

Save the Date!  
06/09/2026



Place: Crescent City  
Harbor District  
101 Citizens Dock Rd  
Time: 5:30pm



Register  
Here

# California Ocean Access & Management

*Acceso y Gestión del Océano en California*



## The Project

We aim to learn more about how Californians access, use, relate to, and value the ocean with a focus on understanding undeserved and Tribal communities.



We are exploring the ability of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to increase or decrease ocean benefits for people across California.

[www.californiaoceanaccessandmpas.com](http://www.californiaoceanaccessandmpas.com)

## Who We Are?

We are a team of researchers and scientists based at the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, CSU San Marcos, and Native Coast Action Network. We work closely with several universities and community partners.

## Project Stages and Where we are!



## Focus Group Objective:

We have two objectives: (1) Bring the community together to understand the *how* and *why* behind the survey results. (2) Work with you to co-design solutions to improve coastal management based on what we learn from the survey and our discussions. We will share our solutions with California OPC and NOAA. Your input will help shape future policies and make the ocean more accessible for everyone!



## What is Ocean Access?

- The ocean provides many benefits such as food, jobs, and natural beauty. Surfing, fishing, and outdoor education all require tools to fully participate in these ocean related activities. However, people may find it difficult to get to the ocean or get the equipment they need for the activities they want to do. These are examples of barriers to access.
- Access barriers can be part of larger systems of injustice. Without recognizing these barriers, we risk reproducing them and reinforcing these systems.

## What is Climate Change?

- Scientists have documented biological, chemical, and physical changes that include sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, warming seas, changing ocean currents, and shifting distributions of marine life. Such impacts currently, and will continue to, threaten California's ocean and human communities for decades to come.



## CA Marine Protected Areas & Sanctuaries

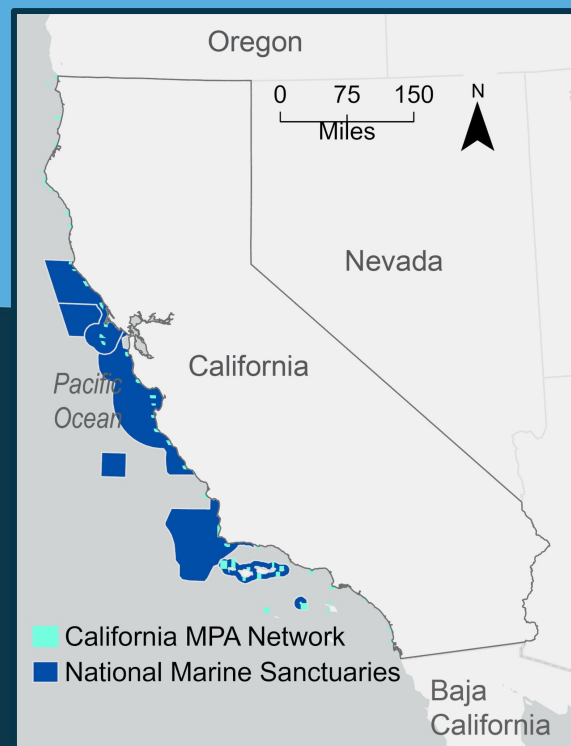
MPAs and National Marine Sanctuaries are ocean spaces that are managed to protect and sustain marine seascapes, species, cultures, and/or habitats.

There are **124 state MPAs**, **5 National Marine Sanctuaries**, and one **Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area** in California that are managed for the long-term conservation of marine resources, ecosystem services and/or cultural heritage.



## Who is OPC?

The California Ocean Protection Council is a state agency that works jointly with state and federal agencies, NGOs, tribes and the public to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems.



# Different Types of Marine Protected Areas in California

Management Level	Area Name	Goal	Restrictions	Category
National	National Marine Sanctuaries	Protect special places, biodiversity and cultural heritage	Moving, removing or injuring, or attempting to move, remove or injure, a sanctuary historical resource. Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the seabed of the sanctuary. Taking any marine mammal, sea turtle, or seabird.	Multiple-use
State	Marine Reserves	Keep area as free from human impact as possible	Restrict all commercial and recreational activities.	No-take
State	Marine Conservation Areas	Areas designed to meet specific conservation goal	Specific activities restricted to meet specific goals.	Multiple-use
State	State Marine Parks	Allow opportunities for education, research, and recreation	Prevent commercial extractive activities.	Multiple-use
Tribal	Indigenous Stewardship Areas	To support cultural lifeways and economies, to enhance biodiversity, and to provide conservation measures designed to protect and restore traditional ecological knowledge and management practices	Varies by area.	Multiple-use

