Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch
Regional Report

Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020

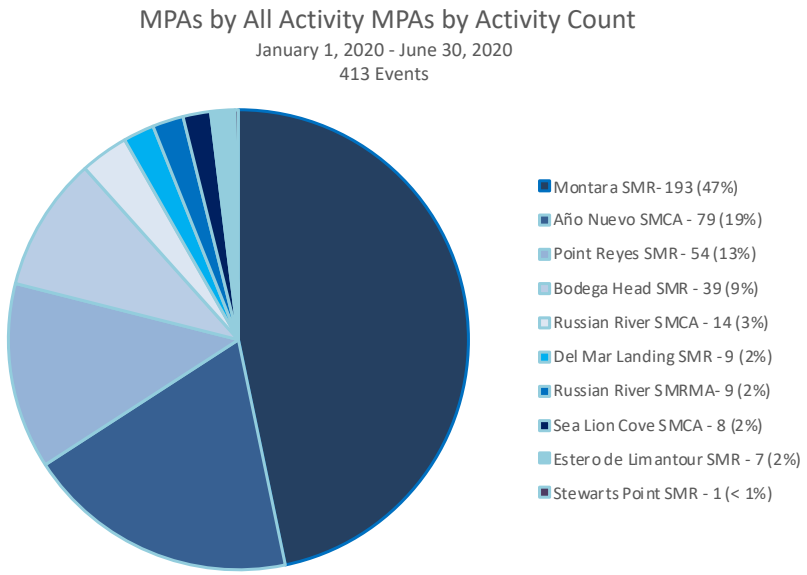
MPA Watch is a statewide collaborative effort to collect critical human use data to enhance the management and conservation of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA Watch data informs the management, enforcement, and science of California's MPAs and allows us insight on how human uses are changing as a result of MPA implementation. By involving local communities in this important work, MPA Watch programs inspire and empower stewardship, and educate California communities about ocean ecosystems. MPA Watch trains volunteers to observe and collect unbiased data on coastal and marine resource use. The North-central Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Program, organized by Greater Farallones Association's Beach Watch program, engages 150 community scientists in 10 MPAs, spanning 5 counties.

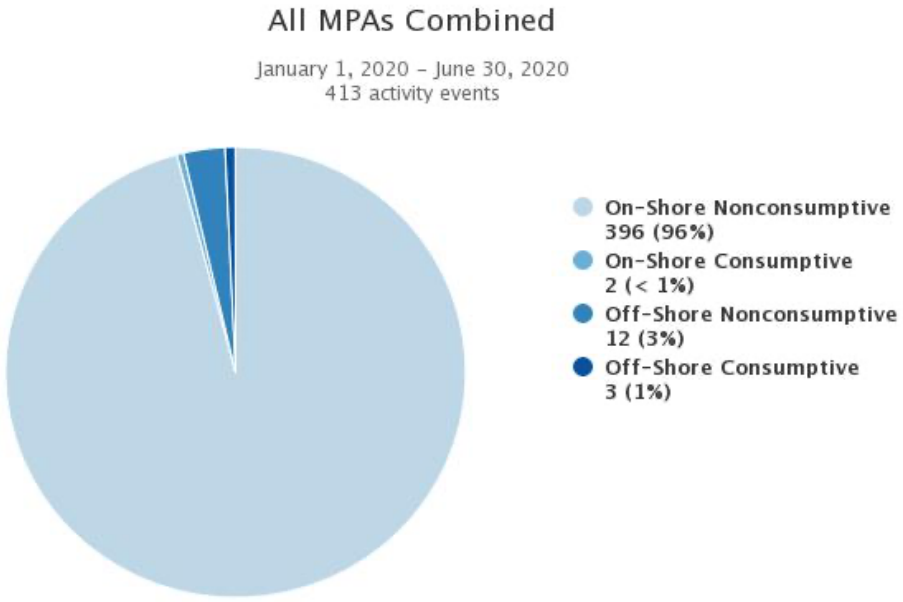
Summary:

- Following local, state, and federal health guidelines regarding COVID-19, GFA's MPA Watch program suspended normal data collection from March 17, 2020. Staff resumed limited surveys May 22, 2020. And current volunteers would could maintain social distancing resumed data collection on July 25, 2020. In-person trainings for new volunteers are suspended to adhere to physical distancing guidelines.
- Beach closures varied between our 5 counties, however most beaches remained closed to all human uses until late May. Very low activity numbers and rates are due to limited number of surveys, and that the surveys represented here were primarily from late winter and during initial COVID-19 concerns.
- The larger number of surveys conducted in July, though not represented here, show an extraordinary increase in visitor used along coastal beaches and nearshore waters.

Human Use of MPAs January - June 2020

Overview

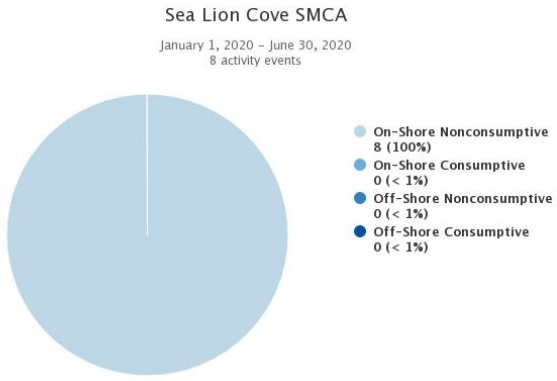


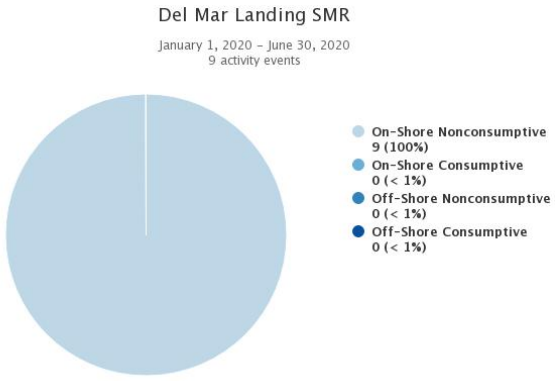


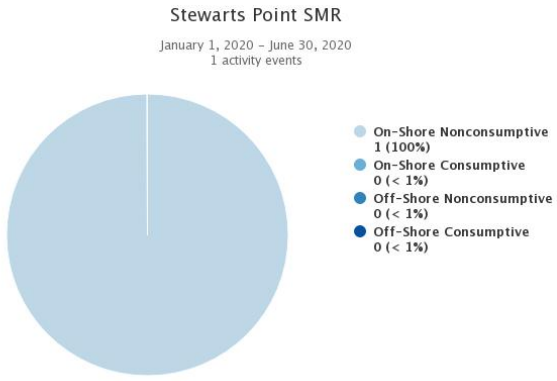
Activity by MPA

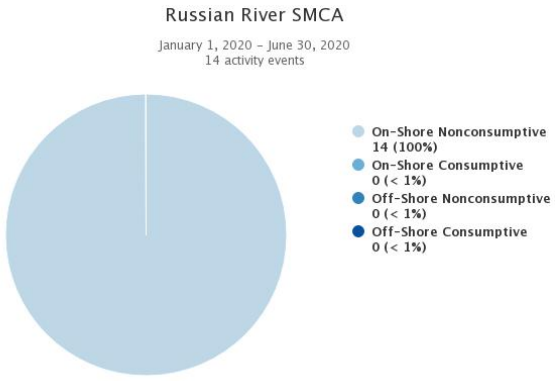
Activity Classifications

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, SCUI 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.



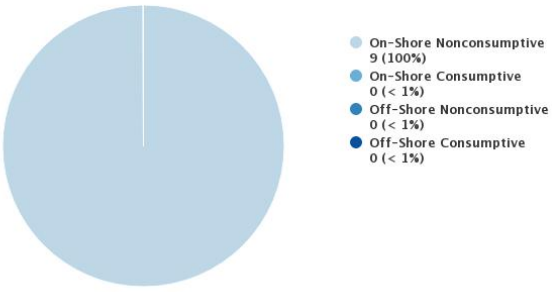






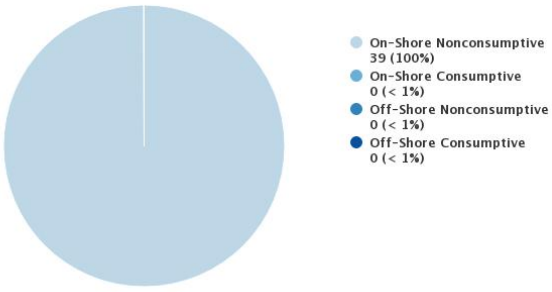
Russian River SMRMA

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
9 activity events



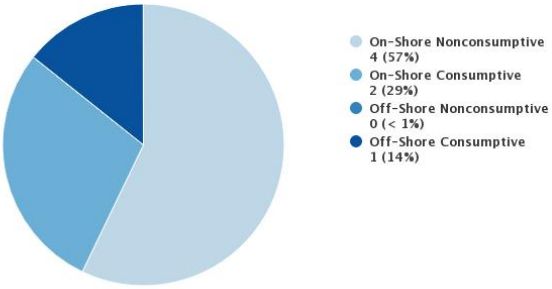
Bodega Head SMR

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
39 activity events



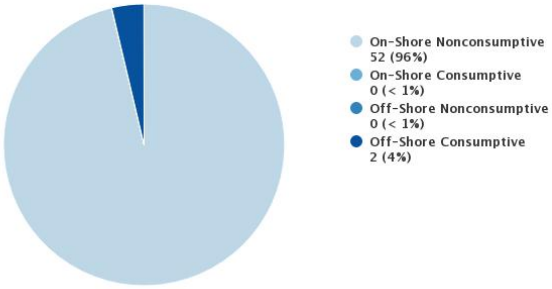
Estero de Limantour SMR

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
7 activity events



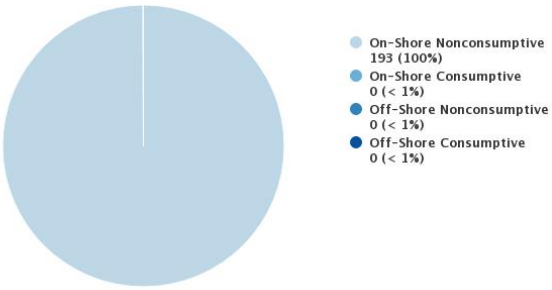
Point Reyes SMR

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
54 activity events



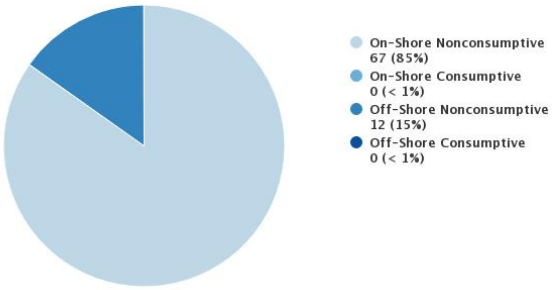
Montara SMR

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
193 activity events



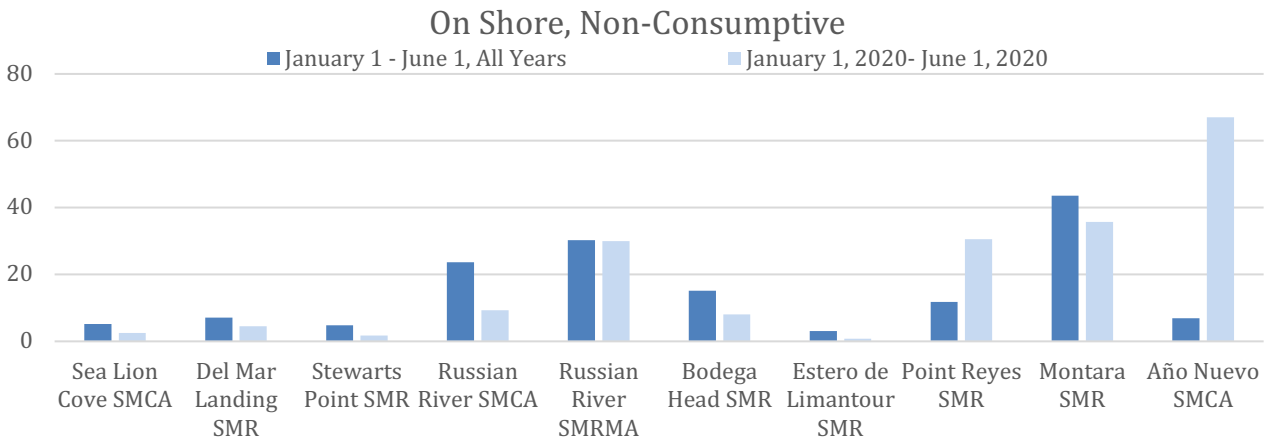
Año Nuevo SMCA

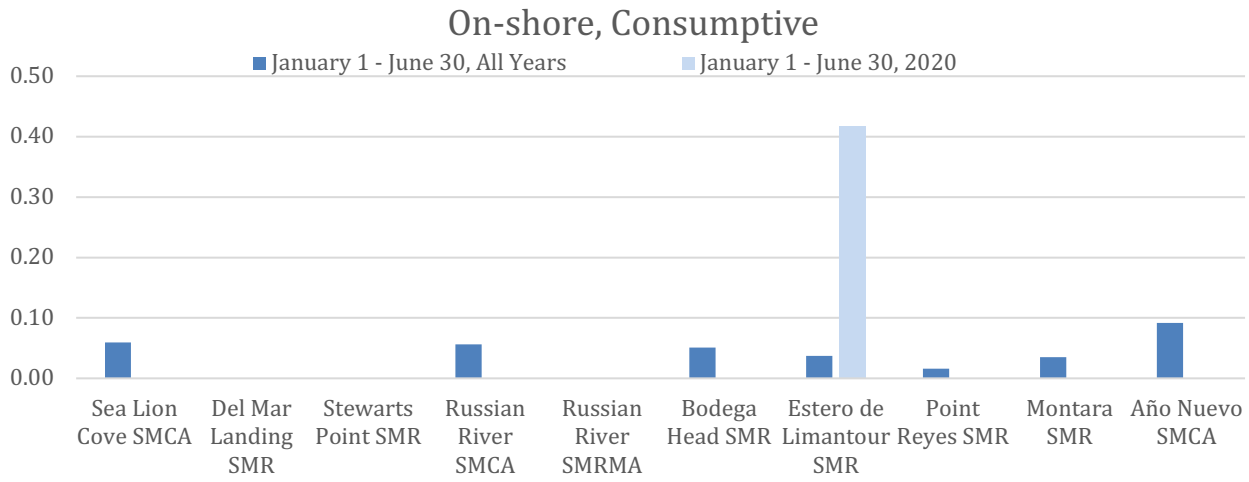
January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
79 activity events

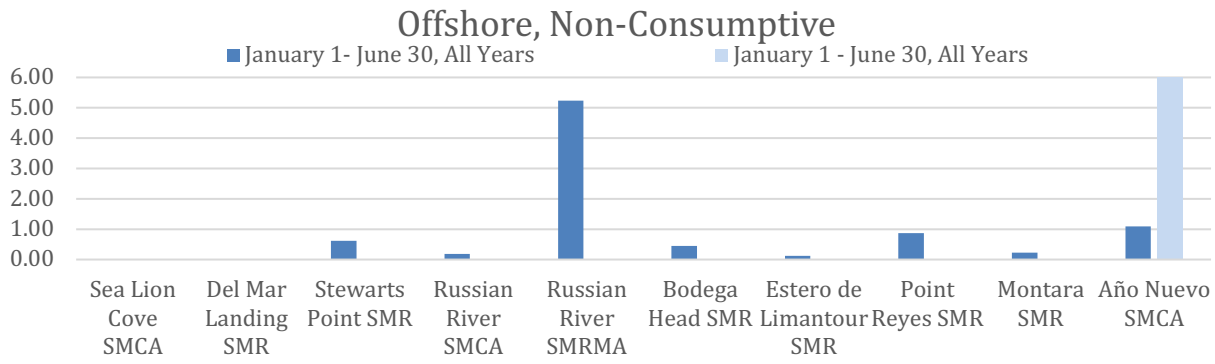


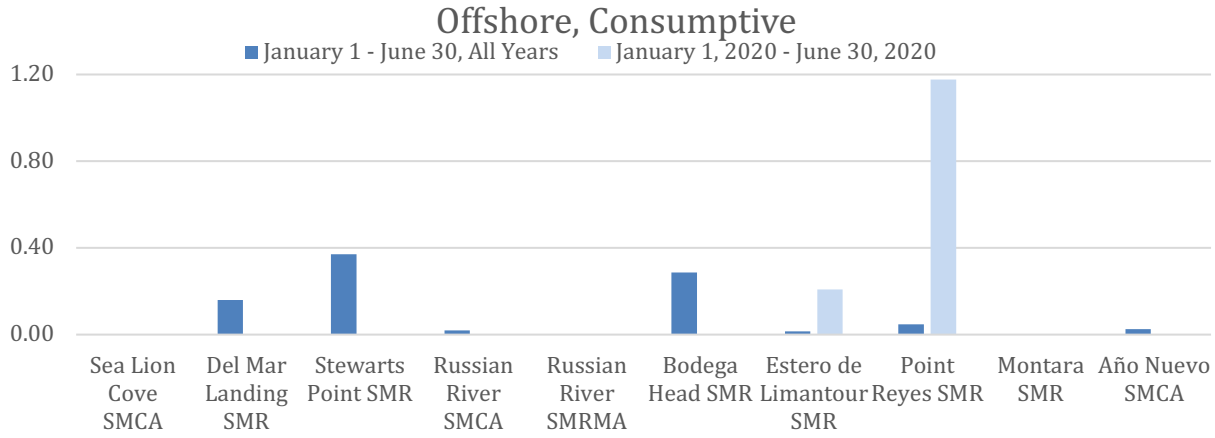
Activity Incidence by MPA

The charts below show incidence values for each MPA monitored by Greater Farallones Association Beach Watch program. ***Incidence is calculated as number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.***









Activity Incidence by MPA

	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
MPA	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 Jun 30, 2020	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 Jun 30, 2020
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	5.22	2.50	0.06	0.00
Del Mar Landing SMR	7.14	4.50	0.00	0.00
Stewarts Point SMR	4.81	1.67	0.00	0.00
Russian River SMCA	23.70	9.33	0.06	0.00
Russian River SMRMA	30.27	30.00	0.00	0.00
Bodega Head SMR	15.05	8.13	0.05	0.00
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.10	0.83	0.04	0.42
Point Reyes SMR	11.75	30.59	0.02	0.00
Montara SMR	43.60	35.74	0.04	0.00
Año Nuevo SMCA	6.92	67.00	0.09	0.00
All MPAs Combined	**15.46**	**15.65**	**0.04**	**0.08**

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.

	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
MPA	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 Jun 30, 2020	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 Jun 30, 2020
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Del Mar Landing SMR	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00
Stewarts Point SMR	0.62	0.00	0.37	0.00
Russian River SMCA	0.19	0.00	0.02	0.00
Russian River SMRMA	5.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bodega Head SMR	0.45	0.00	0.29	0.00
Estero de Limantour SMR	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.21
Point Reyes SMR	0.87	0.00	0.05	1.18
Montara SMR	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
Año Nuevo SMCA	1.09	12.00	0.03	0.00
All MPAs Combined	**0.55**	**0.47**	**0.06**	**0.12**

	Total Combined	
MPA	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 Jun 30, 2020
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	5.30	2.50
Del Mar Landing SMR	7.30	4.50
Stewarts Point SMR	5.80	1.67
Russian River SMCA	23.96	9.33
Russian River SMRMA	35.51	30.00
Bodega Head SMR	15.84	8.13
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.27	1.46
Point Reyes SMR	12.69	31.76
Montara SMR	43.86	35.74
Año Nuevo SMCA	8.13	79.00
All MPAs Combined	**16.12**	**16.32**

Impacts of COVID-19

Following local, state, and federal health guidelines regarding COVID-19, GFA's MPA Watch program suspended normal data collection from March 17, 2020. Staff resumed limited surveys May 22, 2020. And current volunteers would could maintain social distancing resumed data collection on July 25, 2020. In-person trainings for new volunteers are suspended to adhere to physical distancing guidelines.

Breakdown by MPA

Sealion Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 2.5 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a decrease from 5.3 the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were solely taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation. This accounted for 100% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys.

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 4.5 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a decrease from 7.3 the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were solely taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation. This accounted for 100% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys.

Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 1.6 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a slight decrease from 5.8, the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation.

Russian River State Marine Conservation Area

Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 9.3 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a notable decrease compared to 23.96, the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based recreation.

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area

Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 30 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a slight decrease from 35.51, the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based beach recreation.

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve
Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 8.13 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a notable decrease from 15.84, the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were solely taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation.

Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve
Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 1.46 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a decrease from 3.27 the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation. This accounted for almost 57% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys. Consumptive activities accounted form 43% of activities, 29% on shore, and 14% offshore.

Point Reyes State Marine Reserve
Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 31.76 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a large increase from 12.69 the baseline data rate (2014-2019), which may be an artifact due to several Federal Park Closures early in 2019. People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in non-consumptive activities both on and off-shore, such as beach and ocean recreation. This accounted for almost 100% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys. No consumptive activities were observed.

Montara State Marine Reserve
Between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 35.74 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a decrease compared to 43.86 the baseline data rate for these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in non-consumptive shore-based recreation. This accounted for 100% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys.

Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area between the months of January and June 2020, GFA's MPA Watch data suggests a rate of 7.9 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This similar to 8.13, the baseline rate from these months (2014-2019). People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in non-consumptive activities on shore, this accounted for 85% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys. However we observed an increase in offshore non-consumptive activities from 1.09 in the past to 12.00 this year.

Next Steps

Greater Farallones Association intends to expand the volunteer pool in the Sonoma and Mendocino region in 2021. Increasing our knowledge in this remote region struggling with severe kelp and abalone declines. MPA Watch intends to collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to distribute MPA Watch reports to regional managers in order to improve the management and enforcement of MPAs. MPA Watch is also looking to expand its network of partner organizations to enhance the scale and scope of MPA monitoring across California. MPA Watch will be making our human use data available on our website to make it accessible to partners, resource agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. One of the hopes of MPA Watch is that volunteers and community members help spread knowledge and awareness of MPAs to the communities that surround them, inspiring marine stewardship in our populations.

Additional Information

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 more information about the work the Greater Farallones Association does to conserve California's Federal and California MPAs and other conservation projects please visit farallones.org.