

**Marine Protected Area Watch  
2021 Mid-Year Regional Report**

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper's Boat-Based Survey Report  
Tongva, Chumash & Tataviam Lands  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2021 – June 2021**



Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) has conducted boat-based surveys of all boating activity as well as all on the water and onshore fishing activities in and around the 2 mainland LA County MPA's at Point Dume MPA in Malibu and the Point Vicente & Abalone Cove MPAs in Palos Verdes regularly since 2012.

LAW's transects extend beyond the boundaries of our MPAs to monitor control sites 2 miles up and down shore of the MPA boundaries. LAW's efforts complement the LA County mainland land based MPA Watch surveys conducted by Heal the Bay.

LAW shares MPA boat-based survey data with CDFW, various universities, high schools, and interested organizations, as well as in our volunteer corps including students from our indigenous, Latinx, at risk and often underserved communities.

LAW provides MPA Watch data and MPA outreach and education information for academic MPA projects.



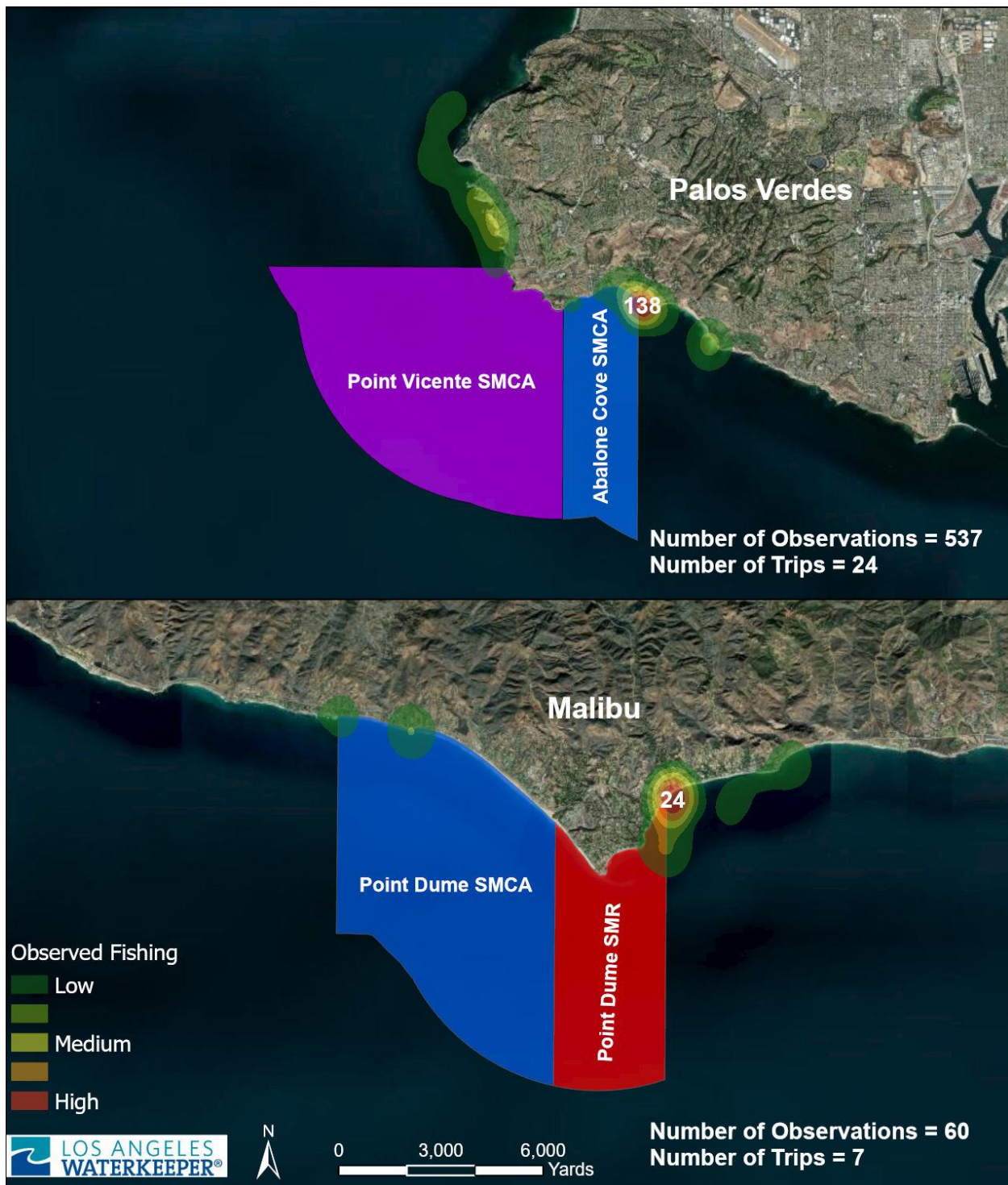
## **Marine Protected Area Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report**

### **Executive Summary**

- COVID-19 certainly influenced our MPA Watch Boat-Based Survey program at LA Waterkeeper. Waterkeeper suspended volunteer participation in LAW's boat-based survey program until June 2021.
- In June 2021, LAW's veteran volunteers rejoined our effort limiting crew to 2 volunteers per trip.
- Fishing effort and the number of probable violations observed per fishing effort was higher in the first half of 2021 as it was during 2020.
- LAW responded to the onslaught of new boat owners, fishers on the water and to the tremendous uptick in onshore illegal tide pool take during the COVID pandemic.
- LAW continued its increased scheduled of boat-based surveys completing 31 surveys from January to June in 2021.
- A dramatic increase of both on-the-water and onshore fishing and especially hand take from MPA tidepools was noted between January and June 2021.
- LAW's Marine Programs Director, Michael Quill, oversees every LAW boat-based survey and report all possible/potential violations observed occurring onshore and offshore to CalTip and Wardens from the water, at the time of observance.
- LAW staffer Quill increased has time spent in MPAs after the survey offering on-the-water, boat-to-boat outreach, and education opportunities to fishers.
- Probable onshore violations observed inside the Pt. Vicente/ Abalone Cove MPAs were also reported to the Rancho Palos Verdes Rangers via text or phone.

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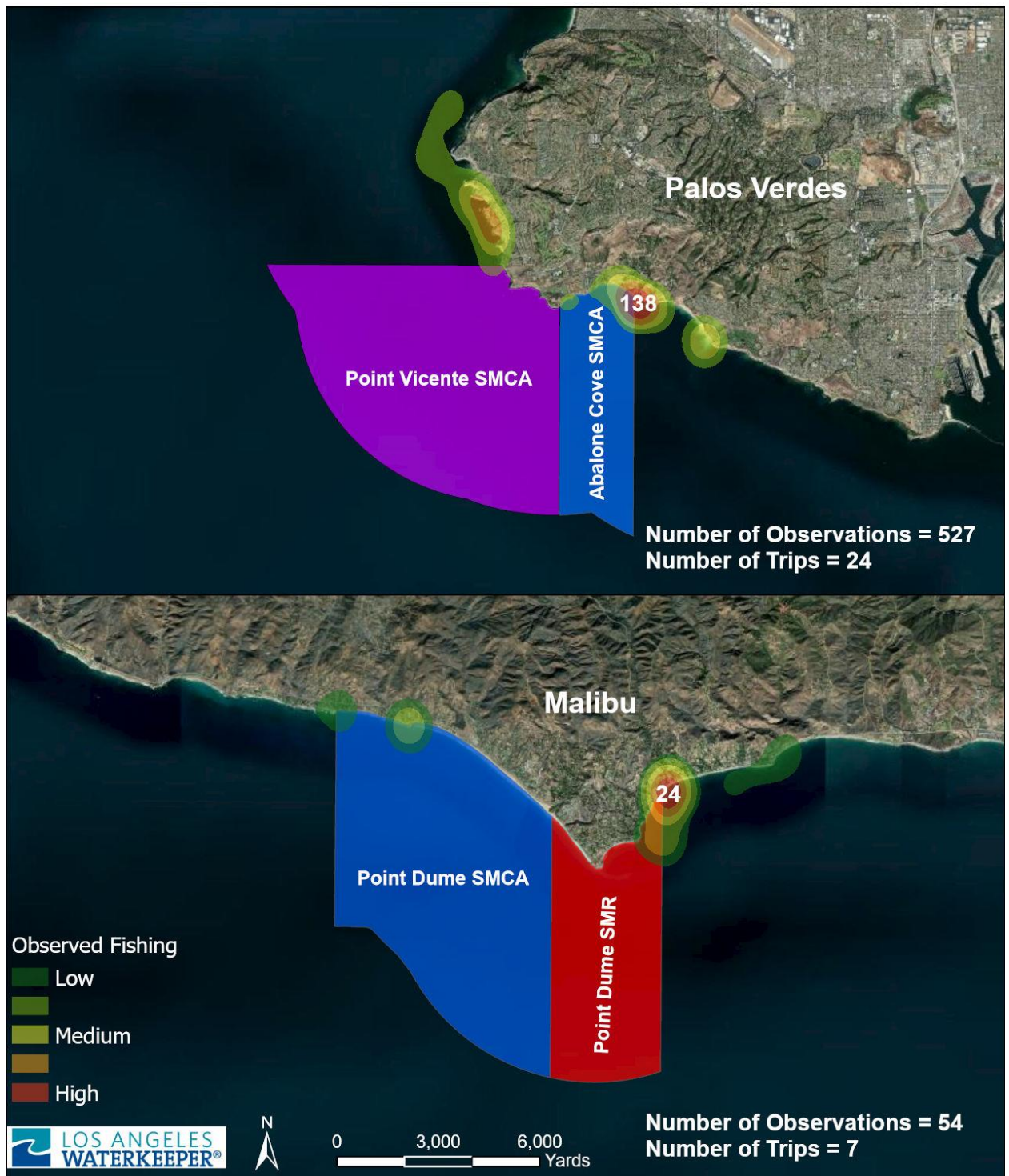
## Jan - June 2021 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu





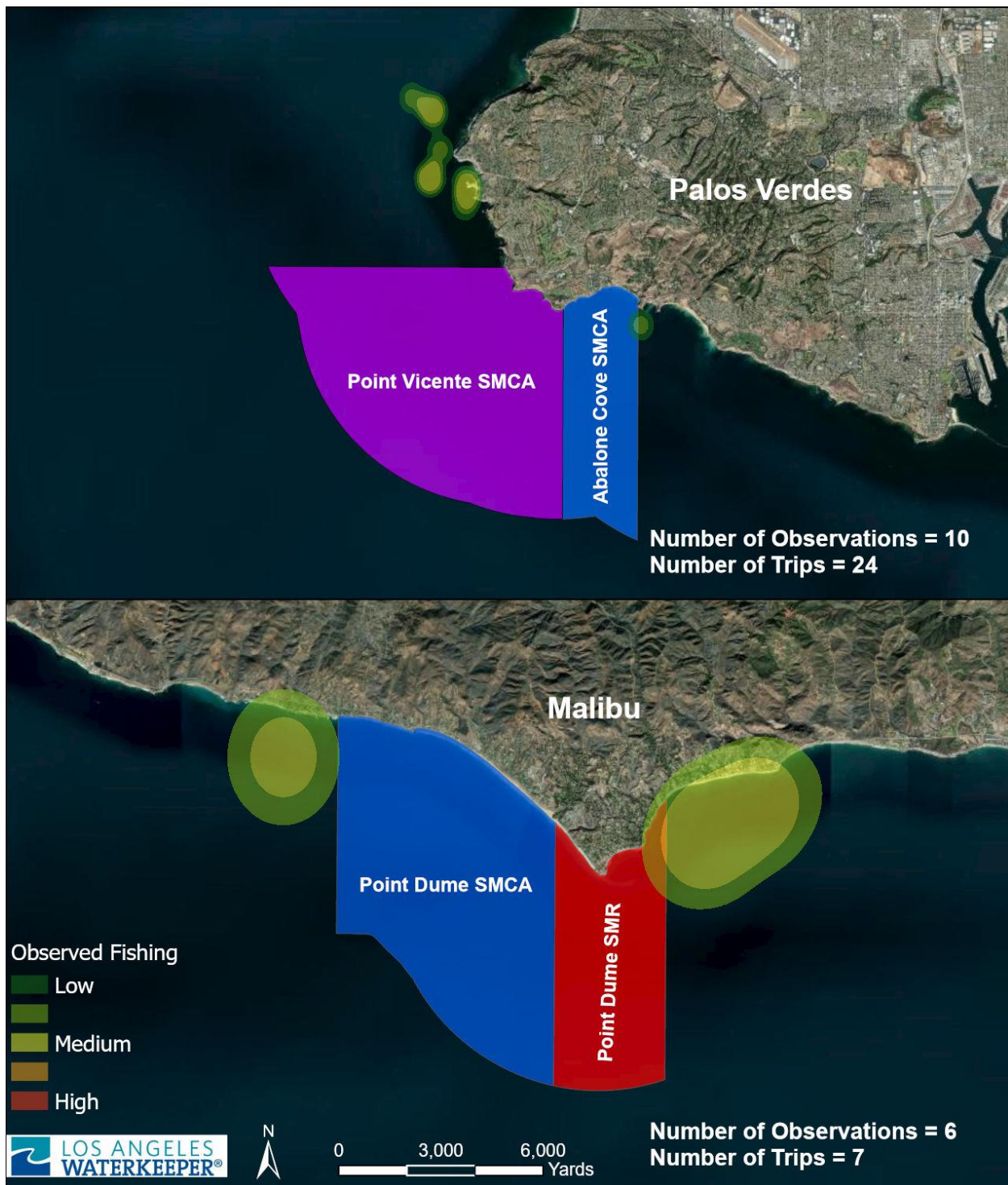
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## Jan - June 2021 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



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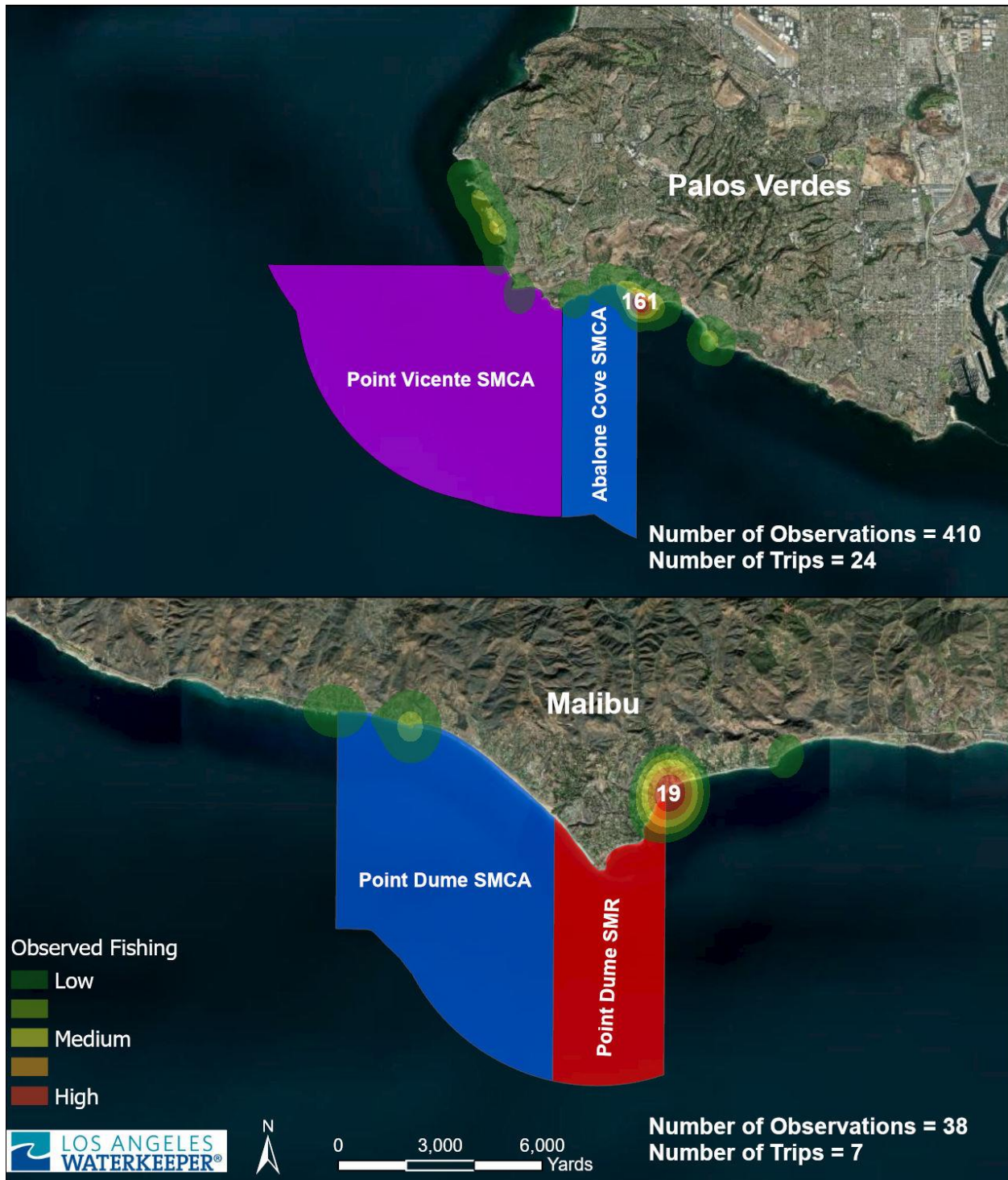
## Jan - June 2021 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu





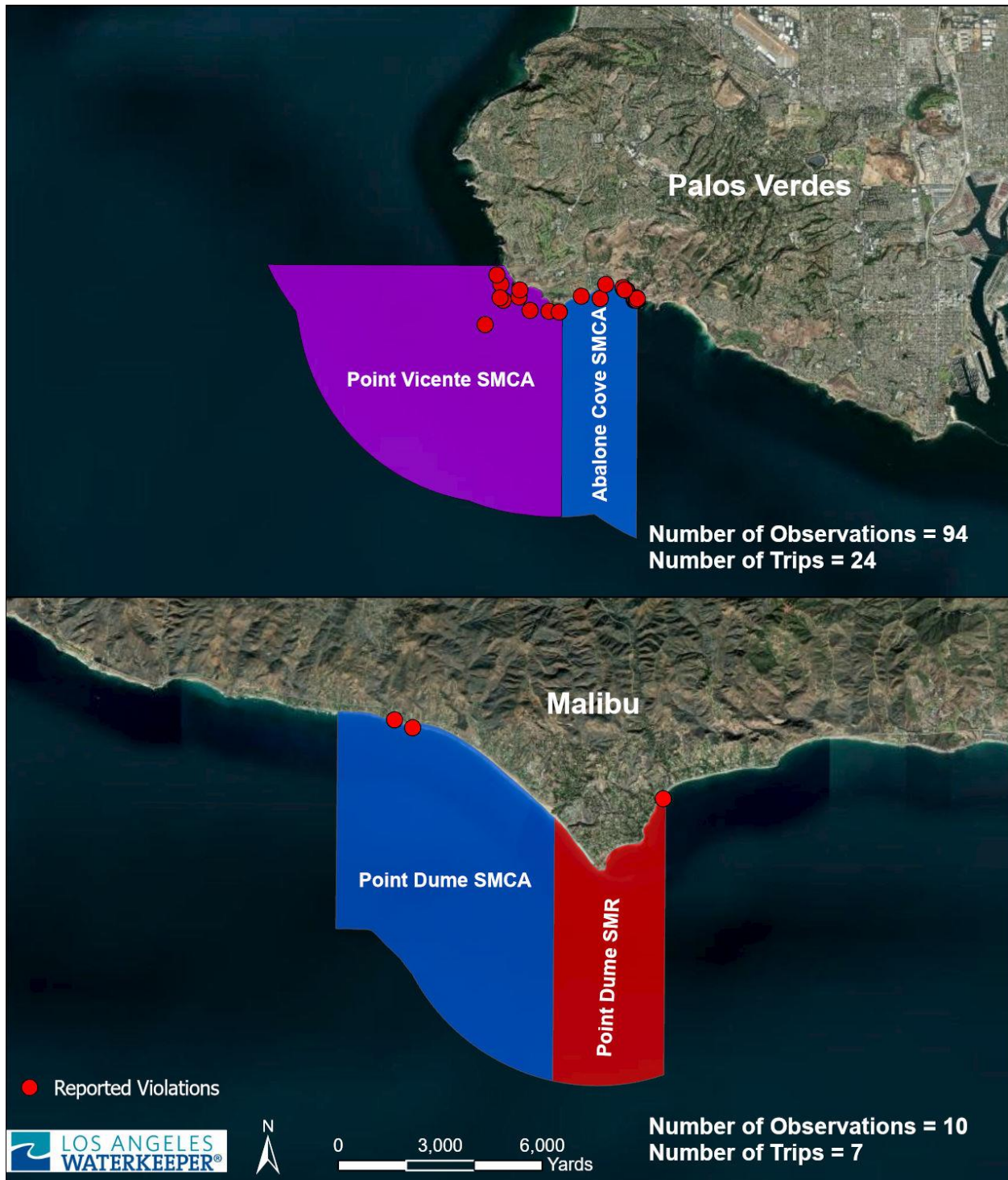
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## Jan - June 2021 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



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## Jan - June 2021 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu





## Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report REPORTED VIOLATIONS

MPA	Date	Obs.Time	Latitude	Longitude	Vessel Type	Vessel	Activity	Quantity	Notes
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	2/6/2021	12:45	34.03164	-118.86156	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	6	Called CalTip - Warden Garcia
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	2/26/2021	14:40	33.73615	118.409136	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	1	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	2/26/2021	14:43	33.73862	-118.37706	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	3	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	2/26/2021	14:46	33.73838	-118.37765	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	4	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	2/28/2021	16:17	33.73905	-118.37736	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	8	CalTip called & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	3/7/2021	12:07	33.73837	-118.37804	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	6	Called CalTip & RPV Rangers - Evan
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	4/3/2021	13:24	33.73747	118.391154	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	CalTip Call & Made Contact
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	4/11/2021	14:41	33.73929	118.378277	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	3	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	4/11/2021	15:03	33.73843	118.377793	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	1	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	4/11/2021	15:05	33.7386	118.377654	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	1	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	4/18/2021	11:16	33.73473	118.400634	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	CalTip Called, Made Contact - Provided MPA Guides & Info
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	4/18/2021	11:31	33.73685	118.405984	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	Called CalTip
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	4/18/2021	11:40	33.73822	118.415855	Recreational	Sport Fishing Boat	Fishing	1	CalTip Called, Made Contact - Provided MPA Guides & Info
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	4/25/2021	15:50	33.73868	118.378809	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	3	Call RPV Rangers - Evan
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	5/15/2021	12:20	33.73727	118.419023	Recreational	Sport Fishing Boat	Fishing	1	Called CalTip
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	5/15/2021	12:41	33.73873	118.387373	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	Called CalTip
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	5/15/2021	14:02	33.74215	-118.41464	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	DFW Warden on Site





# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report **REPORTED VIOLATIONS**

Point Vicente SMCA Boating	5/23/2021	12:40	33.73803	118.409129	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	1	Called CalTip
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	5/23/2021	12:46	33.73382	118.397546	-	Recreational	Sport Fishing Boat	Fishing	1	CalTip Called, Made Contact - Provided MPA Guides & Info
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	5/23/2021	13:03	33.73848	118.377218	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	8	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	5/31/2021	11:28	33.73965	118.384058	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	6	CalTip called & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	6/5/2021	13:22	33.73849	118.377312	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	12	CalTip called & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	6/5/2021	13:36	33.7393	-118.37914	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	6	CalTip called & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	6/6/2021	13:02	33.73957	118.379161	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	6	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	6/6/2021	13:12	33.73871	118.377516	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	3	CalTip Call & RPV Rangers
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	6/12/2021	12:58	33.74328	118.415622	-	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	Called CalTip
Point Dume SMR Boating	6/13/2021	11:49	34.01147	118.788675	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	3	Called CalTip
Point Dume SMCA Boating	6/13/2021	12:49	34.03333	118.866845	-	Recreational	On Shore - Sandy	Fishing	1	CalTip Call - Warden
Point Vicente SMCA Boating	6/18/2021	11:27	33.7389	118.412692	-	Recreational	Power Boat	Fishing	1	CalTip Called - Warden, Made Contact - Provided MPA Guides & Info
Abalone Cove SMCA Boating	6/18/2021	11:38	33.73965	118.378713	-	Recreational	On Shore - Rocky	Fishing	12	CalTip called & RPV Rangers
									<b>104</b>	<b>Total Violations Observed &amp; Reported</b>

## **Marine Protected Area Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report**

### **LAW'S MPA WATCH BOAT BASED SURVEYS**



MPA Watch Boat Based Surveys conducted from the LA Waterkeeper vessel focus on boating and fishing activity in and around the Point Dume and Point Vicente/Abalone Cove, Los Angeles County Mainland MPAs at this time. Google Earth and GIS Mappings are produced. Collected information helps inform CA DFW staff and future scientific studies on MPA activities. Waterkeeper conducts 60-70 surveys a year, split between the two mainland MPAs.

#### **MPA Watch Boat Crew Positions - 5 Volunteer Spots Available Each Trip**

1. Boat Operator – Quill - LAW Staff
2. Spotter – Binoculars – (not shown)
3. Distance Finder Operator
4. Photographer
5. Data Scribe
6. IPAD - GPS Unit Operator

#### **Transect Start and End Points**

Surveys begin and end two miles past either side of the MPA boundaries.

#### **Boat speed during transect**

Transects are run at a speed of approximately 10 knots and roughly a half-mile from shore, topping to observe activity on the water or onshore as needed.



## **Marine Protected Area Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report**

### **Data Collection**

All boating activity and all onshore fishing observed, inside or outside the MPAs, while traveling a transect are documented.

Waterkeeper stays at a safe, unobtrusive distance from the observed vessels, moving to position the observed on a heading of directly North, South, East, or West from the Waterkeeper.

For Each Vessel or Onshore Fishers:

1. The time of sighting is documented.
2. Waterkeeper's GPS position is documented.
3. The compass heading from the Waterkeeper is documented.
4. The distance from the Waterkeeper is documented.
5. Vessel type or onshore fishing method is documented.
6. Quantity of observed vessels or fishers onshore is documented.
7. Two Photos are taken of the vessel or fishers.
8. Any additional notes and comments are documented.

If fishers are violating MPA Regulations from a vessel or onshore, DFW is called and a report is filed. That action is also documented.

### **On The Water Outreach and Education**

LA Waterkeeper views fisher's fishing from vessels positioned on the MPA boundary, and within MPA boundaries, as potential on the water outreach opportunities. After collecting data from a safe distance, and on a case-by-case basis, Waterkeeper may approach violating fishers in vessels slowly and safely. As part of our good neighbor outreach and education approach, Waterkeeper informs violators of the MPA regulations, and provides information on where fishing is permitted. After making contact and getting permission from the boaters/fishers, Waterkeeper will safely approach, inform boaters, fishermen, and other fellow watermen about MPA boundaries and MPA regulations. DFW Guides and MPA maps are also distributed if desired, and if it can be done so safely.

If boaters are open to conversation and possess a VHF radio that may be used to communicate, if boater to boater conversing is hampered.



## Marine Protected Area Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report

### Join Us on the Waterkeeper Boat for a MPA Watch Trip!



#### What is a MPA?

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of the ocean where consumptive human activities such as fishing are limited or restricted in order to protect or conserve marine life or habitats.

On land, we have National Parks, National Forests, Reserves, etc. Marine Protected Areas provide similar protection to small areas in the ocean.

The main purpose of MPA Watch is to conduct outreach to local fisherman, boaters, and watersports enthusiasts about the new boundaries and restrictions and to gather data on the trends of boating and fishing in and around the Los Angeles County Marine Protected Areas.

Waterkeeper's MPA Watch Trips run about 4-5 hours. We travel from Marina Del Rey to the Point Vicente and Abalone Cove MPAs in Palos Verdes or to the Point Dume MPAs in Malibu.

MPA Watch Boat Trips are scheduled on our Calendar at [www.LAWaterkeeper.org/mpa-watch](http://www.LAWaterkeeper.org/mpa-watch).



Contact Michael Quill: [mquill@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org) (310) 394-6162, ext. 113 – If you'd like to join our MPA Watch Crew.



## **LAW Will Be Opening Up Registration for New MPA Watch Crew Members Soon!!**

**Veteran LAW Boat-Based Crew Members Can Contact  
Dr. Quill to Get Out On the Water Now!**



## Marine Protected Area Watch 2021 Mid-Year Regional Report

### Tide Pool Take Observed and Reported to Enforcement at Abalone Cove.



### LAW Provides MPA Materials to Fuel Docks, Bait and Tackle Shops and Fishers On The Water and Off.





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## **MPA Watch Boat-Based Surveys 2021!!**



**To Join Our Crew Contact:**  
**Dr. Michael Quill, LAW Marine Programs Director**  
**[mquill@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org)**

### **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](http://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](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs). If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations, please call CalTip to report the violation at (888)-334-2258.