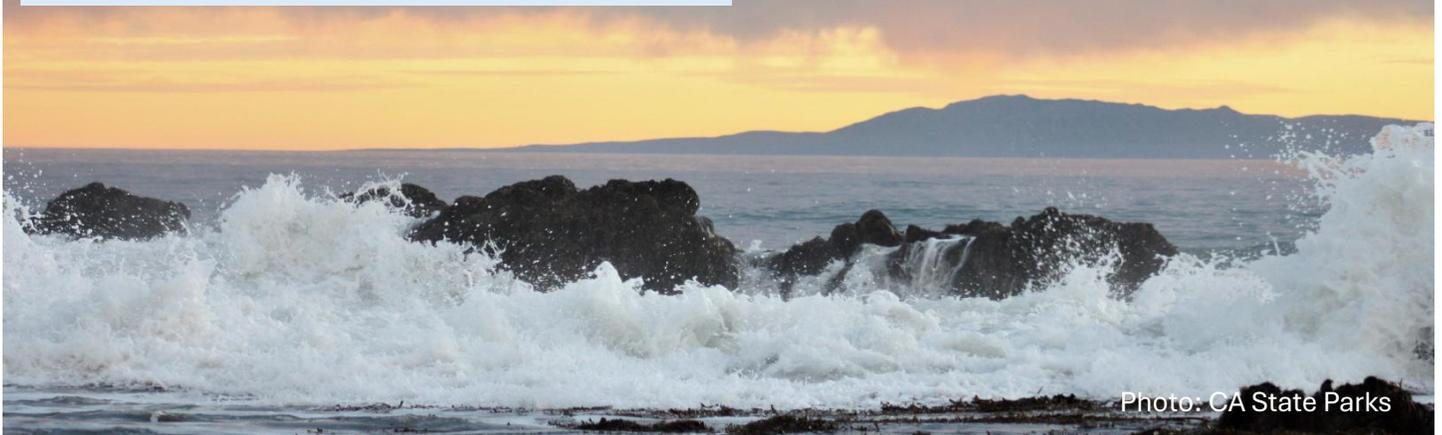


## Proposed Mishopshno State Marine Conservation Area



The coastal waters off Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County are home to incredible biodiversity. A 1.6-mile-long rocky reef supports one of the region's persistent kelp forests and abundant marine life. The Indigenous Chumash people were the area's first inhabitants and maintain deep cultural connections to the area today. The nearby coastal village, Mishopshno, for which this proposal is named, was a boat building site and thriving community where the Chumash people built tomols. Petition 2023-29MPA proposes a new State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to fill a large gap in California's marine protected area (MPA) network and

advance Tribal co-management. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI), Environmental Defense Center (EDC), and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are co-sponsors of the Mishopshno SMCA.

### The proposed Mishopshno SMCA would:

- Support Tribal co-management and continued use of marine resources for cultural and subsistence purposes for the SYBCI and Coastal Band and Barbareño Bands of Chumash Indians.
- Protect kelp forest, rocky reef, sandy bottom, and sandy beach habitat essential to kelp bass, rockfish, leopard sharks, octopus, spiny lobster, gulls, herons, egrets, harbor seals, whales, dolphins, and more.
- Conserve an important aggregation area for juvenile great white sharks, protecting this iconic and vulnerable species from fishing threats during early stages of life.
- Fill a 60-mile spacing gap between Campus Point and Point Dume MPAs to promote network connectivity.
- Increase the representation of rocky intertidal and rocky reef habitat in the southern region of California's MPA network.
- Improve the current MPA network's resilience in the face of climate change and increasing threats to ocean and coastal ecosystems.

### Key Facts:

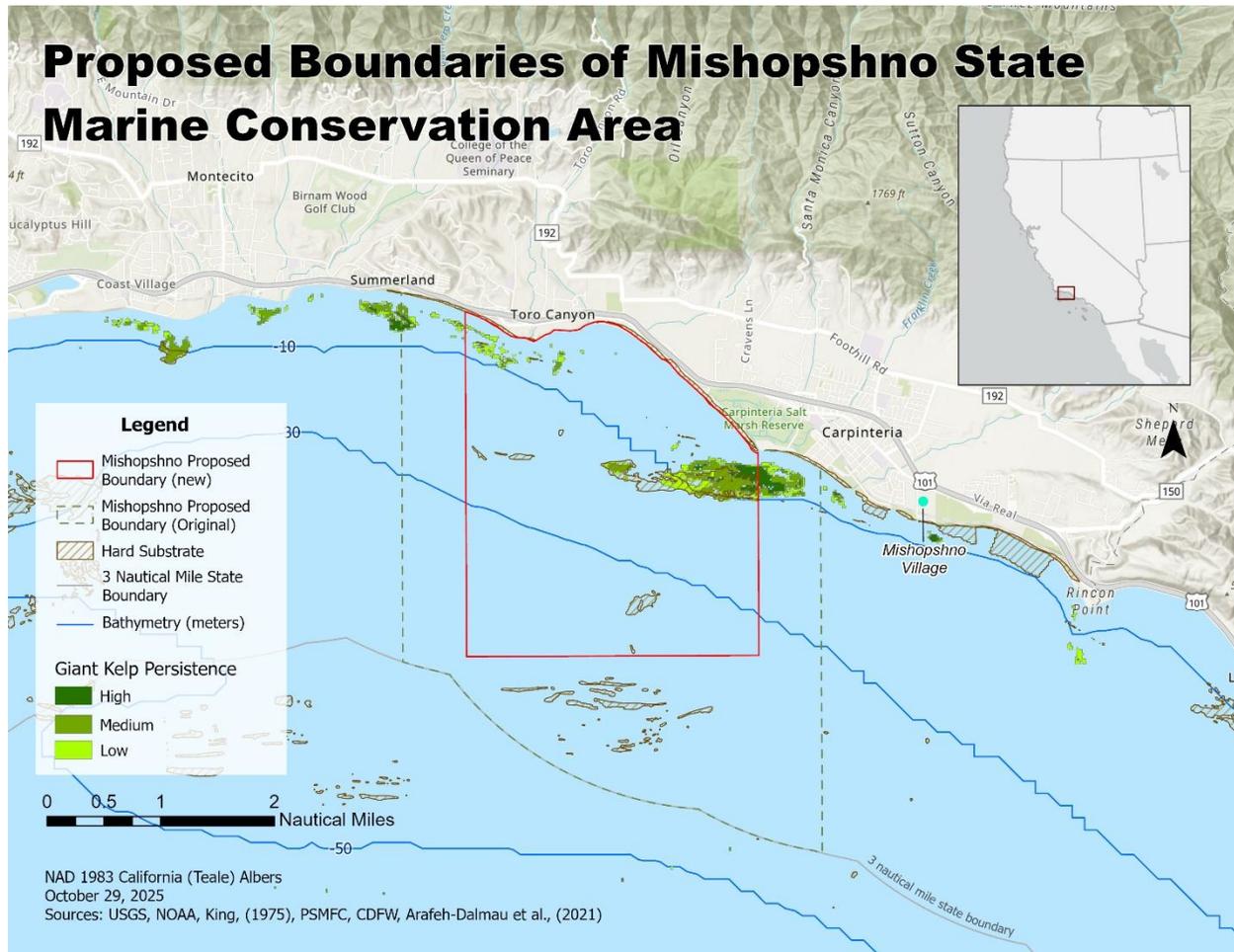
Western boundary: Directly South of Caspia Lane

Eastern boundary: Santa Monica Creek at Salt Point

Total area: 9.05 square miles

Shore-adjacent distance: 3.6 miles

Proposed regulations: Non-extractive activities allowed (e.g., swimming, snorkeling, boating, surfing). No take, harm, or possession of living, cultural, or geologic resources allowed, with the exception of Tribal take by the SYBCI for cultural or subsistence purposes, and recreational fishing using hook and line from shore.



**Conserving biodiverse marine areas along California's coast promotes the health and well-being of marine life and our communities.** California completed the first ten-year review of its MPA network in 2022. The ten-year review showed that MPAs are enhancing biodiversity, helping fish populations thrive, and even increasing California's coastal ecosystem resilience to warming

ocean temperatures.<sup>1</sup> The state is now in the process of adaptively managing the MPA network, evaluating potential changes that would improve the network's functioning in the face of changing ocean conditions.<sup>2</sup>

Threats to our ocean are increasing, from marine industrialization to major biodiversity loss. This petition process is an opportunity for all Californians, including those from inland communities, to call for stronger ocean protections and a resilient MPA network for all Californians to enjoy.

**To support this petition, please contact:** [saylesworth@nrdc.org](mailto:saylesworth@nrdc.org) and [isullivan@nrdc.org](mailto:isullivan@nrdc.org)

To learn more about the petition and CDFW's evaluation process, visit:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/27e78c677dca484ebfb37120abc59d10?item=2>



**Sign the public petition to show your support!**



**SCAN ME**

<sup>1</sup> California Decadal Management Review 2022

<sup>2</sup> MLPA Master Plan 2016