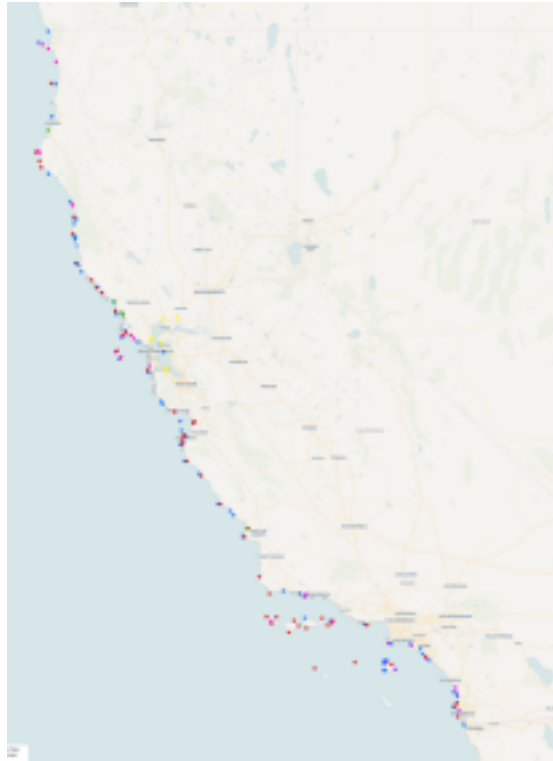




## **Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Statewide Report by Region**

Humboldt, Mendocino, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo,  
Santa Barbara, Orange, and San Diego Counties

**January 1 – December 31, 2022**



California State Parks has received Once-Through Cooling funding from the Ocean Protection Council to support a team of MPA interpreters and an MPA Outreach and Education Project Coordinator in eight State Parks districts along the California coast. One of the grant deliverables includes training these specialized MPA interpreters as well as additional State Parks staff and docents in MPA Watch protocol and data entry.

### **Executive Summary**

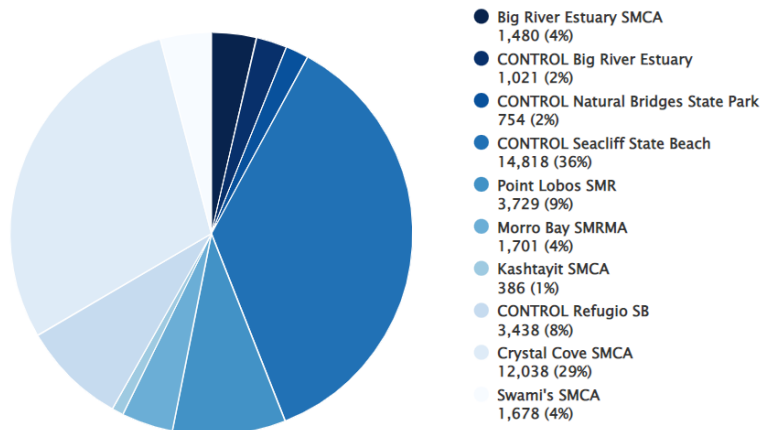
- 872 surveys were completed by State Parks staff and volunteers between January and Dec 2022.
- 72 participants submitted surveys
- 15 MPAs and six control sites were surveyed
- In early 2022, five MPA Watch trainings were held in three Park districts for:
  - 18 full and part-time California State Parks staff
  - 16 California State Parks volunteers

## Human Use of MPAs January – December 2022

### Top 10 MPAs by All Activity



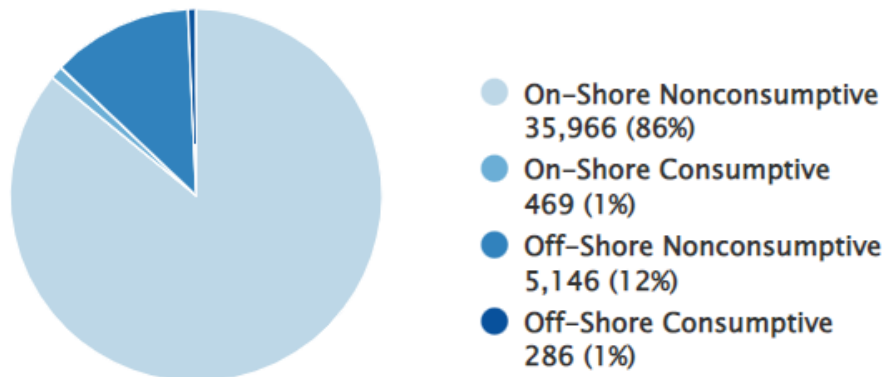
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022  
41,043 total activity events



### All MPAs Combined



January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022  
41,867 activity events



### Activity Classifications

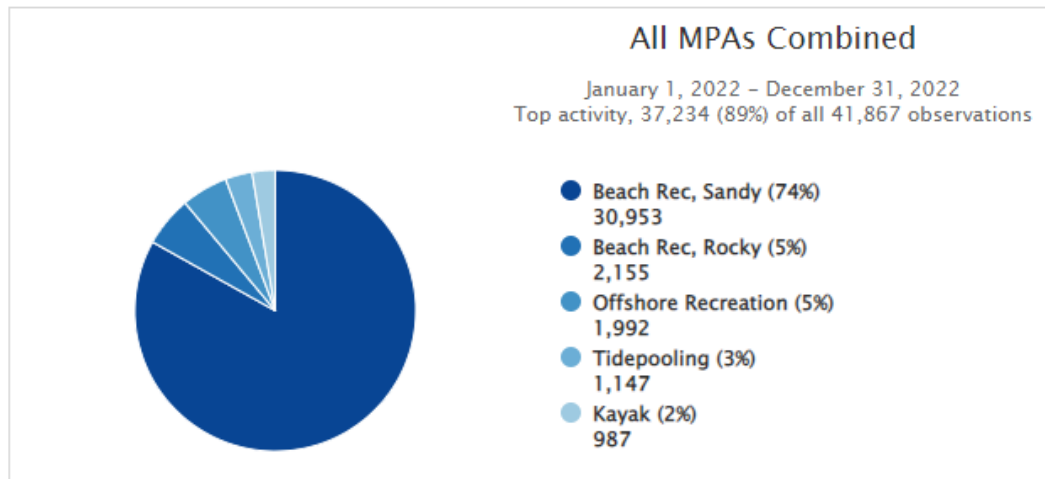
**On-Shore** - Activities that take place on a sandy or rocky beach. Excludes bluffs, trails, sea walls, parking lots, or other man-made structures. Includes recreation, tidepooling, shore-based fishing, etc.

**Off-Shore** - Activities that take place offshore, typically in knee-deep water or deeper. Includes surfing, SCUBA diving, kayaking, boat fishing, etc.

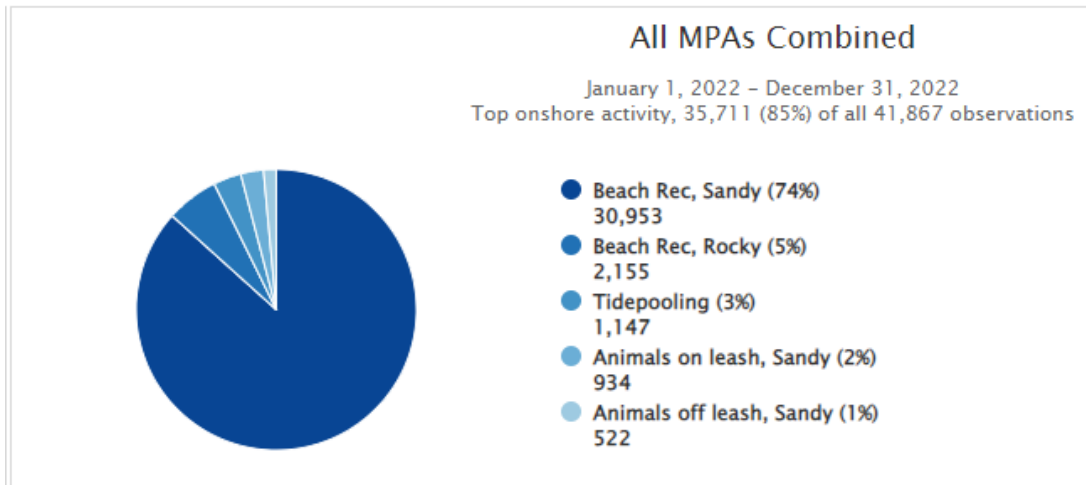
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

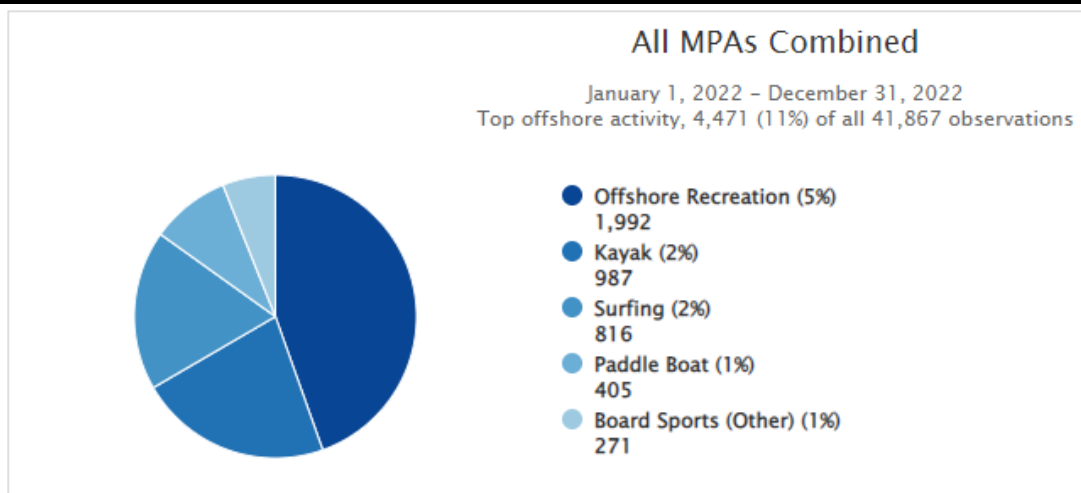
## Top Activities by MPA and Activity Type, Any Activity



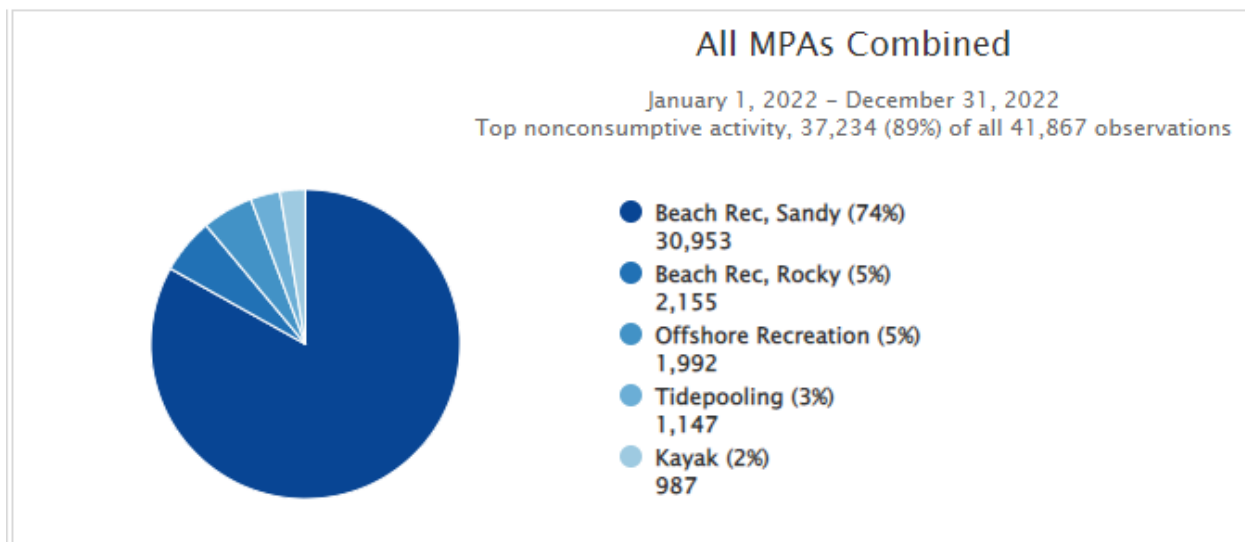
## Top Activities by MPA and Activity Type, Onshore



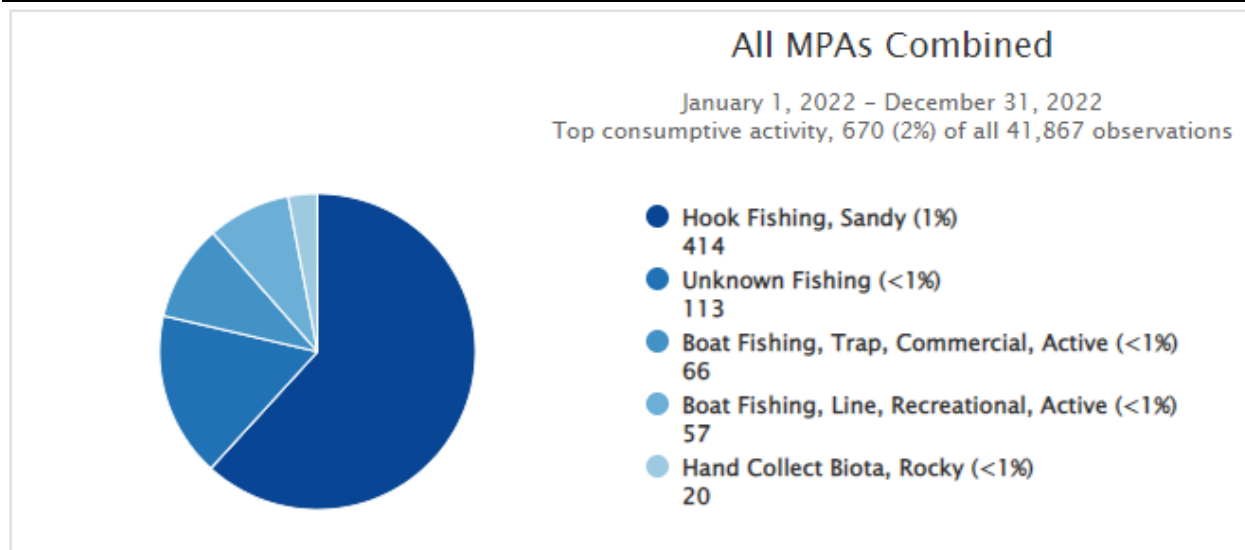
## Top Activities by MPA and Activity Type, Offshore



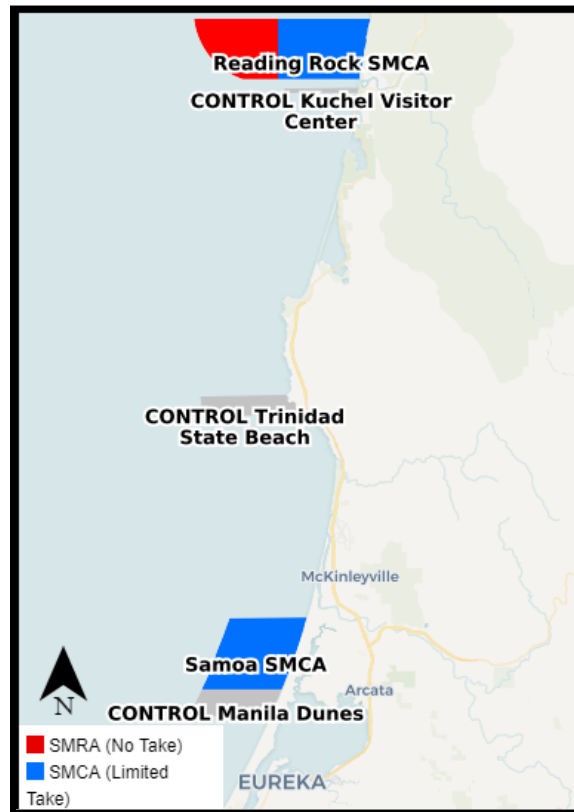
## Top Activities by MPA and Activity Type, Non-Consumptive



## Top Activities by MPA and Activity Type, Consumptive



# HUMBOLDT COUNTY



## HUMBOLDT COUNTY: SITE SUMMARIES

### **Reading Rock SMCA**

The southern part of this MPA is a popular place for illegal hook-and-line fishing from shore. Less usage on the northern end of the MPA due to low/mid tide accessibility. This transect is a popular beach for dogs off leash and family picnics. Fishing from shore is allowed just south of the boundary of the MPA.

### **Kuchel Visitor Center Control**

This site is one of the most highly trafficked of MPA Watch survey sites along the north coast due to its proximity to one of the most popular visitor centers within Redwood National and State Parks. The adjacent parking lot makes this a popular stop along the 101 for picnics, walking dogs on the beach, etc.

### **Samoa SMCA**

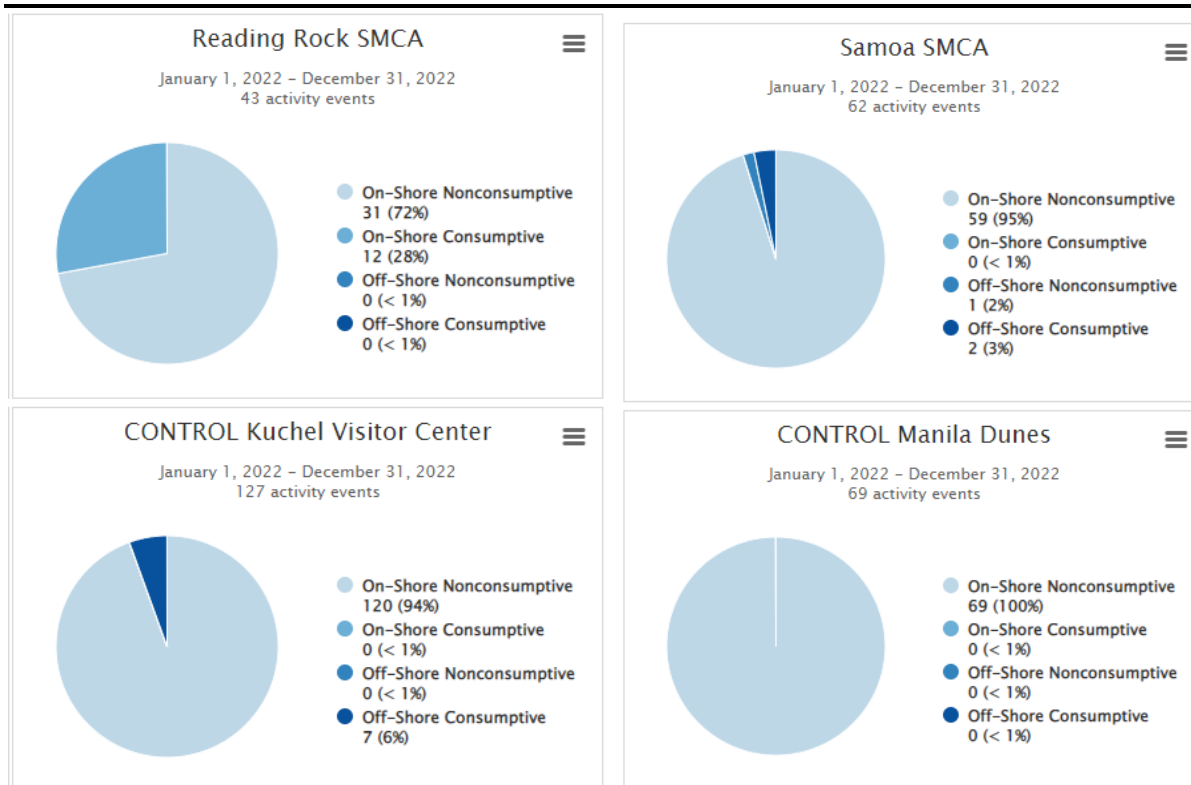
Very little activity is regularly recorded at this site. It is fairly remote for shore-based anglers (there are many more accessible shore fishing locations nearby, where anglers can park much closer to the beach). The most common occurrences of human use are

generally people hiking in the dunes to the beach. They tend to walk the beach for a while and then head back towards the dunes. The most likely / common violation here would be hand collection of biota like sand dollar endoskeletons.

### Manila Dunes Control Site

Very little activity is regularly recorded at this site. It is fairly remote for shore based anglers (there are many more accessible shore fishing locations nearby, where anglers can park much closer to the beach). Some of the people that live in nearby neighborhoods frequent this site for walking dogs/enjoying beach walks.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA



## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS**

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### **Reading Rock SMCA**

Twelve potential violations were recorded, primarily hook and line fishing from shore. The signage for the MPA on this beach is not clear so recreational fishers are often unaware of the southern boundary of the MPA and often fish within it. Additionally, certain California Tribes are permitted to fish in this area, and it is difficult to identify if an angler is a Tribal member or not.

### **Kuchel Visitor Center Control**

None

### **Samoa SMCA**

Two instances of off-shore consumptive take were observed, but due to distance from shore and allowed Tribal take, it was not determined if these instances of consumptive take were a violation or not.

### **Manila Dunes Control Site**

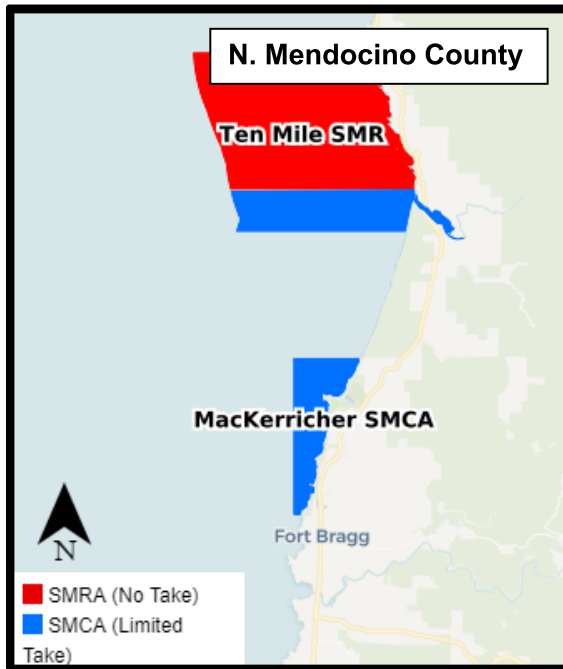
None

## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

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The Humboldt MPA Collaborative network is working on signage that can be placed at the parking lot on the north side of Redwood Creek to educate visitors about fishing limitations within the shoreline MPA. There are slightly misleading signs leading out to this parking location which may lead people to think that fishing is allowed here. We plan to continue monitoring this site with the help of volunteers and state park lifeguards/staff. We will plan to report future violations to NORCOM and CalTIP if not being done already.

# MENDOCINO COUNTY



## MENDOCINO COUNTY: SITE SUMMARIES

### **Ten Mile SMR**

This transect ends on the Ten Mile River and connects to Ten Mile State Beach which is a well-known habitat for Snowy Plovers and sea birds. This is a new transect with very little data logged yet. Adding this transect is exciting as it is a very popular beach for individuals to recreate at all throughout the year. This beach is a county beach which is well used as a dog beach.



### **MacKerricher SMCA**

There are two transects within this MPA. The northern transect of the MacKerricher State Park State Marine Conservation Area begins at the northern MacKerricher harbor seal rookery and ends at the busy Laguna Point Parking lot. This area of beach is highly used during peak summer season (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend). The gentle sloping sands and view of the small bay attracts locals and visitors alike. On this stretch of beach, one will commonly find families picnicking, birthday parties, kayaking enthusiasts, wildlife watchers, and beach sports. During the rainy winter months, access to this area is often flooded or dangerous due to wave activity, offering very little beach activity.

The southern transect of the MacKerricher State Park State Marine Conservation Area begins at the Laguna Point parking lot, continues along the scenic boardwalk, and finishes along a cliff top trail adjacent to the MacKerricher Haul Road trail. The most used areas of this transect are the MacKerricher tidepools, accessible from the boardwalk, and the southern harbor seal rookery. The tidepools are often full of adventuring families eager to find sea snails, hermit crabs, anemone, and a wide variety of colorful tidepool creatures. Summer programs and field trips are hosted in the tidepools to help spread education about the fragile nature of this habitat. The southern harbor seal rookery is easily viewed from the furthestmost platform of the boardwalk.

### **Point Cabrillo SMR**

This State Marine Reserve is a gem to marine life in Mendocino County. It is visited by lighthouse enthusiasts, bird watchers, and nature lovers alike. The trail system is located up on the bluff to offer a better view of the water below where harbor seals relax and many seabirds nest. There are some rocky recreation opportunities (tidepools), but most visitors do not dare to balance on the slippery, uneven path to get down into the intertidal area.

### **Russian Gulch SMCA**

This transect is in Russian Gulch State Park which has a day use fee and is also in between the town of Mendocino and Fort Bragg. The data shows light usage in the fall, winter and spring when the campground is closed and is just open for paid day use visitors. When the campground is open during the summertime, this beach, and the day use areas on the edge of the MPA are full.

### **Big River Estuary SMCA**

Big River State Estuary SMCA starts on the east side of the HWY 101 bridge and continues upstream to the end of the beach. Thousands of visitors and families use this

large sandy beach and watershed to kayak, stand-up paddleboard, swim, sandy beach recreation, crab, and walk their dogs.

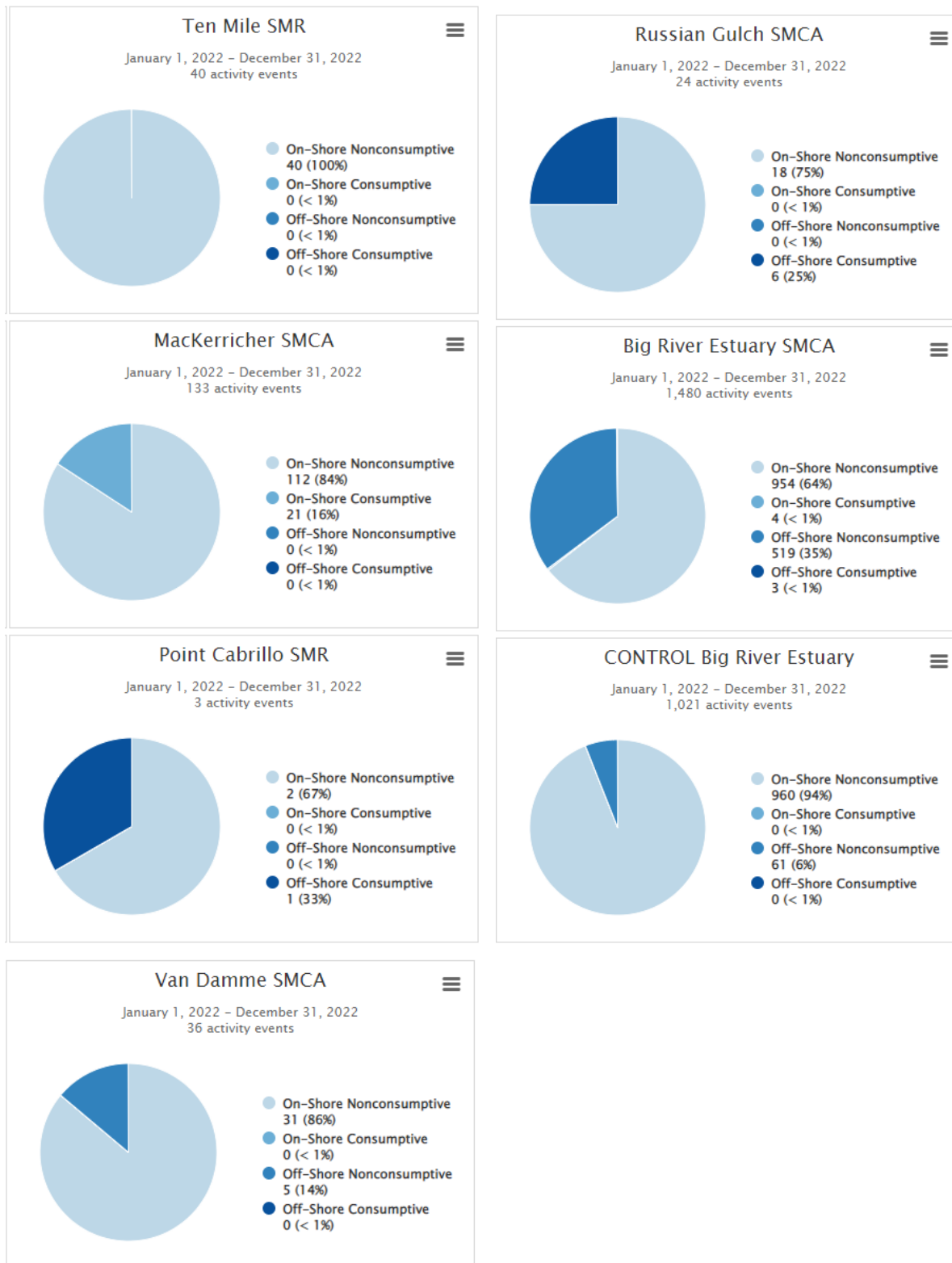
### **Big River Estuary Control Site**

Big River is a hot spot for thousands of visitors every year. It is busy all throughout the year with tourists but experiences some down time during the wet colder months of the year. It is located just next to the Mendocino town proper. People mostly come to enjoy sandy recreation, body surfing, surfing, kayaking, swimming, and some trap crab collection, when in season. It was historically used as a dog friendly beach when Mendocino Land Trust owned this land.

### **Van Damme SMCA**

Van Damme SMCA has a good mix of sandy, rocky, on shore, and offshore recreation and fishing. This SMCA is home to sea cave kayak tours, boats, spearfishing, fisherman, and rocky intertidal collection. Dogs are not a big issue here and 100% of the dogs observed during surveys are kept on leash. Since the closure of the abalone fishery this beach is mainly used to enjoy a beautiful day on the sandy shore, or tide pooling while staying protected from the mean north winds. Kayaking through the sea caves, stand-up paddleboarding, and long-distance paddling are huge recreational activities here. This is a smaller beach and there are fewer visitors than in the surrounding beaches and can be closed due to high tides, king tides, or larger surf events from the south and west directions.

## MENDOCINO COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA



## **MENDOCINO COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS**

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### **Ten Mile SMR**

None.

### **MacKerricher SMCA**

Few violations are reported in this area. During visits to the beach not related to MPA Watch data collection, dogs have been viewed off leash and visitors occasionally step into the northern harbor seal rookery. Rangers are typically contacted during these incidents for resolution. On the southern transect, during visits to this transect when MPA Watch data is not being collected, staff have noted unpermitted collection in the tidepools, dogs off leash, and visitors attempting to approach harbor seals in the southern harbor seal rookery. Rangers are typically contacted during these incidents for resolution as well.

### **Point Cabrillo SMR**

None

### **Russian Gulch SMCA**

None

### **Big River Estuary SMCA**

Numerous potential violations reported here, mostly dogs off-leash. Historically, off-leash dogs were allowed on this beach, before it became a state park. The community continues to ignore park rules and let their dogs off leash. Enforcement is difficult due to limited staffing of State Parks Peace Officers along this section of the coast. Four instances of shore-based consumptive activities were recorded, but it's difficult to determine if these were violations due to the allowed Tribal take and an inability to determine if an angler is a Tribal member or not.

### **Big River Estuary Control Site**

Since State Parks has ownership, it is trying to enforce the dogs on leash policy, but it is still the number one violation seen here and in the SMCA east of the bridge. Historically, off-leash dogs were allowed on this beach, before it became a state park. The community continues to ignore park rules and let their dogs off leash.

### **Van Damme SMCA**

None. Only two surveys were conducted on this transect during this reporting period. Possible violations here (but have not been seen during a survey) are collection of bull or giant kelp, collection of abalone on lower tides, and fishing out of season. This beach

is in a low service zone on the south end by the parking lot and makes reporting violations more difficult while on scene of the crimes being committed.

## **MENDOCINO COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

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### **Ten Mile SMR**

This is the newest transect in our area, and we do not yet have committed volunteers performing regular surveys here. The next step will be to find interested volunteers from MacKerricher State Park to survey here regularly.

### **MacKerricher SMCA**

We hope to involve more volunteers to help with data collection in this area. This is a highly trafficked beach during peak summer months, but we currently have one person that completes the surveys for the two transects here.

### **Point Cabrillo SMR**

Staff members at Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association have expressed interest to learn how to perform surveys, but a training has not been conducted yet. Staff could try to connect the volunteers who survey here with the interested staff at PCLK.

### **Russian Gulch SMCA**

This is another transect that could use more volunteers. To amplify survey numbers, the trained parks staff must visit this transect more as there is a fee to enter park and not close to town. There is a volunteer involved with invasive plant removal who regularly visits Russian Gulch who may be interested in getting trained in MPA Watch.

### **Big River Estuary SMCA**

It is a goal that with a greater amount of data collected by the team and volunteers, it will get more support to enforce the dogs-on-leash policies and help protect wildlife from disturbances.

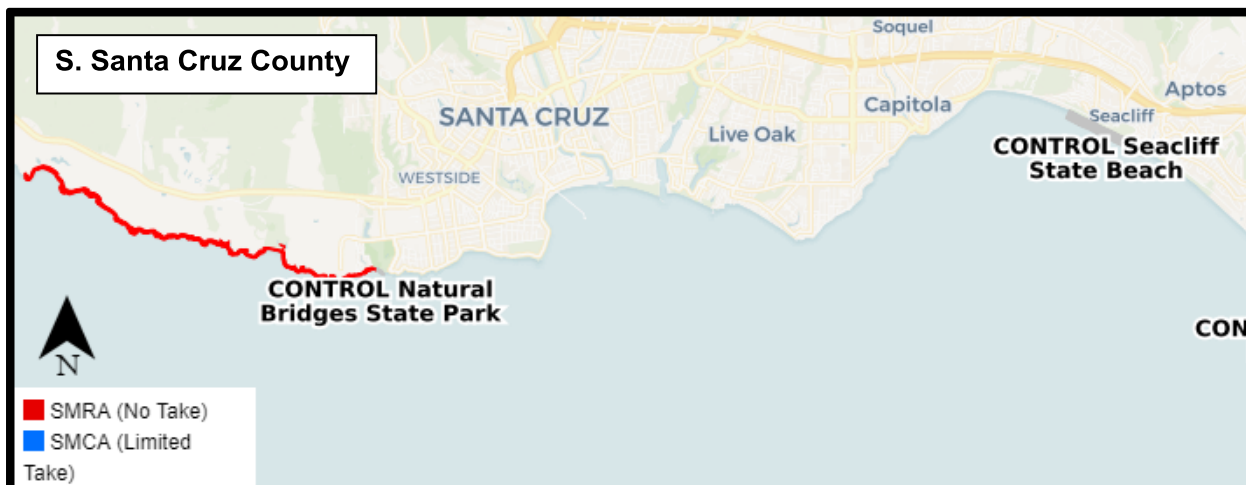
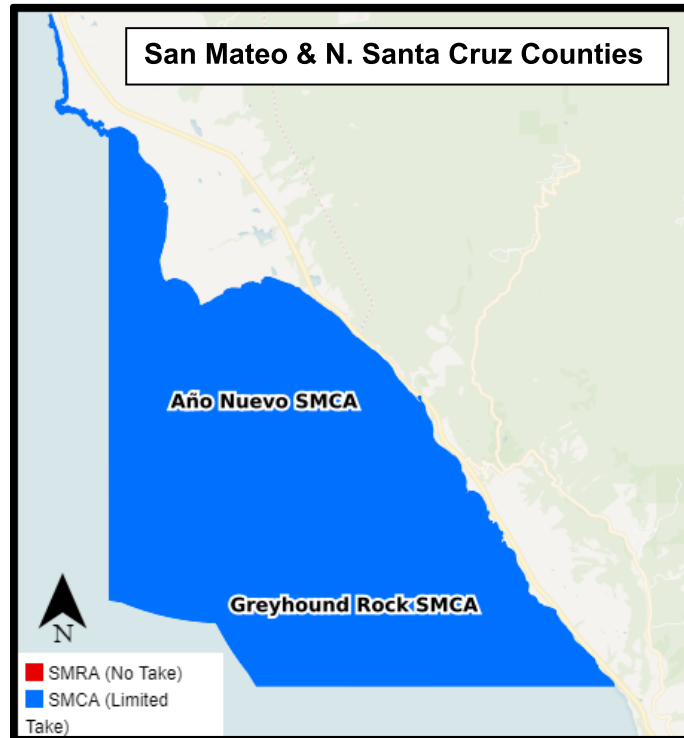
### **Big River Estuary Control Site**

This transect is one of our most regularly surveyed, with 163 performed in the first half of 2022. It is a goal that with a greater amount of data collected by the team and volunteers, it will get more support to enforce the dogs-on-leash policies and help protect wildlife from disturbances.

### **Van Damme SMCA**

This is another transect in need of committed local volunteers to perform surveys more regularly.

# SAN MATEO & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES



## **SAN MATEO COUNTY: SITE SUMMARY**

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### **Año Nuevo SMCA**

The number of surveys conducted on this transect is beginning to increase as new staff has been trained on the survey techniques. Most commonly, wind surfers are seen at this location. During the elephant seal breeding season at Año Nuevo State Park, some elephant seals use Waddell Beach to haul out. People also use this beach for walking.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY: SITE SUMMARIES**

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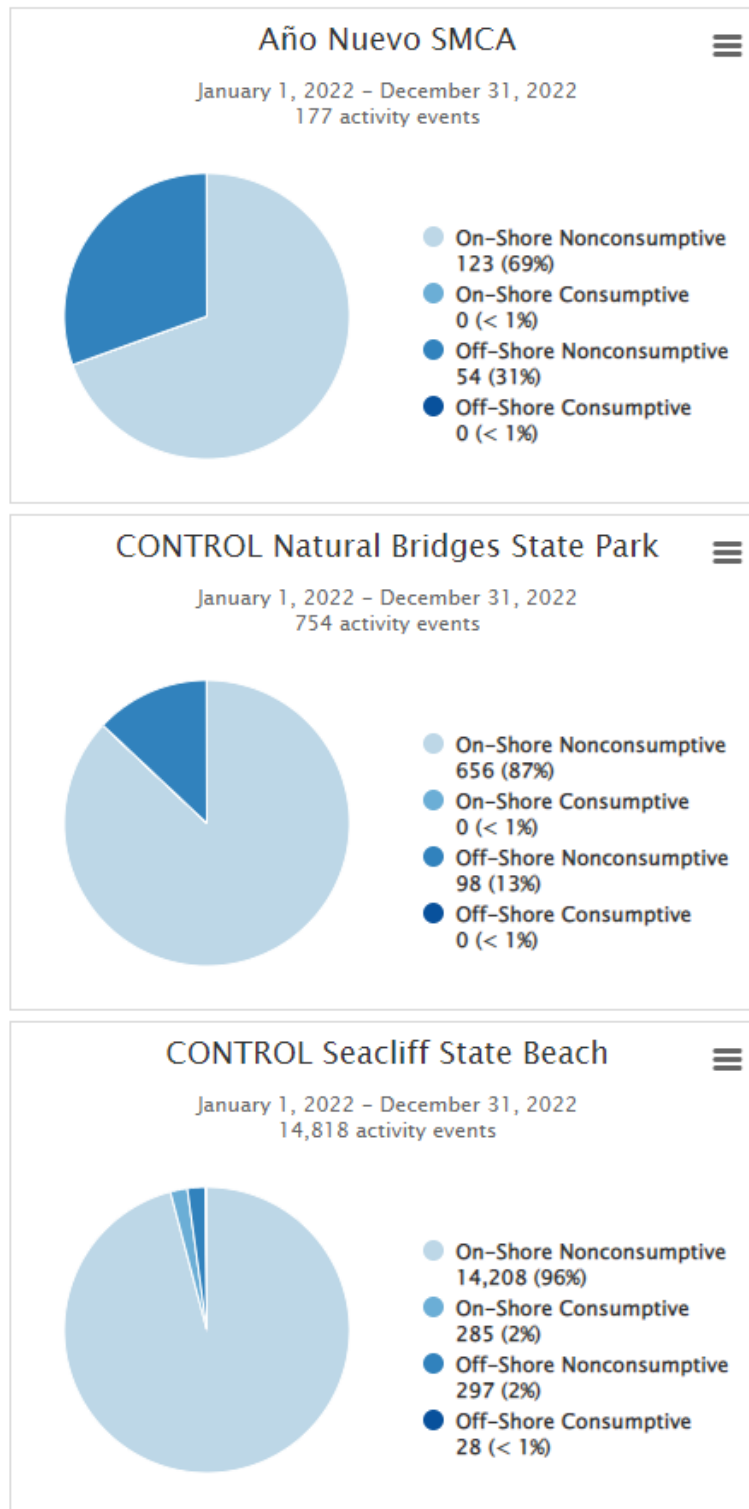
### **Natural Bridges State Park Control Site**

This transect spans the entire length of a popular beach at Natural Bridges State Beach. Surfers occasionally use this beach, but most people are participating in on-shore beach recreation.

### **Seacliff State Beach Control Site**

These transects regularly see a mixture of consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Fishing is allowed with the proper California Department of Fish and Wildlife permits. After periods of high surf, people can be seen combing through the rocks looking for sea glass. Dog Walkers are also a frequent sight and less than 1% of dogs observed were off leash. The beaches see larger numbers of beach recreators during the summer months.

## SAN MATEO & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES: ACTIVITY BY MPA





## **SAN MATEO COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS**

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### **Año Nuevo SMCA**

The consistent violation observed at this transect site was dogs present on and off leash on the beach. As the year went on and more visitors were recorded these violation numbers increased. This is likely due to poorly placed and small signage indicating that dogs are not allowed and very little State Park staff presence on this beach.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS**

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### **Natural Bridges State Park Control Site**

None

### **Seacliff State Beach Control Site**

Dogs off leash are the biggest violation on this State Beach.

## **SAN MATEO COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

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### **Año Nuevo SMCA**

More signage specifically in the parking lot at the two areas where people walk down onto the beach would help better inform people of the rules. I am also hoping in the next six months to bring volunteers on to help monitor this transect to hopefully increase surveys to bi-monthly or weekly.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

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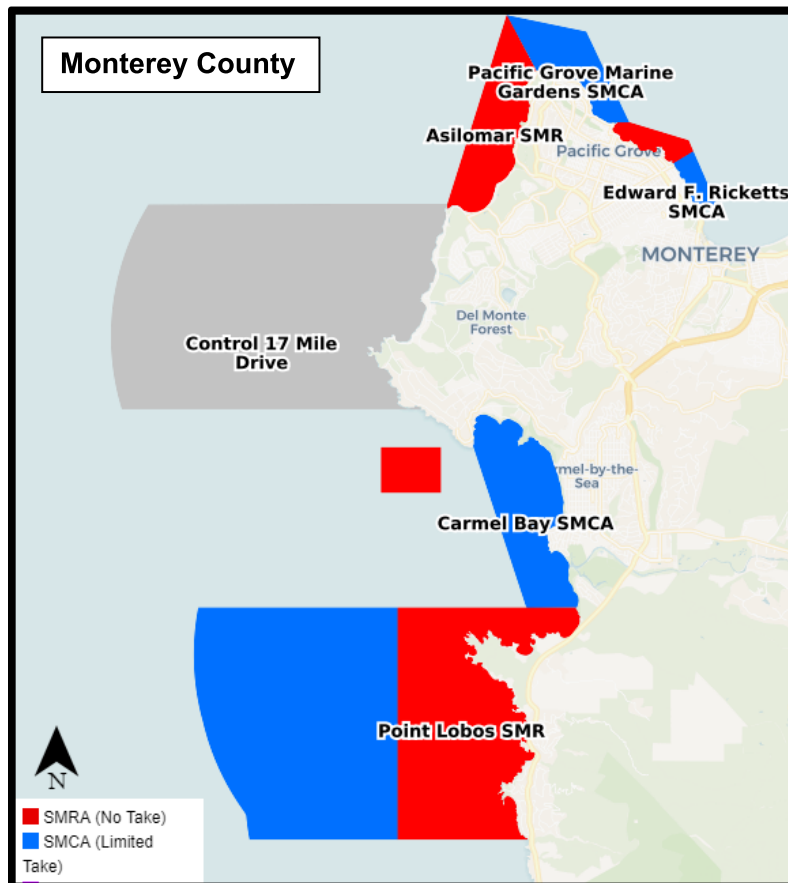
### **Natural Bridges State Park Control Site**

This site saw a significant drop in surveys due to changes in volunteers and staff earlier in the year. We also identified some inconsistencies in the way the data is being collected and inputted into the system, so a training refresher needs to be held in the coming months to ensure accurate data collection.

### **Seacliff State Beach Control Site**

Staff will continue to offer MPA Watch trainings for the general public to increase the number of volunteers. In September 2022, Seacliff reached their 3-year anniversary of collecting MPA Watch data.

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## MONTEREY COUNTY: SITE SUMMARIES

### **Asilomar SMR**

This State Beach is popular amongst locals and visitors alike and the transects cover sandy beaches and rocky shorelines. Illegal take/collection of biota is frequently observed here and from conversations with transgressors, it is understood that both locals and visitors alike are guilty of collecting shells from the pocket beaches between tidepool areas. Frequently, there are so many individuals and small groups collecting shells in bags and buckets that there isn't enough time to speak to each person while completing the transect.

### **Point Lobos SMR**

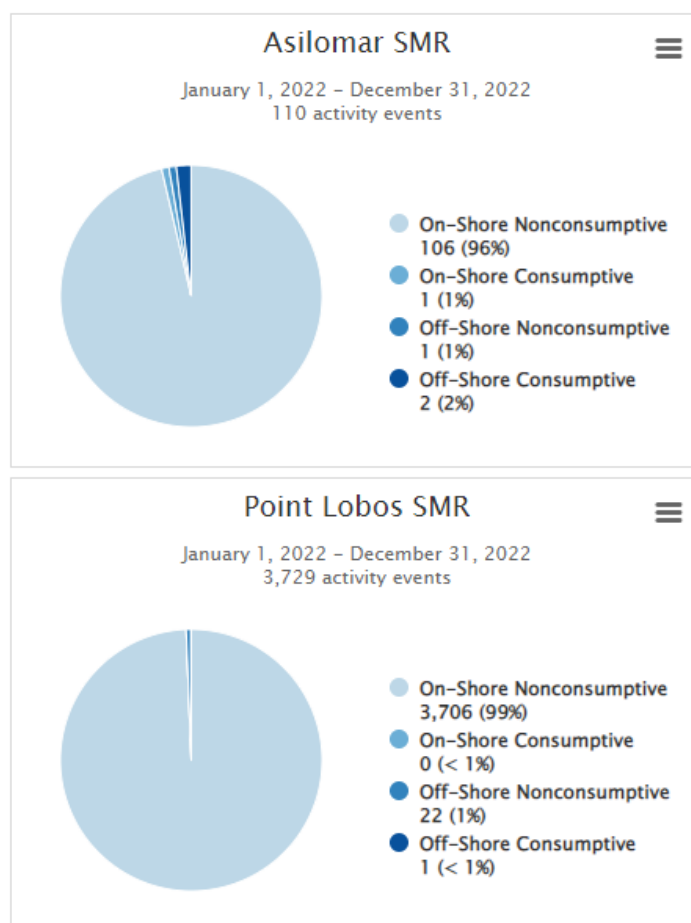
This MPA surrounds Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, known as the “crown jewel” of California State Parks and the gateway to the spectacular Big Sur coastline. Unfortunately, due to the park's popularity, the shorelines are often picked clean of

shells and driftwood. Active Parks staff and docents work to remind the public that no collecting is allowed.

In March 2022, 11 State Parks staff members and 5 volunteer docents at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Asilomar State Beach were trained on MPA Watch survey protocol and data entry.

## MONTEREY COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA

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## MONTEREY COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

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### Asilomar SMR

Anecdotal reports (not necessarily captured in survey data) of hand collection of biota, mostly of shells and driftwood, by visitors seemingly unaware of the MPA or unconcerned about consequences. There are frequent occurrences of dogs off-leash on the main beach, and in pocket beaches and tidepools. This seems to be more of an

issue with locals who do not see an issue with their behavior and lack awareness of how off-leash dogs are harmful. Hook-and-line fishing from shore is frequently observed by staff, especially toward the northern end of the MPA closer to Point Pinos. Two cases of off-shore fishing were observed as well.

### **Point Lobos SMR**

Collecting biota remains a small but persistent issue that seems to stem from a lack of awareness of the park and MPA rules. Visitors will sometimes collect tidepool animals, putting them in buckets to “view” them, also seemingly unaware of how harmful this can be. The Bird Island transect has less frequent violations but collecting of shells and driftwood are still observed on Gibson Beach. From more than a year of data of collecting data on the two new transects in Point Lobos SMR, we can infer that most visitors to Point Lobos SMR are following the rules and not collecting biota; however, anecdotally, many staff and volunteers report that hand collection of biota is still an issue in this MPA.

## **MONTEREY COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

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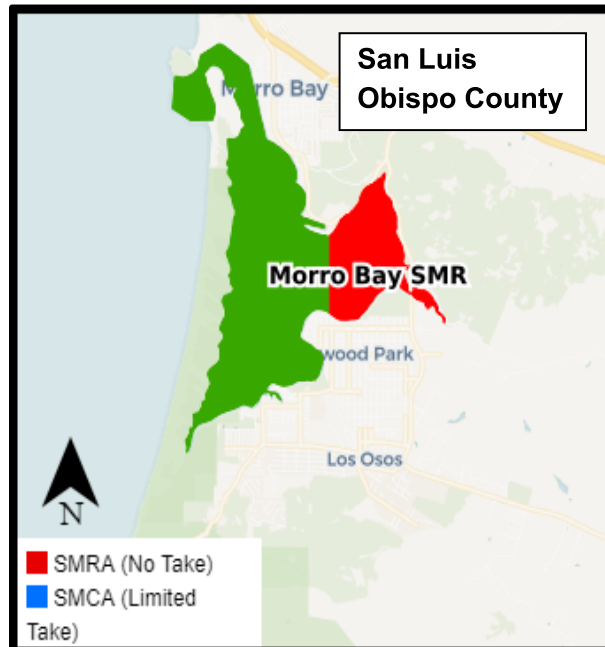
### **Asilomar SMR**

This transect was not surveyed many times yet this year, but with more MPA Watch staff and volunteers trained now, this will hopefully change. As previously stated, on busy days with lots of violations happening, it can be impossible to speak to every visitor during a survey; more regular surveys and overall presence of Parks staff and volunteers would be very helpful.

### **Point Lobos SMR**

Now that there are more trained staff in this area from MPA Watch, in addition to docents, Park Aides and other Parks employees, there will be more opportunities to spread awareness and kindly educate visitors. Weston Beach is an ideal place to have conversations about tidepool etiquette and the marine reserve. Currently, there is no MPA signage at Gibson Beach; clear MPA signage may be needed to inform visitors. Hopefully, with more MPA Watch surveys being completed, data collected will encourage action around this. The Point Lobos Docents Association is interested in continuing to host bi-annual MPA Watch trainings for interested docents and one is planned for 2023.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



### SAN LUIS OBISPO: SITE SUMMARY

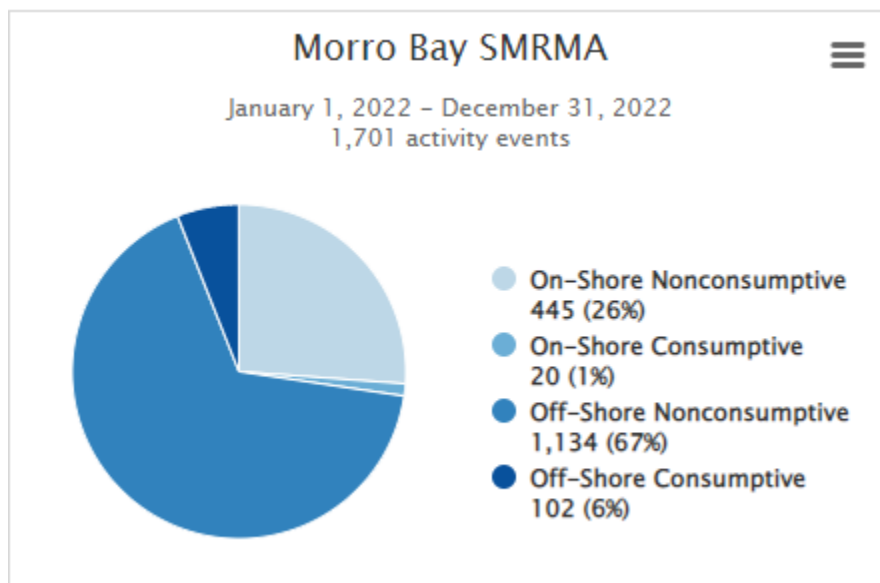
#### **Morro Bay SMRMA**

Kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and wildlife watching are popular activities in this location. Two new MPA Watch transects were created in the fall of 2021, both of which are in Morro Bay State Park. With these two new MPA Watch transects will provide easier access for staff and volunteers to complete surveys. There was only one survey completed before the end of the year, so there has not been enough data collected from the site to draw any conclusions at this time. There are three other MPA Watch transects within this MPA that don't fall inside of a State Park.

In March of 2022, an MPA Watch training was hosted for five State Parks staff and nine volunteers. We have made some really good progress in the past year in that we have incorporated MPA Watch into an existing volunteer program called SeaLife Stewards. We created two new transects along the Morro Bay SMRMA and the SeaLife Stewards are incorporating MPA Watch surveys into their existing volunteer duties.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO: ACTIVITY BY MPA

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## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

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### Morro Bay SMRMA

Violations were observed at both the Marina Peninsula Trail transect as well as the Windy Cove transect. Recurring violations along the Windy Cove transect are dogs off leash. At both the Windy Cove and Marina Peninsula Trail transects, there are observations of active commercial boat fishing/traps. These are not a violation due to the two commercial oyster farms that we have here in Morro Bay.

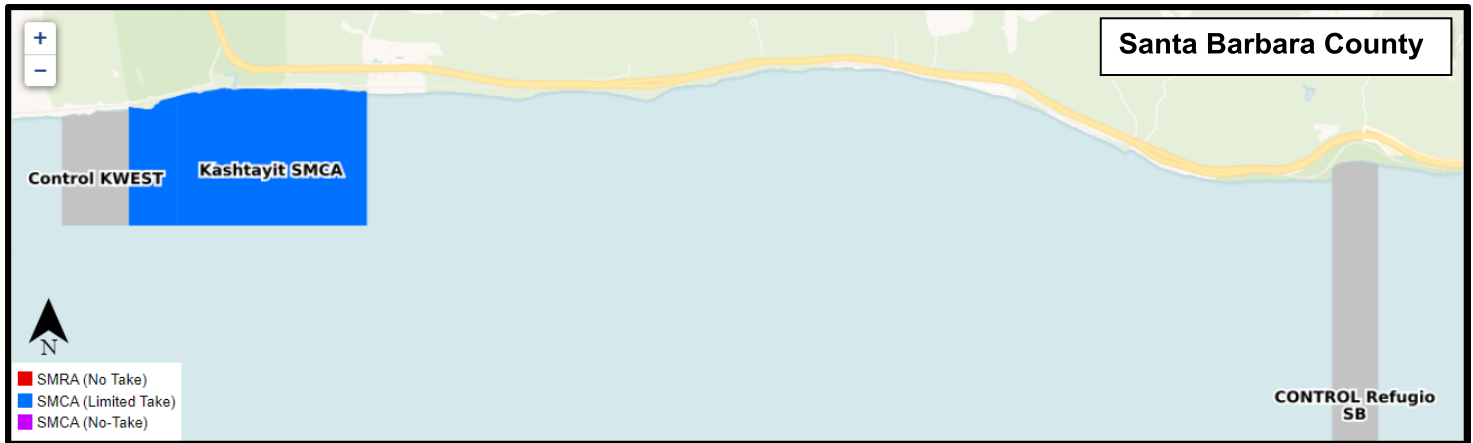
## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY: NEXT STEPS

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### Morro Bay SMRMA

For the next six months, the next steps will be to observe the occurrence of dogs off leash along Windy Cove. If this violation continues, we will encourage staff and volunteers to call a State Parks Peace Officer or when it is observed. Our goal for the next year is to establish a new transect along the Piedras Blancas SMCA and train existing Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) volunteers to partake in MPA Watch surveys along that new transect.

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: SITE SUMMARY

### **Kashtayit SMCA**

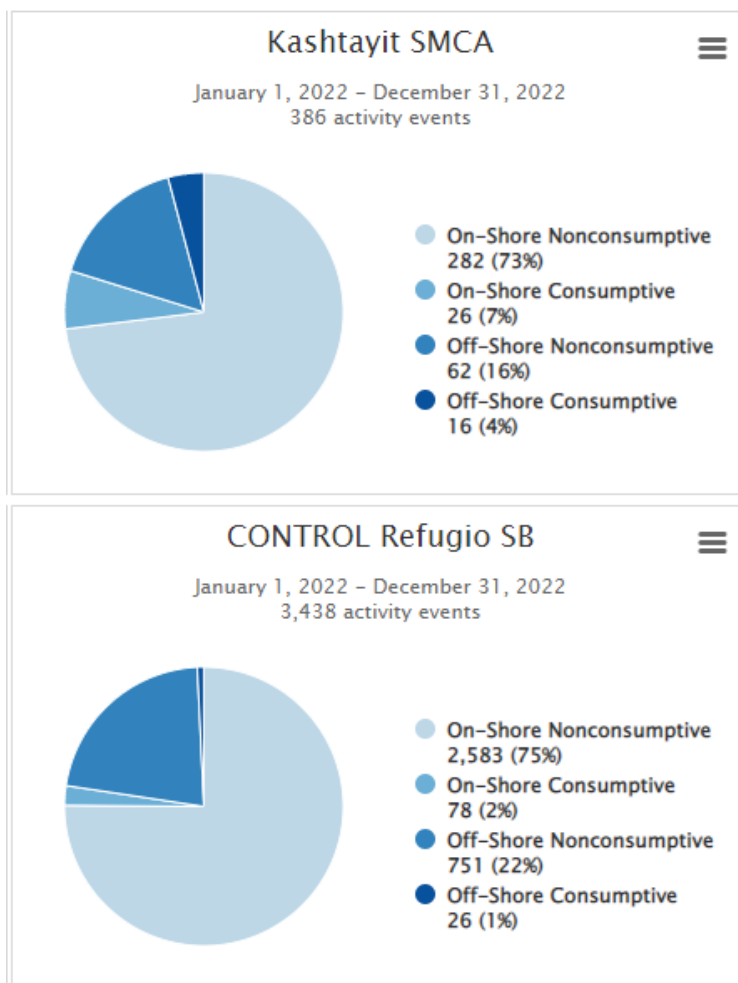
This small beach at Gaviota State Beach is popular for camping, kayaking, and fishing. Shore based activities including tidepooling and wildlife viewing. The site sees higher use during the summer months, than during the winter season.

### **Refugio Control Site**

Refugio State Beach is a popular recreation site for school field trips, camping, surfing, scuba diving, kayaking, and fishing. Shore based activities including tidepooling and wildlife viewing. The site sees higher use during the summer months, than during the winter season.

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA

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## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

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### Kashtayit SMCA

Two violations are continually observed at Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area. Dogs on the beach (both on and off-leash) are regularly observed by Park Staff and MPA Watch Volunteers. In addition, MPA Watch Staff have observed vehicles driving on the beach. This is due to boats launching from the sand to access sites for recreational fishing and to access coastal surfing locations.

### Refugio Control Site

Dogs on the beach (both on and off-leash) are the only violation found at Refugio State Beach. MPA Watch Staff and Volunteers report the violation to State Park Rangers.



## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY: NEXT STEPS**

### **Kashtayit SMCA**

The park hopes to expand the number of volunteers and staff who participate in the MPA Watch Program. Volunteers and staff are trained to report violations to the State Park Ranger. The number of surveys has increased significantly for Kashtayit SMCA transect due to regular visitation and MPA educational programming by Park Interpretive Staff and Park Hosts/Volunteers. Our goal is to increase the number of surveys conducted and compare use data (summer compared to winter) in the coming year.

### **Refugio Control Site**

The park hopes to expand the number of volunteers and staff who participate in the MPA Watch Program. In addition, we hope to continue to include MPA Watch as a component in in-person school field trips to the site, where Park Staff share the importance of MPA Watch Data and students have the opportunity to participate in scientific research (please note: only one survey completed by a staff member is submitted per field trips).



## ORANGE COUNTY



## ORANGE COUNTY: SITE SUMMARY

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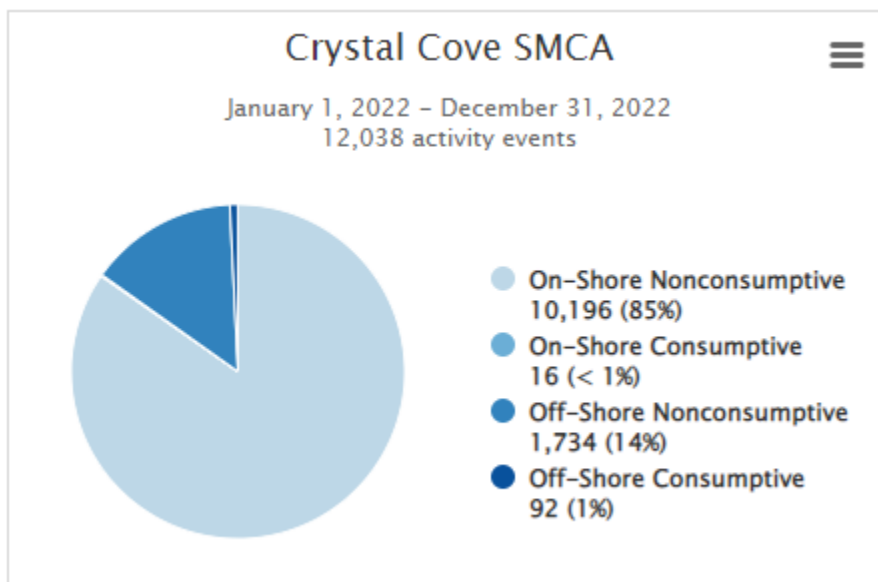
### **Crystal Cove SMCA**

Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) is a highly visited MPA for onshore and offshore recreation. Tide pooling is a very popular activity for park visitors and the intertidal zone receives high traffic year-round. Crystal Cove SMCA is busy year-round, but there is seasonal usage with summer months presenting more human use and impact on marine resources.

In February of 2022 an MPA Watch training was hosted for two State Parks staff and two volunteers.

## ORANGE COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA:

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## ORANGE COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

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### Crystal Cove SMCA

Hand collection of biota from the tidepools remains the most prevalent potential violation in Crystal Cove SMCA's Los Trancos transect. Tidepooling is a very popular activity for visitors in this MPA. Animals are removed from their pools, placed in buckets and potentially taken from the SMCA. Also, visitors to this MPA search for shells and rocks to collect and take home with them. I believe these two potential violations are a direct result of the growing number of visitors to Orange Coast beaches each year.

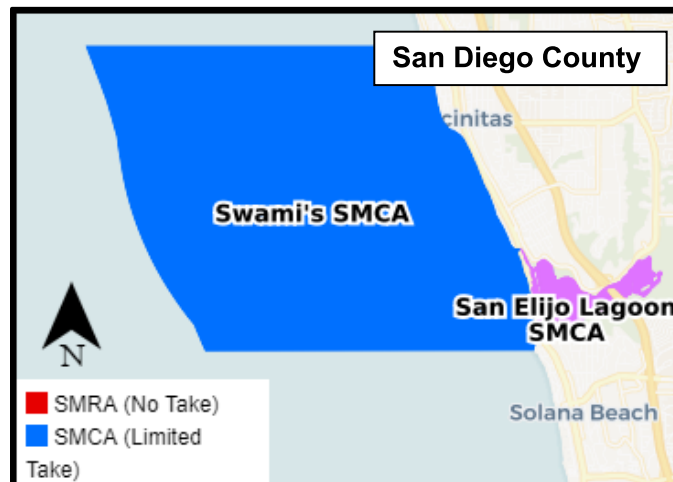
## ORANGE COUNTY: NEXT STEPS

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### Crystal Cove SMCA

In order to address the problem of take and/or disturbance of animals and habitat in the tidepools, park staff will be focusing on more hands-on interpretation on the rocks. We will be conducting another volunteer training to bring on more tidepool volunteers and we will stress the importance of shifts on the weekends when we see the most significant visitation. Also, we will talk with the lifeguard staff at Crystal Cove State Park about Marine Protected Areas so that they can be refreshed on regulations and become more knowledgeable and aware of potential violations in the intertidal zone.

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY



## **SAN DIEGO: SUMMARY**

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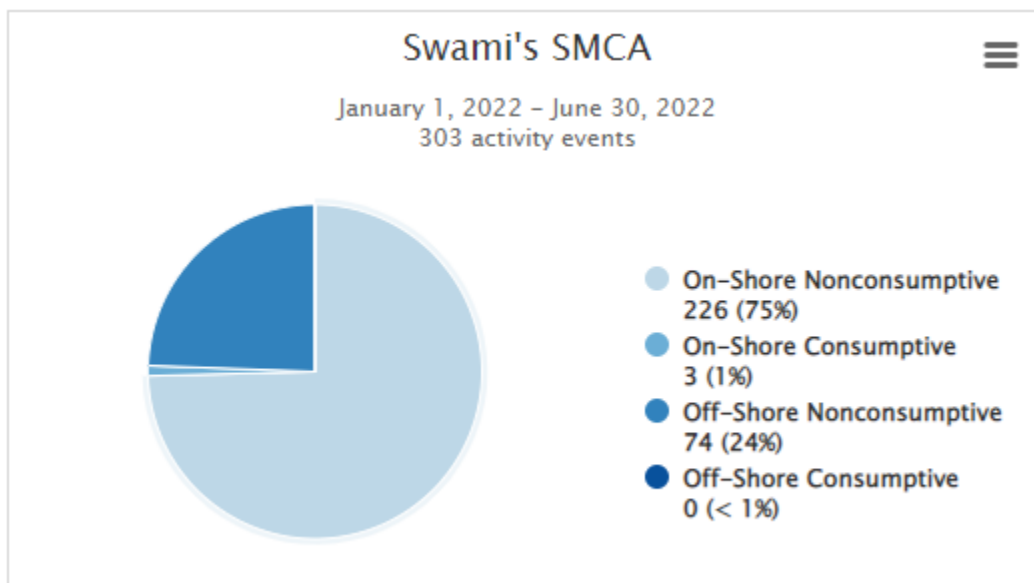
### **Swami's SMCA**

This transect is located on San Elijo State Beach, Cardiff Reef and Cardiff State Beaches. San Elijo contains a campground, and it is a popular surfing spot. Surfing continues to be one of the most popular activities. Cardiff Reef and Cardiff (Seaside) are popular with dog owners and have high visitation. These beaches and campgrounds are visited year-round, with the highest concentration occurring during holidays and summer months. As for being on hand to observe poachers and educate the public, State Park Interpreters work mostly at San Elijo, so Cardiff Reef and Cardiff rely on traveling lifeguards throughout the winter months, with more on-site lifeguards during the summer months.

It is important to note that Swami's State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) is divided into three unique MPA Watch transects across State Park property, including: Swami's 3A, 3B, and 4. Until recently, data collected from both transects 3A and 3B were being recorded as only one transect, resulting in invalid survey data. Therefore, any previously collected surveys which included both 3A and 3B as one transect were deleted from the database, including any potential violations that may have been observed during those surveys. This was an important and necessary step taken to ensure accurate data was being added to the statewide database.

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY: ACTIVITY BY MPA

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## SAN DIEGO COUNTY: POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

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### Swami's SMCA

Beach-goers occasionally report to staff that they see folks gathering items like shells or even tidepool creatures (hand collection of biota). The MPA Watch data does not reflect these anecdotal reports. It is suggested that there are more on-shore consumptive activities (violations) than the MPA Watch data reveals.

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY: NEXT STEPS

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### Swami's SMCA

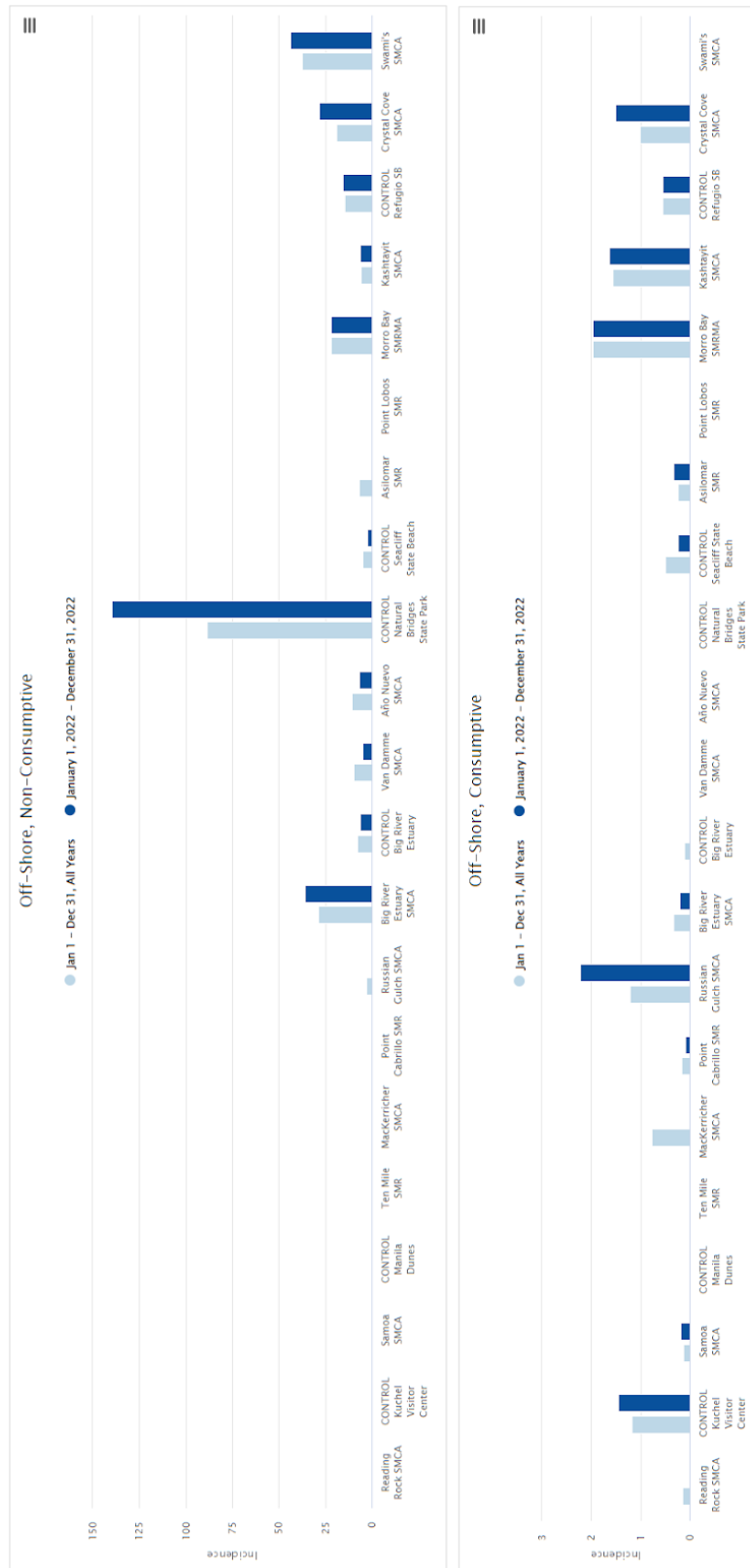
About halfway through this year, a staff member identified that the two transects at San Elijo State Beach had been incorrectly walked; staff had been combining the two transects into one and recording the data as one. Due to this, we had to delete surveys that were completed earlier in the year and start fresh in the second half. All three of Swami's transects have been updated with accurate and detailed information in the interest of staff and volunteers performing future MPA education and watch logs. In addition, the team is aiming for expanded volunteer involvement which can be supported through MPA trainings and in partnership with local organizations such as The Nature Collective. Lastly, there is a strong focus on enhancing interpretive presence and assistance at tidepools within transect 4, especially during negative tides.



## Off-Shore Activity Incidence by MPA

MPA	Off-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022		Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022
Reading Rock SMCA	0.2	0.0		0.2	0.0
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center	0.0	0.0		1.2	1.5
Samoa SMCA	0.0	0.1		0.1	0.2
CONTROL Manila Dunes	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
Ten Mile SMR	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
MacKerricher SMCA	0.6	0.0		0.8	0.0
Point Cabrillo SMR	0.3	0.0		0.2	0.1
Russian Gulch SMCA	2.7	0.0		1.2	2.2
Big River Estuary SMCA	29.0	36.0		0.3	0.2
CONTROL Big River Estuary	7.8	6.2		0.1	0.0
Van Damme SMCA	9.6	5.0		0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMCA	10.5	7.0		0.0	0.0
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park	88.7	140.0		0.0	0.0
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach	4.8	2.5		0.5	0.2
Asilomar SMR	6.7	0.2		0.2	0.3
Point Lobos SMR	0.2	0.2		0.0	0.0
Morro Bay SMRMA	21.8	21.9		2.0	2.0
Kashtayit SMCA	6.1	6.3		1.6	1.6
CONTROL Refugio SB	14.8	15.8		0.5	0.5
Crystal Cove SMCA	19.1	28.4		1.0	1.5
Swami's SMCA	37.7	43.8		0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	7.9	10.1		0.5	0.6

# Off-Shore Activity Incidence by MPA

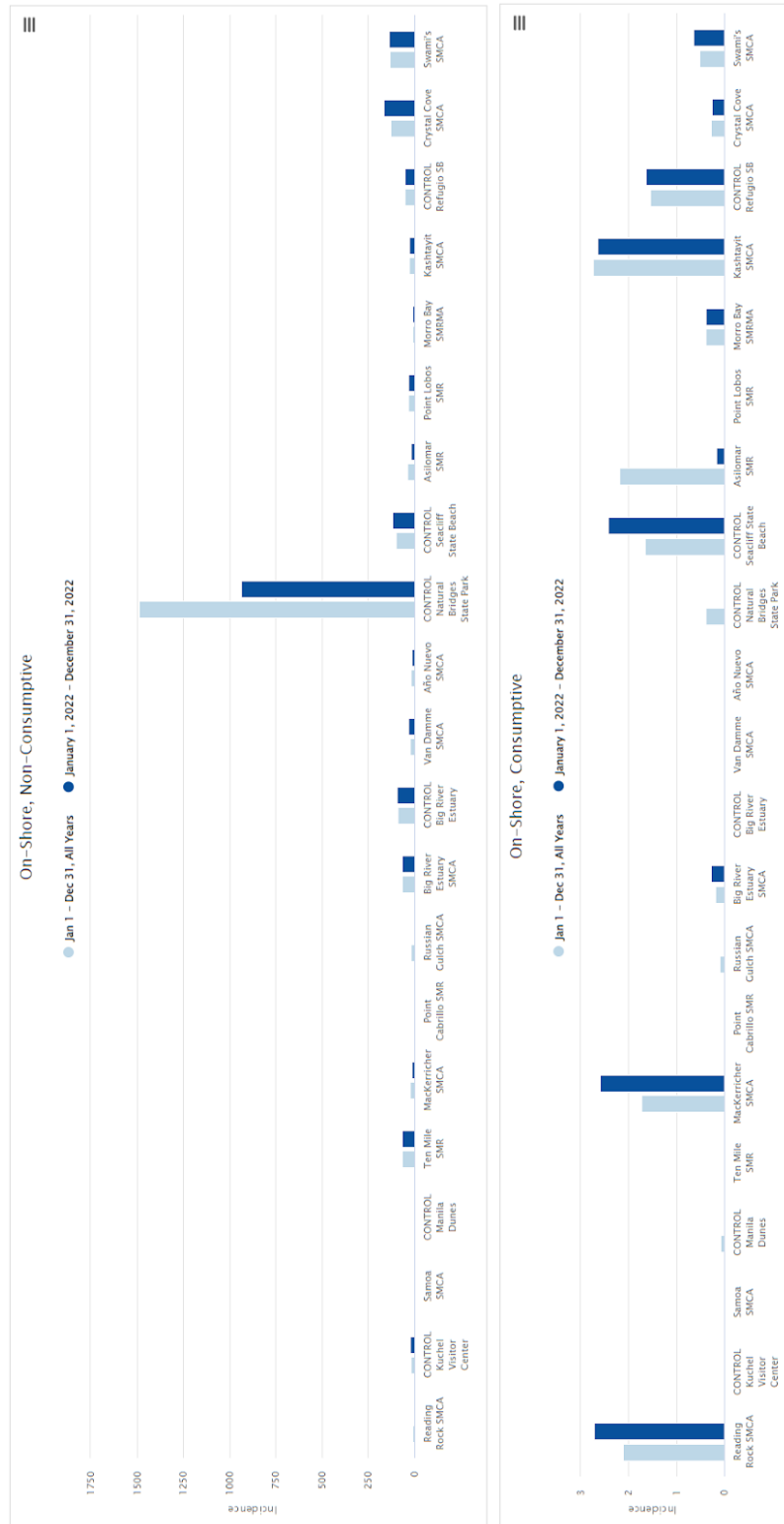




## On-Shore Activity Incidence by MPA

MPA	On-Shore					
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive		
	▲	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	◆ Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022 ◆	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	◆ Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022 ◆	
Reading Rock SMCA		8.2	7.0	2.1	2.7	
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center		20.1	25.0	0.0	0.0	
Samoa SMCA		4.3	5.4	0.0	0.0	
CONTROL Manila Dunes		6.1	5.8	0.1	0.0	
Ten Mile SMR		66.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	
MacKerricher SMCA		23.7	13.8	1.7	2.6	
Point Cabrillo SMR		1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Russian Gulch SMCA		20.5	6.7	0.1	0.0	
Big River Estuary SMCA		64.3	66.3	0.2	0.3	
CONTROL Big River Estuary		88.9	97.0	0.0	0.0	
Van Damme SMCA		22.3	31.0	0.0	0.0	
Año Nuevo SMCA		17.8	16.0	0.0	0.0	
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park		1,486.5	937.1	0.4	0.0	
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach		101.4	121.0	1.7	2.4	
Asilomar SMR		38.6	17.7	2.2	0.2	
Point Lobos SMR		33.7	31.8	0.0	0.0	
Morro Bay SMRMA		8.9	8.6	0.4	0.4	
Kashtayit SMCA		28.4	28.8	2.7	2.7	
CONTROL Refugio SB		50.6	54.4	1.6	1.6	
Crystal Cove SMCA		130.0	166.9	0.3	0.3	
Swami's SMCA		132.2	136.0	0.5	0.6	
All MPAs Combined		80.0	70.9	0.9	0.9	

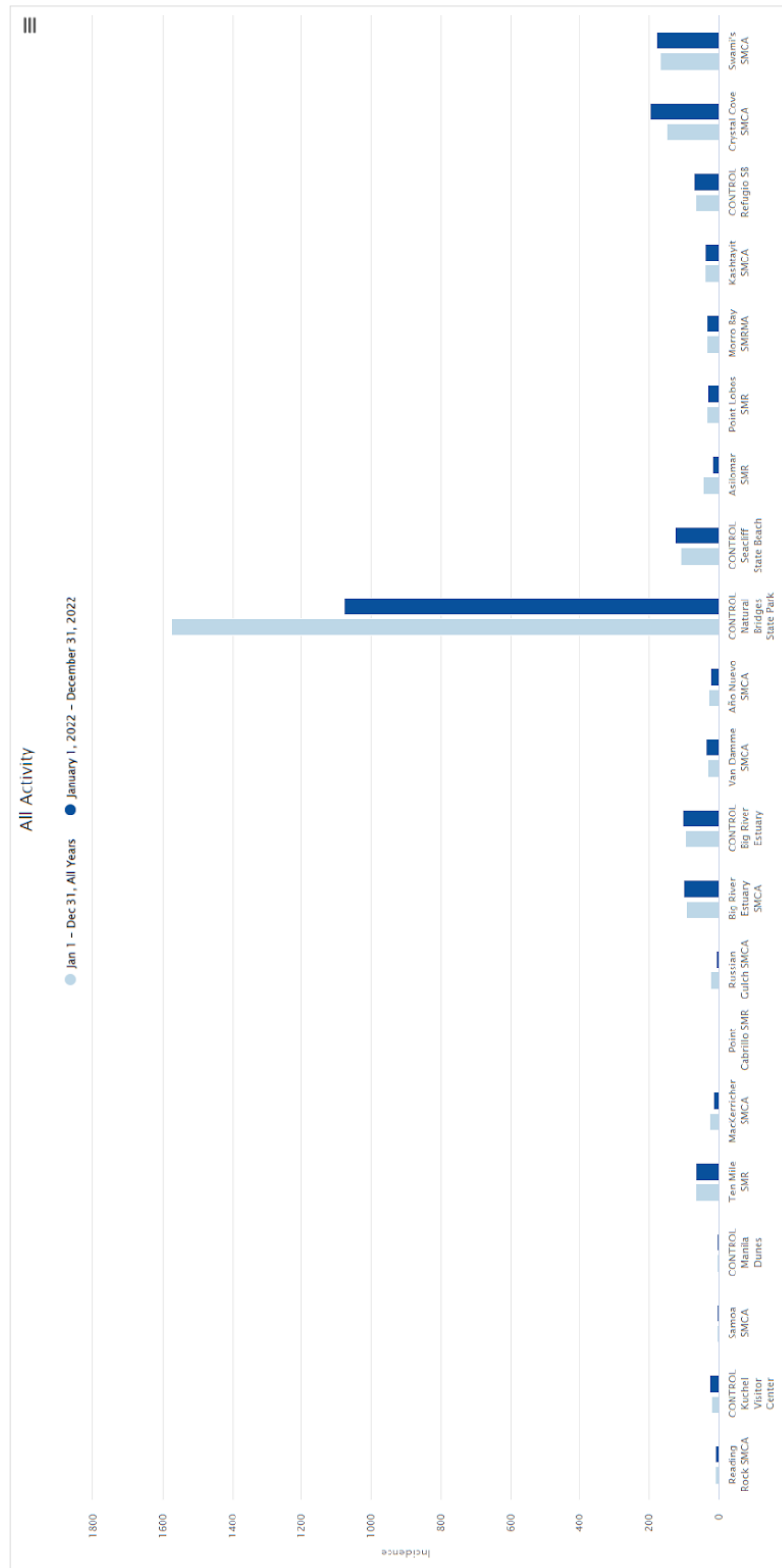
# On-Shore Activity Incidence by MPA



## All Activity Incidence by MPA

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022
Reading Rock SMCA	10.6	9.8
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center	21.3	26.5
Samoa SMCA	4.5	5.6
CONTROL Manila Dunes	6.1	5.8
Ten Mile SMR	66.7	66.7
MacKerricher SMCA	26.8	16.4
Point Cabrillo SMR	1.6	0.3
Russian Gulch SMCA	24.5	8.9
Big River Estuary SMCA	93.8	102.8
CONTROL Big River Estuary	96.8	103.1
Van Damme SMCA	31.9	36.0
Año Nuevo SMCA	28.4	23.0
CONTROL Natural Bridges State Park	1,575.6	1,077.1
CONTROL Seacliff State Beach	108.3	126.2
Asilomar SMR	47.7	18.3
Point Lobos SMR	34.0	32.0
Morro Bay SMRMA	33.1	32.8
Kashtayit SMCA	38.8	39.4
CONTROL Refugio SB	67.5	72.4
Crystal Cove SMCA	150.3	197.0
Swami's SMCA	170.4	180.4
All MPAs Combined	89.3	82.5

# All Activity Incidence by MPA



*The above charts show incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in California.  
Incidence is calculated as the number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.*

#### *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.

### **COVID-19 Impacts**

In early 2022, all parks and beaches were open to visitors, and it was possible to host small trainings again, often in outdoor spaces and masked if indoors. COVID-19 continues to slightly impact the program as contagious variants continue to sweep through the United States. Some volunteers are reluctant to spend time in busier park locations due to the risk of exposure to the virus.

### **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 additional information about California State Parks Marine Protected Area Outreach and Education Program, please contact Erika Delemarre at [erika.delemarre@parks.ca.gov](mailto:erika.delemarre@parks.ca.gov) or at (916) 704-5042.