



**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch  
Regional Report**  
Santa Barbara 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. 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. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper acknowledges the Chumash people, who historically inhabited the central and southern coastal regions and islands of California, as the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn, and work.

### **Executive Summary**

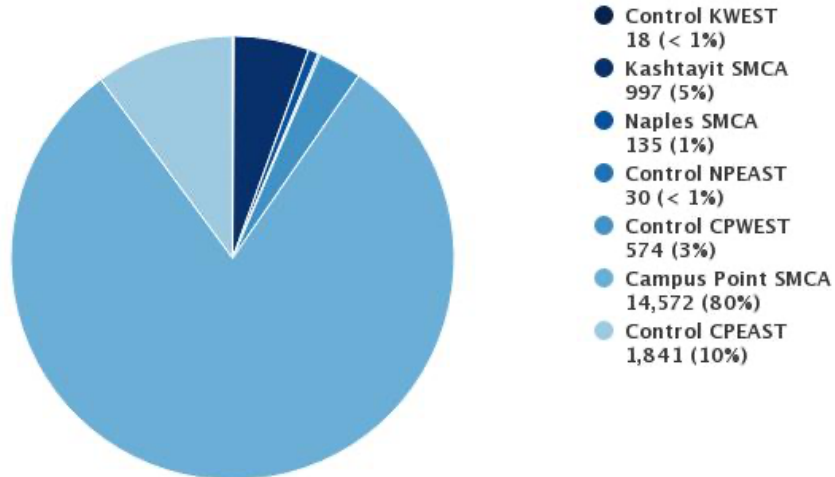
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying Stay-At Home Orders during the first half of 2021, there was significant variation in the ability of volunteers to conduct surveys. All MPA Watch surveys were conducted in full compliance with local and state pandemic orders.
- Non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) account for 99.49% of observations in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- While most of the reported activities were non-consumptive, volunteers report potential poaching (recreational onshore and offshore hook and line fishing) is still a problem, especially in the western portion of Campus Point SMCA.

## Human Use of MPAs January – December 2021

### Overview

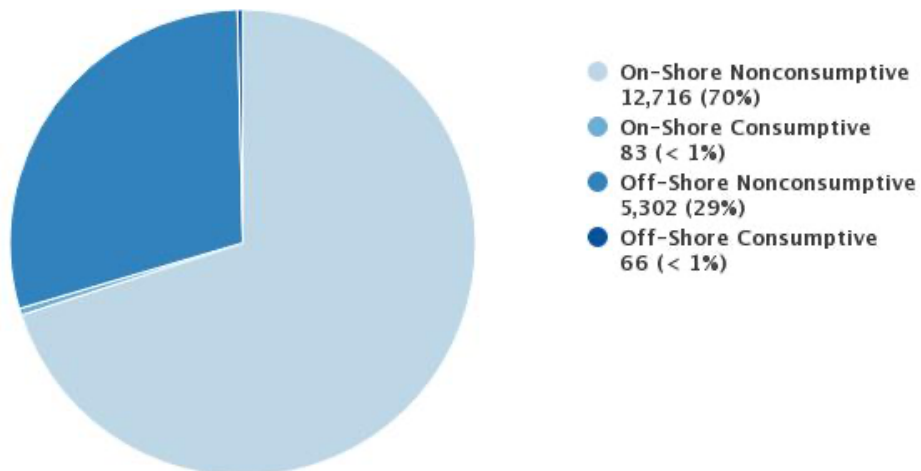
#### Top 7 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021  
18,167 total activity events



#### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021  
18,167 activity events



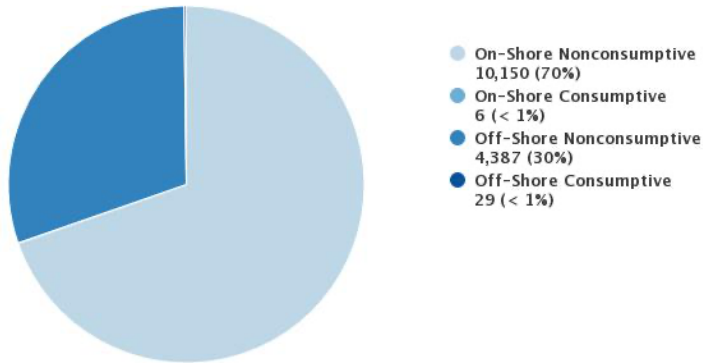
### Activity Classifications

- 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

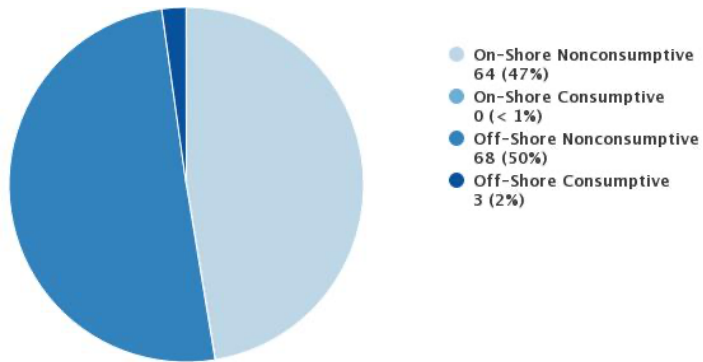
### Campus Point SMCA

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021  
14,572 activity events



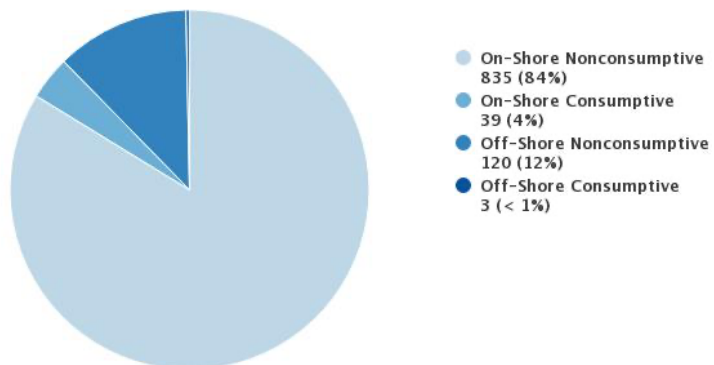
### Naples SMCA

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

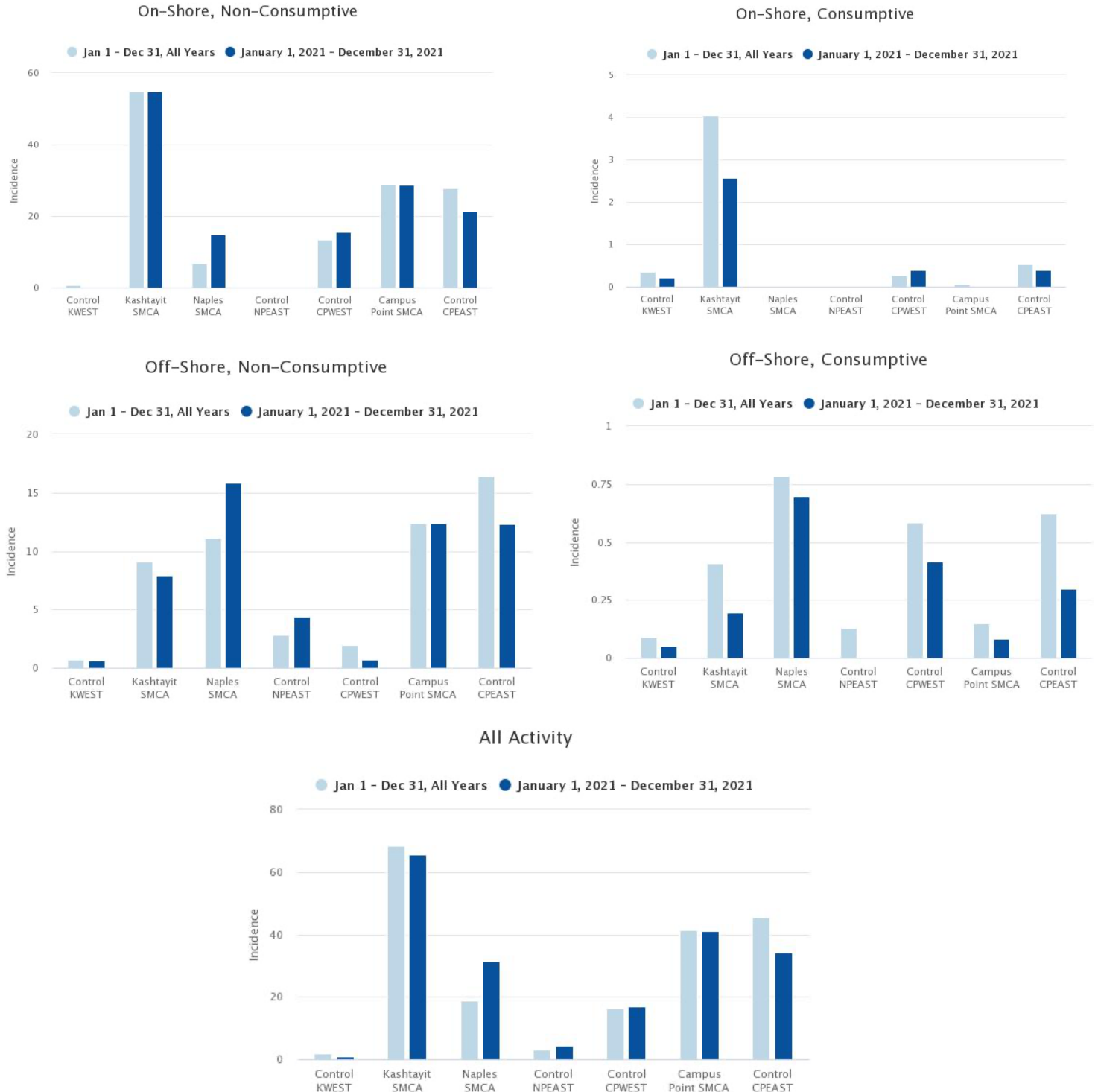


### Kashtayit SMCA

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



## Activity Incidence by MPA



The above charts show incidence values for each coastal 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 coastal 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 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021		Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021
	▲	◆	◆	◆	◆
Control KWEST		0.6	0.1	0.3	0.2
Kashtayit SMCA		54.9	54.9	4.0	2.6
Naples SMCA		6.8	14.9	0.0	0.0
Control NPEAST		0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		13.3	15.6	0.3	0.4
Campus Point SMCA		28.9	28.7	0.1	0.0
Control CPEAST		27.9	21.3	0.5	0.4
All MPAs Combined		32.2	26.2	0.4	0.2

MPA	Off-Shore				
	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
	▲	◆	◆	◆	◆
Control KWEST		0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1
Kashtayit SMCA		9.1	7.9	0.4	0.2
Naples SMCA		11.1	15.8	0.8	0.7
Control NPEAST		2.8	4.4	0.1	0.0
Control CPWEST		2.0	0.7	0.6	0.4
Campus Point SMCA		12.4	12.4	0.1	0.1
Control CPEAST		16.4	12.3	0.6	0.3
All MPAs Combined		11.6	10.9	0.3	0.1

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021
▲	◆	◆
Control KWEST	1.7	0.9
Kashtayit SMCA	68.4	65.6
Naples SMCA	18.7	31.4
Control NPEAST	3.3	4.4
Control CPWEST	16.2	17.1
Campus Point SMCA	41.5	41.2
Control CPEAST	45.5	34.3
All MPAs Combined	44.5	37.4

## 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.

## **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. We continued to implement a hybrid of virtual training workshops and in-person outdoor field training sessions for new volunteers throughout the remainder of the year.

## **Breakdown by MPA**

### **Campus Point SMCA**

In January- December 2021, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 564 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 151 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

Between January and December 2021, Santa Barbara MPA Watch data shows a rate of 41.2 total use count per total miles surveyed in the Campus Point SMCA. Unlike the previous increase in the rate of total use that we saw in 2020 and the first part of 2021, this rate is much closer to the average rate of use for previous years (average 41.5 total user per miles surveyed). Non-consumptive activities, both on and offshore, accounted for 99.76% of all observations during this time period. The most observed activity in the Campus Point SMCA was beach recreation at 62% of all observations. Surfing accounted for 25% of all observations. Only 0.24% of the observations were consumptive activities and they were mostly recreational hook and line fishing, both on and offshore, and hand collection of biota.

### **Naples SMCA**

In January-December 2021, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 43 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 17 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 was 31.4 for 2021 which is 1.68 times higher than baseline data (average total use count per mile of 18.7). Offshore non-consumptive activity accounted for 50% of all observations at Naples SMCA with surfing accounting for 88.73% of the observed offshore activity.

There was one observation of recreational spear fishing at Naples SMCA. Recreational spearfishing for pelagic finfish species is allowed in this SMCA.

### **Kashtayit SMCA**

In January-December 2021 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 76 surveys within the Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) at Gaviota State Beach and along the western end of the MPA and 38 surveys outside of the MPA on the western side.



SB MPA Watch volunteers observed mostly onshore beach recreation; 83% of all activity observed at Kashtayit was onshore non-consumptive activities. The onshore consumptive activities include 39 observations of hook and line fishing and 3 observations of recreational hook and line fishing offshore (4.21% 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 – December 2021**  
**Boat-based Surveys**

In addition to the shore-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. As conditions permit surveys are also conducted at the northern Channel Islands including Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands in the following MPAs: Anacapa SMCA, Anacapa SMR, Painted Cave SMCA, Carrington Point SMR, Skunk Point SMR, Gull Island SMR, Footprint SMR, and Scorpion SMR. Control surveys are also conducted for two miles on either side of the MPAs.

Channelkeeper aims to conduct two boat surveys of coastal and island MPAs per month onboard our research vessel, weather and conditions permitting. Due to stay-at-home orders during January 2021 along with boat mechanical issues, fewer boat surveys were conducted than planned this past year. Channelkeeper completed sixteen coastal boat MPA Watch surveys of Campus Point and Naples SMCAs and seven Channel Island survey trips during 2021.

On the following pages are heat maps looking at all fishing activity observed during the January – December 2021 time period for the coastal and island MPAs surveyed.

One potential violation of a recreational boat hook and line fishing in the Campus Point (No-Take) SMCA was observed during this time period. The potential violation was reported to CalTip. Channelkeeper staff also spoke with the vessel fishing to let them know they were in a no-fishing MPA and where they could move to fish. The majority of the recreational fishing observations seen during our coastal boat surveys were hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier in a control survey east of the Campus Point MPA.

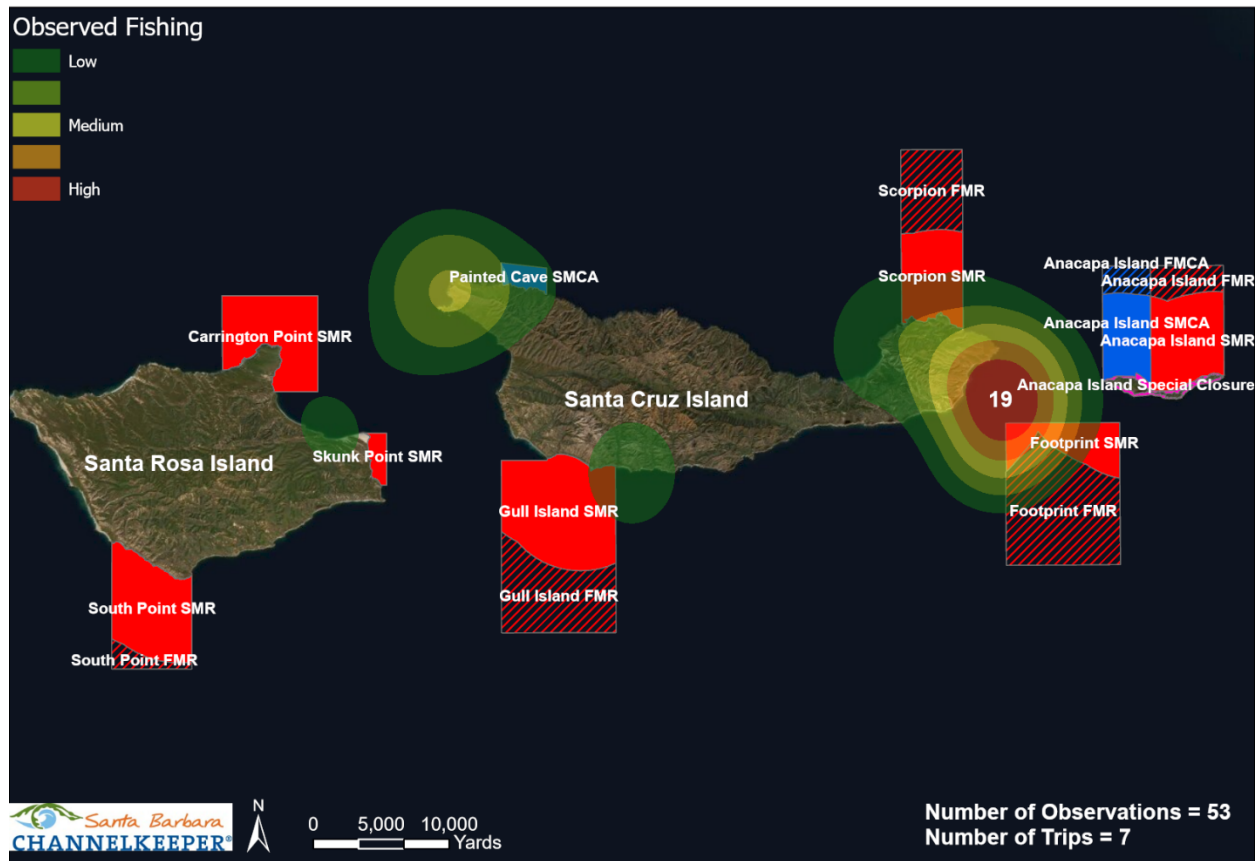
During the 2021 time period, one potential violation was observed during the northern Channel Islands surveys in the Scorpion SMR of a recreational vessel hook and line fishing. The reported the potential violation to CalTip and Channelkeeper staff spoke with the vessel fishing to let them know they were in a no-take MPA.

## Jan - Dec 2021 All Fishing Santa Barbara





## Jan - Dec 2021 All Fishing Activity Channel Islands



### **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. Of the coastal MPA Watch observations of potential violations most were recreational hook and line fishing by boat with the majority of the boats observed in the western portion of the MPA. There also observations of hand collection of biota in the Campus Point MPA. There was one observation of a potential violation at Naples SMCA of an active commercial trap fishing vessel.

Channelkeeper boat-based MPA Watch surveys also documented potential violations. One recreation hook and line fishing vessel was observed just west of Coal Oil Point fishing in the Campus Point MPA and one recreational fishing vessel fishing in the Scorpion SMR was observed fishing just west of the Scorpion Pier at Santa Cruz Island.

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](https://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](https://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](https://sbck.org).