

North Coast Specialist, Jamie Blatter,  
at 2024 Mendocino Kelp Fest.  
Credit: Pat Webster.

# OUR STORY SO FAR



# 2024

## OUR MISSION & VISION

The mission of the MPA Collaborative Network is to empower diverse communities to engage in marine protected area stewardship for a healthy ocean. The vision of the MPA Collaborative Network is to ensure the health and sustainability of our natural and social environments through civic engagement in local marine management and stewardship.

## OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the MPA Collaborative Network is to ensure and support a cooperative and just structure that encourages participation in decision-making processes, grounded in the values of respect for differences and the interconnection between humans and nature.



# 5

MPA CN  
EMPLOYEES

# 14

MPA  
COLLABORATIVES

# 37

COLLABORATIVE  
CO-CHAIRS

# 1,700+

COLLABORATIVE  
MEMBERS



*Just some of the Co-Chairs at the 2024 MPA Collaborative Network Co-Chair Retreat in San Diego, CA!*

**2** NEW MPACN STAFF MEMBERS

**4** NEW MPA CO-CHAIRS

**27** MPA COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS HOSTED

# OUR 2024 IMPACT



Left: Orange County MPA Council at Run4Sharks event. Right: San Luis Obispo MPA Enforcement Training in Morro Bay.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH



### Increasing education & outreach for/in MPAs.

- 1 Bilingual MPA Film Day by the Golden Gate MPA Collaborative, with Spanish subtitles.
- 1 Tribal led and focused coloring book about Indigenous connections to MPAs.
  - 30,000+ Ancestral Waters Coloring Books printed and distributed to over 130 organizations, 65 of which are tribes, tribal orgs, or tribal schools.
- Distribution of bilingual MPA Coloring books statewide.
- Staff mapped 84+ site-based education & outreach programs statewide with MPA messaging.
- 220 *MPA Interpreter Guides* printed and distributed.
- Youth Fishing Trips in Los Angeles County for historically marginalized communities.

## POLICY & PERMITTING

### Collaborative Input on Adaptive Management

- Hosted 18 MPA Petitioners at MPA Collaborative Meetings.
- Facilitated 13 special MPA Collaborative Meetings to meet MPA Petitioners.
- Gathered 30x30 public comments for Ocean Protection Council at MPA Collaborative Meetings.
- Provided 10 public comments at state meetings for Fish & Game Commission, Marine Resources Committee, and Ocean Protection Council.
- Contributed to Marine Protected Areas Statewide Leadership Team (MSLT) meetings.

## COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

### Supporting MPA compliance & enforcement.

- 4 MPA trainings to 98 enforcement partners in the Central Coast, including officers, District Attorneys, and Tribes.
- 140 *MPA Officer Reference Guides* distributed.
- 99% of enforcement survey responses find utility in the *MPA Officer Reference Guides* & surveyed boundary images.
- Presentation at 2 District Attorney Task Force meetings.
- Online MPA Violator Training created.
- Outreach to more than 15 allied agencies statewide to collect MPA enforcement statistics, and to map MPA patrol presence.

## RESEARCH & MONITORING



### Supporting research & monitoring for/in MPAs.

- 2 mini-ROV trainings: Orange County & Humboldt
- Facilitated 1 Tidepool Working Group meeting & capacity building across 5 MPA Collaboratives.
- Hosted first Marine Mammal Webinar on mammal rehabilitation
- Active participation in:
  - Kelp Restoration & Management Plan (KRMP) Community Working Group (CWG)
  - Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership
  - Orange County MPA Council's Research & Monitoring Committee
  - MPA Watch

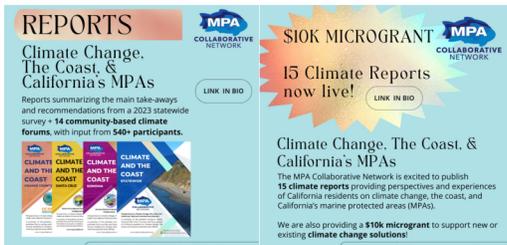


Tidepool educator training at Swami's SMCA in Encinitas.

## CLIMATE INITIATIVE

### Climate Change, the Coast, & MPAs

- Analyzed 500+ climate surveys (collected 2023).
- 14 reports reflecting all 14 MPA Collaboratives' and members' perspectives.
- 1 Statewide MPA Climate Change report.
- Hosted inaugural Climate & MPAs Microgrant.
- Selected awardees and funded 3 proposals.
  - 2 Rapid Vulnerability Assessments: Pillar Point SMCA and Montara SMR, respectively.
  - Quantify the carbon storage capability of restored eelgrass (*Zostera* spp.) at Elkhorn Slough.
  - Educational video about Climate and MPAs.



### Meet the Pathways Community Coordinators!



## PATHWAYS INITIATIVE



### Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Access

- Expanded the Pathways Community Groups from 1 to 3 in total: Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), Black, and Latine!
- For Lunar New Year, the AAPI Pathways Group created an educational Zodiac Calendar & activity page with ocean critters.
- AAPI Pathways hosted their first Webinar: Below the Surface, with 4 expert panelists to discuss AAPI connections to our ocean.
- Published 4 blogs for AAPI Heritage Month.
- Established the inaugural AAPI MPA Pathways Scholarship; received 10 scholarship applications!
- The Black Pathways Group hosted a film viewing of *Wade in the Water: A Journey into Black Surfing and Aquatic Culture*.
- The Latine Community Group began a group reading of *California Against the Sea*.
- MPA Central Coast Specialist, Krystle Ramos, provided a "MPA 101" presentation at 2 Pathways meetings.

## EXPLORE BEYOND THE SHORE

### Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX) + Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV)

- The MPA Collaborative Network has 27 video-recording ROVs that allow for enhanced public access to, and documentation of, coastal wildlife and plants; ROVs are available to MPA Collaborative Members.
- This project may help improve understanding of kelp forest ecosystem health and sea star wasting disease; and intends to be a scalable model.
- Project leads hope to create an easy-to-use workflow for volunteer naturalists to upload their ROV footage to a web platform, where still-images of organisms can be identified and extracted by an object-detection algorithm, then subsequently uploaded to a community science social network such as iNaturalist.
- This project may also support future community science programs for MPA Collaboratives and Pathways Groups, as well as fund MPA academic and professional development opportunities to historically marginalized communities.

## MPA SIGNAGE PROJECT



### Supporting education, outreach, compliance, enforcement, and partnerships.

- MPA Collaborative Network and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation—in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Region and the Ocean Protection Council—have assessed statewide MPA signage needs and evaluated existing signage effectiveness; developed a mobile app for tracking and updating access points and signage; and designed, permitted, and created mixed template signs (see Figure A).
- The MPA CN is also working with Tribes to include, print, and support traditional place names, tribal village sites, and land acknowledgments on the new MPA mixed template signs.
- Honoraria has been/will be offered to all tribal partners.
- 2025: signs will be printed & installed at select locations statewide with landowners; replacement signs will also be issued.

Bilingual MPA Film Day by Golden Gate MPA Collaborative.



## COMMUNICATIONS

### Amplifying MPA news, updates, funding opportunities, and resources across various platforms.

- Marine Mammal Webinar was our top performing post on Instagram in 2024.
- 242.3% increase in Instagram reach; 100% increase in interactions.
- 18 new YouTube Subscribers; 1,500 views; 41 shares; 7 new video uploads.
- 683.9% increase in Facebook reach.
- 170.9% increase in new users to our website.
- 181.5% increase in visits to the MPA Collaborative Project Library/Resources page.
- Produced Spanish film subtitles for a MPA short film screened at Día de Cine (above image).

### MARINE PROTECTED AREA

**Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area**

Home to the settlement Locuyusta in the region of Calendaruc (meaning 'ocean homeplace'). The territory was shared by the Rumsen and Mutsun speaking peoples.

Elkhorn Slough and Salinas River State Beach is located within the traditional territory of the Huenuen and Guacharon First Peoples. Today the Amah Mutsun continue to carry out their obligation given to them by Creator to care for their traditional lands, water, and forests with neighboring tribes. Amah Mutsun Land Trust (amahmutsunlandtrust.org) is the vehicle by which the Tribe carries out work on their traditional territory. It is the goal of AMLT to restore traditional land stewardship practices to better conserve this land that we all share.

**FISHING RESTRICTIONS APPLY**

**NO COLLECTING**

**Regulations**

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource. EXCEPT: Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line only, and clams from the slough's north shore near the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area, is allowed.

**Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve** It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

**Definitions**

**Take** (FGC86, CCR T14 180) "Take" means hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, capture, or kill.

**Finfish** [CCR T14 632(a)(2)] "Finfish" as defined for purposes of MPA regulations, are any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae.

**MPA information**

For detailed information on regulations, boundaries, coordinates, and definitions, visit [wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs).

**Reporting violations**

1-888-334-CaTIP (2258)

Figure A: Draft of the MPA Mixed Template Sign with Tribal acknowledgement.



# Help support our mission

We are grateful for your ongoing support and collaboration!

Please **donate today** to help connect more people with California's marine protected areas (MPAs) and strengthen our impact.

Your donation will foster connections at our MPA Collaborative Meetings and support our initiatives such as climate, Pathways affinity groups, scholarships, and underwater exploration.

## **What your donation helps support:**



Scan the QR Code with a mobile camera to donate.

*Clockwise: Tidepool educators in San Mateo; Point Dume State Marine Reserve (SMR); Family bonding in Lovers Point-Julia Platt SMR, photo credit: krystle ramos.*

  
thank  
you!