

MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT

California Fish and Game Code Section 2853

The legislature declared that there was a need to **reexamine and redesign California's system of marine protected areas** (MPAs) to increase its coherence and its effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems.

To improve the design and management of California's MPA system, the California Fish and Game Commission is required to adopt a **Marine Life Protection Program**, with the following goals:

- (1) To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
- (2) To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
- (3) To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.
- (4) To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
- (5) To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
- (6) To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.