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### **Protecting our Coasts and Oceans**

Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order seeks to advance land and coastal water marine conservation to protect California's biodiversity and build climate resilience. About half a million acres of California's oceans are "protected" (approximately 16%) through its network of 124 [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#), which the State manages. While the State's MPA network is world-renowned for the conservation measures it advances for certain marine waters zero to three miles off California's coast, the creation of no take and partial take areas was controversial in the recreational and commercial fishing communities, as well as with some Tribes.

The MPA network is currently undergoing a decadal review, which will be complete in 2022. The results of the decadal review may be used to develop recommendations on better management of the MPA network. However, Prior to the completion of the decadal review, MPA network expansion will not be a component of meeting the state's 30 x 30 marine conservation goals.

The Governor's EO's commitment to reaching 30% of coastal marine conservation is based on advancing measures beyond the MPAs (such as enhancing biodiversity safeguards in National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuary Programs, and Areas of Special Biological Significance) and through the collaborative stakeholder process. The final strategy for achieving protection of 30% protection of state coastal waters can be developed as part of the state biodiversity plan and modified as needed after completion of the decadal review of the MPA network.