

Sonoma-Mendocino Bull Kelp Recovery Program — Reversing California's Urchin-Barren Collapse

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A NOAA-, state- and fishery-funded programme removed nearly 50,000 lbs of purple sea urchins from Sonoma-Mendocino reefs, cutting densities below the 2-per-square-metre threshold needed for bull kelp to recover, backed by \$9.5m including \$4.9m in federal infrastructure funding.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Greater Farallones Association, NOAA, California Ocean Protection Council \(OPC\) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[NOAA Fisheries: Pioneering Project to Restore Bull Kelp Forests in Greater Farallones](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[California Ocean Protection Council: Urchin Removal Press Release](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

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