



Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch
Regional Report
Santa Barbara County
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 Santa Barbara Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Program, organized by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, engages community scientists in conducting surveys in three MPAs in southern Santa Barbara County—Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area, Naples State Marine Conservation Area, and Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area.

Executive Summary

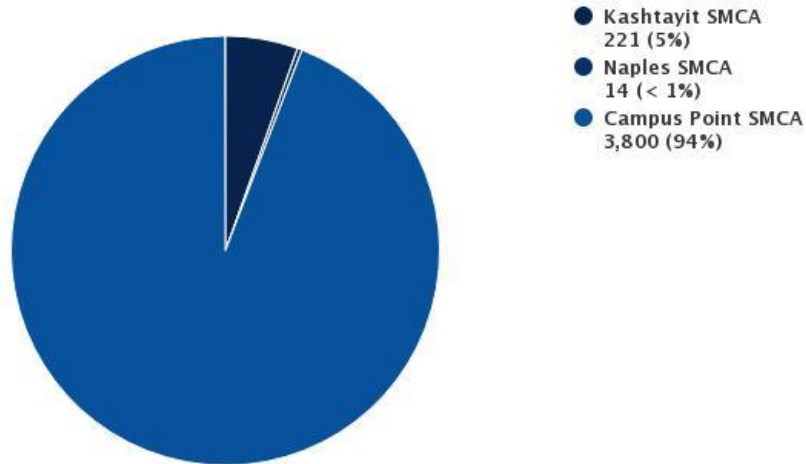
- Non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) account for 98.69% of observations in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- According to MPA Watch volunteers, potential violations of shore-based hook and line fishing in the western section of the Campus Point SMCA is observed throughout the year.
- Similar to past years, onshore recreation is the number one activity observed for Campus Point and Kashtayit SMCAs, while non-consumptive boating is the primary activity observed in Naples SMCA during this time period.

Human Use of MPAs January – June 2020

Overview

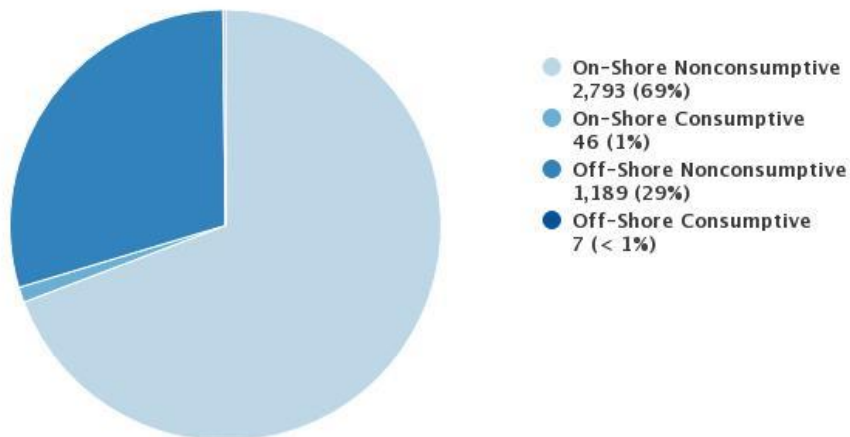
Top 3 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
4,035 total activity events



All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
4,035 activity events



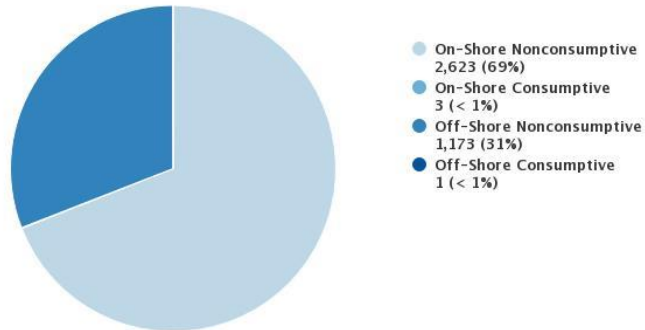
Activity by MPA

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, 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.

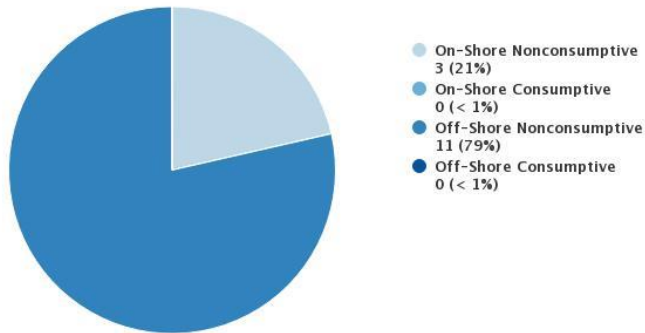
Campus Point SMCA

January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020
3,800 activity events



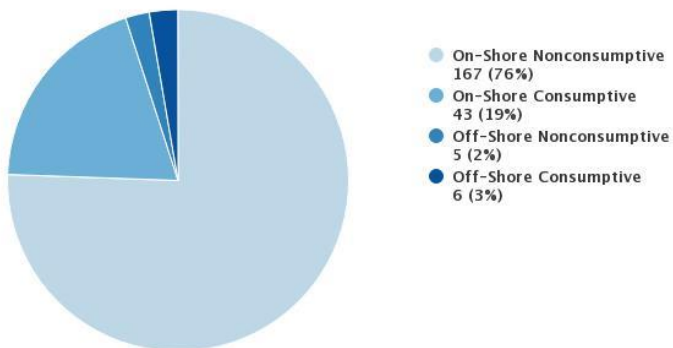
Naples SMCA

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

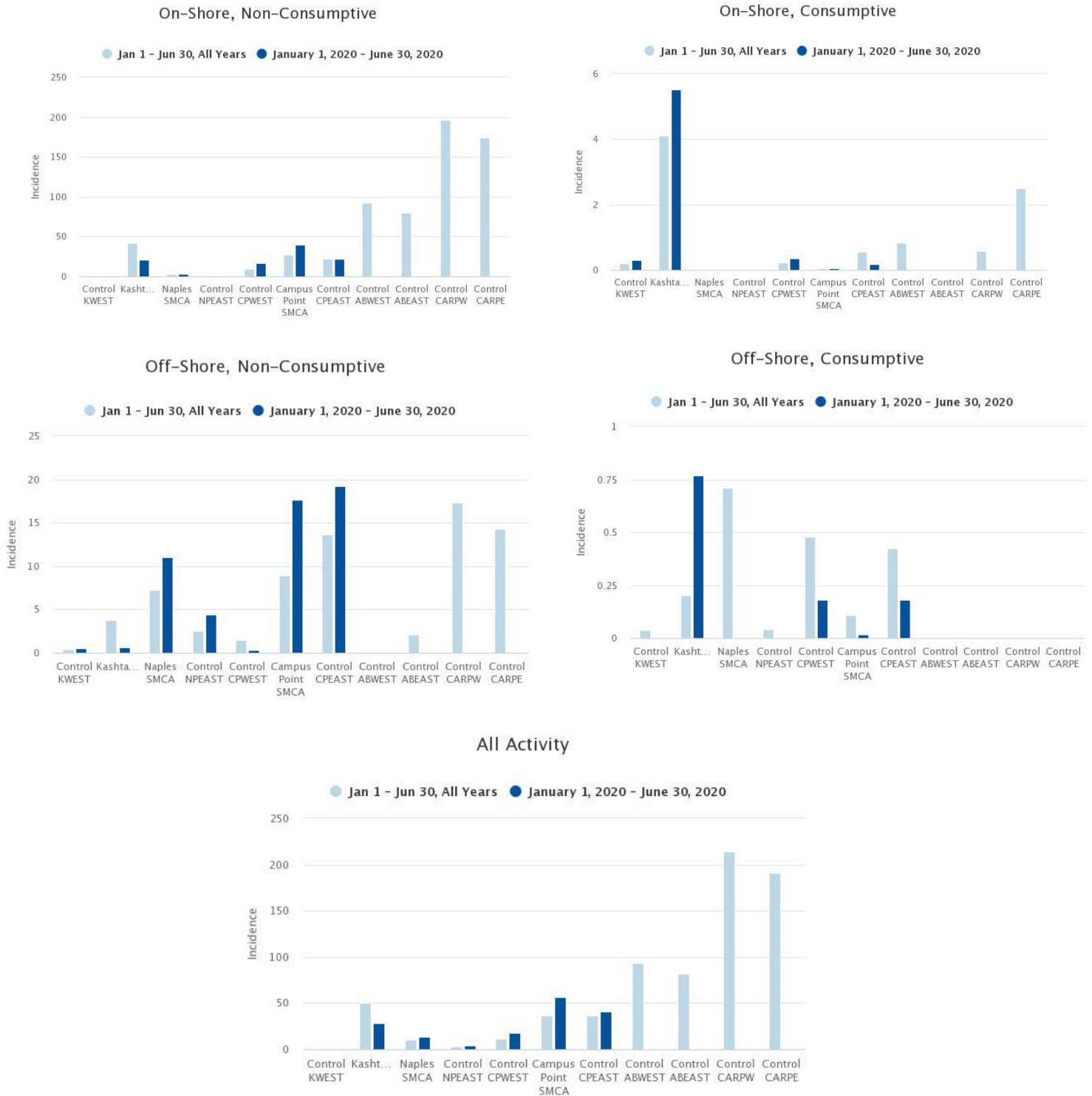


Kashtayit SMCA

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



Activity Incidence by MPA



The above charts show incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in Santa Barbara County. **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 MPA monitored by MPA Watch in Santa Barbara County. **Incidence is calculated as number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.**

MPA	On-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	▲	Jan 1 Jun 30	Jan 1, 2020 through Jun 30, 2020	Jan 1 Jun 30	Jan 1, 2020 through Jun 30, 2020
		All Years	♦	All Years	♦
Control KWEST		0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3
Kashtayit SMCA		42.5	21.4	4.1	5.5
Naples SMCA		2.7	3.0	0.0	0.0
Control NPEAST		0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		9.9	17.3	0.2	0.4
Campus Point SMCA		27.5	39.4	0.0	0.0
Control CPEAST		22.0	21.9	0.6	0.2
Control ABWEST		92.5	nan	0.8	nan
Control ABEAST		79.6	nan	0.0	nan
Control CARPW		196.5	nan	0.6	nan
Control CARPE		174.1	nan	2.5	nan
All MPAs Combined		31.0	29.7	0.4	0.5

MPA	Off-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	▲	Jan 1 Jun 30	Jan 1, 2020 through Jun 30, 2020	Jan 1 Jun 30	Jan 1, 2020 through Jun 30, 2020
		All Years	♦	All Years	♦
Control KWEST		0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0
Kashtayit SMCA		3.7	0.6	0.2	0.8
Naples SMCA		7.3	11.0	0.7	0.0
Control NPEAST		2.5	4.4	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		1.5	0.4	0.5	0.2
Campus Point SMCA		8.9	17.6	0.1	0.0
Control CPEAST		13.7	19.2	0.4	0.2
Control ABWEST		0.0	nan	0.0	nan
Control ABEAST		2.1	nan	0.0	nan
Control CARPW		17.3	nan	0.0	nan
Control CARPE		14.3	nan	0.0	nan
All MPAs Combined		8.6	13.5	0.2	0.1

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	▲ Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	♦ Jan 1, 2019 through Dec 31, 2019 ♦
Control KWEST	1.8	1.6
Kashtayit SMCA	70.1	94.0
Naples SMCA	15.0	4.6
Control NPEAST	3.1	2.7
Control CPWEST	14.4	6.1
Campus Point SMCA	34.6	33.4
Control CPEAST	46.6	39.5
Control ABWEST	95.7	nan
Control ABEAST	84.5	nan
Control CARPW	266.6	nan
Control CARPE	227.0	nan
All MPAs Combined	42.8	31.3

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.

MPA Watch & COVID-19

Following local, state, and federal health guidelines regarding COVID-19 and stay at home orders, Santa Barbara County's MPA Watch program suspended volunteer data collection from March 16, 2020 – May 31, 2020. Current volunteers resumed data collection on May 31, 2020. In-person trainings for new volunteers were suspended between March 16, 2020 and June 30, 2020 to adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Beaches in Santa Barbara County remained open during this time period although some parking areas near beach access points were closed.

Breakdown by MPA

Campus Point SMCA

In January- June 2020, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 106 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 28 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

Activities observed in Campus Point were 99.89% on and offshore non-consumptive activities. Only 0.11% of the observations were consumptive activities. Of the potential shore-based violations, two were hook and line fishing - one in the western end of the MPA closer to the Ellwood Bluffs access point and one was closer to Coal Oil Point. The hand collection of biota was observed in the western section of the MPA. The most shore-based activity observed was beach recreation - 90.79% of onshore non-consumptive and surfing accounted for 88.89% of all offshore observations.

Naples SMCA

In January- June 2020, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 28 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 9 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border.

Very little activity was observed during the surveys at Naples and most of the activities observed were offshore boating activity. During the stay at home orders increased beach recreation was observed on the walk out to the bluff transect location, this increase in activity was not captured in the surveys as the people were not on the beach at the time the survey was conducted. They were either coming or going from the beach access point. No potential violations were observed.

Kashtayit SMCA

In January- June 2020, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 39 surveys with the Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) at Gaviota State Beach and along the western end of the MPA and 20 surveys outside of the MPA on the western side.

SB MPA Watch volunteers observed mostly onshore beach recreation; 75.71% of all activity observed at Kashtayit was onshore non-consumptive activities. The onshore

consumptive activities include 36 observations of hook and line fishing (16.29% of all observed activities at this site). Kashtayit SMCA allows for the recreational take of most species except for mussels and scallops. No potential violations were observed. The beach at Gaviota State Beach was closed briefly in May due to a fire just to the west of the beach.

Santa Barbara County MPAs
January – June 2020
Boat-based Surveys

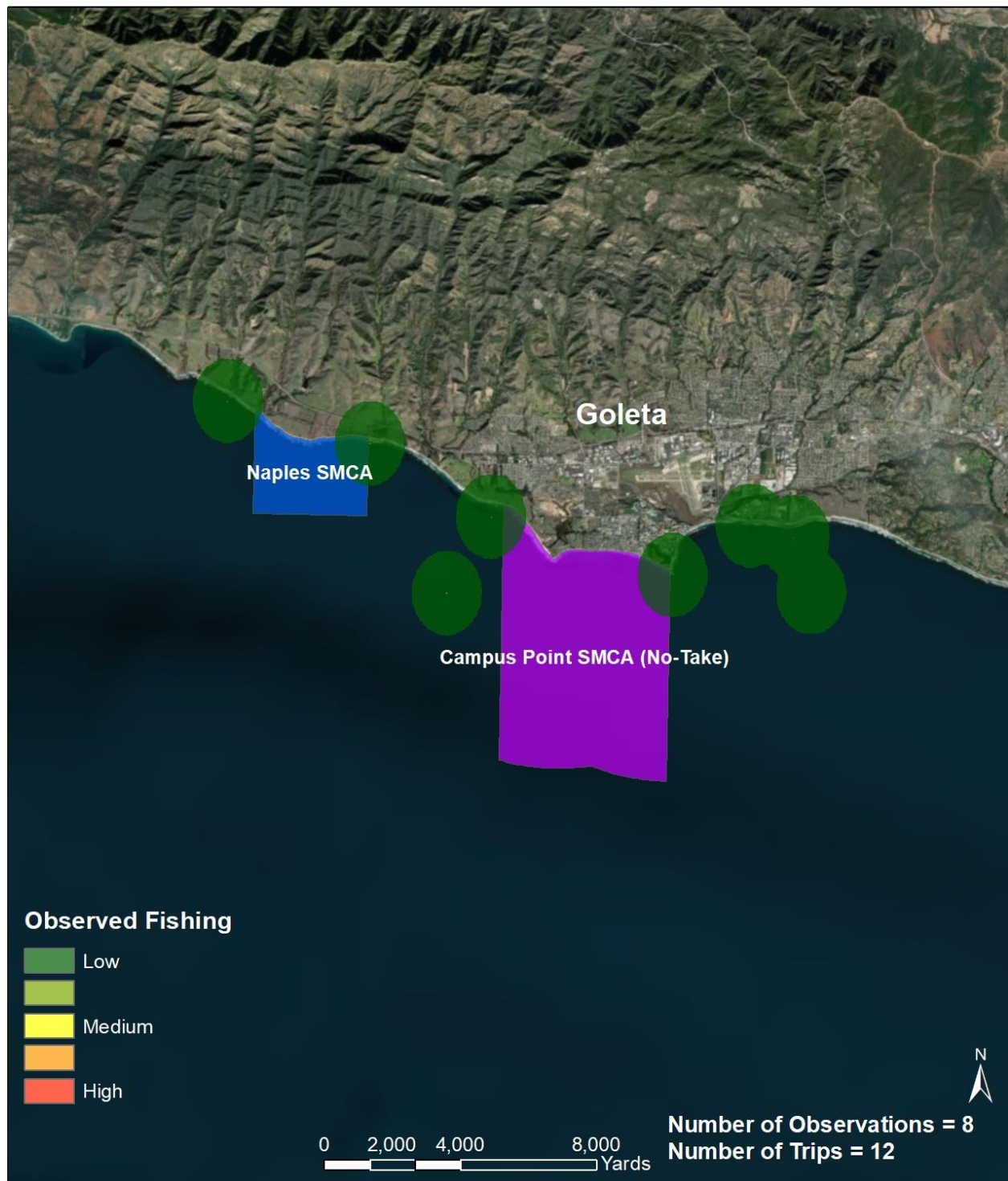
In addition to the land-based MPA Watch surveys, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper staff also conducts offshore surveys from the Research Vessel *Channelkeeper* of Campus Point and Naples MPAs as well as control sites for two miles on the eastern and western areas adjacent to the Campus Point and Naples MPAs.

Channelkeeper aims to conduct two boat surveys of coastal MPAs per month onboard our research vessel, weather and conditions permitting. Due to stay at home orders during the January – June 2020 time period, 6 boat surveys were conducted – four were conducted prior to the stay at home orders and two surveys were conducted in June.

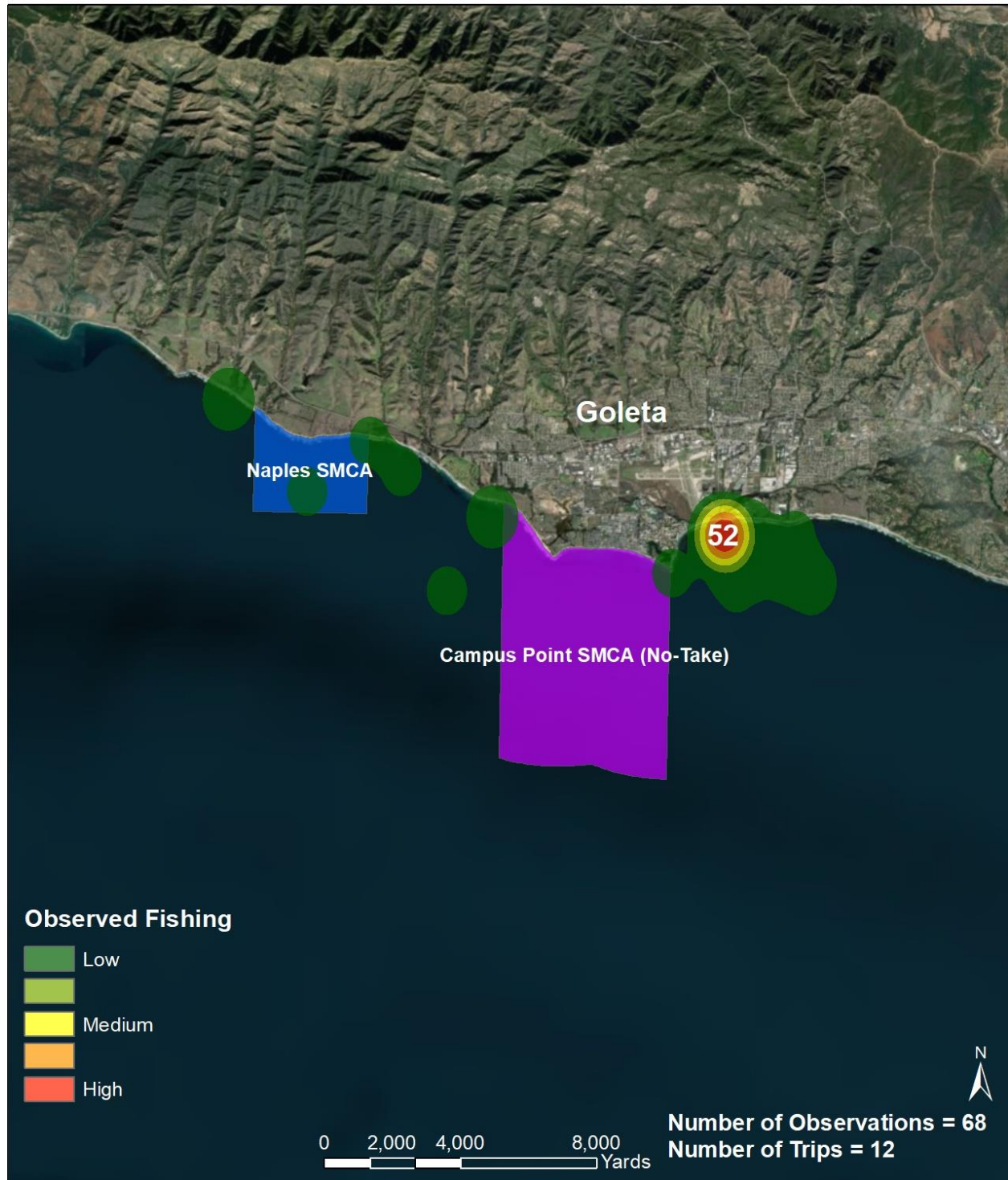
On the following pages are heat maps looking at all fishing activity observed during the January – June 2020 time period and additional maps looking at only commercial fishing activity and only recreational fishing activity observed on the 6 coastal survey trips. No potential violations were observed during these survey trips, although at Naples SMCA allowed consumptive activities including spearfishing and commercial harvest of kelp were observed. The majority of the recreation fishing observations east of the Campus Point MPA in the control survey are hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier.

During this time period Channelkeeper also launched MPA Watch surveys at the northern Channel Islands including Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Surveys were conducted in the following MPAs as well as control surveys adjacent to the MPAs: Painted Cave SMCA, Carrington Point SMR, Skunk Point SMR, Gull Island SMR, Footprint SMR, and Scorpion SMR. Due to challenges with weather and stay at home orders, we were only able to conduct 3 boat surveys at Santa Cruz Island and eastern Santa Rosa Island on January 31st, February 14th and June 31st. As conditions permit, we aim to survey the northern Channel Islands more frequently. No potential violations were observed during these survey trips and the June 30, 2020 survey saw a significant increase in recreational fishing activity in areas bordering the MPAs surveyed compared to the surveys conducted in January and February. Due to small sample size of surveys we were not able to generate heat maps for the northern Channel Islands at this time.

July - Dec 2019 Commercial Fishing Activity Santa Barbara



July - Dec 2019 All Fishing Activity Santa Barbara



July - Dec 2019 Recreational Fishing Activity Santa Barbara



Potential Violations

Rate of consumptive activities observed in Kashtayit, Naples, and Campus Point MPAs remains relatively low accounting for 1.31% of all observations recorded by shore-based surveys. In the Campus Point (No-Take) SMCA, shore-based MPA Watch volunteers observed one potential violation of hand collection of biota and two potential violations of shore-based hook and line fishing. One of the potential violations of shore-based hook and line fishing was observed in the western end of the Campus Point MPA, where we have seen potential violations in past years. The second potential hook and line violation was observed in the middle of the MPA near Coal Oil Point, an area with easy public access. Even if the noncompliance rate is low, it is important to note that any illegal take from MPAs jeopardizes the success of the MPA and health of the ecosystems which they protect.

Next Steps

Channelkeeper will continue to educate and train new MPA Watch volunteers to conduct shore-based surveys at the three coastal MPAs in southern Santa Barbara County while adapting training materials to be completed virtually. As weather permits, we will also conduct boat-based surveys of the coastal MPAs at Campus Point and Naples SMCAs and at eight of the MPAs in the Northern Channel Islands (Carrington Point SMR, Skunk Point SMR, Gull Island SMR, Footprint SMR, Anacapa Island SMR and SMCA, Scorpion SMR, and Painted Cave SMCA).

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 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper does to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds, including to monitor and build support for local MPAs, please visit sbck.org.