



MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGIONAL REPORT

Santa Barbara County
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 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. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper acknowledges the Chumash people, who historically inhabited the central and southern coastal regions and islands of California, as the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn, and work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

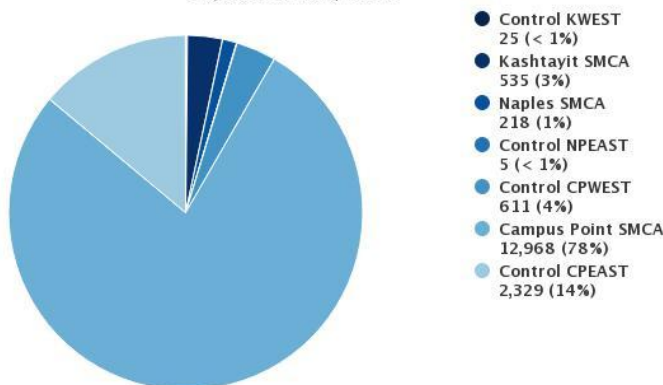
- The increased human activity, primarily beach recreation, observed at coastal MPAs observed during the pandemic appears to have leveled off in 2022, although slightly higher activity at Campus Point MPA and Naples MPA continues.
- Non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) account for 99.73% 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.



HUMAN USE OF MPAS January – December 2022

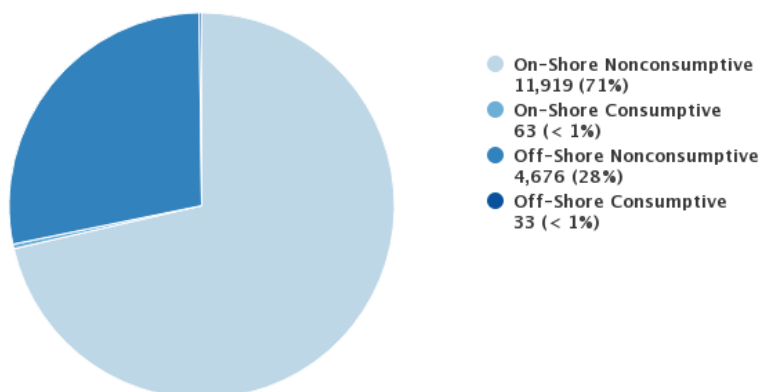
Top 7 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
16,691 total activity events



All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
16,691 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.

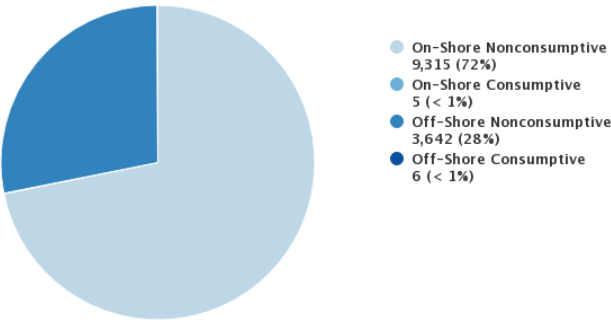


MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGINAL REPORT

ACTIVITY BY MPA

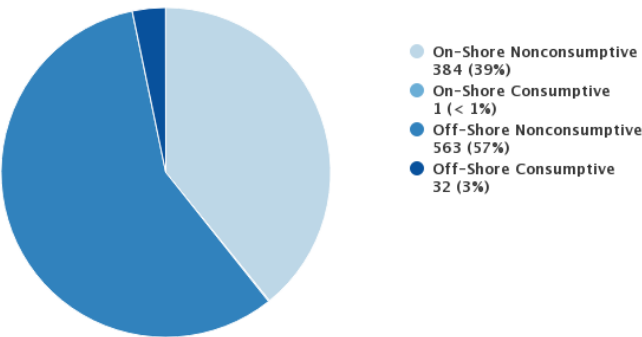
Campus Point SMCA

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
12,968 activity events



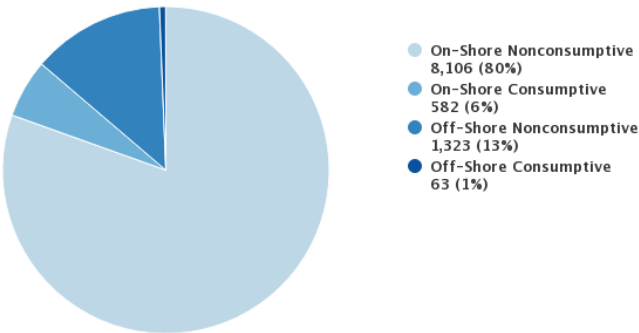
Naples SMCA

Jan 1 – Dec 31, All Years
980 activity events



Kashtayit SMCA

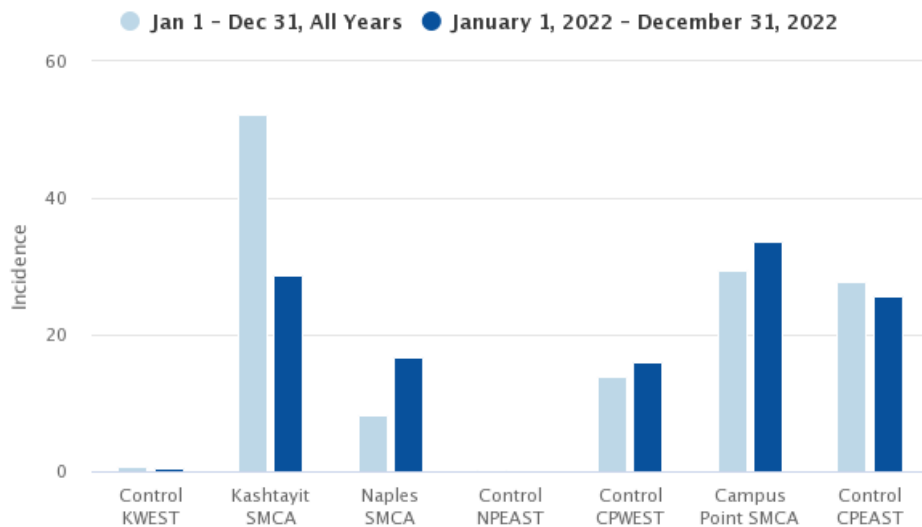
Jan 1 – Dec 31, All Years
10,074 activity events



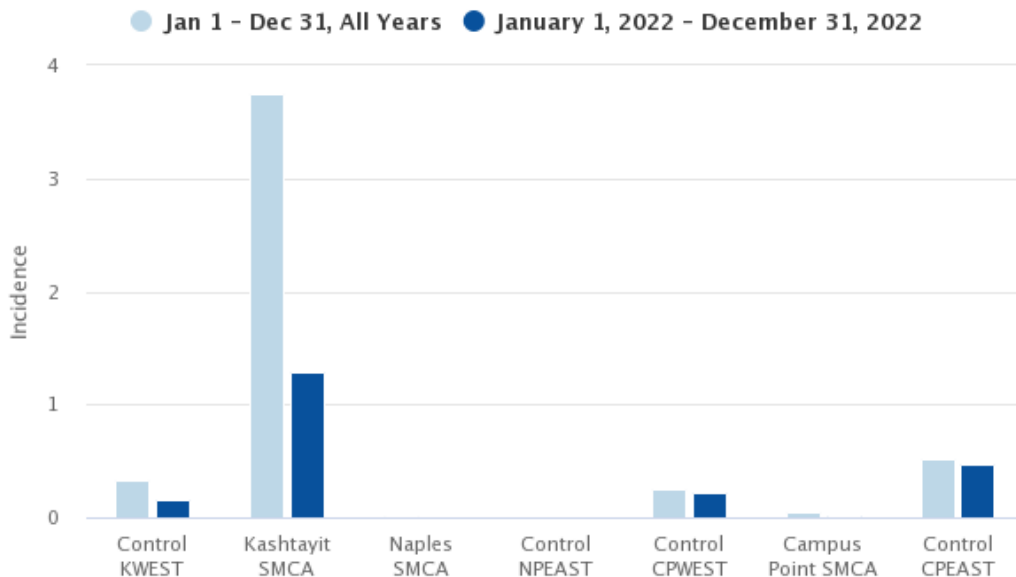
ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

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

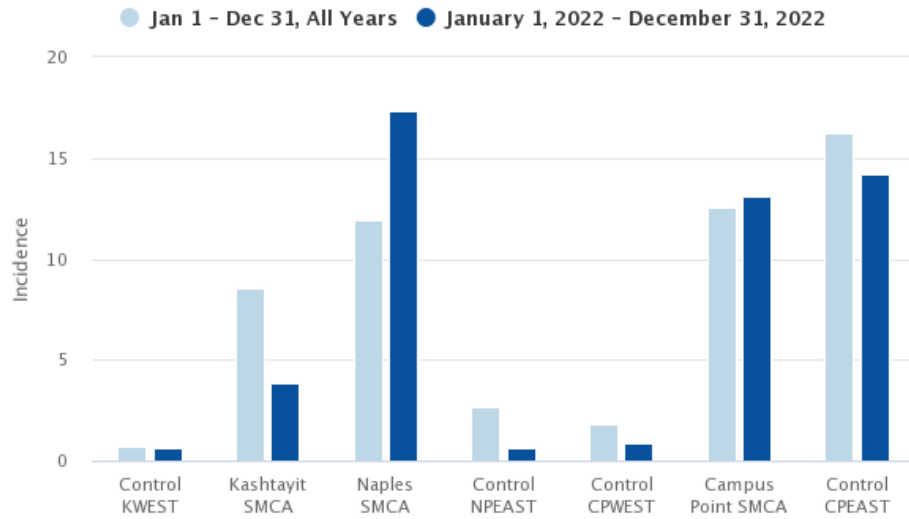
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



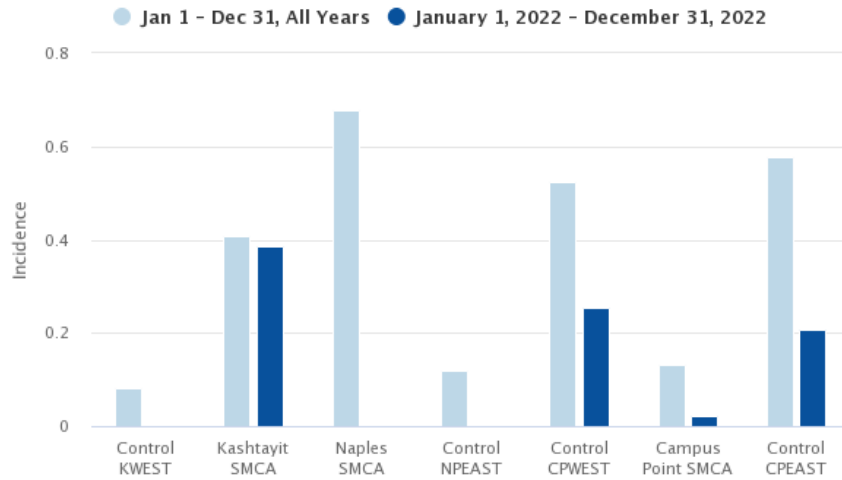
On-Shore, Consumptive



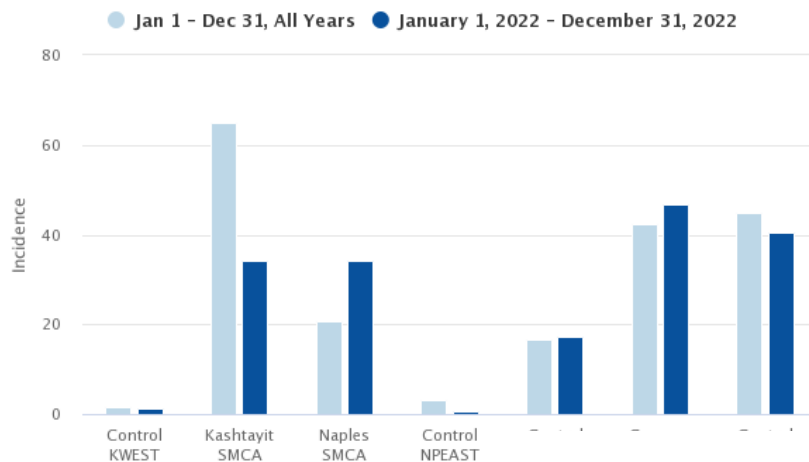
Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



All Activity





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ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

MPA	On-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	Jan 1	Jan 1, 2022	through	Jan 1	Jan 1, 2022
	Dec 31	through		Dec 31	through
	All Years	Dec 31, 2022		All Years	Dec 31, 2022
Control KWEST		0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
Kashtayit SMCA		52.3	28.8	3.8	1.3
Naples SMCA		8.1	16.7	0.0	0.0
Control NPEAST		0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST		13.9	16.1	0.3	0.2
Campus Point SMCA		29.5	33.5	0.1	0.0
Control CPEAST		27.7	25.6	0.5	0.5
All MPAs Combined		31.8	28.4	0.4	0.1

MPA	Off-Shore				
	Non-Consumptive			Consumptive	
	Jan 1	Jan 1, 2022	through	Jan 1	Jan 1, 2022
	Dec 31	through		Dec 31	through
	All Years	Dec 31, 2022		All Years	Dec 31, 2022
Control KWEST		0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0
Kashtayit SMCA		8.5	3.8	0.4	0.4
Naples SMCA		11.9	17.3	0.7	0.0
Control NPEAST		2.7	0.7	0.1	0.0
Control CPWEST		1.8	0.8	0.5	0.3
Campus Point SMCA		12.5	13.1	0.1	0.0
Control CPEAST		16.2	14.2	0.6	0.2
All MPAs Combined		11.6	11.1	0.2	0.1

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	Jan 1	Jan 1, 2022
	Dec 31	through
	All Years	Dec 31, 2022
Control KWEST	1.7	1.3
Kashtayit SMCA	65.0	34.3
Naples SMCA	20.7	34.1
Control NPEAST	3.1	0.7
Control CPWEST	16.5	17.4
Campus Point SMCA	42.2	46.7
Control CPEAST	45.0	40.4
All MPAs Combined	44.0	39.7

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.



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BREAKDOWN BY MPA

Campus Point SMCA

In January- December 2022, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 448 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 160 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

Between January and December 2022, Santa Barbara MPA Watch data shows a rate of 46.7 total use count per total miles surveyed in the Campus Point SMCA. Unlike the previous increase in the rate of total use that we saw in 2020 and the first part of 2021, this use rate is much closer to the average rate of use for previous years (average 42.2 total user per miles surveyed) although still slightly elevated. Non-consumptive activities, both on and offshore, accounted for 99.92% of all observations during this time period. The most observed activity in the Campus Point SMCA was beach recreation at 64% of all observations. Surfing accounted for 22% of all observations. Offshore recreation (swimming) and tidepooling accounted for 2% each of total observations in this MPA. Only 0.08% of the observations were consumptive activities and they included recreational hook and line fishing, both on and offshore, and hand collection of biota.

Naples SMCA

In January-December 2022, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 64 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 19 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border.

In 2022, increased activity of both onshore and offshore continued to be observed at Naples compared to baseline data; the total use count per mile was 31.4 for 2022 which is 1.65 times higher than baseline data (average total use count per mile of 20.7). This increase in observed activity at Naples started during the Covid-19 pandemic and has continued over the following years. In 2022, offshore non-consumptive activity accounted for 51% of all observations at Naples SMCA. Surfing accounted for 49% of all activity observed, followed by onshore beach recreation at 41% of all observations.

Kashtayit SMCA

In January-December 2022 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 78 surveys within the Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) at Gaviota State Beach and along the western end of the MPA and 40 surveys outside of the MPA on the western side.

SB MPA Watch volunteers observed mostly onshore beach recreation; 82% of all activity observed at Kashtayit was onshore non-consumptive activities. Onshore hook and line fishing (on sandy and rocky substrate) accounted for 4% of all observations at the MPA, which is slightly down from the 5% of observations over the years. Kashtayit SMCA allows for the recreational take of most species except for mussels and scallops. No potential violations were observed.



BOAT-BASED SURVEYS

Santa Barbara County MPAs

January – December 2022

In addition to the shore-based MPA Watch surveys, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper staff conduct offshore surveys from the Research Vessel *Channelkeeper* of Campus Point and Naples MPAs as well as control sites for two miles on the eastern and western areas adjacent to the Campus Point and Naples MPAs. 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.

Channelkeeper boat-based MPA Watch surveys document 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 MPAs surveyed.

Channelkeeper aims to conduct two boat surveys of coastal and island MPAs per month onboard our research vessel, weather and conditions permitting. Due to mechanical issues with the boat and challenges with weather including an exceptionally windy spring fewer boat surveys were conducted than planned this past year. Channelkeeper completed eleven coastal boat MPA Watch surveys of Campus Point and Naples SMCAs and four Channel Island survey trips during 2022.

There were no potential violations observed during boat-based surveys at coastal or Channel Island MPAs during this time period.

The majority of observations seen during coastal boat surveys were recreational hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier in a control survey east of the Campus Point MPA.

The most observed activity at the northern Channel Islands during the 2022 boat surveys was recreational kayaking accounting for 51.71% of all observations. Active fishing observed, both recreational and commercial, accounted for 11.22% of all observations. For the 2022 time period active fishing (both commercial and recreational) was only observed outside of MPAs in the control area surveys where fishing is allowed.

BOAT-BASED SURVEYS – SB COUNTY COASTAL MPAS

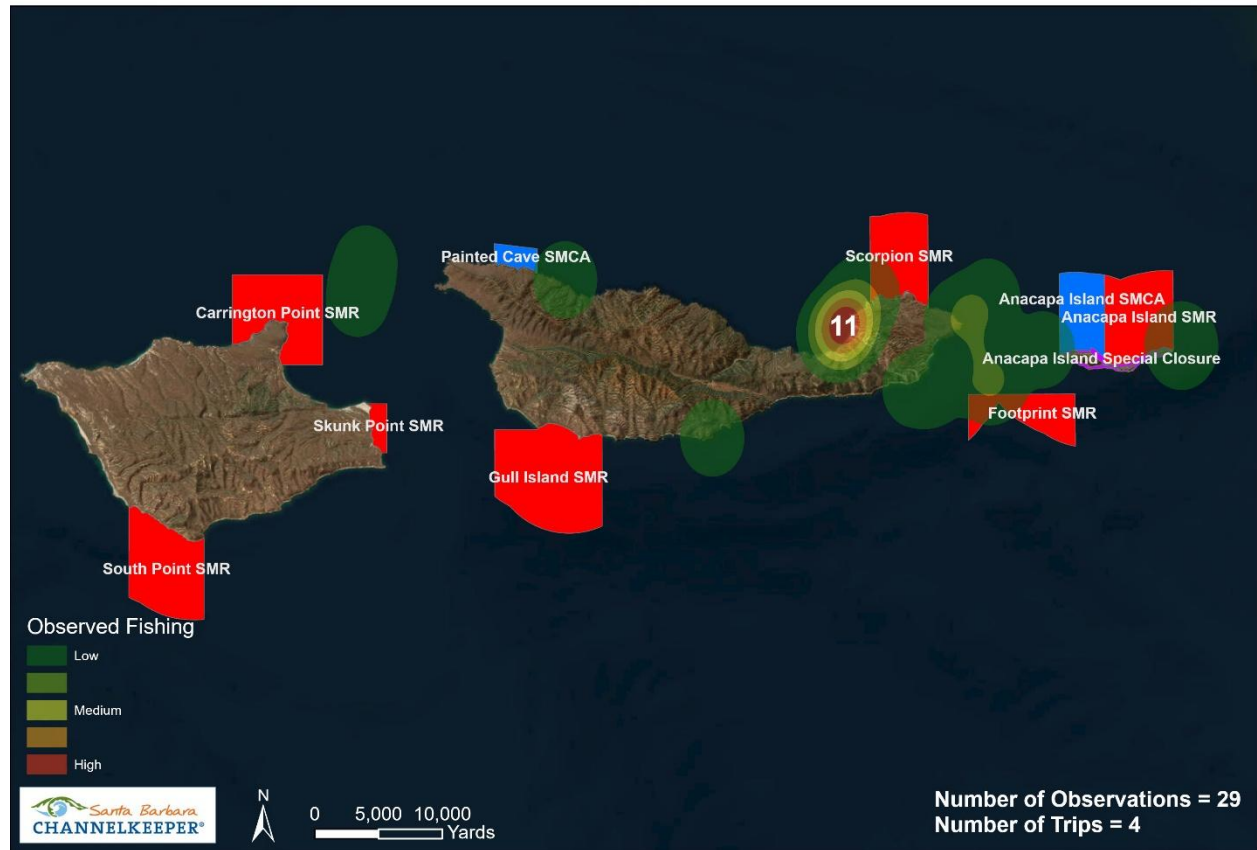
Jan - Dec 2022 All Fishing Activity
Santa Barbara





BOAT-BASED SURVEYS – NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLAND MPAS

Jan - Dec 2022 All Fishing Activity
Channel Islands





POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

Rate of consumptive activities observed in Kashtayit, Naples, and Campus Point MPAs remains relatively low accounting for <1% of all observations recorded by shore-based surveys. In the Campus Point (No-Take) SMCA, shore-based MPA Watch volunteers observed seven potential violations of offshore fishing activity. There were three observations of hand collection of biota, two shore-based recreational hook and line fishing and two recreational boats hook and line fishing within the MPA.

In 2022, Channelkeeper boat-based MPA Watch surveys did not observe any potential violations.

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. 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 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.