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.

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

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

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

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

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 Conservation Area (SMCA)
- An MPA where some take of marine resources may be allowed and legal waterfowl hunting is 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

Who uses the data and results?
Potential users of MPA Watch data include:
- Resource managers
- Local communities
- Academics

Data and reports may be obtained by emailing mpawatch@wildcoast.org

MPAWATCH.ORG