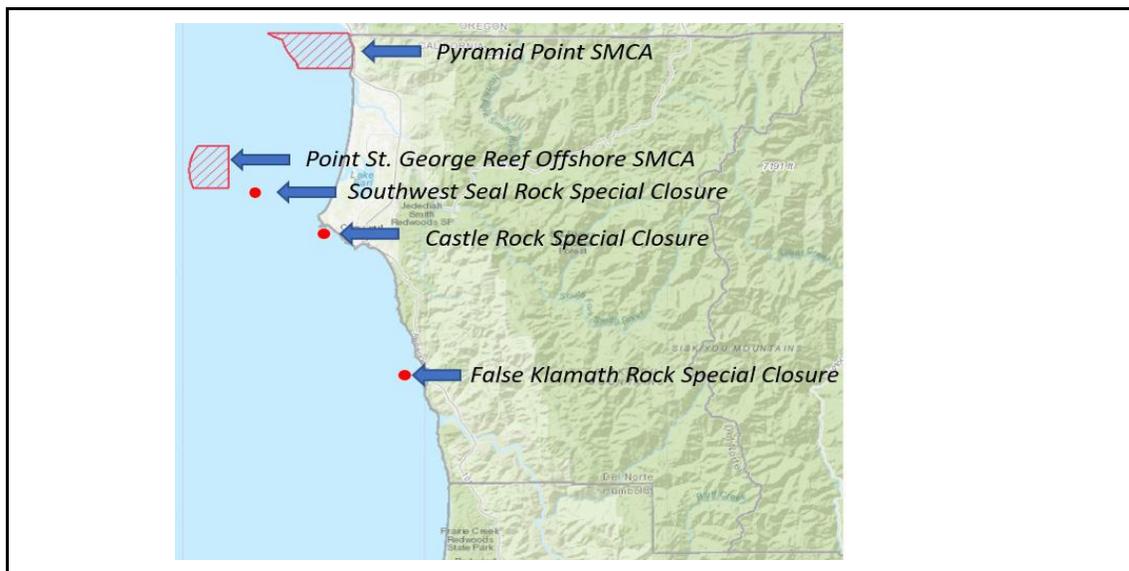




**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch  
Regional Report  
Del Norte County  
January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020**



The Del Norte County Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative is comprised of approximately twenty-five members from the scientific and nonprofit communities, tribal governments, fishermen, ranchers and other agencies active on the North Coast. Co-chairs include Marion Frye from the Yurok Tribe and John W. Corbett from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and founder of Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove project.

Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove (EEOFKC) teamed up with MPA Watch in February, 2018.

MPA Watch is a statewide collaborative effort to collect human use information to enhance the management and performance of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA Watch data informs the management, enforcement, and science of California’s MPAs and allows 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 resources use.

The Del Norte Collaborative MPA Watch Program is organized by Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove (EEOFKC), Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and RAM Consulting, Ruthie A. Maloney, MA. EEOFKC, a scientific observational survey of human uses of coastal and marine resources at False Klamath Cove has been conducted since July, 2017. The lack of information on the North Coast marine environment often caused Southern California information to be extrapolated to Northern California. Our goal is for the local Tribal governments and the North coast communities to gather baseline data that ensure a healthy ocean now and forever more.

*“We are committed to the highest standards of statistical information collection and calculation to ensure high quality results.” John W. Corbett, Del Norte MPA Collaborative Co-chair*

EEOFKC have approximately 25 surveyors and volunteers that include but are not limited to local tribal members from Tolowa, Yurok, Karuk and Hoopa tribes. Although all are welcome, we are proud of having ninety percent local native participation. The total number of surveys contributed to MPA Watch since February 2018 is **1,620**.



Photo courtesy of Ruthie A. Maloney False Klamath Rock view from north parking lot

Er'Hler-ger' or False Klamath Rock, is a significant location for Yurok coastal people *Ner-er-ner'* most specifically the village of 'Omen, or what is known today as False Klamath Cove near the mouth of Wilson Creek. Yurok history in relation to False Klamath Rock dates back to the time of its creation:

*The youngest of five brothers become transformed into a supernatural being and took up his abode in this rock ('Er'Hler-ger'). He has a pipe, of mysterious powers, which he keeps in a pipe-case of weasel skin. This latter 'becomes alive' and runs about the country, and occasionally enters houses where people are eating. It may be recognized as the supernatural animal by white stripe across its nose, and a short tail. The owner of the pipe said long ago when he went into the rock that if people looked at the rock and cried, they would get many woodpecker heads (chii's) (Yurok Language Project: YG230).*

The Tolowa also have long term historical ties to False Klamath Cove (FKC). Traditionally, FKC was a Native United Nations. Tribes and villages came together to greet old friends, trade and barter, feast on marine resources and peacefully resolve intertribal issues.

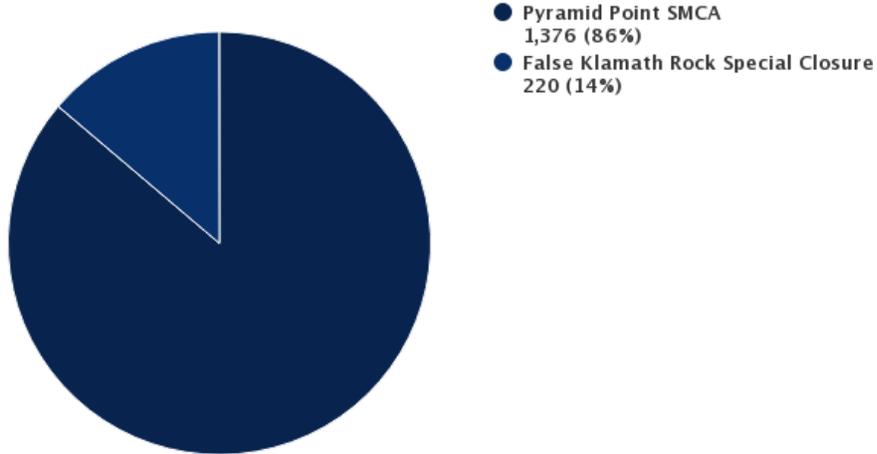
The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) was actively participated by local Northern California Tribes. Local tribes continue traditional gathering practices. Participating within the Marine Protection Act; MPA Watch Citizen Science program. Tribes will be able to monitor, observe, document and gain knowledge of the people who currently using their traditional home lands.

# Human Use of MPAs January - December 2020

## Overview

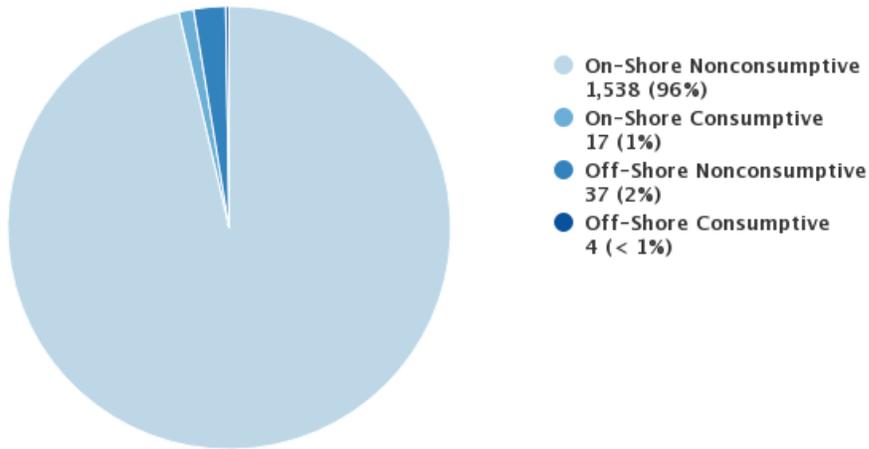
### Top 2 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020  
1,596 total activity events



### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020  
1,596 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.

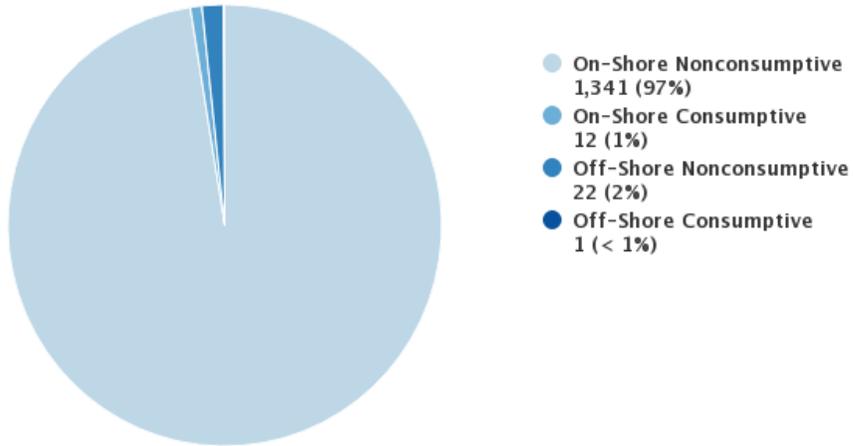
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

## Activity by MPA

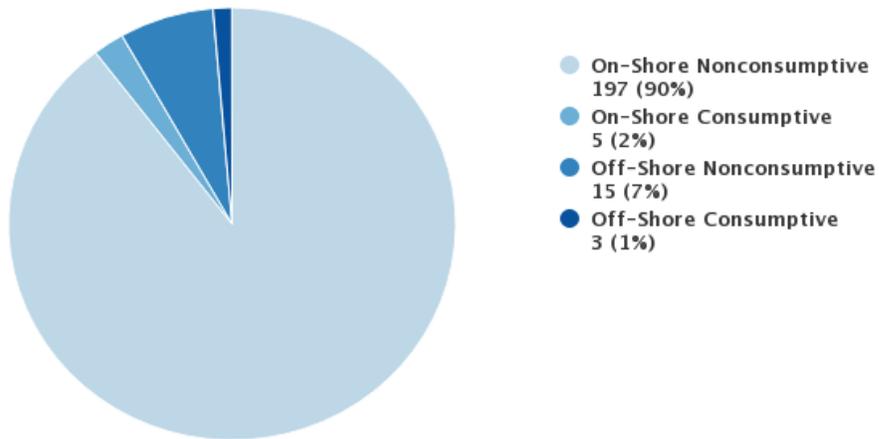
### Pyramid Point SMCA

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020  
1,376 activity events

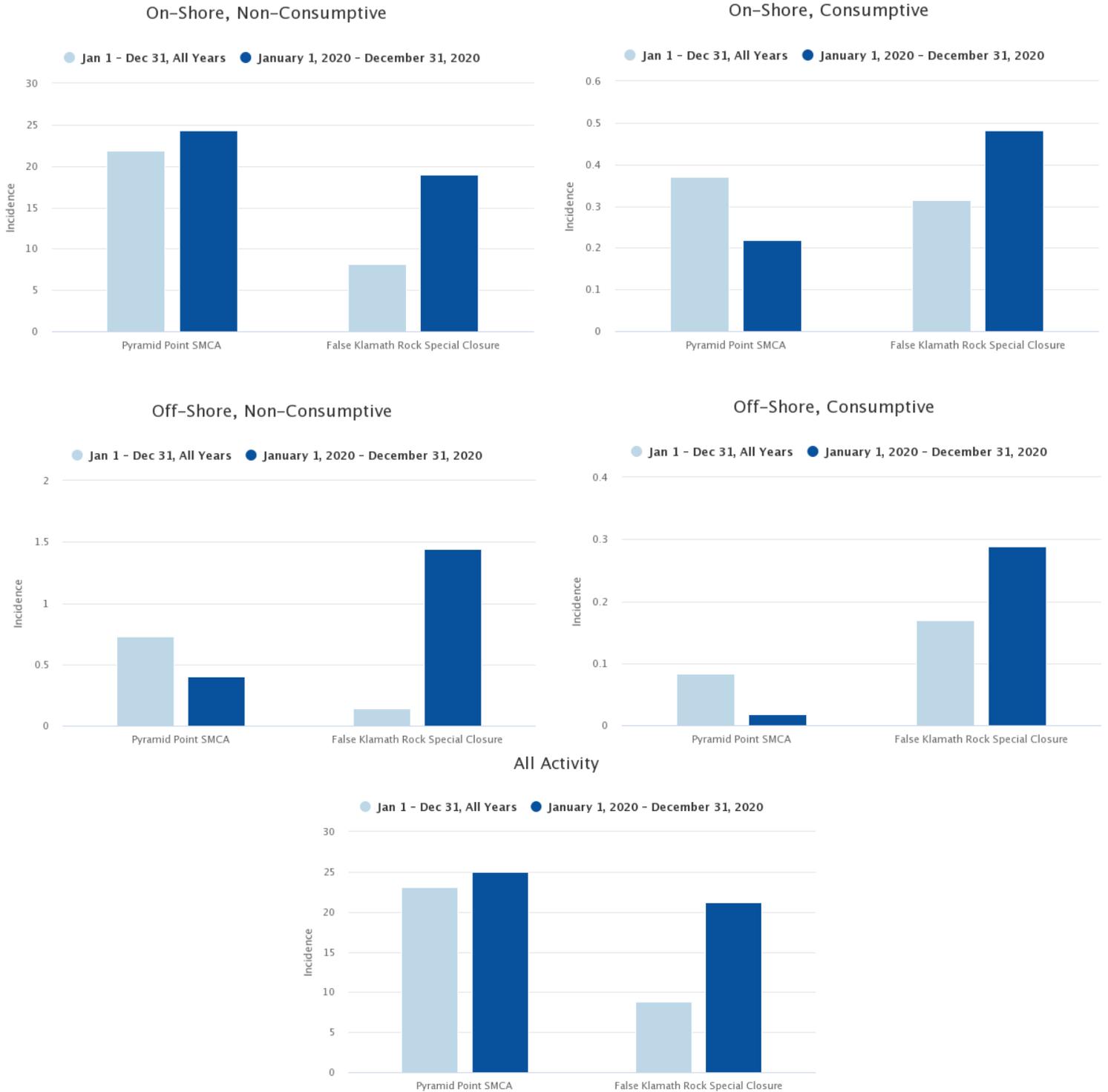


### False Klamath Rock Special Closure

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020  
220 activity events



## Activity Incidence by MPA



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

## Activity Incidence by MPA

MPA	On-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020	
Pyramid Point SMCA	21.9	24.3	0.4	0.2	
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	8.2	18.9	0.3	0.5	
All MPAs Combined	9.0	23.5	0.3	0.3	

MPA	Off-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020	
Pyramid Point SMCA	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	0.1	1.4	0.2	0.3	
All MPAs Combined	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	

MPA	Total Combined			
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2020 through Dec 31, 2020		
	Pyramid Point SMCA	23.0	25.0	
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	8.8	21.2		
All MPAs Combined	9.6	24.4		

The above table shows incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in Del Norte County. **Incidence is calculated as number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.**

### 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.

## COVID-19

Beaches in Del Norte County did not experience any closures because of COVID-19.

For Pyramid Point MPA, even with COVID restrictions, we were still able to get surveys done safely. Precautions were always taken when volunteers were out doing surveys and observed social distancing when encountering other beach goers.

### Breakdown by MPA

#### Pyramid Point MPA

During this period (January – December 2020):

- 83 surveys were conducted within Pyramid Point MPA at 2 sites
  - 49 at Site 1
  - 34 at Site 2
- Total activities were 1,376
  - 668 at Site 1
  - 708 at Site 2
- Total non-consumptive activities were 1,363
  - 659 at Site 1
  - 704 at Site 2
- Total consumptive activities were 13
  - 9 at Site 1
  - 4 at Site 2
- Total violations reported were 2
  - 1 at Site 1
  - 1 at Site 2
- Three new volunteers were trained over the course of this time frame.

Besides the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, the beaches here were fairly empty. From July 5 – July 17, Tolowa families camped on the beach for traditional fish camp activities. Smelt and perch were caught during that time within the MPA, but Tolowa tribal citizens are exempt from MPA restrictions within Pyramid Point MPA. These traditional subsistence activities were not recorded during any survey conducted.

#### False Klamath Rock Special Closure

Between the months of January and December of 2020, Del Norte MPA Watch data shows a use rate of 21.2. This is a 2.4 times increase in human use within the MPA compared to the rate calculated from the data collected by MPA Watch volunteers between the months of January and December in previous years.

Between the months of January and December 2020, Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove MPA Watch data shows 97% of the coastal uses are non-consumptive. No potential violations were reported.

## Potential Violations

### Pyramid Point MPA

Violations reported during surveys were very low, however the total violations within the MPA that were reported outside of surveys were much higher. A total of 19 violations were reported to CDFW Marine Wardens during this time period.



Boater reported to CDFW for fishing in Pyramid Point MPA.



Vessel reported for fishing in Pyramid Point MPA and investigated by CDFW.

### **False Klamath Rock Special Closure**

Volunteers reported no potential violations during this period, but anecdotal evidence suggests fishing from kayak near the Special Closure may be a problem.

### **Next Steps**

#### **Pyramid Point MPA**

We plan on continuing monthly surveys of both sites, as long as it is safe to do so. In the summer of 2021, we will be training new surveyors as part of the Tribal Marine Stewardship Network pilot program. We will also be connecting with Tribes in southern California and helping where we can to establish MPA Watch programs in their ancestral territory.

#### **False Klamath Rock Special Closure**

EEOFKC is working to implement boat based MPA Watch surveys into our data reporting to monitor human use within our SCMPA. Once we are able to publish that data, we will be able to accurately represent offshore usage within our SCMPA. In Del Norte County EEOFKC is working to increase outreach for MPA Watch and increase the number of volunteers we have collecting human use data within our local SCMPA.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information regarding Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch please go to [mpawatch.org](http://mpawatch.org). There you can find all of the coastal and marine environments that we work to protect across the state of California, who our partners are, and how you can get involved in the conservation of some of our most valuable natural, biological, and cultural resources. Connect with MPA Watch on social media @ MPAWatch.org.

For additional information regarding MPAs and regulations specific to the various classifications of MPAs please visit [wildlife.ca.gov/MPA](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPA). 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 Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove does to conserve California's MPAs and other conservation projects please e-mail [ram58@humboldt.edu](mailto:ram58@humboldt.edu).

For more information regarding Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's MPA Watch program, please email Rosa Laucci at [rosa.laucci@tolowa.com](mailto:rosa.laucci@tolowa.com).