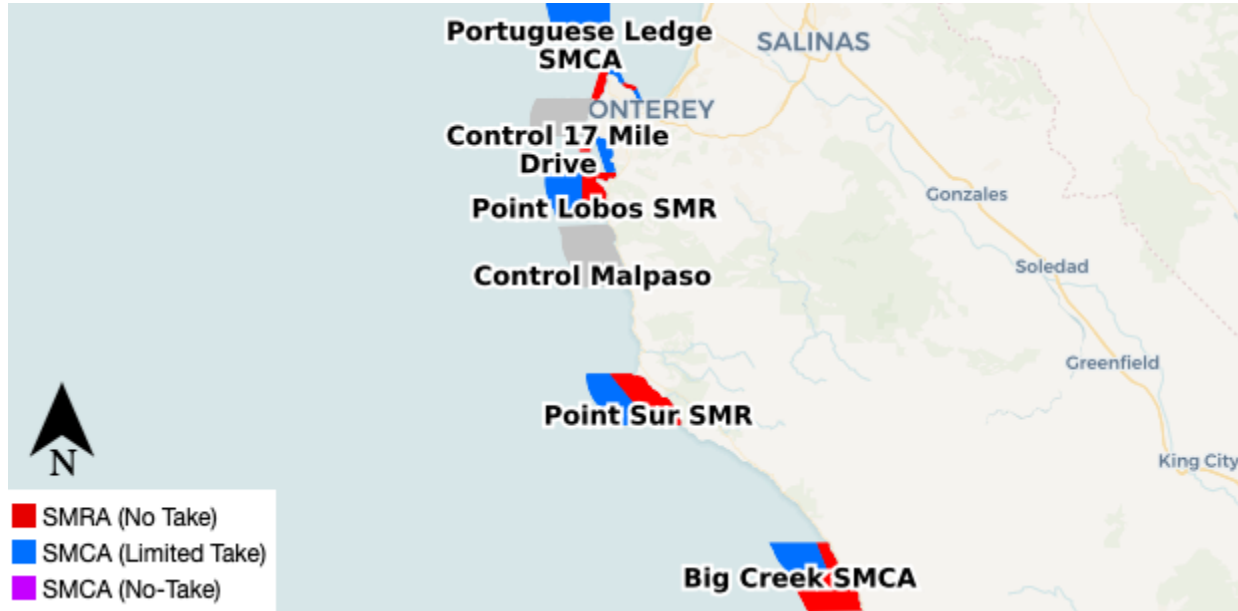


**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch
Regional Report
Monterey County
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021**



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. MPA Watch in Monterey County is implemented through a joint effort among WILD Coast, The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, and California State Parks.

Executive Summary

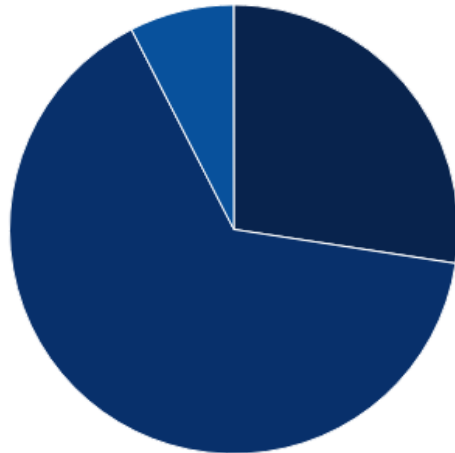
- In the wake of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions impacting MPA Watch in 2020, there has been a return to regular operations in 2021.
- 100% of activities monitored by Monterey County MPA Watch were nonconsumptive indicating that no take violations were observed by surveyors. Further monitoring is needed to ensure that illegal take is not occurring when surveyors are not there.
- Use rates of MPAs monitored in Monterey county are in line with rates of previous years.

Human Use of MPAs January - December 2021

Overview

Top 3 MPAs by All Activity

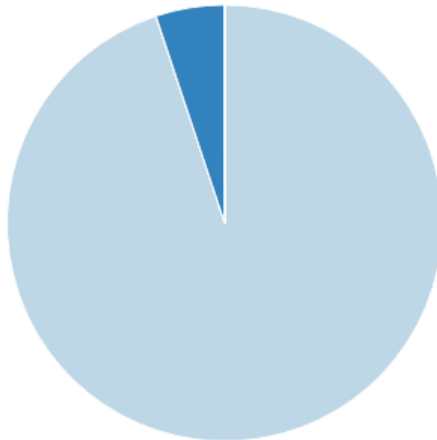
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
372 total activity events



- Lovers Point SMR
102 (27%)
- Asilomar SMR
242 (65%)
- Point Lobos SMR
28 (8%)

All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
372 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
353 (95%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
19 (5%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

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.

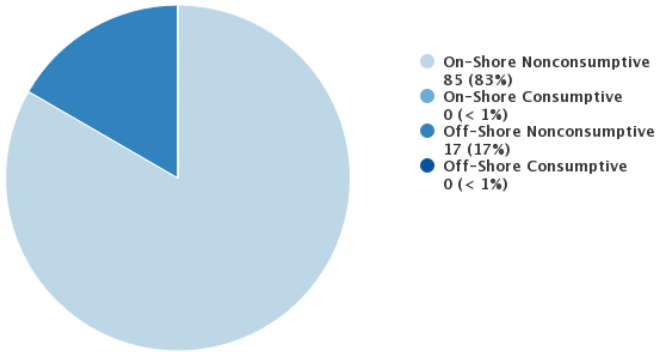
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

Activity by MPA

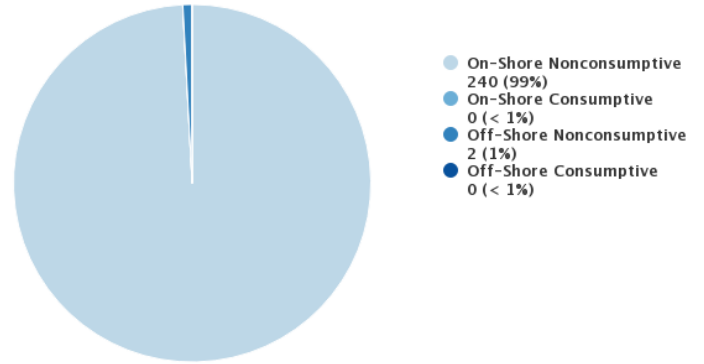
Lovers Point SMR

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
102 activity events



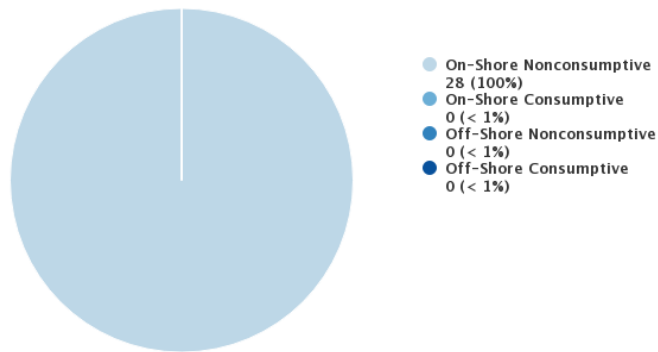
Asilomar SMR

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
242 activity events



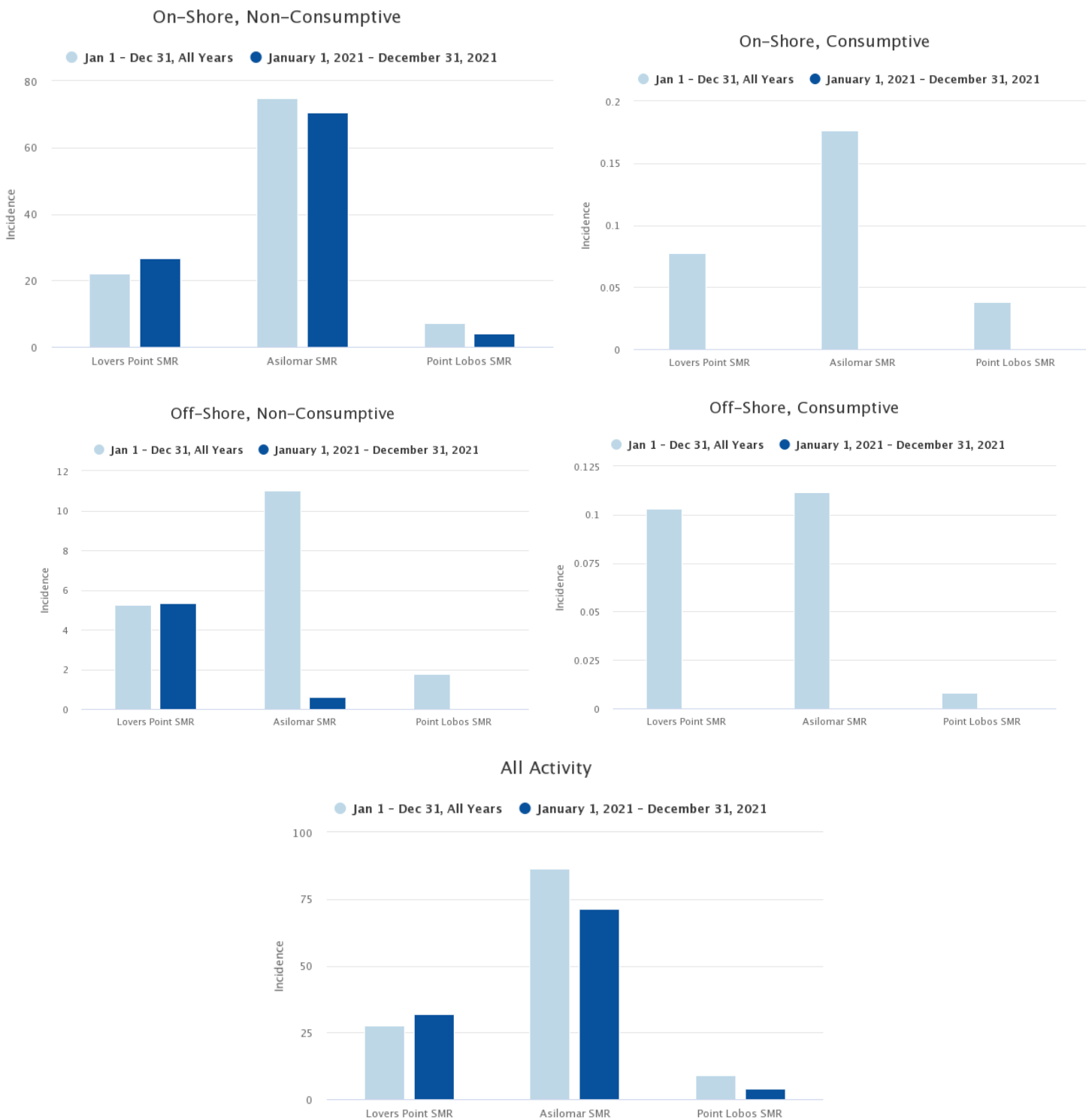
Point Lobos SMR

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
28 activity events



*Charts for Año Nuevo SMCA, Natural Bridges SMR, Cambria SMCA, and Point Buchon SMR have been excluded due to lack of surveys conducted at those locations.

Activity Incidence by MPA



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				MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive			Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021		Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021
Año Nuevo SMCA	9.3	nan	0.1	nan	Año Nuevo SMCA	4.4	nan	0.0	nan
Natural Bridges SMR	9.5	nan	0.0	nan	Natural Bridges SMR	4.3	nan	0.0	nan
Lovers Point SMR	22.1	26.6	0.1	0.0	Lovers Point SMR	5.2	5.3	0.1	0.0
Asilomar SMR	74.9	70.6	0.2	0.0	Asilomar SMR	11.0	0.6	0.1	0.0
Point Lobos SMR	7.1	4.1	0.0	0.0	Point Lobos SMR	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambria SMCA	15.9	nan	0.7	nan	Cambria SMCA	1.2	nan	0.3	nan
Point Buchon SMR	0.0	nan	0.0	nan	Point Buchon SMR	0.1	nan	0.1	nan
All MPAs Combined	22.4	26.1	0.2	0.0	All MPAs Combined	4.1	1.4	0.1	0.0

MPA	Total Combined	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021
	Año Nuevo SMCA	13.8
Natural Bridges SMR	13.9	nan
Lovers Point SMR	27.5	31.9
Asilomar SMR	86.2	71.2
Point Lobos SMR	8.9	4.1
Cambria SMCA	18.1	nan
Point Buchon SMR	0.2	nan
All MPAs Combined	26.8	27.6

The above tables show incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in Monterey 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.

Breakdown by MPA

Lovers Point State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey MPA Watch data shows a use rate of 31.9 total use count per miles surveyed in the Lovers Point State Marine Reserve (SMR). This is a 16% increase compared to the rate calculated from the data collected by MPA Watch volunteers January - December in previous years.

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey County MPA Watch data shows that 100% of the activities tracked within MPA boundaries were on and off-shore non-consumptive activities.

Asilomar State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey MPA Watch data shows a use rate of 71.2 total use count per miles surveyed in the Asilomar SMR. This is a 17% decrease compared to the rate calculated from the data collected by MPA Watch volunteers January - December in previous years.

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey County MPA Watch data shows that 100% of the activities tracked within MPA boundaries were on and off-shore non-consumptive activities.

Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey MPA Watch data shows a use rate of 4.1 total use count per miles surveyed in the Point Lobos SMR. This is a 54% decrease compared to the rate calculated from the data collected by MPA Watch volunteers January - December in previous years.

Between the months of January and December 2021, Monterey County MPA Watch data shows that 100% of the activities tracked within MPA boundaries were on-shore non-consumptive activities.

Next Steps

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History aims to increase the number of volunteers conducting human use data collection in Monterey County's Marine Protected Areas. While much of our training had been disrupted due to Covid-19, we have conducted virtual MPA Watch trainings on Zoom for our new volunteers and pre-existing volunteers were able to continue data collection.

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 regarding the MPA Watch program at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, visit pgmuseum.org or email Julia Madden-Fulk at maddenfulk@pgmuseum.org. Connect with PGMNH on social media @pgmuseum!