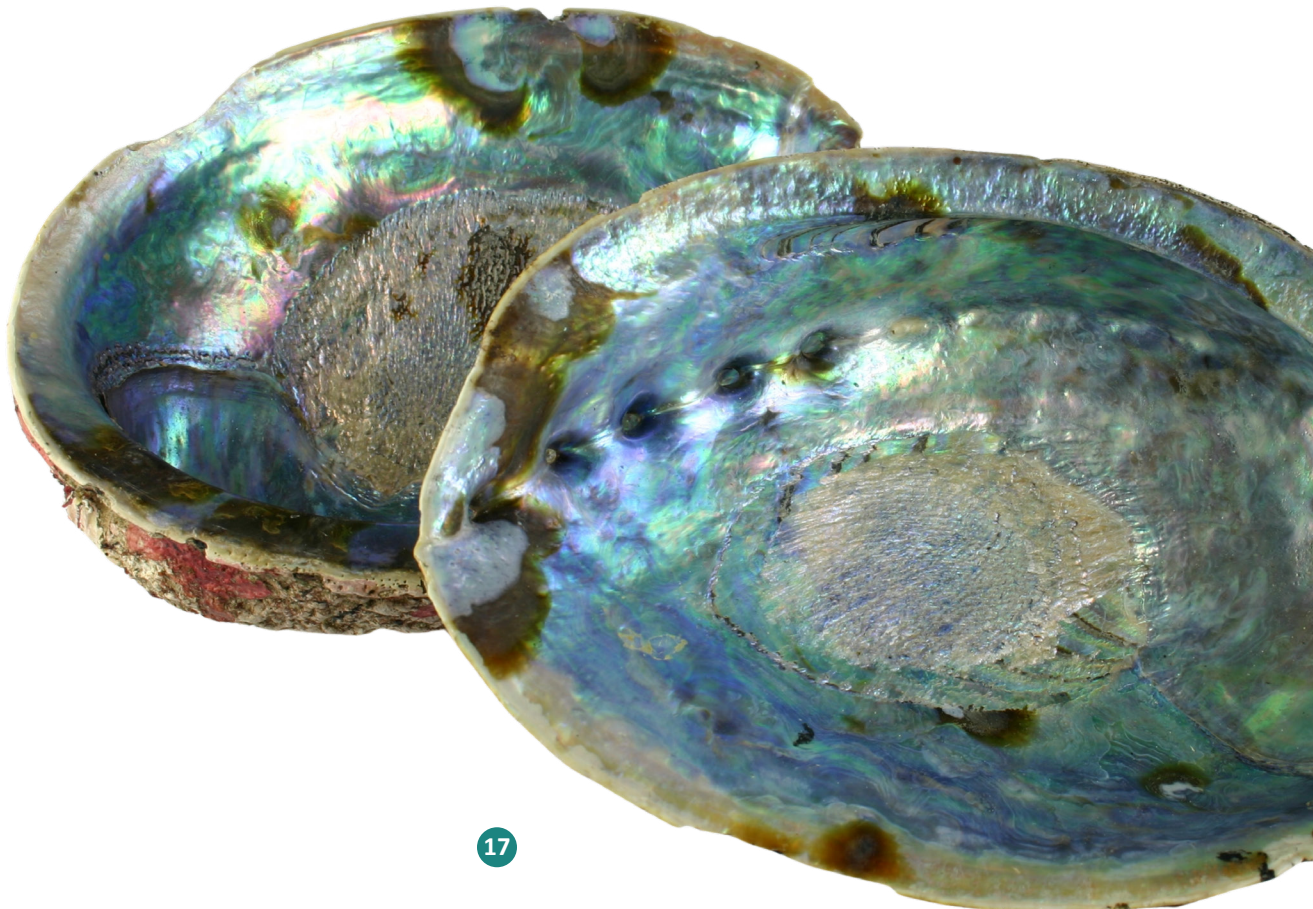


OBJECTIVE 2.1:

Strengthen partnerships with California Native American tribes.

Targets:

- 2.1.1** By 2027, develop and implement a strategy for the recognition and co-stewardship of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSAs), with at least one new IMSA recognized by 2027.
-
- 2.1.2** By 2030, support the continued success and growth of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network by providing funding to sustain the existing six member tribes and further scale up the Network, with up to three new tribes participating.
-
- 2.1.3** By 2030, provide funding to support the return of 500 acres of coastal land to tribes.
-
- 2.1.4** By 2030, support the completion of at least five new agreements that expand tribal access to the coast and ocean between the state and tribes.



OBJECTIVE 2.2:

Expand engagement with underserved communities.

Targets:

- 2.2.1 By 2027, provide technical assistance across all OPC funding programs to increase outreach and application support for underserved communities and California Native American tribes.
-
- 2.2.2 Prioritize funding for projects directly benefiting underserved communities; track progress through an annual summary of the reach and impact of OPC investments.
-
- 2.2.3 By 2028, fund at least 20 small grants to support underserved community engagement, equitable coastal and ocean access, and stewardship.
-
- 2.2.4 By 2028, fund at least three projects that advance community- or tribally-led scientific research and monitoring.



OBJECTIVE 2.3:

Increase safe and equitable access to the coast.

Targets:

- 2.3.1** Through 2030, support expansion of low cost coastal access, accommodations, and recreation through existing statewide initiatives (e.g., Outdoors for All, Explore the Coast, California Coastal Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Bay Area Water Trail).
-
- 2.3.2** By 2027, fund at least one project to better understand how Californians visit and experience the coast. Use this information, alongside existing studies on barriers to coastal access, to advance priority actions that increase safe, inclusive, and welcoming access to the coast.
-
- 2.3.3** By 2027, fund at least two projects that provide recreational and commercial fishing experiences for underserved youth on the ocean or along the coast.
-
- 2.3.4** By 2030, through the California Water Monitoring Council, improve seafood contamination monitoring, focusing on subsistence fishing and pollution hotspots, particularly areas impacted by PFAS and harmful algal blooms; work with tribes and local agencies to update and communicate fish advisories to minimize impacts to public health.



OBJECTIVE 2.4:

Build an inclusive ocean and coastal workforce.

Targets:

- 2.4.1 Through 2030, in partnership with tribes, universities, community colleges, and community-based organizations, continue OPC's internship, mentorship, and career programs to cultivate a diverse ocean and coastal science and policy workforce that is reflective of the people of California.

- 2.4.2 Integrate job training and workforce development for coastal and ocean conservation, research, and monitoring through OPC-funded projects.

- 2.4.3 Provide opportunities for staff training in environmental justice and cultural humility to enhance cultural and historical literacy and deepen understanding of community needs and priorities.

- 2.4.4 Foster a culture of collaboration, inclusion, and respect by empowering staff and creating opportunities for growth and professional development.



OBJECTIVE 2.5:

Enhance public outreach, understanding, and awareness.

Targets:

- 2.5.1** In 2030, publish an updated State of the Coast and Ocean Report on the health of California's coast and ocean.
-
- 2.5.2** By 2026, develop and implement a communication strategy that centers OPC's strategic plan, state priorities, accessibility, and cultural relevance across all outreach and communications efforts.
-
- 2.5.3** Create and strengthen partnerships with communities, NGOs, tribes, and other agencies to co-create and disseminate outreach and educational materials.
-
- 2.5.4** Starting in 2026, track and evaluate public reach across all communication platforms to increase public engagement by 20 percent each year.



GOAL 3: SAFEGUARD COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY



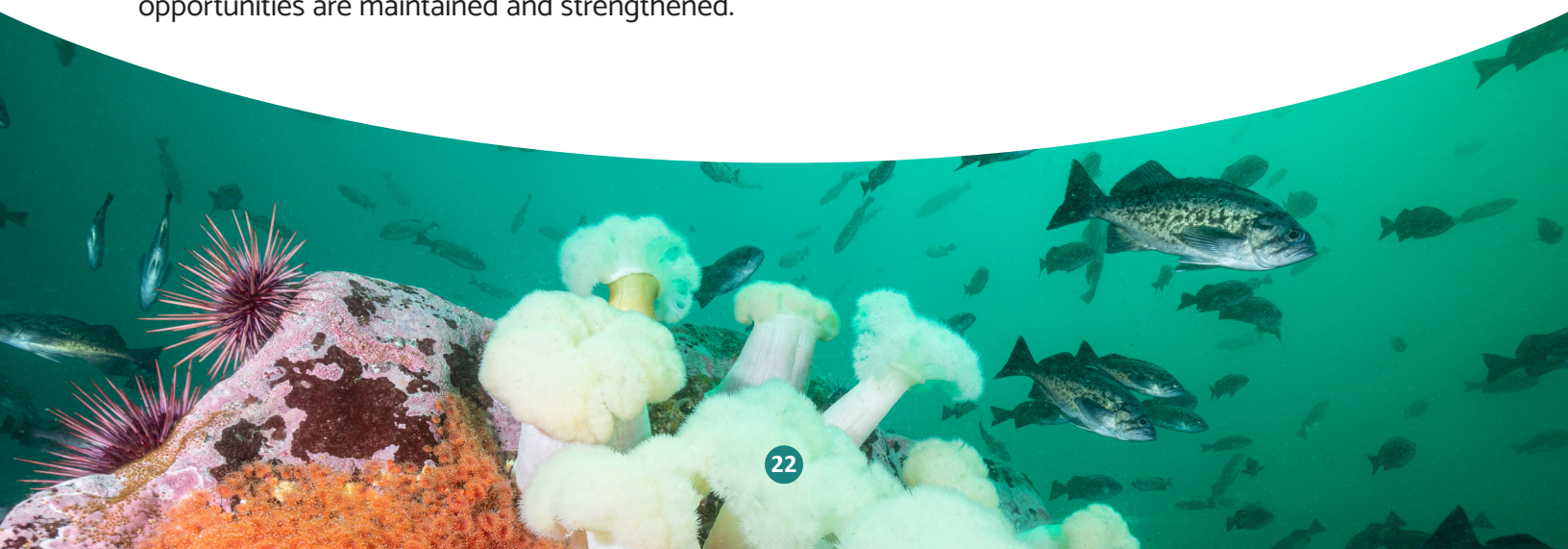
California's coast and ocean are home to a diversity of life found nowhere else on Earth. Our iconic marine ecosystems – including sandy beaches, rocky shores, estuaries, kelp forests, and deep underwater canyons – teem with life, offer unparalleled opportunities for recreation, and help drive a multi-billion-dollar ocean economy. But these ecosystems have also been battered by climate change and other human-caused impacts. For example, more than 95% of Northern California's kelp forests disappeared over the last decade as a result of warming waters and other climate-related threats.

Protecting our state's world-renowned coastal and marine ecosystems, and the communities that rely on them, is a core part of OPC's mission. This goal will be achieved by a range of ambitious efforts, including conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030, and strengthening California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network, protecting vulnerable ecosystems while ensuring that equitable access and recreational opportunities are maintained and strengthened.

Restoring threatened habitats, such as kelp forests, will help to bring back lost fishing opportunities and support resilience in the face of climate change.

Improving coastal water quality will safeguard California's marine life and habitats and protect public health. Addressing land-based pollution, including bacteria, microplastics, and stormwater that drains from California's communities to the sea, will ensure coastal ecosystems thrive, our waters are safe to swim, and that seafood is safe to eat. OPC is committed to focused conservation and restoration work at the land-sea interface.

Achieving these ambitious targets will require strong partnerships with other state and federal agencies, meaningful engagement with California Native American tribes and local communities, and robust scientific research and monitoring. OPC will also continue to strengthen international collaborations to advance biodiversity conservation around the world.



OBJECTIVE 3.1:

Conserve 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030.

Targets:

- 3.1.1** By 2027, achieve at least 25% of state coastal waters conserved (850,000 acres total), and 30% of coastal waters conserved (1,050,000 acres total) by 2030.
-
- 3.1.2** By 2030, partner with the federal Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to implement at least one state policy, management, or funding action that strengthens biodiversity protections in one or more National Marine Sanctuaries (e.g. improving water quality, supporting habitat restoration).
-
- 3.1.3** By 2027, fund at least three projects that address threats to biodiversity in estuaries.



OBJECTIVE 3.2:

Strengthen the performance and durability of California's Marine Protected Area Network.

Targets:

- 3.2.1** By 2027, develop science-based recommendations to support ongoing adaptive management of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network; through 2030, strengthen the role of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team to maximize effective and coordinated MPA management.
-
- 3.2.2** By 2027, establish clear MPA performance targets, develop an updated MPA Monitoring Action Plan to evaluate progress toward those targets, and fund long-term monitoring priorities identified in the Action Plan in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
-
- 3.2.3** By 2027, in partnership with California Native American tribes, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Fish and Game Commission, develop pathways for collaborative management of MPAs between the state and tribes.
-
- 3.2.4** By 2028, work with the State Water Resources Control Board to strengthen water quality protection across the MPA Network, including the establishment of State Water Quality Protected Areas; by 2030, ensure at least five MPAs currently without water quality protection have safeguards equivalent to Areas of Special Biological Significance.

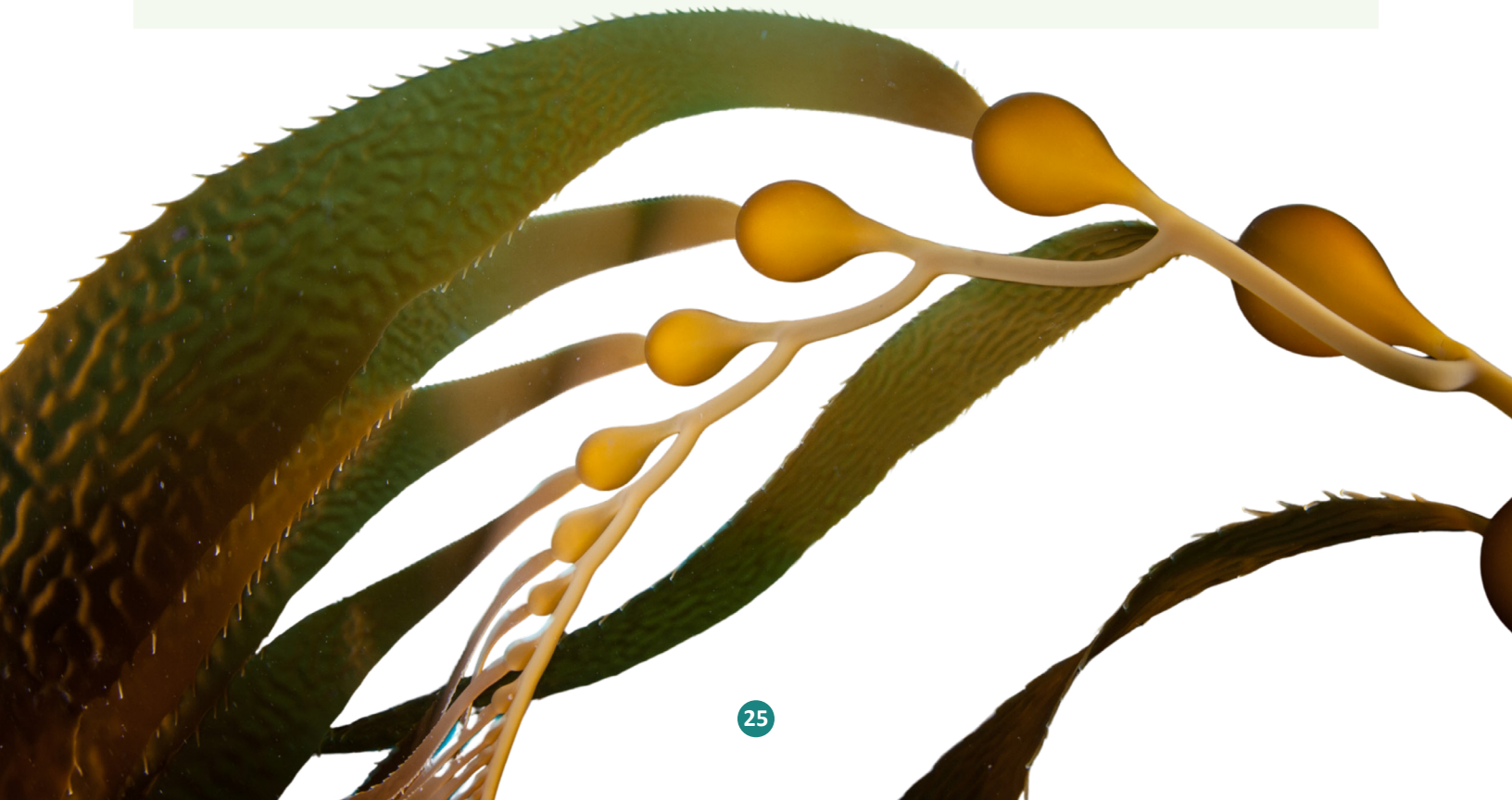


OBJECTIVE 3.3:

Restore vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

Targets:

- 3.3.1** By 2027, develop statewide science and policy guidance to accelerate climate-resilient coastal and marine restoration.
-
- 3.3.2** By 2027, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, complete the statewide Kelp Restoration and Management Plan and restore at least 2,000 acres of kelp forest by 2030.
-
- 3.3.3** Restore at least 7,000 acres of coastal wetlands, 100 acres of native oyster beds, and 200 acres of eelgrass meadows by 2030.
-
- 3.3.4** By 2030, fund at least three projects that address threats to rocky intertidal ecosystems, such as sea level rise, extreme heat, and wildfire impacts.
-
- 3.3.5** By 2030, fund at least three land acquisition projects that increase opportunities for coastal habitat restoration and upland migration in the face of sea level rise.



OBJECTIVE 3.4:

Protect and improve coastal and marine water quality.

Targets:

- 3.4.1** Advance coordinated investments across state programs to improve downstream coastal water quality from stormwater and other sources of land-based pollution.
-
- 3.4.2** Fund at least five multi-benefit projects that improve water quality for marine ecosystem health and seafood safety by 2030.
-
- 3.4.3** By 2028, identify actions to address sources of bacteria pollution and improve water quality of polluted beaches across the state; improve water quality for at least three priority beaches that pose an ongoing threat to public health by 2030.
-
- 3.4.4** By 2027, develop a statewide wildfire response and water quality monitoring plan for coastal watersheds through the California Water Quality Monitoring Council.
-
- 3.4.5** Advance coordinated state investments to effectively reduce plastic and microplastic pollution consistent with the existing *Statewide Microplastics Strategy* and *California Ocean Litter Strategy*, including projects to monitor and prevent pollution, through the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund established under SB 54 (Allen, 2022).



OBJECTIVE 3.5:

Strengthen international partnerships to advance biodiversity conservation across the globe.

Targets:

- 3.5.1** Continue leadership of the High Ambition Coalition Subnational Government Task Force, establishing the Task Force as a global community of practice that supports effective implementation of 30x30.

- 3.5.2** Deepen engagement with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to advance implementation of global biodiversity targets, including 30x30 and the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty, once finalized, to end plastic pollution.

- 3.5.3** Continue leadership of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) to increase scientific understanding for reducing the causes and impacts of ocean acidification.

- 3.5.4** Through 2030 and building on the inclusion of California's MPA Network on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, officially join IUCN as a subnational government member and share knowledge that supports effective MPA management and biodiversity conservation worldwide.



GOAL 4: ENABLE A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY THAT PROTECTS OCEAN HEALTH



OPC is committed to supporting a thriving ocean economy, a multi-billion-dollar sector that drives prosperity across the state and is dependent on healthy marine ecosystems. Recent disruptions to the commercial fishing industry, including continued impacts to the commercial Dungeness Crab fishery and the full closure of commercial and recreational salmon fisheries for the past two years, underscore the urgent need for policy action that protects livelihoods and cultural lifeways.

OPC will advance this goal by making investments that build sustainable, climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture, supporting the state's ambitious targets for offshore wind development while minimizing impacts on tribes, fishing communities, and marine ecosystems, and taking steps to mitigate impacts of industrial uses of the ocean. By building community resilience and investing in technological innovation, OPC will ensure that California's blue economy can continue to thrive without compromising ecosystem health.



OBJECTIVE 4.1:

Support thriving fishing communities, climate-resilient fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture.

Targets:

- 4.1.1** By 2030, partner with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to design and implement a modernized data system for all California fisheries that includes electronic reporting for relevant commercial and recreational fisheries.
-
- 4.1.2** By 2030, support adaptive management of priority climate-vulnerable species by completing at least three Fishery Management Plans, improving existing Enhanced Status Reports, and funding at least three projects that develop innovative scientific tools.
-
- 4.1.3** By 2030, fund at least three projects that reduce entanglement of marine life in active or lost fishing gear through research, partnerships with fishing communities, and development of new technologies.
-
- 4.1.4** Support implementation of the *California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future*, with a focus on restoring salmon habitat at the land-sea interface and monitoring salmon populations to support recovery and fisheries management.
-
- 4.1.5** By 2030, fund at least five projects to advance climate-resilient fishing communities including promotion of California wild-caught seafood, community sustainability planning, and waterfront infrastructure.
-
- 4.1.6** By 2026, adopt a statewide Aquaculture Action Plan as a roadmap to improve governance, protect the environment and public health, and facilitate sustainable development of seaweed and shellfish aquaculture; by 2028, fund at least three projects to support Plan implementation.



OBJECTIVE 4.2:

Understand and minimize impacts from offshore wind on the environment, tribes, and coastal communities.

Targets:

- 4.2.1** By 2026, complete a roadmap for monitoring the environmental impacts of offshore wind consistent with the Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan; fund at least five priority baseline monitoring projects by 2027.
-
- 4.2.2** By 2026, establish a West Coast Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind that provides independent scientific expertise to inform coordinated research, monitoring, data analysis, and investment priorities.
-
- 4.2.3** By 2029, through the West Coast Science Collaborative, develop a coordinated environmental research and monitoring program that includes Traditional Knowledges, standards for data collection and management, and clearly communicates scientific findings to the public.
-
- 4.2.4** Lead coordinated state agency efforts to consult with California Native American tribes and engage with coastal communities, including fishermen and underserved port communities, to identify tribal and community priorities related to offshore wind; fund at least four projects by 2027 to advance key priorities.

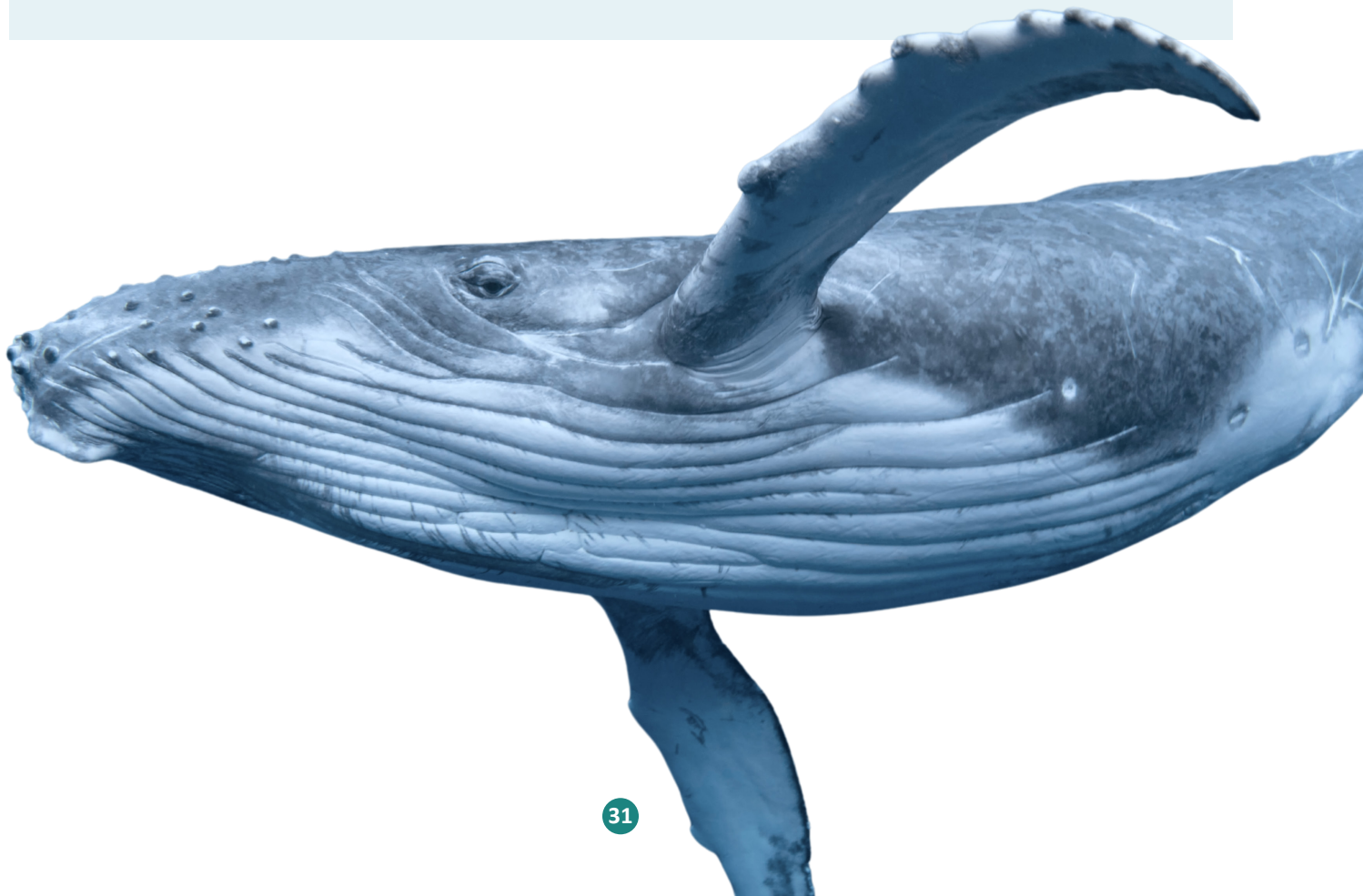


OBJECTIVE 4.3:

Reduce impacts from other industrial uses of the ocean.

Targets:

- 4.3.1** By 2028, fund at least three projects that evaluate the environmental risks and benefits of full or partial removal of offshore oil platforms.
-
- 4.3.2** Through 2030, support implementation of priority actions to reduce whale vulnerability to ship strikes, including expansion of the existing Blue Whales Blue Skies vessel speed reduction program.
-
- 4.3.3** Support data collection to inform emerging coastal and ocean uses, such as seawater desalination siting and mitigation to avoid and minimize impacts to marine life, consistent with *California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future*.
-
- 4.3.4** By 2026, complete a scientific summary outlining potential risks of deep-sea mining to state waters.





MOVING FORWARD

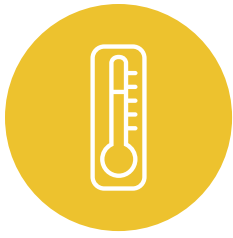
Grounded in science and guided by the voices of diverse partners, this Strategic Plan serves as OPC's blueprint for meaningful action through the end of the decade. It reflects our deep commitment to safeguarding coastal and ocean ecosystems now and into the future, with a focus on conserving biodiversity, building resilience to climate change, protecting public access, and strengthening partnerships with tribes and coastal communities. It also reflects our commitment to ensuring that our work is maximizing benefits for all in California.

Successful implementation of this Plan will rely on continued collaboration and the perspectives and expertise of tribal leaders, researchers, fishermen, community members, conservationists, and agency partners. Together, we can address the challenges ahead and advance our collective vision – a healthy and resilient California coast and ocean for all.

An underwater photograph of a diver's head in profile, wearing a black hood and a snorkel. The diver is breathing through the snorkel, with bubbles rising. The background is a clear, greenish-blue water. The top of the image is partially obscured by a yellow, textured surface, possibly a boat's hull.

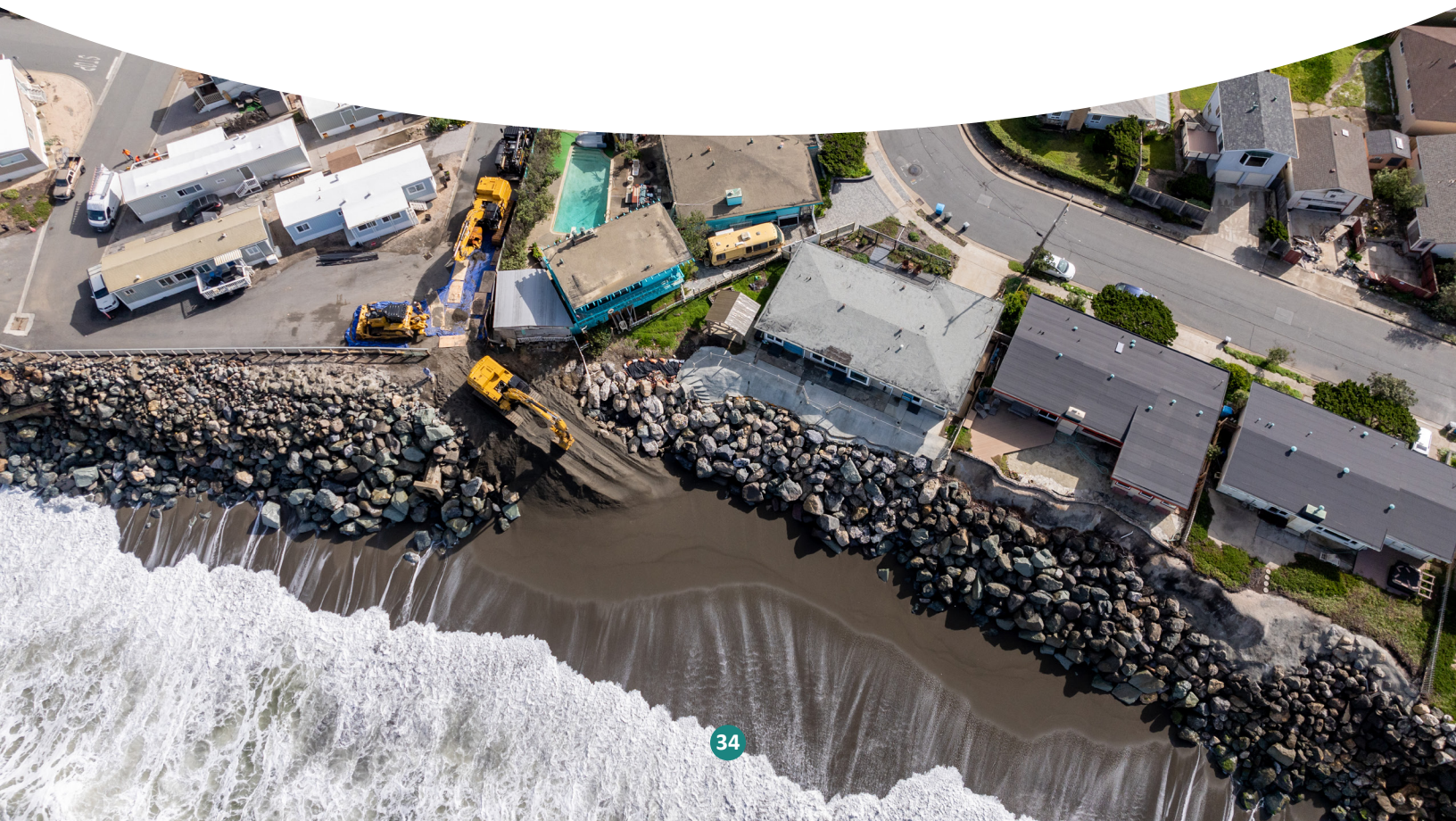
APPENDIX A

Key Accomplishments from 2020–2025 Strategic Plan



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

- Updated the **State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance** with updated sea level rise scenarios through 2150 to support community adaptation efforts.
- Invested statewide in sea level rise adaptation planning and resilience projects, including **wetland** and **dune restoration**.
- Launched the **Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program** and **Technical Assistance Program**, awarding \$30 million to 29 projects supporting local, tribal, and regional governments.
- Released and updated the **State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan for California**, aligning state efforts and supporting local adaptation planning and projects.
- Funded research to help identify **contaminated sites** threatened by sea level rise and communities most at risk.
- Adopted a Resolution and improved understanding of the **causes and ecosystem effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia**, through investments in modeling and coordinated biological and chemical monitoring.





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

- Adopted OPC's first-ever **Equity Plan** and **Tribal Engagement Strategy** to enhance engagement with underserved communities and California Native American tribes.
- Launched the inaugural **Environmental Justice Advisory Board** for California's Coast and Ocean.
- Established the **Ocean Corps Pilot Program** to support the next generation of ocean and coastal stewards through workforce development.
- Launched a pilot Environment Justice Small Grants Program, supporting **24 local projects** statewide, and funded a second round of tribal and environmental justice small grants through the 2025-26 WHALE TAIL® Competitive Grants Program.
- Funded the return of 46 acres of ancestral land in Humboldt County to the **Wiyot Tribe**, preserving an area of cultural and environmental importance.
- Supported the launch and expansion of the **Tribal Marine Stewards Network**, an alliance of six coastal tribes working collaboratively to monitor and manage coastal waters within their ancestral territories.
- Through California's **Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program**, awarded funding to restore culturally important habitats and species, improve tribal access to the coast and ocean, and advance tribally-led stewardship.



Goal 3: Enhance Coastal and Marine Biodiversity

- Developed an ambitious, world-leading approach to **conserve 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030**.
- Supported long-term monitoring of coastal and ocean ecosystems across the state, providing vital data to inform the first decadal management review of California's **Marine Protected Area Network**.
- Adopted the nation's first **Statewide Microplastics Strategy**, which recommends actions and research priorities to reduce microplastic pollution in the ocean.
- Partnered with scientists, divers, and commercial fishermen **to address catastrophic kelp loss** through research and restoration.
- Invested in data collection, gear innovation, and entanglement response to **protect wildlife** from being **entangled in fishing gear** and support **sustainable fisheries**.
- Joined California delegations to major international conferences, including United Nations biodiversity summits, to champion biodiversity and climate action and build **international partnerships**.





Goal 4: Support Ocean Health Through a Sustainable Blue Economy

- Invested in the **California Fisheries Fund**, a loan program that provides support to fishermen, fishing businesses, and ports, with almost \$6 million in loans awarded to date.
- Advanced modernization of data collection, including electronic reporting, of priority fisheries to support **climate-ready fisheries** management.
- Collaborated with 10 state agencies to develop **Guiding Principles for Sustainable Marine Aquaculture**, outlining priorities to protect the environment while promoting commercial marine aquaculture in California.
- Developed key tools to **inform responsible offshore wind development** in California, including habitat maps, scientific models, and cultural resource inventories.
- Launched the development of **environmental monitoring guidance** to understand the potential impacts of offshore wind development on wildlife and habitats.

END NOTE

1 Disadvantaged, Marginalized, Underserved: SB 1000 (Leyva) (Ch. 587, Stats. 2016) added Government Code Section 65302(h)(4)(A), expanding the definition of “disadvantaged communities” for the purpose of general plans to mean “an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.”

OPC’s Equity Plan uses the terms “disadvantaged”, “marginalized” and “underserved” interchangeably; it intends to encompass not only the definitions contemplated by SB 1000, but also to include other low-income and minority populations that are disproportionately burdened by or less able to prevent, respond, and recover from adverse environmental impacts.





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California Ocean Protection Council

715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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