



**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch  
Regional Report**  
Santa Barbara County – Chumash Lands  
January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022



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**

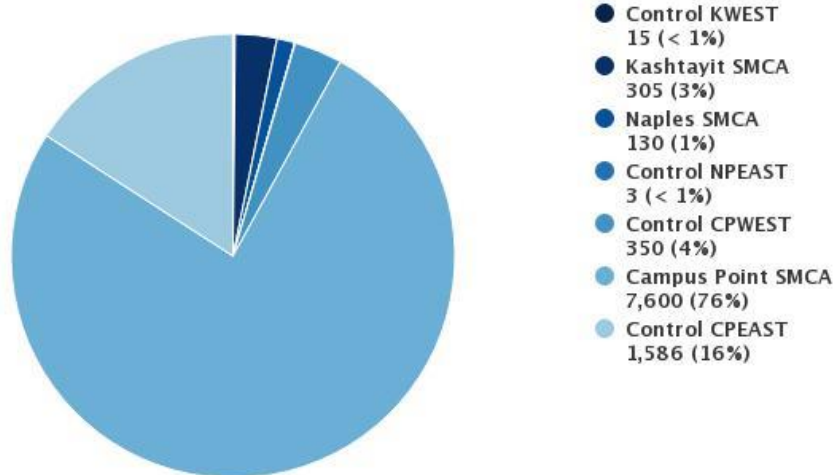
- Non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) account for 99.56% of observations in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- While most of the reported activities were non-consumptive, volunteers report potential poaching (recreational onshore and offshore hook and line fishing) is still a problem, especially in the western portion of Campus Point SMCA near the Ellwood Bluffs and at the eastern border of the MPA at the Campus Point rocks.
- Use rates of the Campus Point and Naples MPAs continue to be higher than baseline use rates of these MPAs, particularly at Naples MPA where it is 2.2 times higher than baseline use rates.
- Channelkeeper trained 46 community members about MPAs and MPA Watch during the January to June 2022 time period.
- MPA Watch surveyors also reported derelict lobster traps that washed up on the beaches and lobster trap tag information when available. This data was shared with California Department of Fish & Wildlife staff to facilitate trap return if possible.

## Human Use of MPAs January – June 2022

### Overview

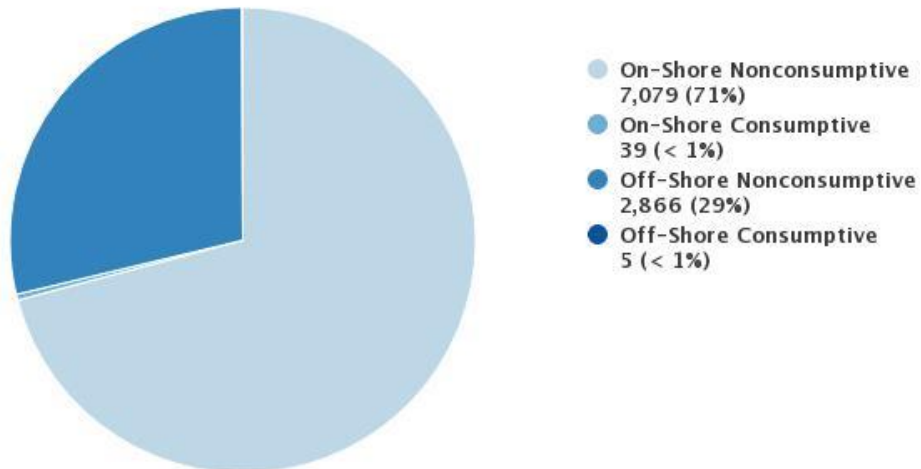
#### Top 7 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022  
9,989 total activity events



#### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022  
9,989 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.

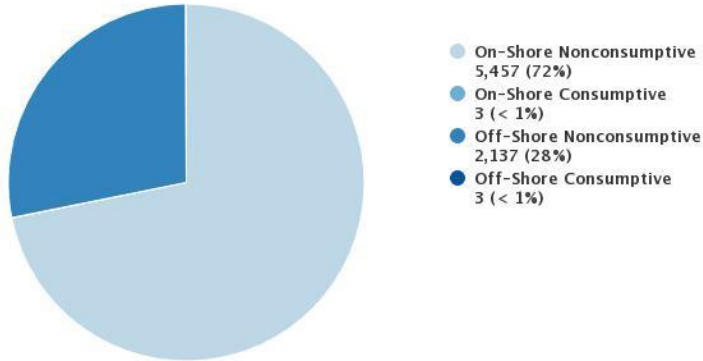
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

## Activity by MPA

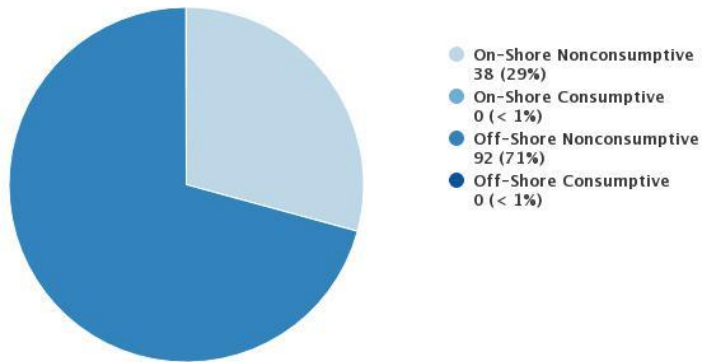
### Campus Point SMCA

January 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022  
7,600 activity events



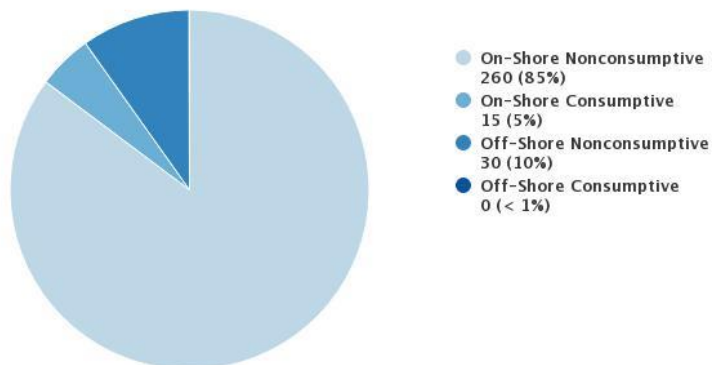
### Naples SMCA

January 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022  
130 activity events



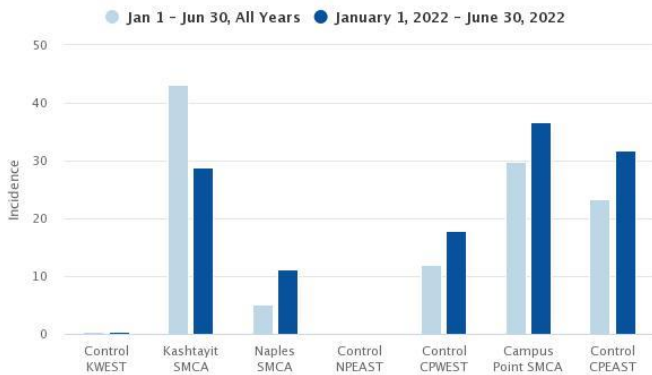
### Kashtayit SMCA

January 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022  
305 activity events

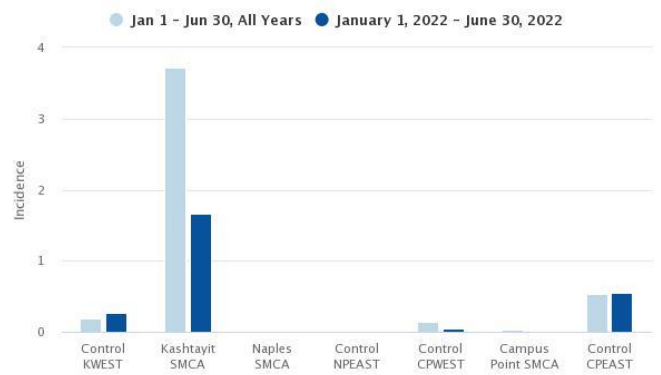


## Activity Incidence by MPA

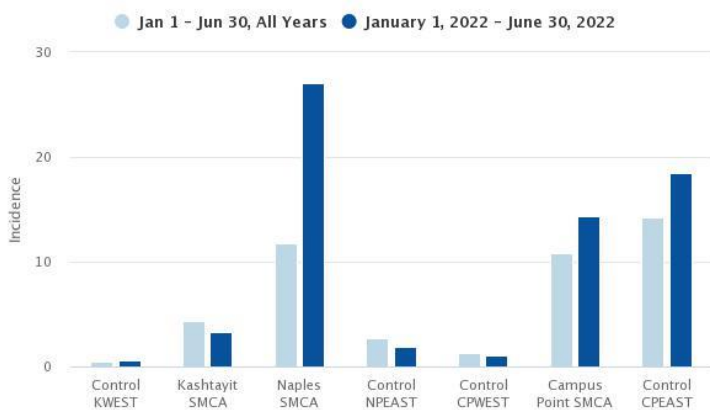
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



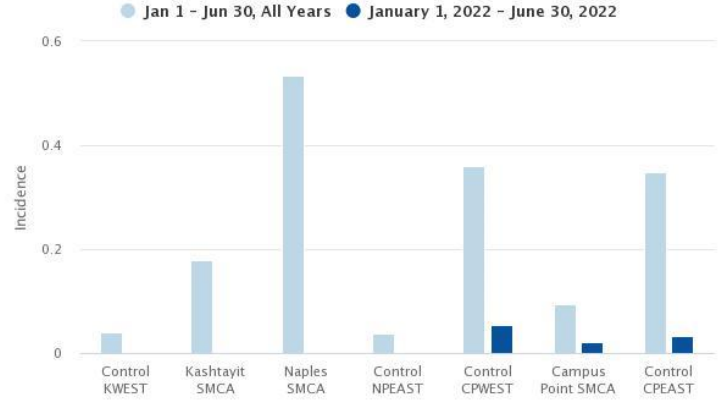
On-Shore, Consumptive



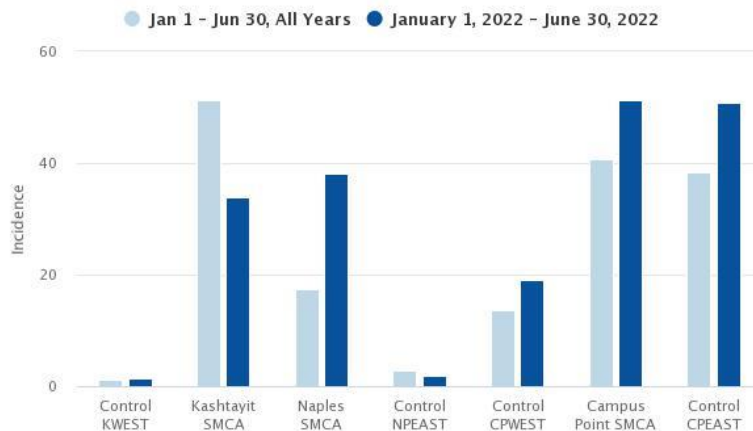
Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



All Activity



The above charts show incidence values for each 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<br>Jun 30<br>All Years | Jan 1, 2022<br>through<br>Jun 30, 2022 | Jan 1<br>Jun 30<br>All Years | Jan 1, 2022<br>through<br>Jun 30, 2022 |
| Control KWEST     | 0.5                          | 0.4                                    | 0.2                          | 0.3                                    |
| Kashtayit SMCA    | 43.1                         | 28.9                                   | 3.7                          | 1.7                                    |
| Naples SMCA       | 5.1                          | 11.2                                   | 0.0                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control NPEAST    | 0.1                          | 0.0                                    | 0.0                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control CPWEST    | 11.9                         | 17.9                                   | 0.1                          | 0.1                                    |
| Campus Point SMCA | 29.9                         | 36.7                                   | 0.0                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control CPEAST    | 23.3                         | 31.7                                   | 0.5                          | 0.5                                    |
| All MPAs Combined | 30.9                         | 31.7                                   | 0.3                          | 0.2                                    |

| MPA               | Off-Shore                    |  |                              |  |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
|                   | Non-Consumptive              |  | Consumptive                  |  |
|                   | Jan 1<br>Jun 30<br>All Years | Jan 1, 2022<br>through<br>Jun 30, 2022 | Jan 1<br>Jun 30<br>All Years | Jan 1, 2022<br>through<br>Jun 30, 2022 |
| Control KWEST     | 0.4                          | 0.6                                    | 0.0                          | 0.0                                    |
| Kashtayit SMCA    | 4.4                          | 3.3                                    | 0.2                          | 0.0                                    |
| Naples SMCA       | 11.8                         | 27.1                                   | 0.5                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control NPEAST    | 2.8                          | 1.9                                    | 0.0                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control CPWEST    | 1.3                          | 1.0                                    | 0.4                          | 0.1                                    |
| Campus Point SMCA | 10.8                         | 14.4                                   | 0.1                          | 0.0                                    |
| Control CPEAST    | 14.2                         | 18.5                                   | 0.3                          | 0.0                                    |
| All MPAs Combined | 9.8                          | 12.8                                   | 0.1                          | 0.0                                    |

| MPA               | Total<br>Combined            |  |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
|                   | Jan 1<br>Jun 30<br>All Years | Jan 1, 2022<br>through<br>Jun 30, 2022 |
|                   | Control KWEST                | 1.1                                    |
| Kashtayit SMCA    | 51.4                         | 33.9                                   |
| Naples SMCA       | 17.4                         | 38.2                                   |
| Control NPEAST    | 2.9                          | 1.9                                    |
| Control CPWEST    | 13.7                         | 19.0                                   |
| Campus Point SMCA | 40.8                         | 51.2                                   |
| Control CPEAST    | 38.4                         | 50.8                                   |
| All MPAs Combined | 41.2                         | 44.7                                   |

### 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 the disruption to MPA Watch surveys and volunteer trainings over 2020-2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent health guidelines and stay at home orders, this past six months saw a return to normalcy for MPA Watch in Santa Barbara. Beaches in Santa Barbara County have remained open for all activities and MPA Watch volunteers were able to conduct surveys regularly. Channelkeeper continues to implement a hybrid of virtual training workshops and in-person field training sessions at the MPAs for new volunteers.

## **Breakdown by MPA**

### **Campus Point SMCA**

In January- June 2022, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 242 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 85 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

Between January and June 2022, Santa Barbara MPA Watch data shows a rate of 51.2 total use count per total miles surveyed in the Campus Point SMCA. This rate of total use is higher than the average over all years (average 40.8 total user per miles surveyed) but is similar to the increased rate use observed during the pandemic. The most observed activity in the Campus Point SMCA was beach recreation at 63% of all onshore observations. Surfing accounted for 23% of all offshore observations. There were three observations of consumptive activities including two shore-based recreational hook and line fishing and one observation of hand collection of biota.

### **Naples SMCA**

In January-June 2022, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 34 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 4 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border.

Increased activity of both onshore and offshore continues to be observed at Naples compared to years prior to the pandemic; the total use count per mile was 38.2 for 2022 which is 2.2 times higher than baseline data (average total use count per mile of 17.4). Surfing accounted for 69% of the observed offshore activity observed during this time period. Over the past six months, MPA Watch surveyors have shared that they have observed an increased number of surfers who are using the Naples bluff as a staging area before and after surfing. Surfers on the bluff are not counted in MPA Watch surveys, but demonstrate an increase in community use of the area as seen in the MPA Watch data as well.

### **Kashtayit SMCA**

In January-June 2022 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 45 surveys within the Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) at Gaviota State Beach and along the western end of the MPA and 23 surveys outside of the MPA on the western side.

SB MPA Watch volunteers observed mostly onshore beach recreation; 85% of all activity observed at Kashtayit was onshore non-consumptive activities. The onshore consumptive activities include 15 observations (5% of all observations) of hook and line fishing. 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 2022**  
**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. Surveys are also conducted at control sites for two miles on the eastern and western areas adjacent to the Campus Point and Naples MPAs. Channelkeeper has conducted boat-based surveys of these two coastal MPAs since 2013.

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 conducted for two miles on either side of the MPAs at the Channel Islands as well. Channelkeeper began conducting surveys at the Northern Channel Islands in 2019.

During boat MPA Watch surveys SBCK 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 MPA's, including control areas. Channelkeeper staff are present and conduct all surveys.

Due to unusual windy conditions this past spring which resulted in numerous small craft advisories and gale warnings, dense fog conditions, and staffing issues related to COVID, fewer boat surveys were conducted than planned for during this time period. Channelkeeper completed seven coastal boat MPA Watch surveys of Campus Point and Naples SMCAs and two Channel Island survey trips during the first half of 2022.

No potential violations were observed during the boat-based surveys conducted during January – June 2022.

Due to the limited amount of surveys conducted, and therefore limited data, heat maps of the boating activity observed during boat-based surveys were not generated for this January – June time period, but will be generated for the January – December 2022 MPA Watch report.

For the coastal boat-based surveys of Campus Point and Naples MPAs, recreational hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier in the control survey is the most observed activity.

At the Northern Channel Islands, the most observed activity was recreational fishing (hook and line) in the Anacapa Gap area outside of the Footprint MPA and east of the Scorpion MPA.

### **Potential Violations**

Rate of consumptive activities observed in Kashtayit, Naples, and Campus Point MPAs remains relatively low accounting for 0.44% of all observations recorded by shore-based surveys. In the Campus Point (No-Take) SMCA, shore-based MPA Watch volunteers observed two potential violations of shore-based fishing activity and one observation of hand collection of biota.

No potential violations were observed during the boat-based MPA Watch surveys conducted on the Channelkeeper vessel at MPAs along the coast or at the Northern Channel Islands during this time period.

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. 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).