



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
Six Month Regional Report  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2022 – June 2022**



**Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Community Based Compliance Liaison's  
Boat-Based Survey Report  
Tongva, Chumash & Tataviam Lands**



Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) has conducted boat-based surveys of our Point Dume MPA in Malibu, and our Point Vicente & Abalone Cove MPAs in Palos Verdes regularly since January of 2012 when Southern California MPA regulations went into effect.

LAW documents all consumptive and non-consumptive boating activity, as well as all fishing and other consumptive activities observed taking place on or in the water, as well as all onshore fishing and any other consumptive activity occurring in and around the two mainland LA County MPA's, including control areas.

LAW's boat-based survey transects begin and extend approximately two miles beyond the boundaries of our MPAs as we monitor control sites that run up shore and down shore of the MPA boundaries. Control area data is collected during every survey.

LAW's compliance focused MPA boat-based survey effort complements the land-based MPA multiple human use focused surveys conducted by Heal the Bay.

In response to the tremendous uptick in illegal take observed during the COVID pandemic from May 2020 into 2022. In response to a noticeable lack of fishing effort in Santa Monica Bay, a significant rise in cost of fuel, and ocean conditions, LAW conducted 20 survey trips over the first 6 months supporting MPA enforcement agency efforts as Community Based Enforcement/Compliance Liaison for Los Angeles.



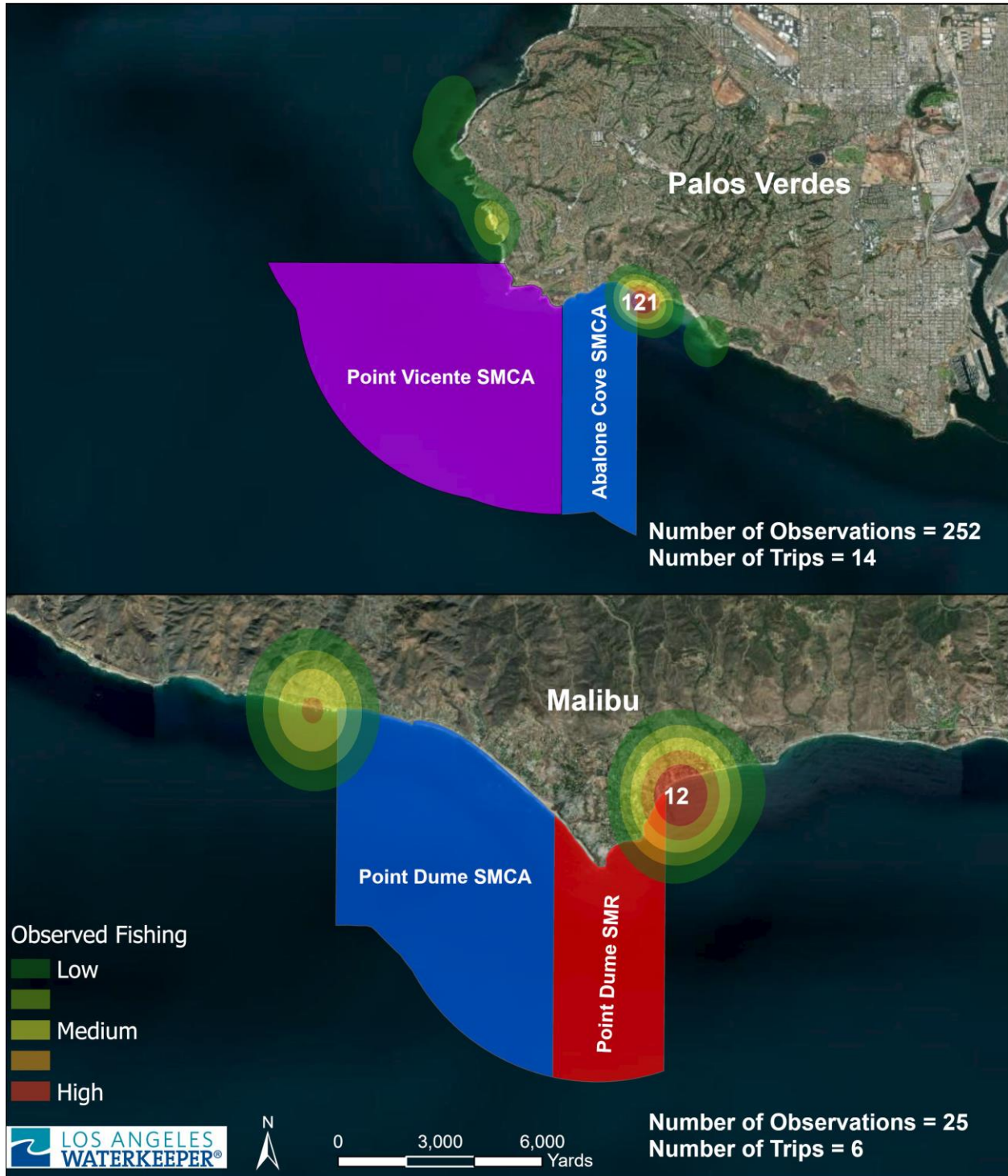
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**Executive Summary**

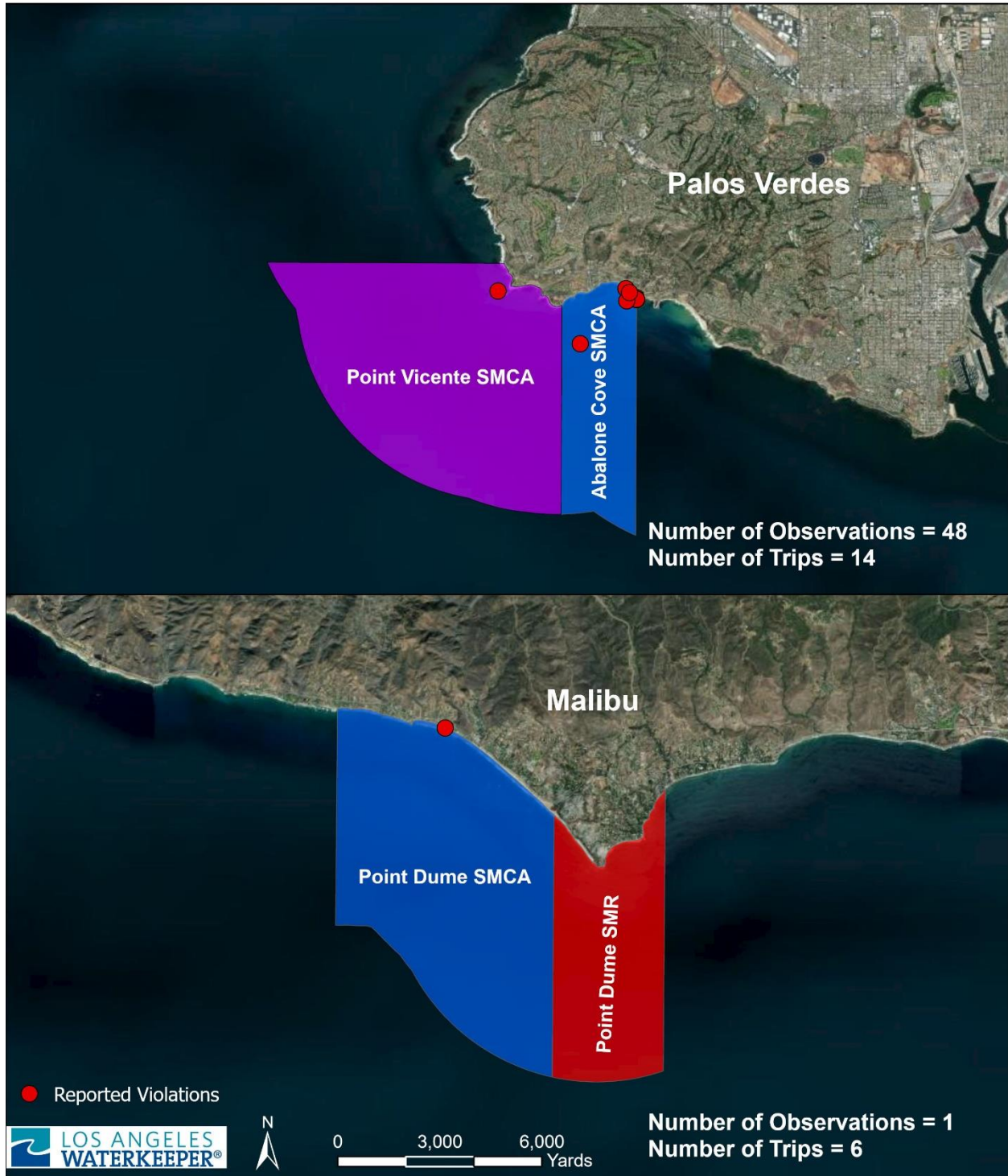
- LAW's Marine Programs Director, Dr. Michael Quill, oversaw every LAW boat-based survey and he reported and recorded all probable violations observed occurring onshore and offshore to CalTip and Wardens and Rangers as appropriate from his on the water perspective.
- A core group of LAW's vaccinated veteran volunteers and MPA/Marine Intern made up LAW's effort with crew sizes limited to 2-3 crew members per trip. LAW continues to adapt volunteer inclusion to the uprising of various COVID strains and surges in COVID infections.
- The ongoing probable onshore violations observed inside the Pt. Vicente/ Abalone Cove MPAs were reported to the RPV Rangers via text or phone as well as to CalTip via phone call. All Pt. Dume observed probable violations are reported to CalTip and local wardens as appropriate.
- After completing a survey, LAW staffer Quill offered on-the-water, boat-to-boat MPA outreach and reported any other possible onshore violations to CDFW and the RPV Rangers as appropriate. LAW observed a drop off of onshore enforcement response at Abalone Cove in 2022 compared to 2020-2021 boots on the ground response efforts.
- Records of all LAW calls to CalTip and contact with RPV Rangers made during LAW's surveys are submitted a supplemental report to aide CDFW's research of CalTip efficiency as requested by CDFW and can be found at this link:  
[LA Waterkeeper - Reported MPA Violations January to June 2022](#)
- LAW observed a decline in overall fishing effort and the number of probable fishing violations reported was lower in the first half of 2022 than 2020 and 2021.
- The massive Hyperion sewage spill of July 2021, the oil spill in October 2021, and a final December 2021 sewage spill in LA, seemingly ongoing red tides that swirled along our coastal waters from Malibu to Long Beach regularly in 2022 may have been factors in the decreased on the water boating activities and overall fishing LAW observed in the first six months of 2022.

## Jan - June 2022 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

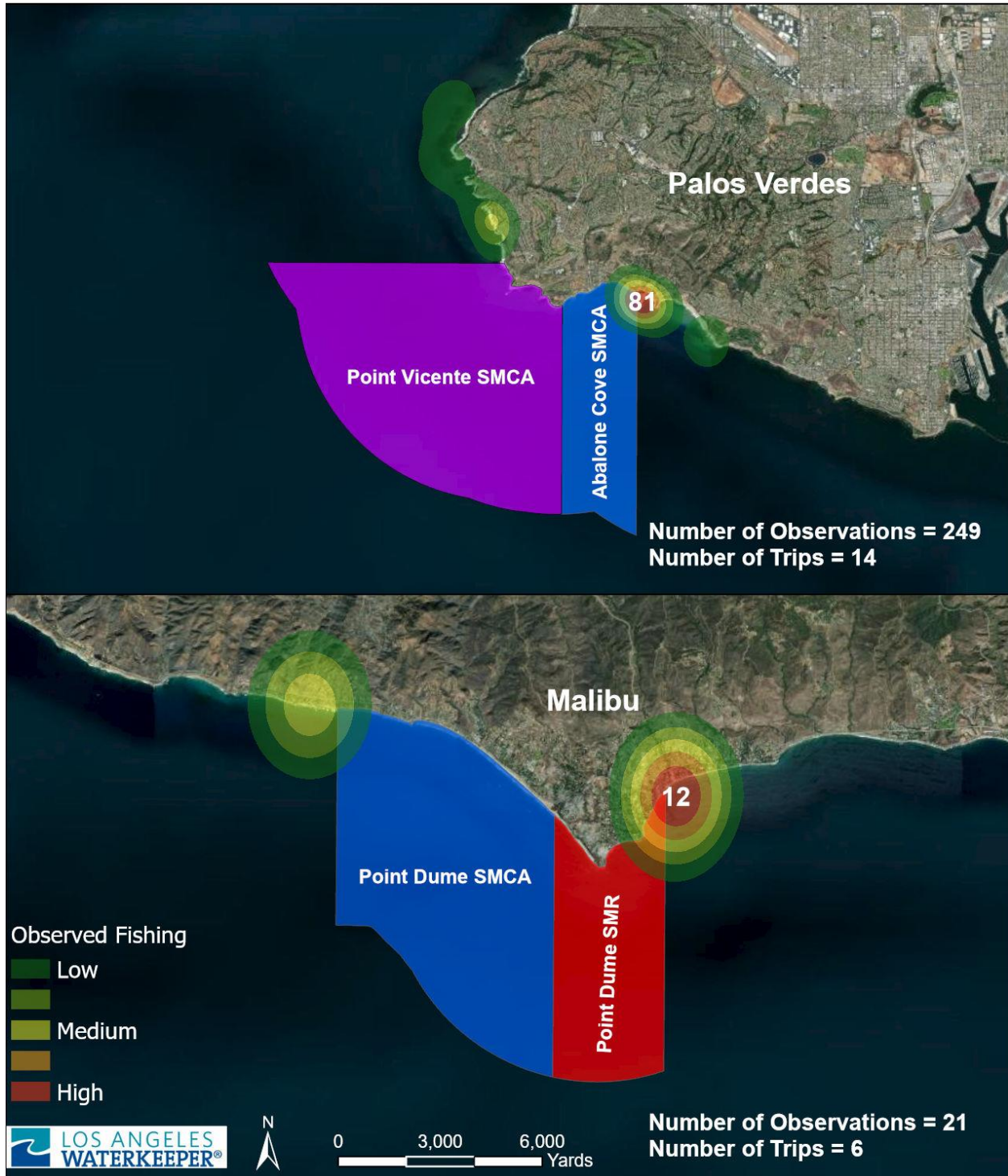




## Jan - June 2022 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu

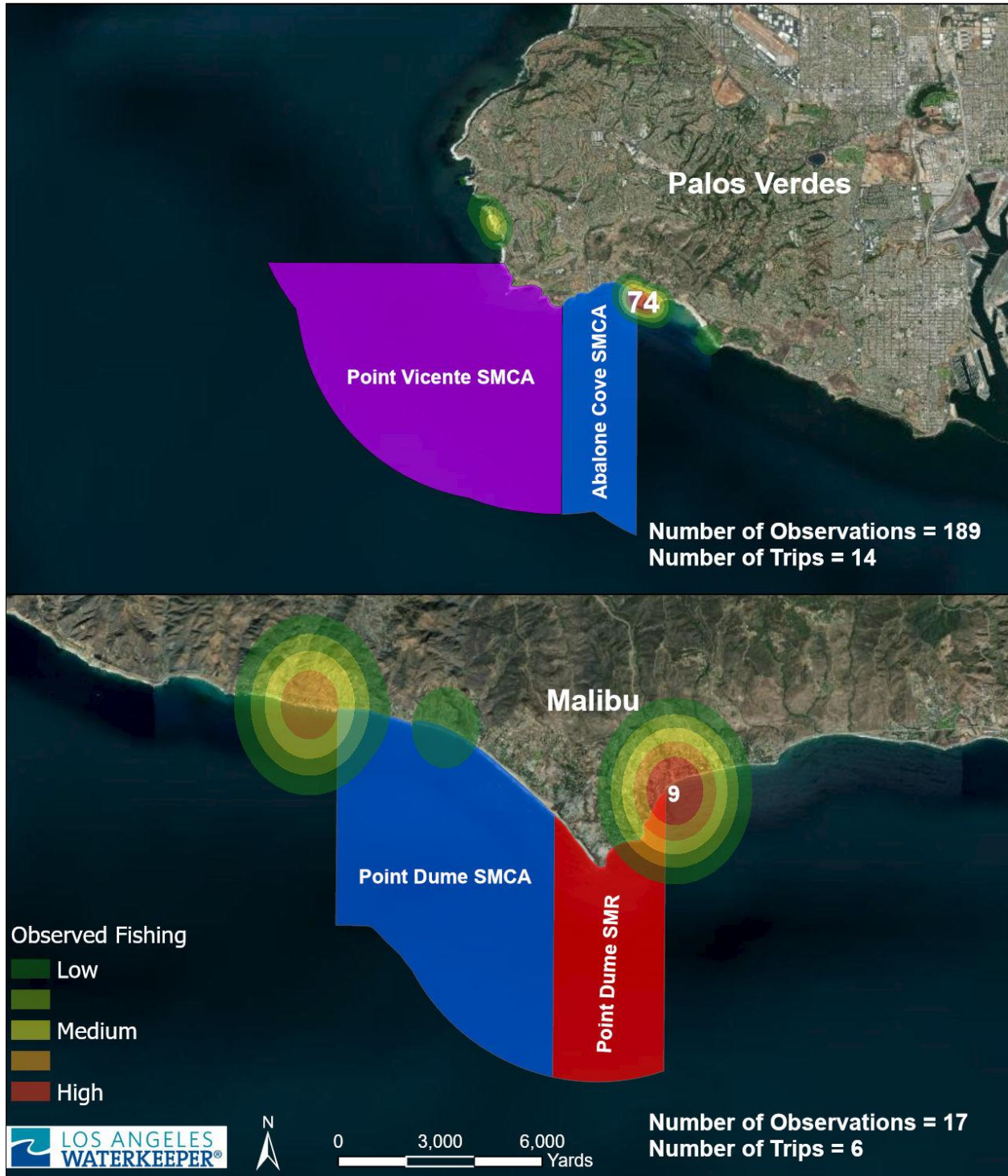


## Jan - June 2022 Recreational Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu

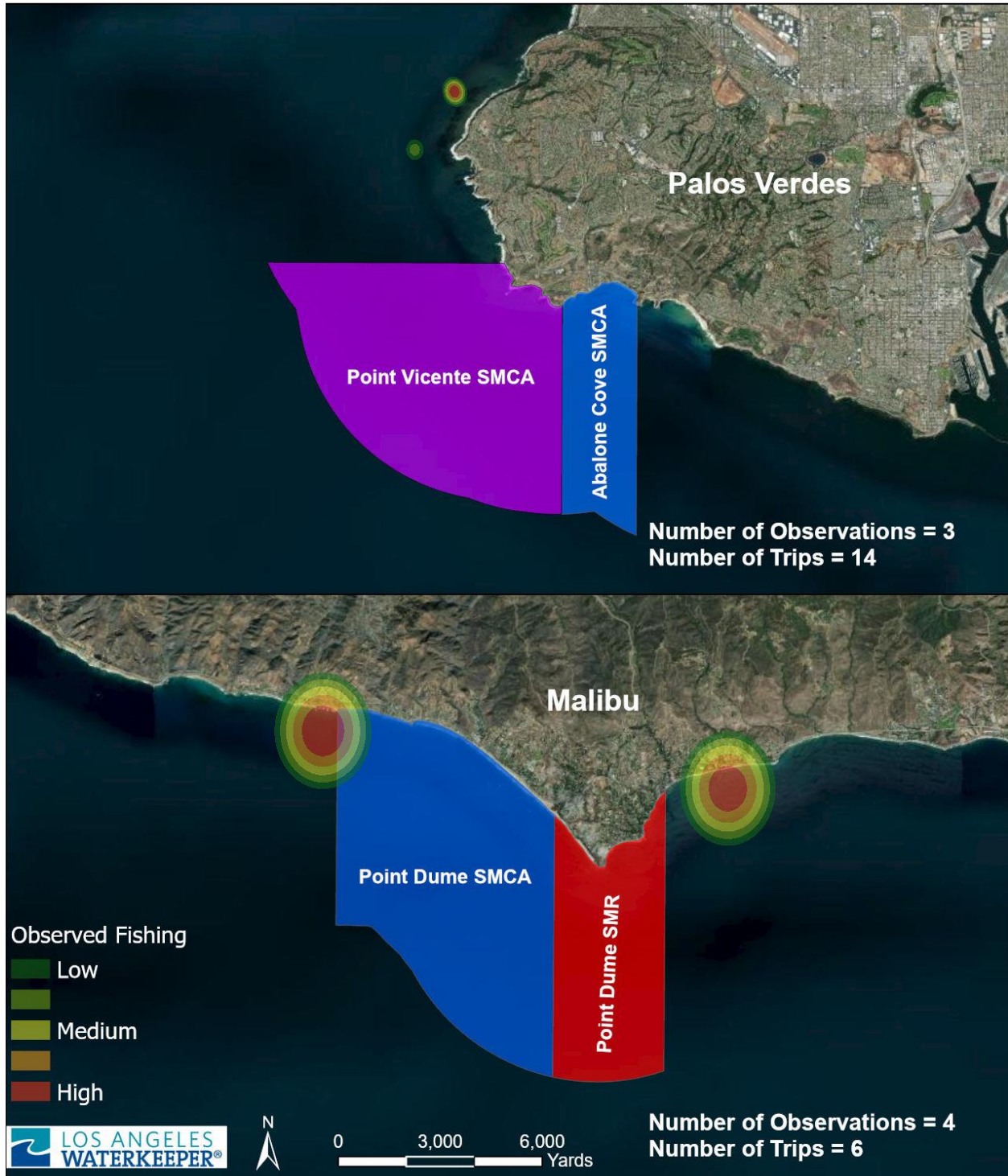




## Jan - June 2022 Onshore Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu



## Jan - June 2022 Commercial Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu





## LAW'S MPA WATCH BOAT-BASED SURVEYS



MPA Watch Boat-Based Surveys conducted from onboard the LA Waterkeeper (LAW) vessel focus on boating and fishing activity in and around the Point Dume and Point Vicente/Abalone Cove Los Angeles County Mainland MPAs. GIS mappings are produced. Collected data and mappings inform CADFW and future scientific studies of our MPA human activity and especially hotspots of MPA violations.

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

1. Boat Operator – Dr. Quill, LAW Staff
2. Spotter – Binoculars – Distance Finder Operator
3. Photographer
4. Data Scribe
5. IPAD with GPS 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





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**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, CDFW is called, and a report is filed. That action is also documented.

**On The Water Outreach and Education**

LA Waterkeeper views fishers fishing from vessels positioned on MPA boundary lines and within MPA boundaries as potential on the water outreach opportunities. After collecting data from a safe distance, LAW reports the probable violation to CalTip or other enforcement agencies. If enforcement officers are unavailable, Waterkeeper may approach violating fishers in vessels slowly and safely, and on a case-by-case basis,

As part of our good neighbor outreach and education approach, LAW staff informs probable 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. LAW offers CDFW MPA Guides and the LA's Guide to MPAs and Fishing which are distributed if desired and if that 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.

## 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.





**LA'S WATER WATCHDOG!!**



**Onshore Tide Pool Take Observed at Abalone Cove**





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

**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.