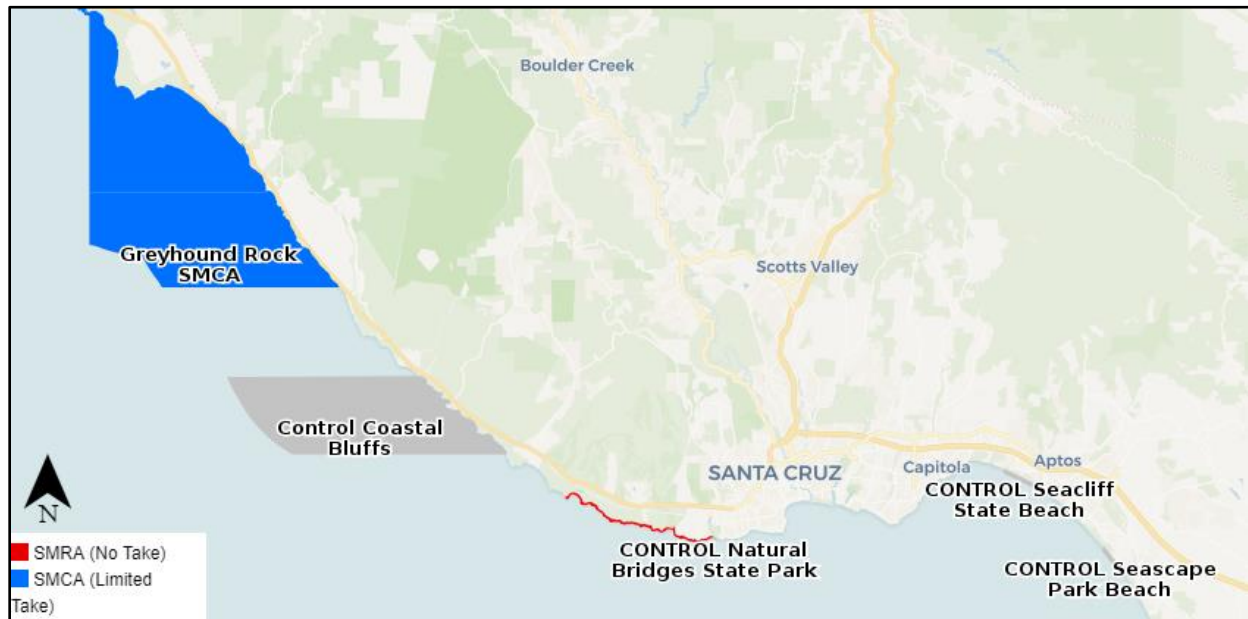




Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report Santa Cruz, CA

July 19, 2019 – December 31, 2019

*New program in 2019. Data collected beginning July 19, 2019.



MPA Watch is a statewide collaborative effort to collect critical human use data to enhance the management and conservation of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA Watch partnership launched with CA State Parks and has received Once-Through Cooling funding from the Ocean Protection Council to support the training of a new team of MPA interpreters, MPA Outreach, and Education Project Coordinator in eight state parks districts along the California coast. A team of six CA State Parks Santa Cruz district staff and docents began regularly monitoring two control sites at Natural Bridges State Park (adjacent to MPA) and Seacliff State Beach (non-MPA).

Executive Summary

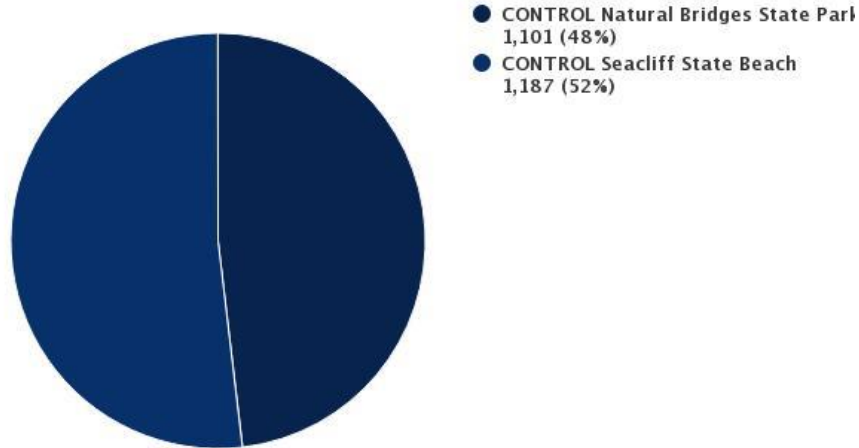
- CA State Parks joined MPA Watch in July 2019, so this report reflects only the second half of 2019. Both sites currently monitored are control sites.
- No consumptive activities were recorded in Natural Bridges State Park. Consumptive activities at Seacliff State Beach accounted for 5% of total observations.
- While no potential violations were recorded during the report period, State Park rangers have seen consumptive activity outside current MPA boundaries at Natural Bridges State Park, potentially suggesting that boundaries need to be shifted east to cover the sandy beach.
- Additional CA State Parks statewide staff trainings and volunteer recruitment planned for March and April 2020.

Human Use of MPAs July - December 2019

Overview

Top 2 MPAs by All Activity

July 19, 2019 - December 31, 2019
2,288 total activity events



All MPAs Combined

July 19, 2019 - December 31, 2019
2,288 activity events



Activity Classifications

On-Shore - Activities that take place on a sandy or rocky beach. Excludes bluffs, trails, sea walls, parking lots, or other man-made structures. Includes recreation, tidepooling, shore-based fishing, etc.

Off-Shore - Activities that take place offshore, typically in knee-deep water or deeper. Includes surfing, SCUBA diving, kayaking, boat fishing, etc.

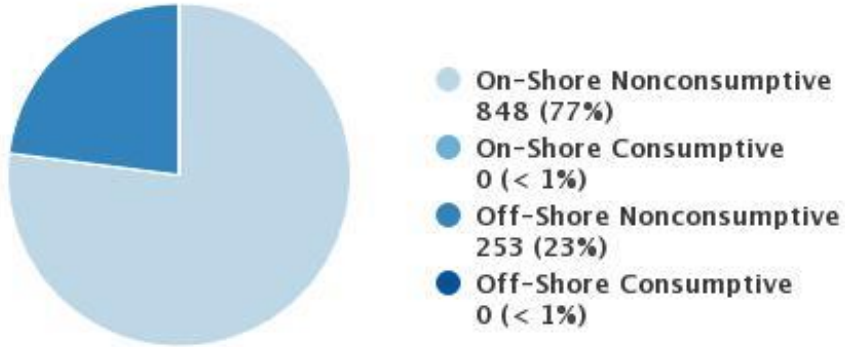
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

Non-Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource is not collected.

Activity by MPA

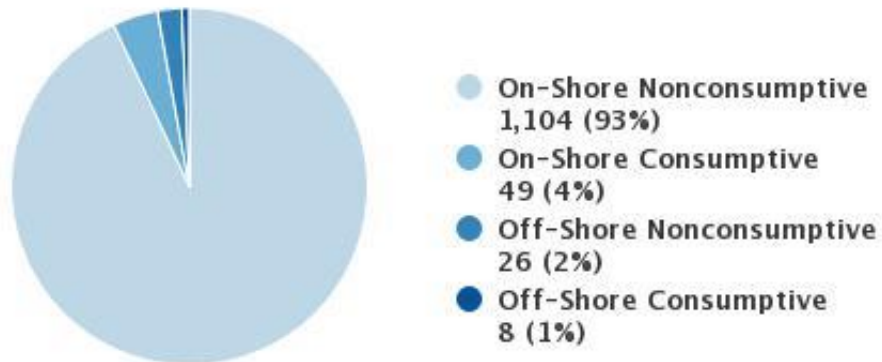
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park

July 19, 2019 - December 31, 2019
1,101 activity events

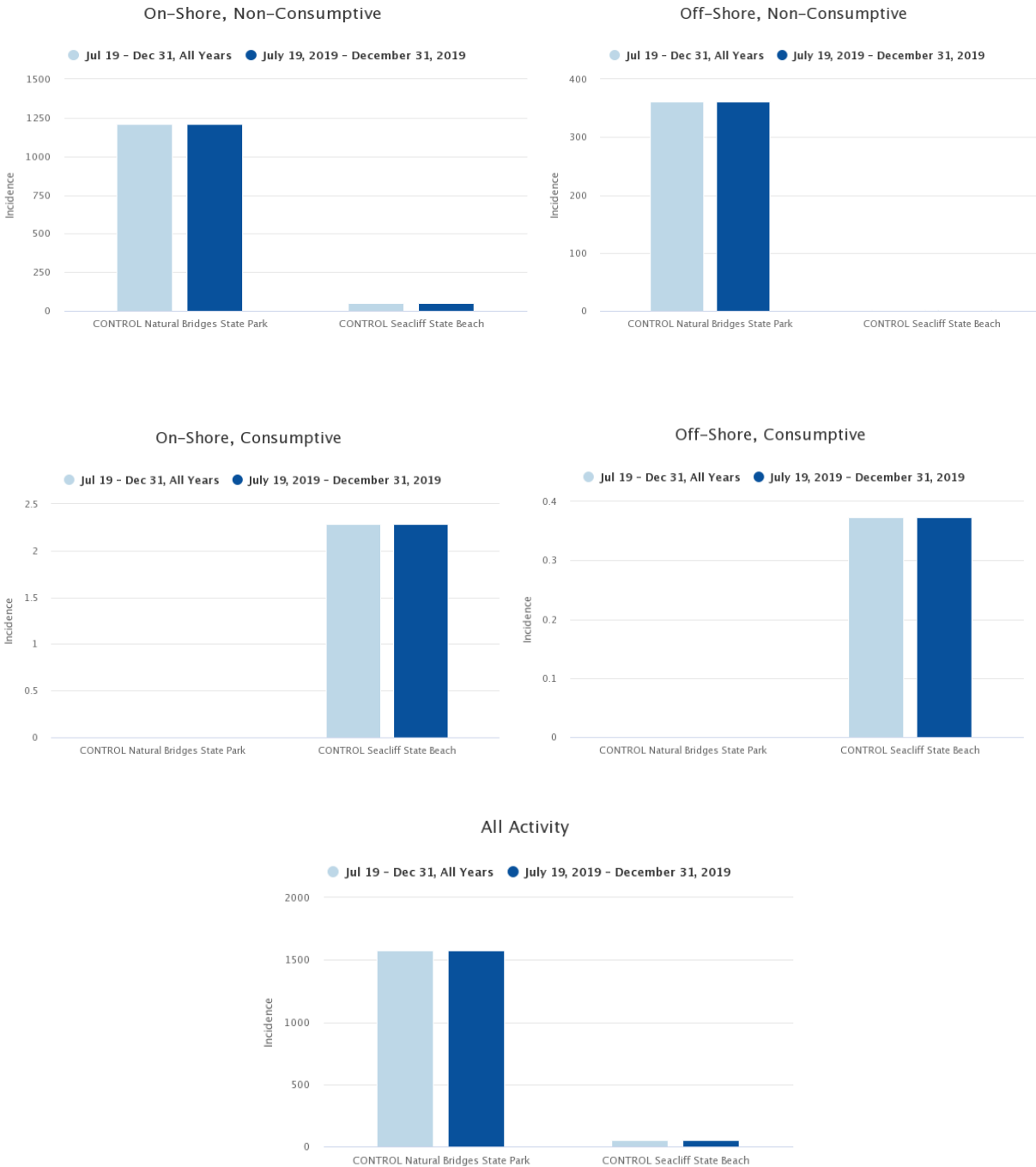


CONTROL Seacliff State Beach

July 19, 2019 - December 31, 2019
1,187 activity events



Activity Incidence by MPA



The above charts show incidence values for each site monitored by CA State Parks MPA Watch. Incidence is calculated as number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.

Activity Incidence by MPA

The tables below show incidence values for each site monitored by CA State Parks MPA Watch. Incidence is calculated as number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.

MPA	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	Jul 19 Dec 31	Jul 19, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019	Jul 19 Dec 31	Jul 19, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019
	▲ All Years	◆	◆	◆ All Years
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park	1,211.4	1,211.4	0.0	0.0
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach	51.6	51.6	2.3	2.3
All MPAs Combined	88.3	88.3	2.2	2.2

MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	Jul 19 Dec 31	Jul 19, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019	Jul 19 Dec 31	Jul 19, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019
	▲ All Years	◆	◆	◆ All Years
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park	361.4	361.4	0.0	0.0
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4
All MPAs Combined	12.6	12.6	0.4	0.4

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	Jul 19 Dec 31	Jul 19, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019
▲ All Years	◆	◆ All Years
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park	1,572.9	1,572.9
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach	55.5	55.5
All MPAs Combined	103.5	103.5

Notes on Calculating Incidence

The baseline rate for the reporting period was calculated by summing the total use count for each category during the same period from each previous year and dividing this value by the transect miles surveyed at each site. The miles surveyed were calculated by first identifying the length of each transect for all the MPA's in question and multiplying the length of the transect by the number of surveys that had been taken along that transect during the same time period. For MPA's with multiple transects, the total distance traveled for each transect within the MPA were summed together to get the total miles surveyed within that MPA.

Breakdown by MPA/Control Site

Natural Bridges State Park Control Site

During the reporting period between July 19th - December 31st, the MPA Watch data shows that the activities observed at Natural Bridges State Park control site were 100% on and offshore non consumptive. Though no consumptive activities were recorded during the reporting period, anecdotal evidence from State Parks rangers and docents suggest shore-based fishing near the rock bridge at the south-east end of the beach is occurring. This rock bridge sits just outside the current boundaries of Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve, and discussion about these incidents suggest moving the MPA boundaries south-east to expand MPA regulations at these observed locations.

Sea Cliff State Beach Control Site

Between the months of July and December, the data for Sea Cliff Beach Control Site shows a rate of 55.5 total use count per total miles surveyed. Additionally, the data shows that the activities observed at this location were 95% on and offshore non consumptive and approximately 5% on and offshore consumptive, with 80% of consumptive activities occurring onshore. It is expected that MPA Watch volunteers surveying this transect would observe consumptive use at this control site as both on-shore and off-shore fishing are legal outside of the State Park boundary at the mean high tide line.

Potential Violations

The rate of consumptive activities observed is relatively low in both sites surveyed. This is likely an artifact of this being the first reporting period for these sites, so recruitment for new volunteer is just beginning and survey rates are fairly low. Anecdotal evidence about observed consumptive activities by local staff, indicates that the rates for consumptive (legal or illegal) activities may be higher than reflected in the data. Data is expected to be more accurate as the program expands at these two sites.

Next Steps

California State Parks is working to increase outreach for MPA Watch and increase the number of volunteers and sites in 2020. In March and April 2020 we will host three more MPA Watch trainings in San Diego Coast District, North Coast Redwoods District, and Medocino-Sonoma Coast District for all MPA interpreters, State Parks staff, and interested volunteer docents. Once the full CA State Parks MPA Outreach and Education team has been trained, regular check-ins will include reminders to complete surveys and input data.

Additional Information

Please note: This report only includes data for July through December 2019 due to California State Parks joining the MPA Watch program in mid-2019.

For additional information on MPA Watch, including survey sites, participating organizations, protocols and datasheets, media kit, and how to get involved, please visit mpawatch.org. Connect with MPA Watch on social media @MPAWatchOrg.

For additional information regarding MPAs and regulations specific to the various classifications of MPAs please visit wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs. If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations, please call CalTip to report the violation at (888)-334-2258.

For additional information about California State Parks Marine Protected Area Outreach and Education Program, please contact Erika Delemarre at erika.delemarre@parks.ca.gov or at (916) 704-5042.