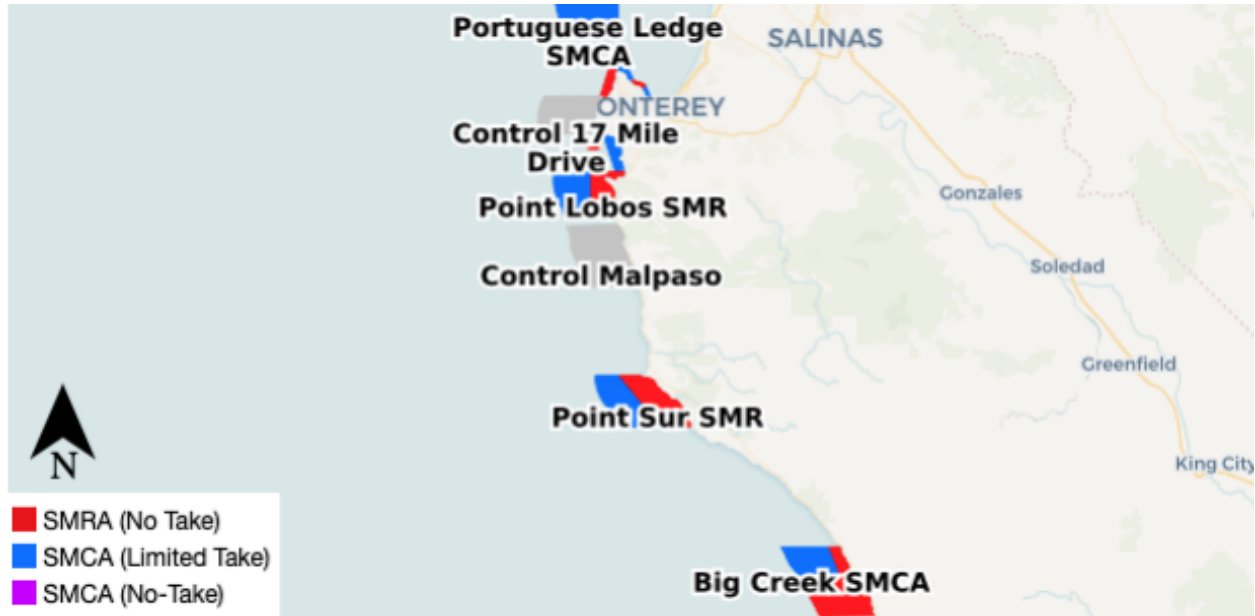




MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGIONAL REPORT

Monterey County
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

PACIFIC GROVE
MUSEUM
of NATURAL
HISTORY



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. MPA Watch in Monterey County is implemented through a joint effort among WILD COAST, The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, and California State Parks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- COVID restrictions and staffing restructures meant there was a gap in MPA Watch programs from Jan 2022 – Aug 2022. MPA Watch was re-launched in Sept 2022.
- 15 potential violations observed – most were hand collecting of biota. Even in the local SMCAs, hand collecting of most biota (shells, driftwood, rocks) is not permitted.
- This is slightly higher than previous years, but may be due to heightened volunteer awareness rather than an actual increase in violations.



General Notes:

- In Sept 2022, we created MPA Watch survey walks for the Ed Ricketts SMCA and the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA.
- Some volunteers also reported Marine Mammal Act violations, but those violations are not within MPA Watch parameters.
- Because the PGMNH program was out from Jan – Sept 2022, the vast majority of activities were reported at Point Lobos SMR.



MPA Watch training Sept 2022 (photo credit PGMNH)

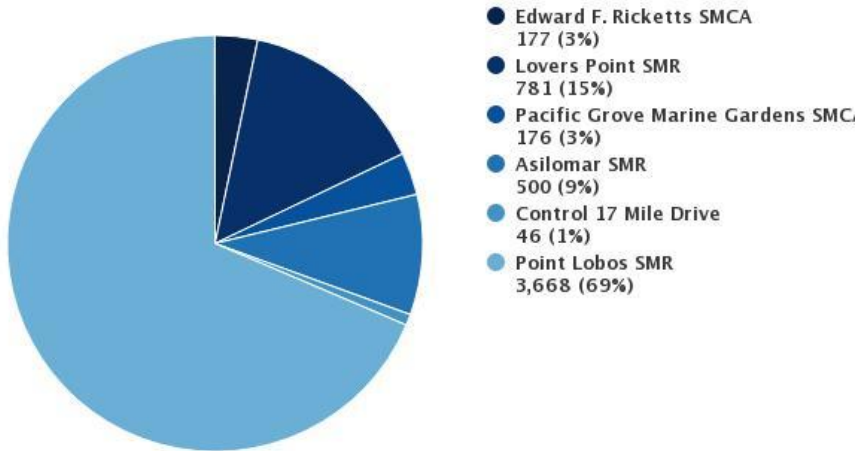


Human Use of MPAS January – December 2022

Overview

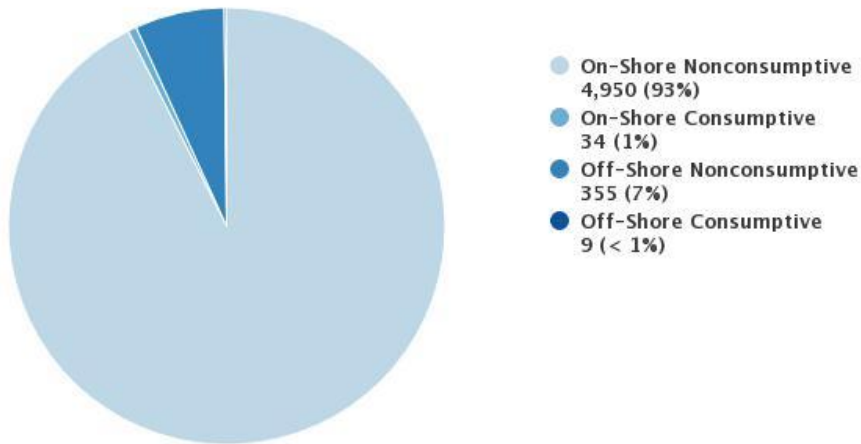
Top 6 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
5,348 total activity events



All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
5,348 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.

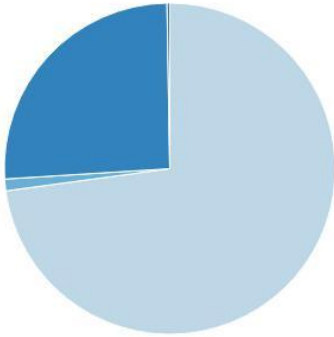
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

ACTIVITY BY MPA

Lovers Point SMR

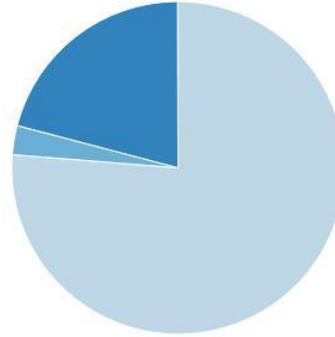
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
781 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
569 (73%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
9 (1%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
201 (26%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
2 (< 1%)

Edward F. Ricketts SMCA

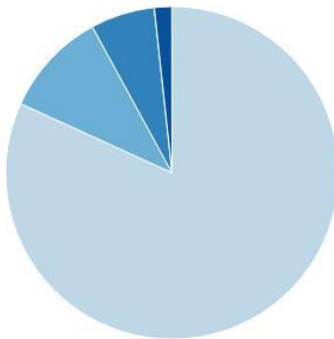
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
177 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
135 (76%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
5 (3%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
37 (21%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA

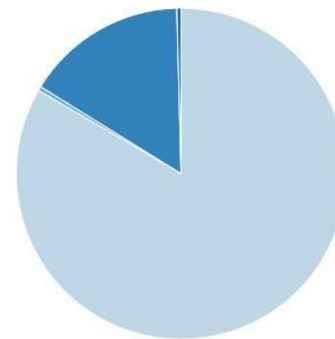
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
176 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
144 (82%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
18 (10%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
11 (6%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
3 (2%)

Asilomar SMR

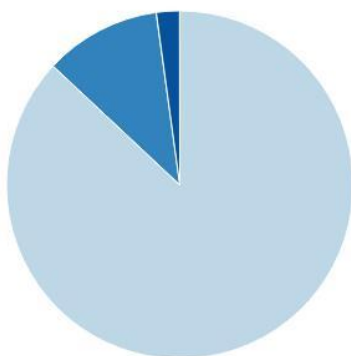
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
500 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
417 (83%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
2 (< 1%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
79 (16%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
2 (< 1%)

Control 17 Mile Drive

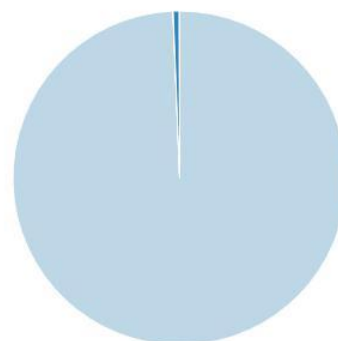
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
46 activity events



- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
40 (87%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
5 (11%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (2%)

Point Lobos SMR

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
3,668 activity events

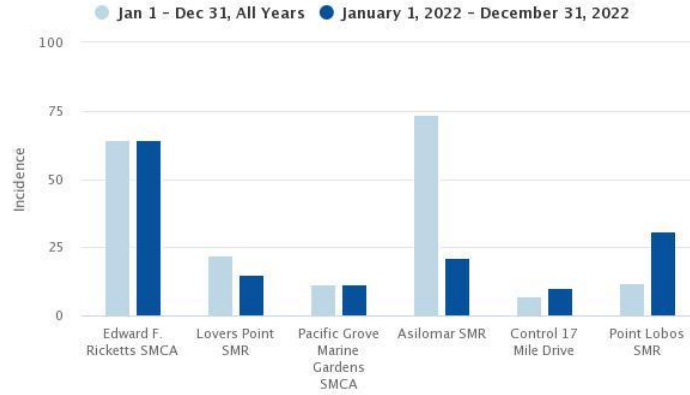


- On-Shore Nonconsumptive
3,645 (99%)
- On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
22 (1%)
- Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (< 1%)

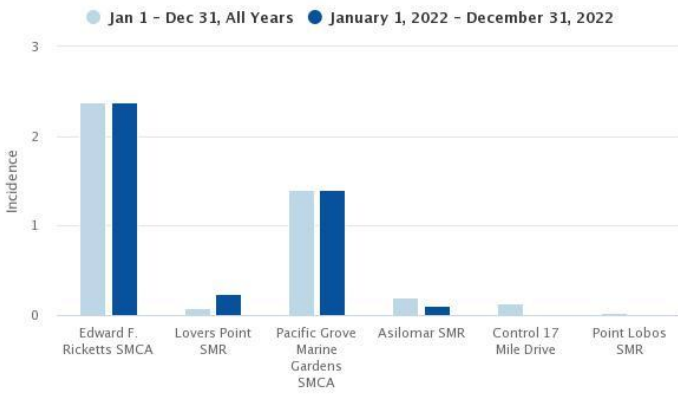
* Charts excluded for MPAs with lack of surveys conducted at sites.

ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

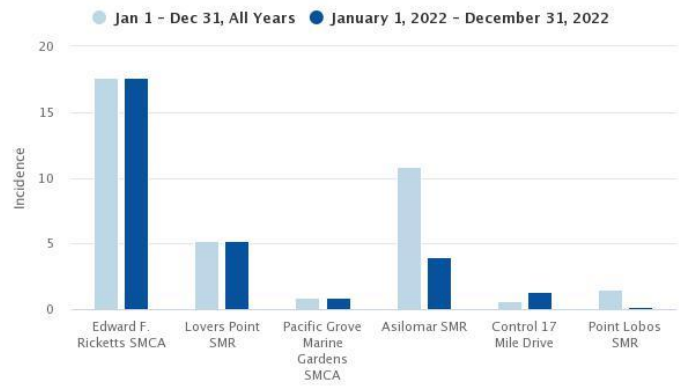
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



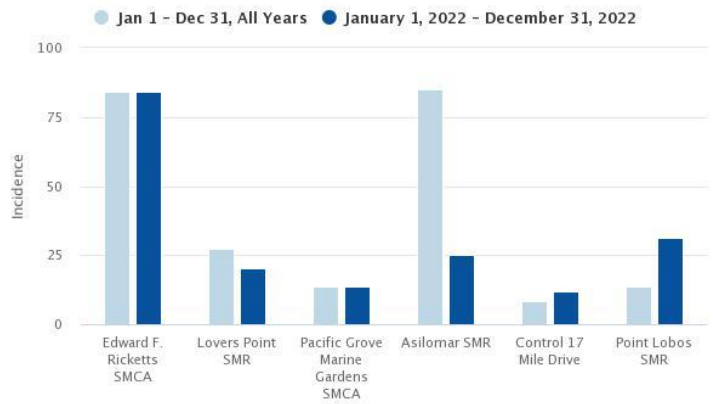
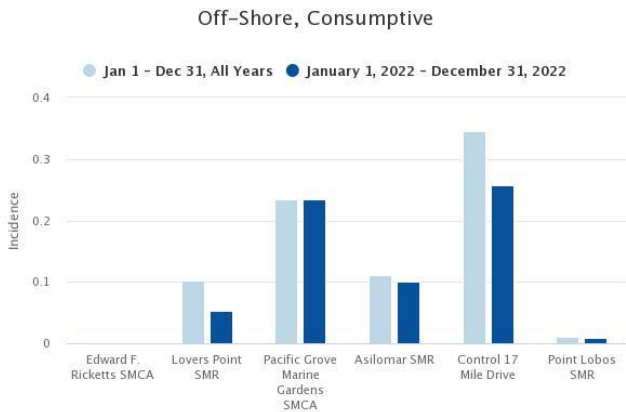
On-Shore, Consumptive



Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



All Activity



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

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
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA		64.3	64.3	2.4	2.4
Lovers Point SMR		22.0	14.8	0.1	0.2
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA		11.3	11.3	1.4	1.4
Asilomar SMR		73.7	21.1	0.2	0.1
Control 17 Mile Drive		7.2	10.3	0.1	0.0
Point Lobos SMR		12.0	30.9	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined		19.6	25.4	0.3	0.2

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
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA		17.6	17.6	0.0	0.0
Lovers Point SMR		5.2	5.2	0.1	0.1
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA		0.9	0.9	0.2	0.2
Asilomar SMR		10.9	4.0	0.1	0.1
Control 17 Mile Drive		0.6	1.3	0.3	0.3
Point Lobos SMR		1.5	0.2	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined		3.2	1.8	0.2	0.0

MPA	Total Combined			
	▲	Jan 1 Dec 31 All Years	◆	Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2022
	Edward F. Ricketts SMCA		84.3	
Lovers Point SMR		27.4		20.3
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA		13.8		13.8
Asilomar SMR		84.9		25.3
Control 17 Mile Drive		8.3		11.8
Point Lobos SMR		13.5		31.1
All MPAs Combined		23.3		27.4

BREAKDOWN BY MPA

Edward F Ricketts SMCA

This is the first year the Edward F Ricketts SMCA has been part of MPA Watch. This site consists mostly of artificial harbors and jetties, plus one small beach. This means this site should have lower percentages of on-shore activities compared to other local MPAs. Our data confirms this. No violations were observed.

Lovers Point SMR

This site has the longest running MPA Watch data for Monterey County and was frequently surveyed. This year's activities are well within normal years: mostly on-shore nonconsumptive activities. 11 violations were observed this year.

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA

This is the first year the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA has been part of MPA Watch. It consists of a rocky shoreline popular with hook-and-line fishing. No violations were observed this year.

Asilomar SMR

This year there was a slight increase in off-shore non consumptive activities (16% compared to all-time average of 13%) and a slight decrease in on-shore nonconsumptive activities (83% for this year compared to all-time average of 87%). Only 4 violations were observed.

Control 17 Mile Drive

This site requires a special permit to get through, so data is limited. This year's data (though limited) aligns with previous years. No violations observed.

Point Lobos SMR

This is the most frequently surveyed site in Monterey County. This year should see a decrease in off-shore non consumptive activities (from 11% all years to 1% this year). On-shore nonconsumptive activities jumped from 89% all years to 99% this year. No violations were observed this year.

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

The number one violation is taking of biota. Even in SMCAs, hand-collection of shells, driftwood, and even rocks is not permitted. Almost all violations are shell/rock collecting.

Otherwise, the exact shoreline boundary between the Lovers Point SMR (no fishing permitted) and the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA (hook-and-line fishing permitted) is not clearly delineated. Some Lovers Point SMR violations are hook-and-line violations barely a few meters within the Lovers Point SMR boundary.

NEXT STEPS

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History will find a way to split the Carmel Bay SMCA into viable survey routes, so it can be added to MPA Watch data. (That site includes the most popular off-leash dog beach in the county). The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History will increase the number of volunteers surveying human use in Monterey County's Marine Protected Areas, with an especial aim for volunteers who can survey Elkhorn Slough and Big Sur MPAs.

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. 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. If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations, please call CalTip to report the violation at (888)334-2258.

For more information regarding the MPA Watch Program at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, visit www.pgmuseum.org/volunteer or contact:
Natalie Johnston | Volunteer & Community Science Coordinator
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
johnston@pgmuseum.org
(831) 648-5716 ext 12

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.