



# COMMUNITY SCIENCE FOR STEWARDSHIP OF OCEAN RESOURCES

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch is a network of programs that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around our protected areas.



## What data are collected and how?

Volunteers are trained to walk predetermined routes on the beach and record observations on an MPA Watch datasheet.

### Types of activities recorded include:

- |                           |                            |                |                         |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Onshore Activities</b> | <b>Offshore Activities</b> | <b>Boating</b> | <b>Other Activities</b> |
| Beach Recreation          | Surfing                    | Boat Fishing   | Potential Poaching      |
| Tidepooling               | Stand Up Paddle Boards     | Kayaks         | Education               |
| Shore-Based Fishing       | SCUBA/Snorkeling           | Party Boats    | Enforcement             |

## Who uses the data and results?

**Potential users of MPA Watch data include:**  
Resource managers  
Local communities  
Academia

**MPA Watch currently engages with:**  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
UC Davis  
California MPA Collaborative Network

Data and reports may be obtained by emailing [mpawatch@wildcoast.org](mailto:mpawatch@wildcoast.org)

## MPA Watch Facts and Figures

- 38,000+** Land-based surveys completed
- 75** Number of MPAs surveyed
- 400+** Boat-based surveys completed
- 84** Number of MPA Watch control sites
- 850+** Volunteers actively engaged
- Geographic span:** All coastal counties in California.

## MPA Watch Network

MPA Watch is coordinated on the statewide level and managed locally by network partners.

MPA Watch Statewide Coordinator: [mpawatch@wildcoast.org](mailto:mpawatch@wildcoast.org)

### Network Partners:

- California Academy of Sciences
- California State Parks
- Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove
- Greater Farallones Association/NOAA
- Heal the Bay
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- WILDCOAST

[MPAWATCH.ORG](http://MPAWATCH.ORG)

## Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Similar to state parks on land, marine protected areas (MPAs) protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats they depend on, and the integrity of marine ecosystems by regulating the types of allowable take.

California is home to a network of 124 state-managed MPAs.

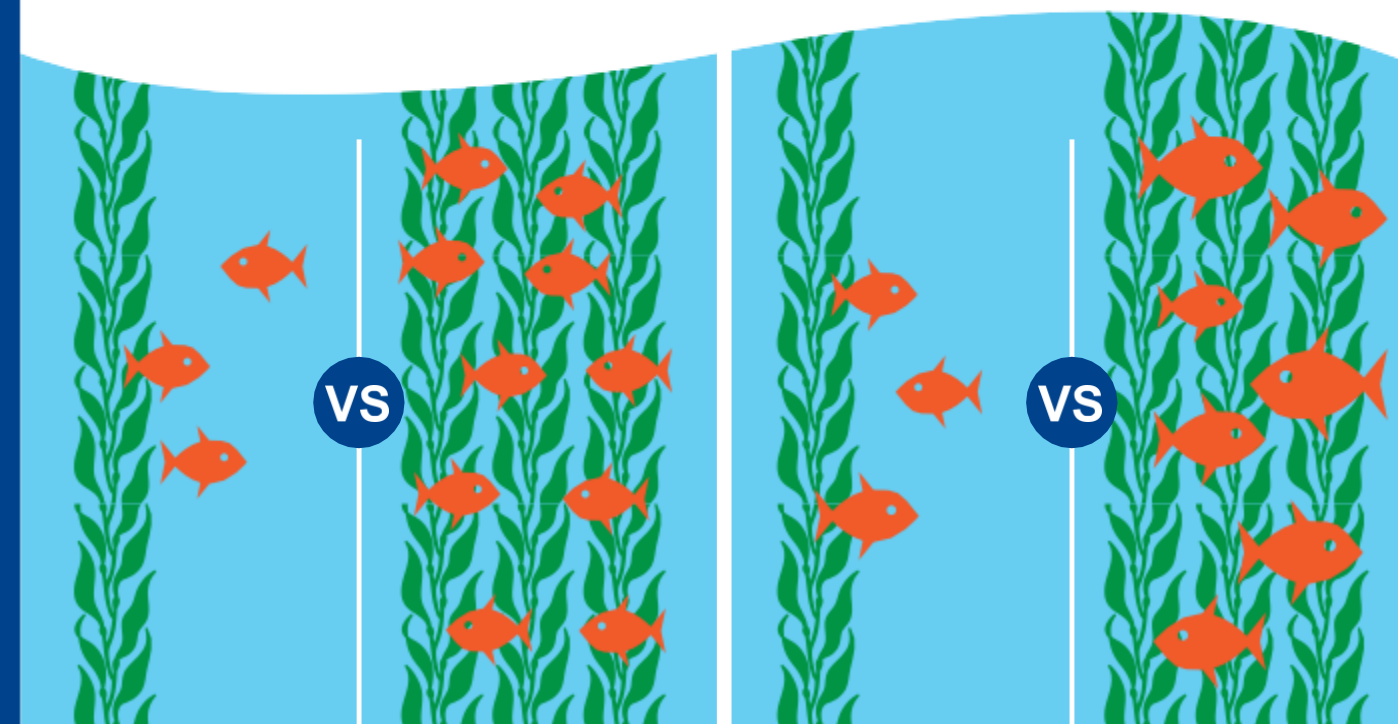
- State Marine Reserve (SMR)**  
An MPA where no take, damage, injury or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.
- State Marine Park (SMP)**  
An MPA that allows some recreational take but does not allow commercial take.
- No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (No-Take SMCA)**  
An MPA where no take of any living, geologic, or cultural resource is allowed, EXCEPT for take incidental to specified activities permitted by other agencies.
- State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)**  
A marine managed area where some take of marine resources may be allowed and legal waterfowl hunting is allowed (restrictions vary).
- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**  
An MPA where some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary).
- Special Closure**  
Prohibits or restricts access in waters adjacent to seabird rookeries of marine mammal haul-out sites.

Visit the California MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

### Potential Benefits of MPAs

**Increase in the total number of fish:**  
Higher density = more sea life

**Increase in the average size of fish:**  
Increase in biomass = bigger and more abundant sea life



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