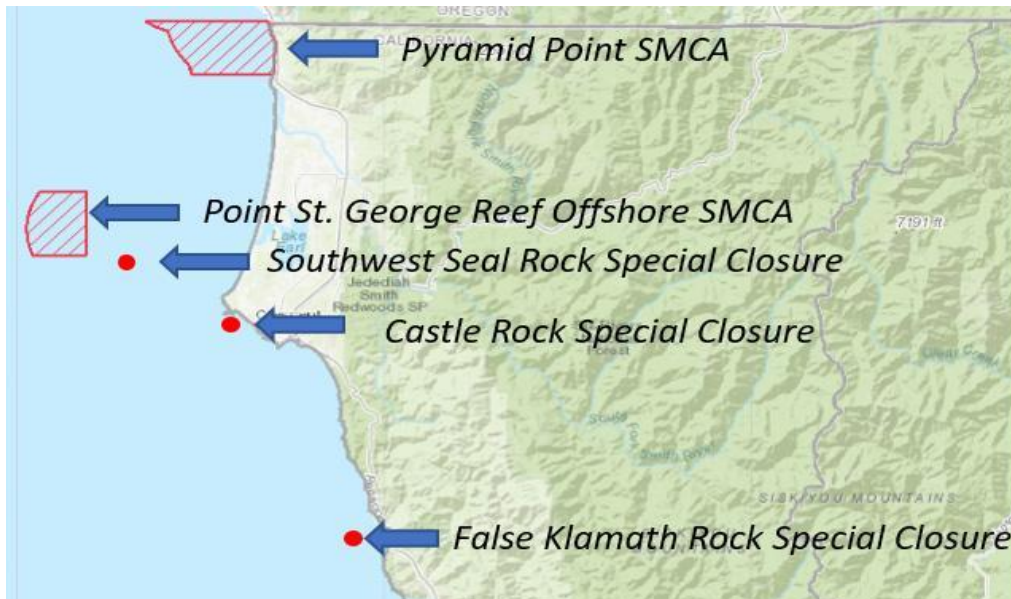




**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch
Regional Report
Del Norte County
January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021**



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. Cochairs 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.

North Coast Native Protectors is a nonprofit clean water organization that services as a proactive steward of our fresh and saltwater ecosystems. We work collaboratively with diverse groups in the public and private sector to achieve healthy, accessible, and sustainable water resources for the region. We implement innovative, effective programs in education, advocacy, research, and conservation.

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 Del Norte MPA Watch Report Jan-Dec 2020 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.



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 Dee-ni' 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 are currently using their traditional home lands.

Executive Summary

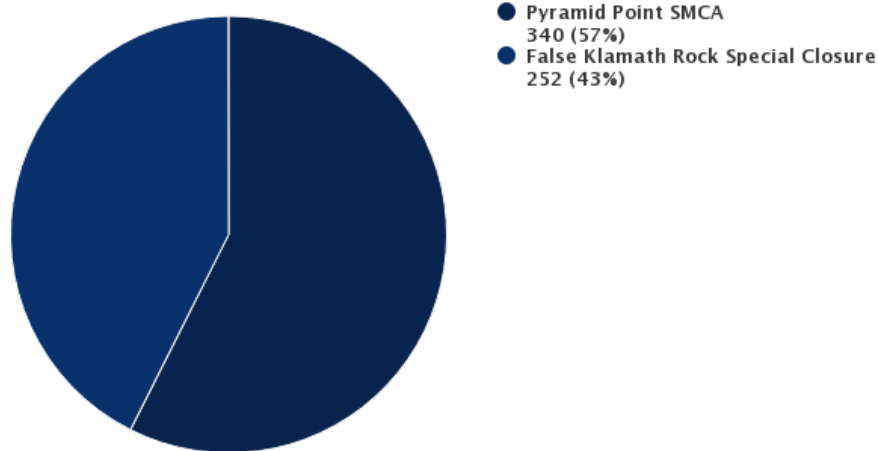
- COVID-19 pandemic had impacted the first half of 2021 and our ability to conduct MPA Watch surveys. Surveys were conducted in full compliance with local and state pandemic orders. Volunteers are increasing and tribal recruitment continues.
- Survey area is along Hwy 101 and just south of Last Chance Grade. An area of Hwy 101 that is in need of repair that continues to sink into the ocean. Traffic is impacted from 9-12 open from 12-1 and closed again from 1-5.
- During this period 25 surveys were completed by 5 volunteers. There were 0 potential violations observed out of 252 total activities documented.



Human Use of MPAs January - June 2021

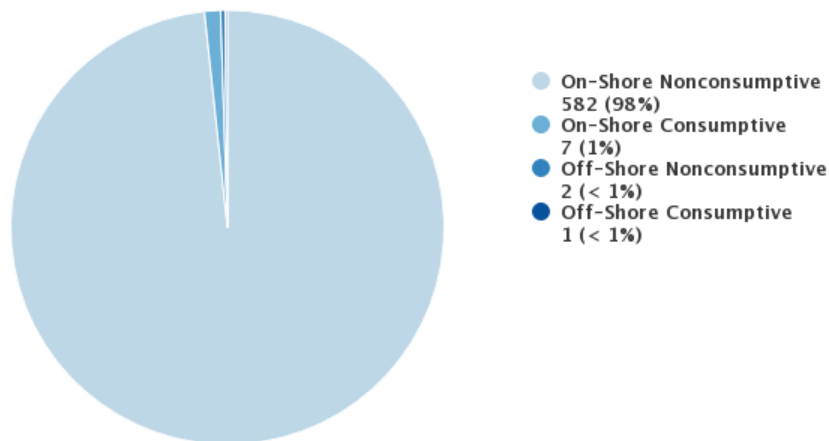
Top 2 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021
592 total activity events



All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021
592 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.

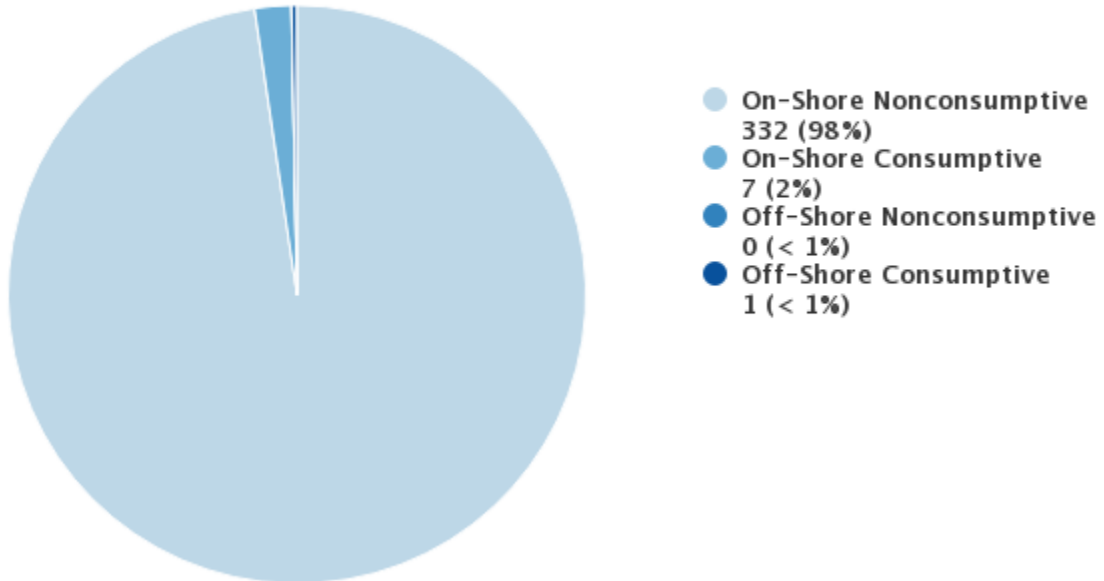
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

Activity by MPA

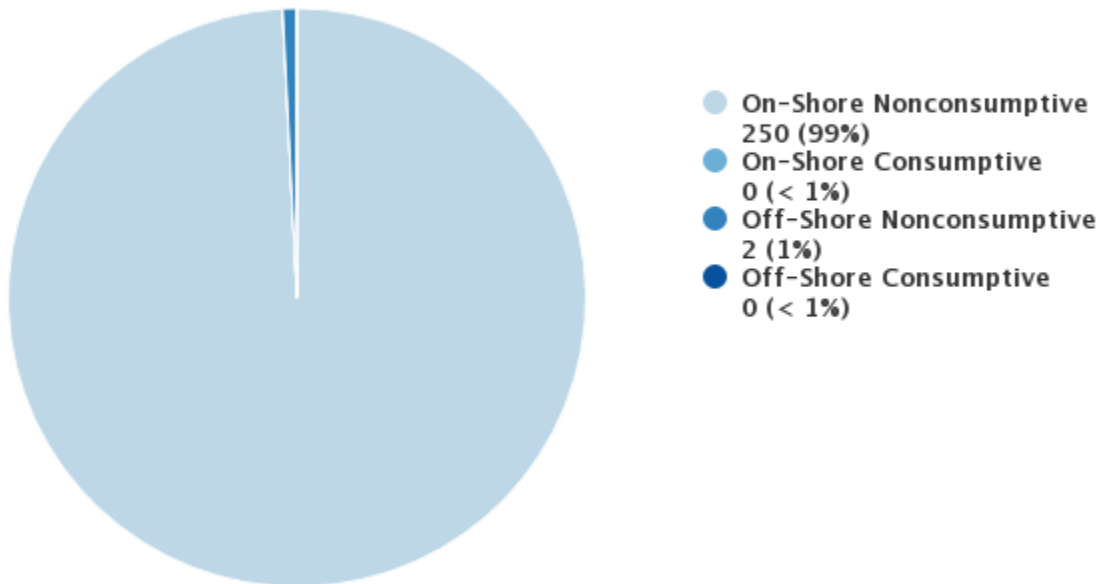
Pyramid Point SMCA

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



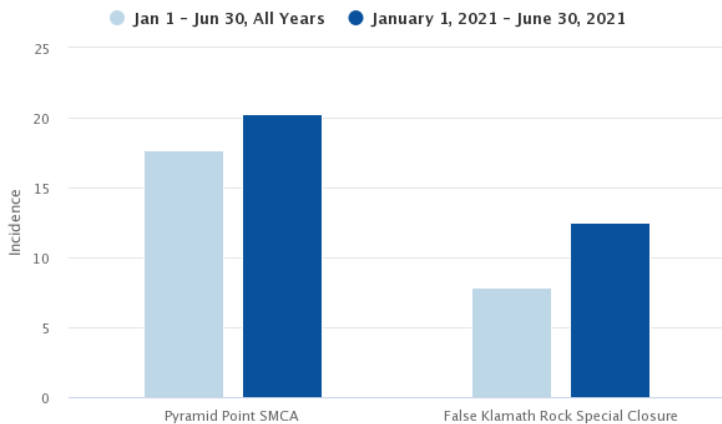
False Klamath Rock Special Closure

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

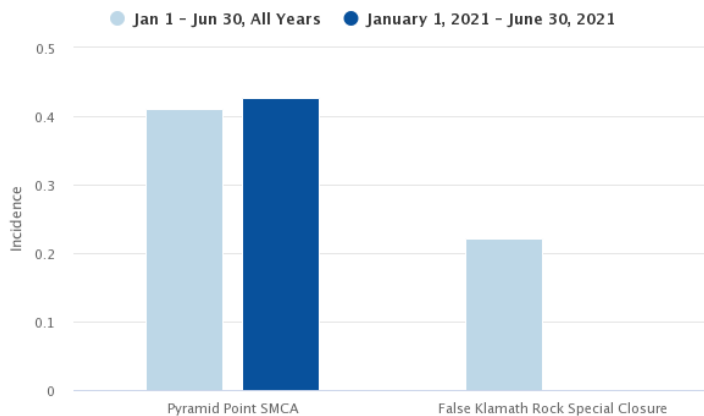


Activity Incidence by MPA

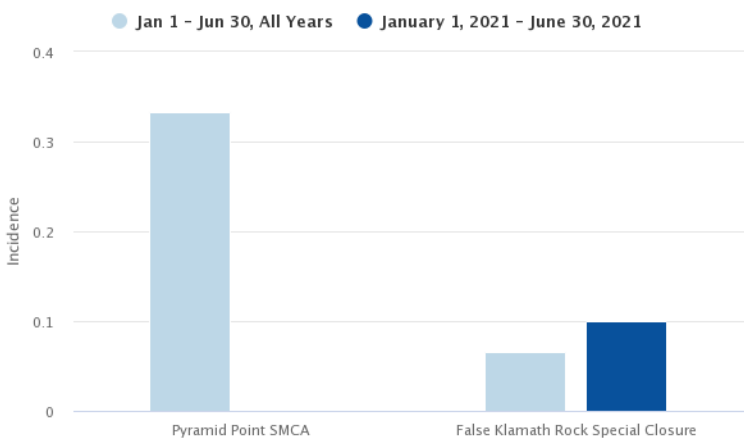
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



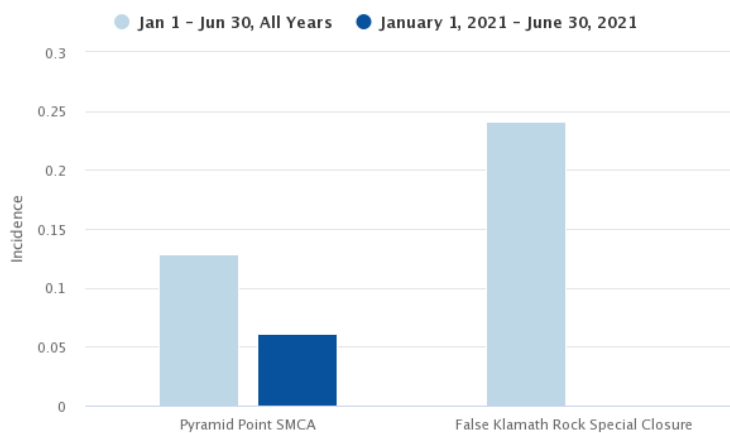
On-Shore, Consumptive



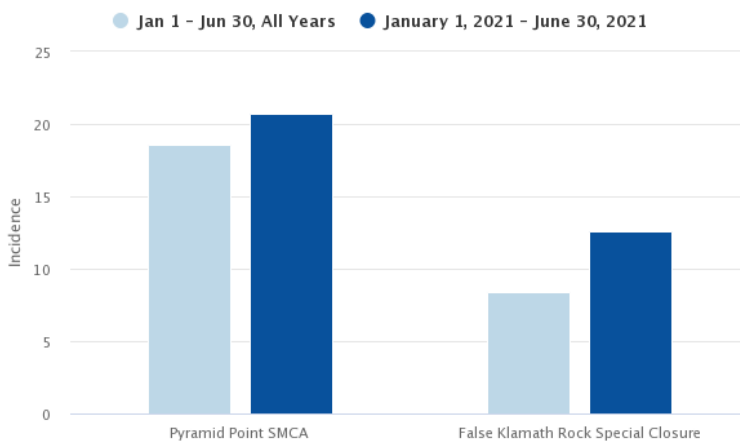
Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



All Activity



The above charts show incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in San Diego 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 Jun 30 All Years	◆ Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	◆	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	◆ Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021
Pyramid Point SMCA	17.7	20.2		0.4	0.4
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	7.9	12.5		0.2	0.0
All MPAs Combined	8.5	16.0		0.2	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
Pyramid Point SMCA	0.3	0.0		0.1	0.1
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.0

MPA	Total Combined			
	▲	◆	◆	◆
	Jan 1 Jun 30 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021	◆	Jan 1, 2021 through Jun 30, 2021
Pyramid Point SMCA		18.6		20.7
False Klamath Rock Special Closure		8.4		12.6
All MPAs Combined		9.1		16.3

The above tables 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.**

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

The beginning of 2021 has continued to be a challenge for Del Norte County MPA Watch due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to high infection rates our ability to recruit and deploy volunteers have slowed down. Yurok Tribal lands and beaches are closed to the public. California State Parks have temporarily closed to the public, most parks parking lots have been fully or partially reopened. High public-use indoor facilities such as museums, visitor centers and cafés have limited seating. Redwood National Park facilities are closed which include campgrounds, visitor centers, and day use areas. As of this report we have recruited and trained several volunteers and the program is growing. We will continue to look for and recruit new EEOFKC/MPA Watch partners with a focus on Tribes and inland communities. COVID-19 is still uncertain, and we will continue to follow Tribal, state and local health agency guidance, recruit and train volunteers in 2021 utilizing methods to ensure the safety of the volunteers and the public.

Breakdown by MPA

Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area

During this period (Jan – June 2021) 24 surveys were conducted with Pyramid Point MPA at 2 sites (13 at Site 1 and 11 at Site 2). Total activities totaled 178 at Site 1 and 162 at Site 2. Total non-consumptive activities totaled 176 at Site 1 and 156 at Site 2. Total consumptive activities totaled 2 at Site 1 and 6 at Site 2, with 2 violations observed at Site 1 and 9 violations observed at Site 2. No observed violations were reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens. Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation implemented a pilot program entitled Netlh-‘ii~ne Stewards, where Tribal citizens go through a two-month, 300 hour training to learn traditional stewardship protocols and natural resource management techniques in order to take care of their ancestral territory. MPA Watch surveys and procedures were a component of this training and as such, three new volunteers were trained over the course of this time frame bringing the total volunteers up to 8. Even with COVID restrictions, we were still able to get surveys done safely, however there were a couple of months (March & April) where no surveys were conducted due to COVID cases closing Tribal offices. Precautions were always taken when volunteers were out doing surveys and observed social distancing when encountering other beach goers.

False Klamath Rock Special Closure

Between the months of January and June 2021, data collected by EEOFKC/MPA Watch shows a use rate of 12.6 incidence of use per mile surveyed in the Falsa Klamath Rock Special Closure. This is about 1.5 times higher than the baseline rate calculated from

data collected by MPA Watch volunteers between the months of January and June in previous years.

People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in Beach Recreation activities (90%). Onshore hook and line fishing, surfing, paddle boarding, and kayaking were not observed during the reporting period, although anecdotal evidence from volunteers suggest it may be occurring. During this reporting period we observed no potential MPA violations.

Potential Violations

Consumptive activities observed are low, accounting for less than 1% of all observations recorded. There were no MPA potential violations observed.

Next Steps

Pyramid Point SMCA

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

Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove/MPA Watch collaborates with local Tribes, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to distribute MPA Watch reports to regional managers in order to improve the management of MPAs. EEOFKC/MPA Watch is looking to expand its network of partner organizations to include boat surveys. Our goal is that EEOFKC/MPA Watch volunteers and community members can help spread knowledge and awareness of MPAs to the communities that surround them, inspiring marine stewardship in our populations.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch please go to 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. If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations please call CalTip to report the violation at (888) 334-2258.

For more information about North Coast Native Protectors and the work of Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove/MPA Watch human beach use survey contact Ruthie A. Maloney at (707) 502-9155 or ruthiemaloney@gmail.com.

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