



Assembly Bill 63: Empowering Restoration along California's Coast

SUMMARY

AB 63 will update the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA) in order to increase opportunities for vital marine life restoration projects throughout California's coastal waters.

BACKGROUND

Marine life restoration plays an essential role in the fight against the devastating effects of climate change and human impacts like oil spills and overfishing. Restoration allows for the maintenance and enhancement of our marine fisheries and habitats, increasing the health of our communities, our oceans and our planet.

For example, kelp restoration ensures that our oceans retain the critical benefits kelp offers to our environment: carbon retention, and food and habitat for more than 800 species like the endangered sea otter, rockfish, and abalone.

Such restoration efforts in marine conservation areas are critical to mitigate human impacts, combat climate change, and maintain our healthy commercial and recreational fisheries.

NEED FOR THE BILL

The Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA) establishes six classifications designating managed areas in marine and estuarine environments. The six classifications include the following: state marine reserves, state marine parks, state marine conservation areas, state marine recreational management areas and special closures. Each classification maintains its own specified, authorized activities such as education and restoration.

In state marine conservation areas, a designated authority may permit research, education, recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources.

However, under current California code, the State is unable to permit restoration in classified marine conservation areas. This gap has resulted in a barrier to important and beneficial coastal restoration initiatives.

SOLUTION

AB 63 will update the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA) to include restoration as a permitted activity in marine conservation areas. This bill will cut unnecessary green tape and enable NGOs, universities and local conservation groups to restore marine life along California's Coast.

SUPPORT

Get Inspired, Inc. (Sponsor)
American Cetacean Society, Orange County Chapter
Blue Endeavors
California Aquaculture Association
California Watershed Network
HoldFast Aquaculture, LLC
Laguna Bluebelt
Ocean Defenders Alliance
One World One Ocean Campaign
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Save Our Shores
Sierra Club California
Spark Joy Foundation
Wholly H2O

CONTACT

Shannon Swanson | Legislative Aide
Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris
Shannon.Swanson@asm.ca.gov | (916) 319-2074