

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLAN: DRAFT OUTLINE

Mission

To improve the protection, management, and restoration of California's ocean and coastal ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of current and future generations.

The mission will be achieved by reaching the goals, objectives, and strategies identified for five issue categories, headlined in blue in this summary.

The goals will be realized by using the following essential tools:

- Ecosystem-based management
- Governance (structural/organizational or policy changes)
- Research
- Education
- Technologies (e.g., marine substrate and habitat mapping; ocean observing)

Living Marine Resource Management

Vision: Increase the state's ability to effectively manage marine resources to improve ecosystem integrity.

Potential Goals:

- *Implement and enforce state marine resource management programs through fisheries management, marine protected areas, and other means.*
- *Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species.*
- *Protect threatened and endangered species.*
- *Ensure that aquaculture industries are environmentally sustainable.*

Habitat Management and Restoration

Vision: Protect, enhance, and restore all marine habitats ranging from watersheds to the deep ocean.

Potential Goals:

- *Support land use policies that reduce impacts to the ocean and coast.*
- *Protect and enhance intertidal, subtidal, beach, wetland, riparian, benthic, pelagic, and deep-water habitats.*

Water Use, Water Quality, Human & Ecosystem Health

Vision: Improve coastal water use and quality for human and ecosystem health.

Potential Goals:

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- *Control and enforce point and non-point source pollution control.*
- *Develop infrastructure to control water pollution.*
- *Reduce and manage marine debris.*

Physical/Abiotic Oceanic Processes

Vision: Increase understanding of physical/abiotic processes to better manage, prevent, and respond to adverse impacts.

Potential Goals:

- *Reduce anthropogenic impacts to physical environment through processes like climate change.*
- *Manage sediments to maximize beach protection, harbor maintenance, and habitat protection.*
- *Plan for and reduce the impacts of coastal hazards including erosion, El Nino, and tsunamis.*

Economic Uses of the Ocean and Coast

Vision: Support environmentally sustainable economic uses of the ocean and coast.

Potential Goals:

- *Support environmentally sound strategies for ocean industries including fishing, aquaculture, ports, harbors, oil, gas, tourism, recreation, desalination, power plants, and other uses.*