



Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch

## Regional Report

Santa Barbara County

January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021



Santa Barbara  
**CHANNELKEEPER®**



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

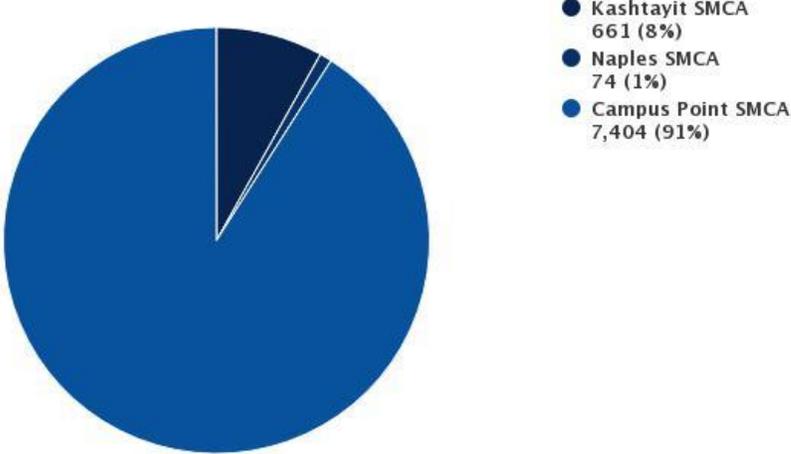
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying Stay-At Home Orders during the first half of 2021, there was significant variation in the ability of volunteers to conduct surveys. All MPA Watch surveys were conducted in full compliance with local and state pandemic orders.
- Non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) account for 99.48% of observations in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- According to MPA Watch volunteers, twelve potential violations of recreational offshore-based hook and line fishing in the western section of the Campus Point SMCA were observed during this time period.

# Human Use of MPAs January – June 2021

## Overview

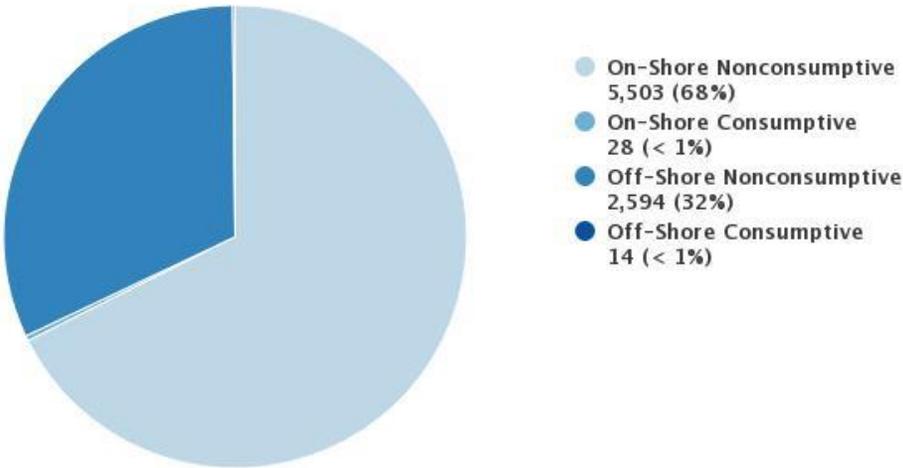
### Top 3 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021  
8,139 total activity events



### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021  
8,139 activity events



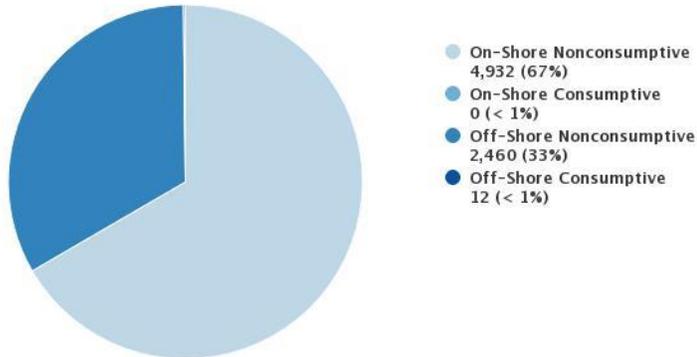
### Activity Classifications

- 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

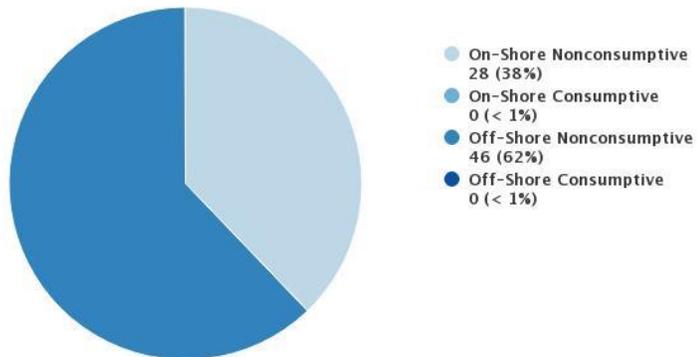
### Campus Point SMCA

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021  
7,404 activity events



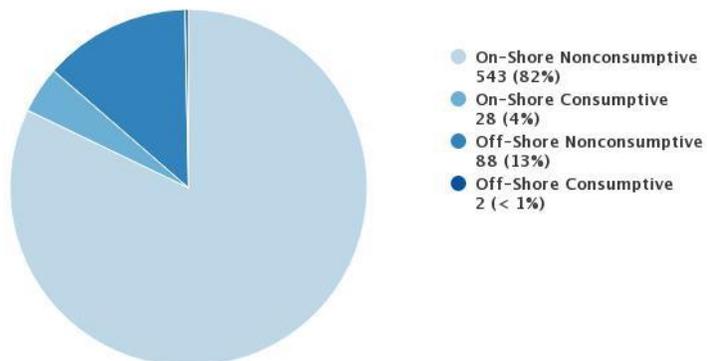
### Naples SMCA

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021  
74 activity events



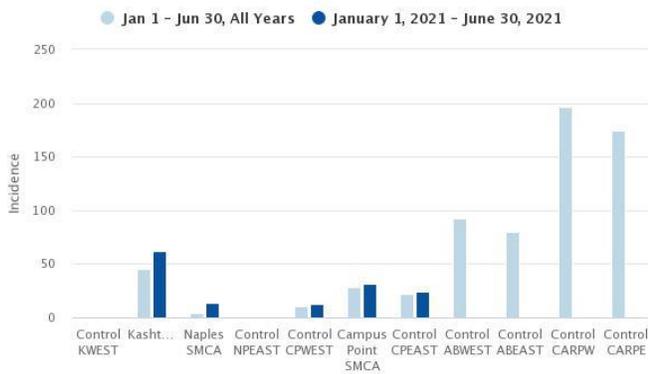
### Kashtayit SMCA

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021  
661 activity events

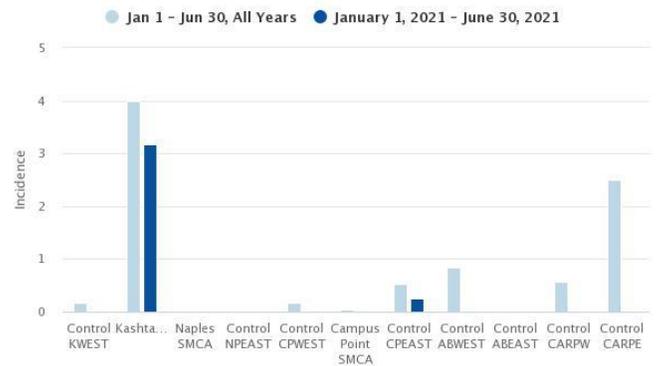


## Activity Incidence by MPA

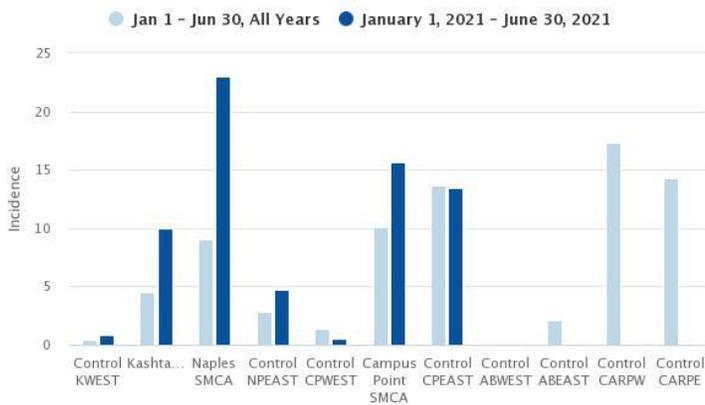
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



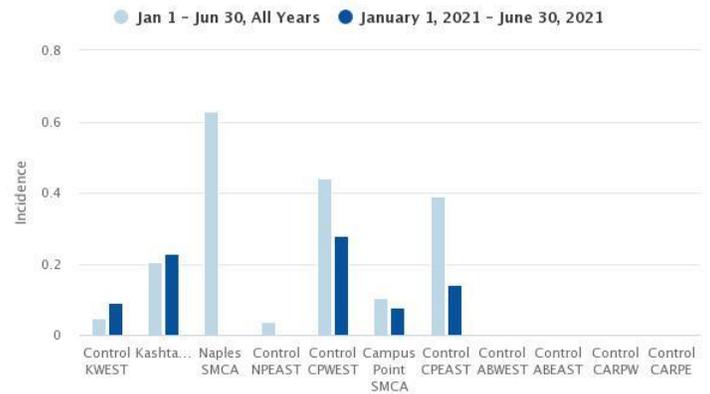
On-Shore, Consumptive



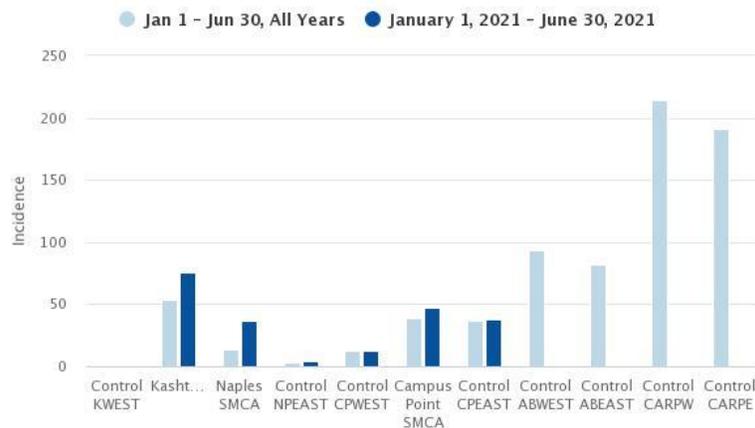
Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



All Activity



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 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021
Control KWEST		0.5	0.1	0.2	0.0
Kashtayit SMCA		44.9	61.7	4.0	3.2
Naples SMCA		4.0	14.0	0.0	0.0
Control NPEAST		0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		10.3	12.2	0.2	0.0
Campus Point SMCA		28.2	31.4	0.0	0.0
Control CPEAST		22.2	23.9	0.5	0.3
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		30.5	27.9	0.4	0.2

MPA	Off-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	▲	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021
Control KWEST		0.4	0.8	0.0	0.1
Kashtayit SMCA		4.5	10.0	0.2	0.2
Naples SMCA		9.1	23.0	0.6	0.0
Control NPEAST		2.8	4.7	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		1.3	0.6	0.4	0.3
Campus Point SMCA		10.1	15.7	0.1	0.1
Control CPEAST		13.7	13.5	0.4	0.1
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		9.3	13.3	0.2	0.1

MPA	Total Combined	
	▲	◆
	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021
Control KWEST	1.1	1.0
Kashtayit SMCA	53.6	75.1
Naples SMCA	13.7	37.0
Control NPEAST	3.0	4.7
Control CPWEST	12.3	13.0
Campus Point SMCA	38.4	47.2
Control CPEAST	36.8	37.8
Control ABWEST	93.3	nan
Control ABEAST	81.8	nan
Control CARPW	214.4	nan
Control CARPE	190.9	nan
All MPAs Combined	40.3	41.4

### 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.

Santa Barbara County MPA Watch Report: Jan. - June 2021

## **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 training efforts during January 2021. Beaches in Santa Barbara County remained open for all activities. On January 25, 2021 the State lifted the Regional Stay At Home Order and we were able to resume outdoor, masked monitoring training efforts in February 2021.

## **Breakdown by MPA**

### **Campus Point SMCA**

In January-June 2021, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 249 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 82 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

Between January and June 2021, Santa Barbara MPA Watch data shows a rate of 42.7 total use count per total miles surveyed in the Campus Point SMCA. Like in 2020, this rate continues to be higher than the previous years. Non-consumptive activities, both on and offshore, accounted for 99.84% of all observations during this time period. The most observed shore-based activity in the Campus Point SMCA was beach recreation at 84.18% of onshore non-consumptive observations. Surfing accounted for 89.31% of all offshore non-consumptive observations. Only 0.0016% of the observations were consumptive activities and they were all recreational hook and line fishing, both on and offshore.

### **Naples SMCA**

In January-June 2021, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 20 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 16 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border.

Increased activity of both onshore and offshore was observed during 2021 at Naples compared to previous years; the total use count per mile (37.0) was 2.7 times higher than baseline data (13.7). Offshore non-consumptive activity accounted for 62% of all observations with surfing accounting for 93.48% of the observed offshore activity.

### **Kashtayit SMCA**

In January-June 2021 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 44 surveys within the Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) at Gaviota State Beach and along the western end of the MPA and 22 surveys outside of the MPA on the western side.

SB MPA Watch volunteers observed mostly onshore beach recreation; 82% of all activity observed at Kashtayit were onshore non-consumptive activities. The onshore consumptive activities include 28 observations of hook and line fishing and 2 observation of recreational hook and line fishing offshore (4.54% 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.

**Santa Barbara County MPAs**  
**January – June 2021**  
**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 and as conditions permit at the northern Channel Islands including Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Surveys were conducted in the following Channel Island 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.

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 2021 time period along with boat mechanical issues, fewer boat surveys were conducted than planned. Channelkeeper completed six coastal boat MPA Watch surveys of Campus Point and Naples SMCAs and two Channel Island (eastern Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands) during this time period.

**Potential Violations**

Rate of consumptive activities observed in Kashtayit, Naples, and Campus Point MPAs remains relatively low accounting for 1.10% of all observations recorded by shore-based surveys. In the Campus Point (No-Take) SMCA, shore-based MPA Watch volunteers observed twelve potential violations of offshore fishing activity. All observations of potential violations were of recreational hook and line fishing by boat with the majority of the boats observed in the western portion of the MPA. 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 and have adapted training materials to be completed virtually. As conditions and 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](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.

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](http://sbck.org).