



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
Six Month Regional Report  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2022 – December 2022**



**Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Boat-Based Survey Report  
Tongva, Chumash & Tataviam Lands**



Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance dedicated to clean, drinkable, fishable waters for all. LAW began conducting boat-based surveys of our Point Dume MPA in Malibu, and our Point Vicente & Abalone Cove MPAs in Palos Verdes since January of 2012. While serving as LA's MPA Community Compliance Liaison, LAW's eyes on the water effort connects our diverse community of volunteer crew members with each other, our ocean, MPAs, enforcement personnel, fishers, boaters, sea life and the planet in support of healthy MPAs. Training takes place onboard and is open to community members over the age of 18.

All LAW observances include GPS coordinates of offshore recreational and commercial vessel consumptive or non-consumptive activity, and all onshore consumptive activity including onshore tidepool hand take is documented. LAW's efforts to patrol at low tide were kept in mind as communicating probable illegal tidepool hand take from offshore to onshore support at Abalone Cove has been a valuable tool in aiding live onshore outreach and enforcement compliance efforts.

LAW's boat-based survey transects begin and extend approximately two miles beyond the boundaries of our MPAs. LAW monitors each control site that run up shore and down shore of the MPA boundaries and all areas of the MPA each survey. The control area data is collected during every survey as part of a single transect.



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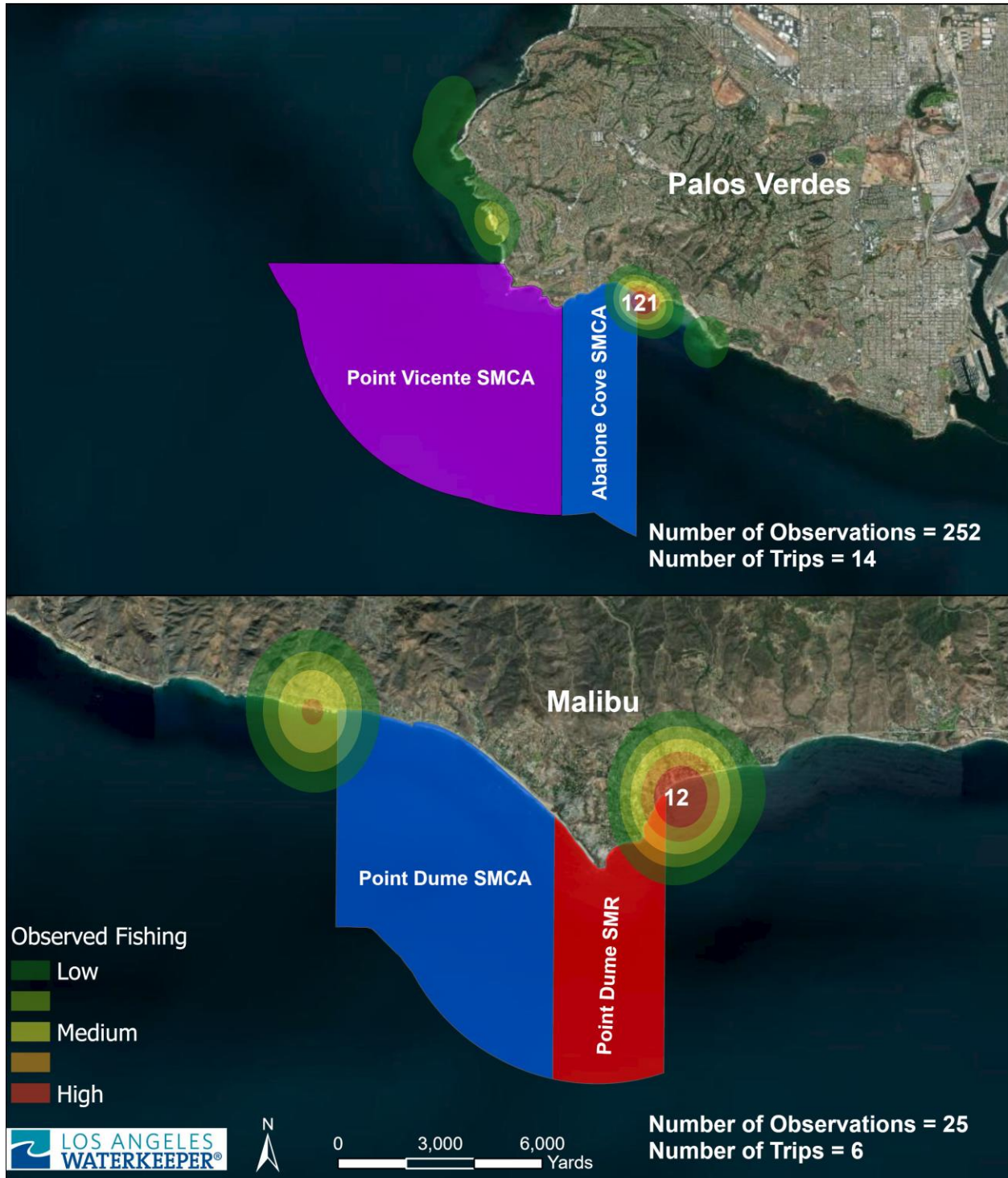
**Executive Summary**

- LAW's Marine Programs Director, Dr. Michael Quill, oversaw every LAW boat-based survey and he reported and recorded all probable recreational and commercial fishing violations observed occurring onshore and offshore to CalTip, to Wardens and to Rangers as appropriate from his on the water perspective.
- Boating and fishing activity fell off in Santa Monica Bay early on in 2022. Dramatic increases in fuel prices, ongoing pollution and weather conditions are anecdotally cited as cause of the drop off. LAW adjusted to the lack of fishing and boating activity by balancing cost of fuel and staff time, crew health and safety to conduct 63 surveys in 2022.
- The ongoing probable onshore tidepool take violations observed inside the Abalone Cove MPA were reported to the RPV Rangers via text or phone as well as to CalTip via phone call. All Pt. Dume observed "potential" violations are reported to CalTip and local wardens as appropriate
- After completing a survey, LAW staffer Quill offered on-the-water, boat-to-boat MPA outreach and reported any other possible off or onshore violations to CDFW and the RPV Rangers as appropriate.
- Records of all LAW calls to CalTip and contact with RPV Rangers made during LAW's surveys are submitted as a supplemental report to aide CDFW's research of CalTip efficiency as requested by CDFW and can be found at this link:

[Los Angeles Waterkeeper's 2022 Potential MPA Violations Reported](#)

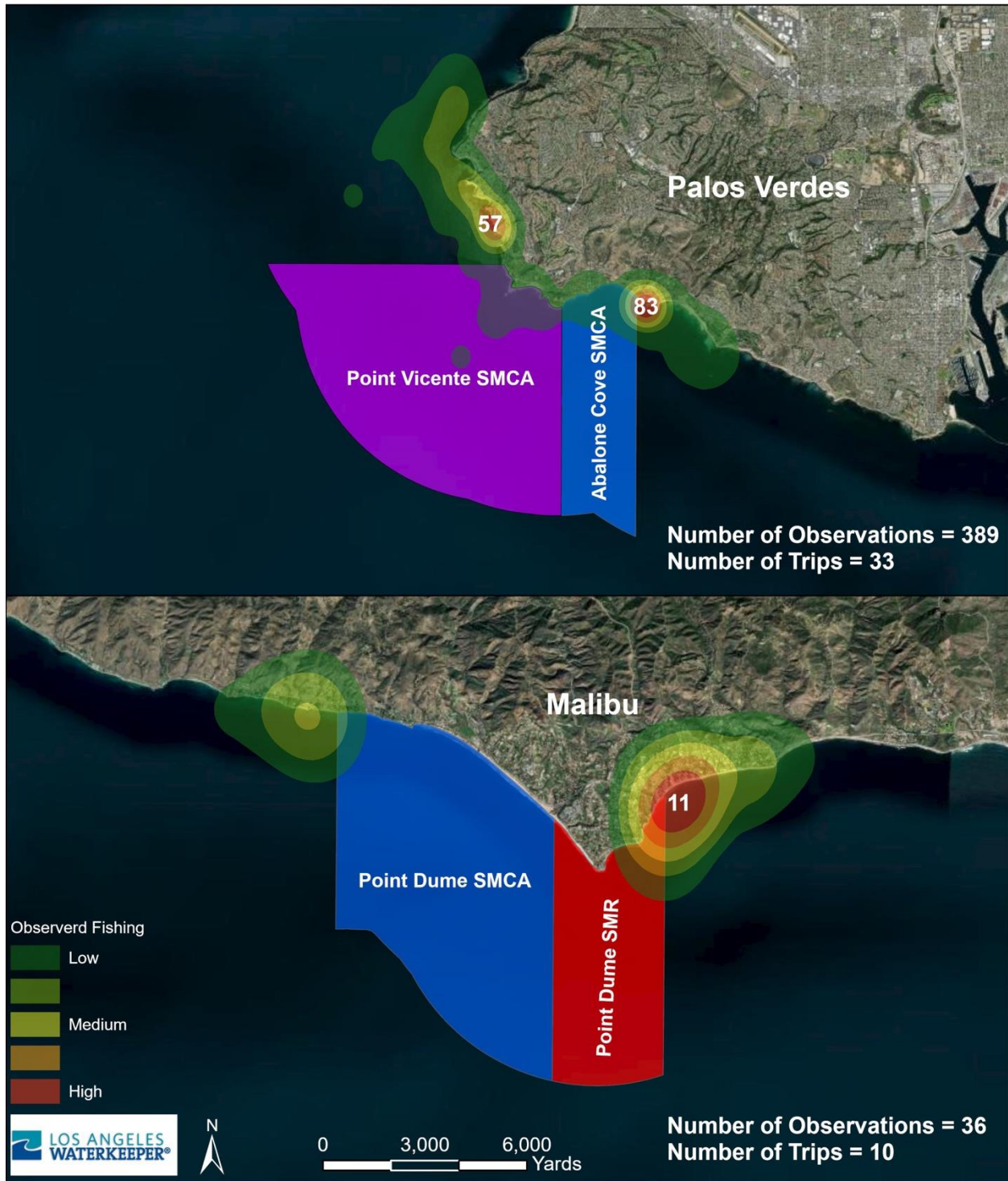
- LAW worked in collaboration with CDFW and RPV Rangers via text or phone as well as to CalTip via phone call. All Pt. Dume observed "potential" violations are reported to CalTip and local wardens by cell phone as appropriate.
- After completing a survey, if no enforcement agency staff is available, LAW staffer Quill offered on-the-water, boat-to-boat MPA outreach to fishers LAW reported and reported any additional post survey "potential" violations to CDFW and the RPV Rangers as appropriate. Quill keeps safety in mind as ask permission to approach fishers actively fishing illegally to engage in on the water MPA outreach and education. Those interactions are included in our data.
- Documentation of all LAW calls to CalTip and RPV Rangers are made during LAW's surveys is included as a link in this report to aide enforcement research of CalTip and LAW's ongoing role as Community Based Enforcement Liaison.

## Jan - June 2022 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

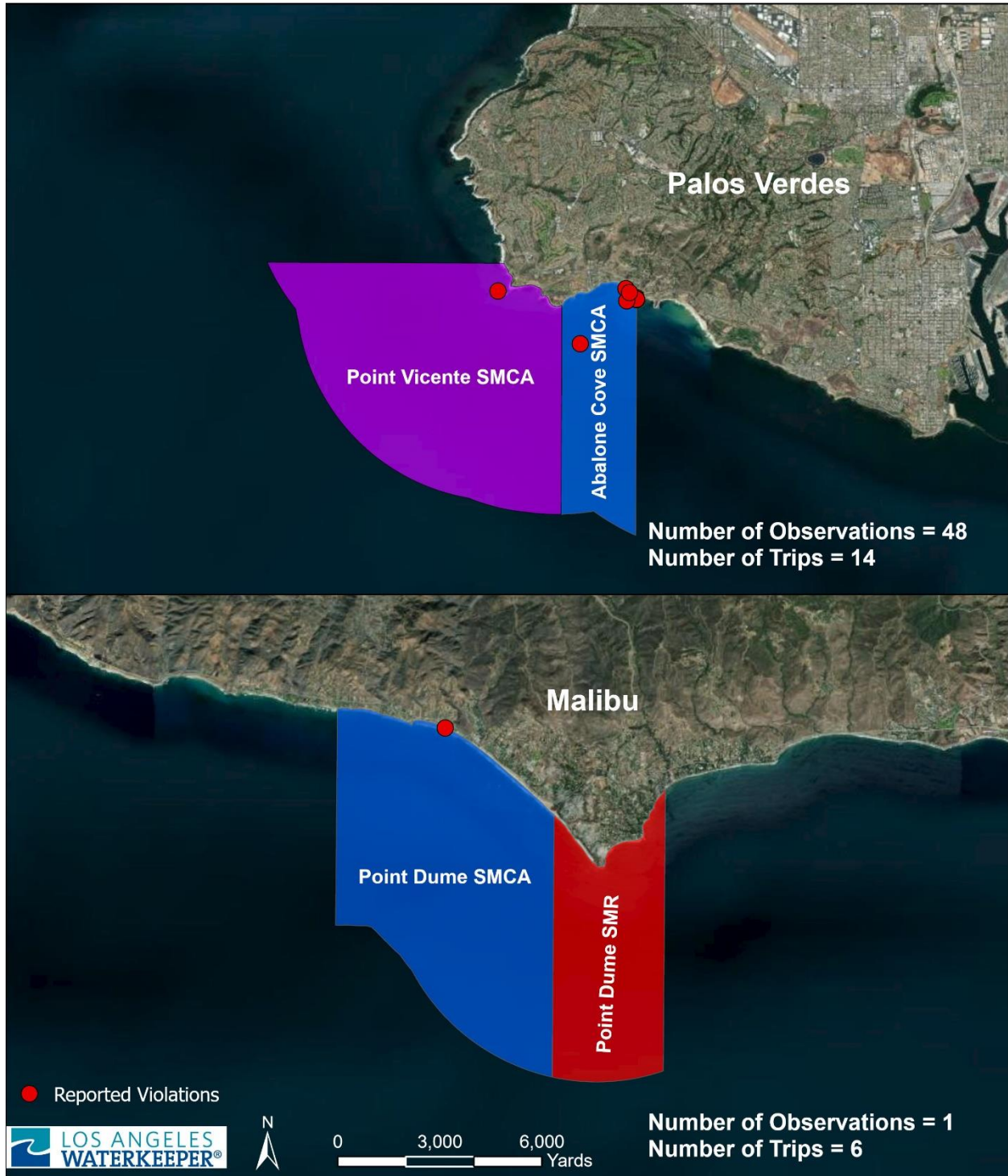




## Jul - Dec 2022 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



## Jan - June 2022 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu



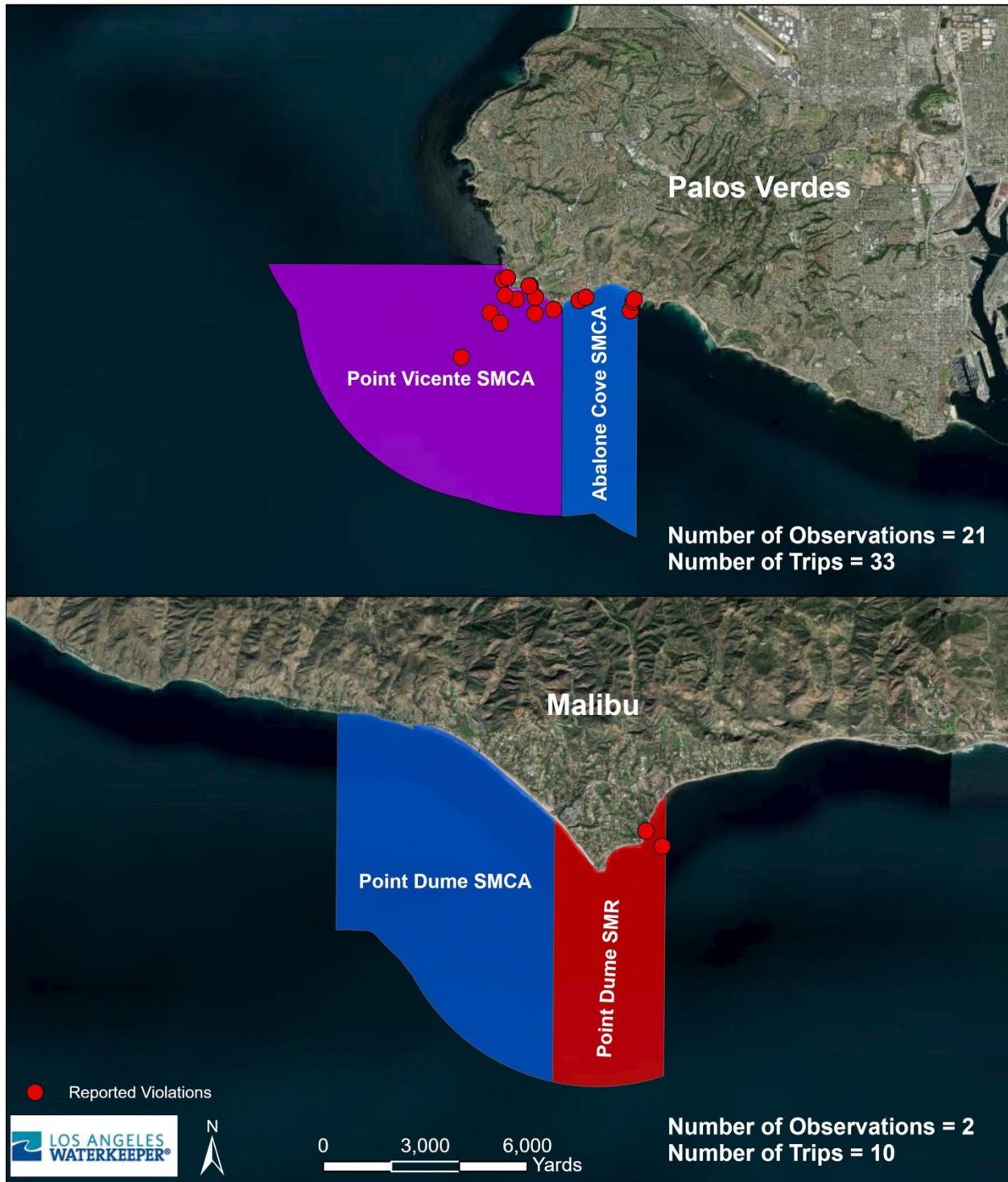




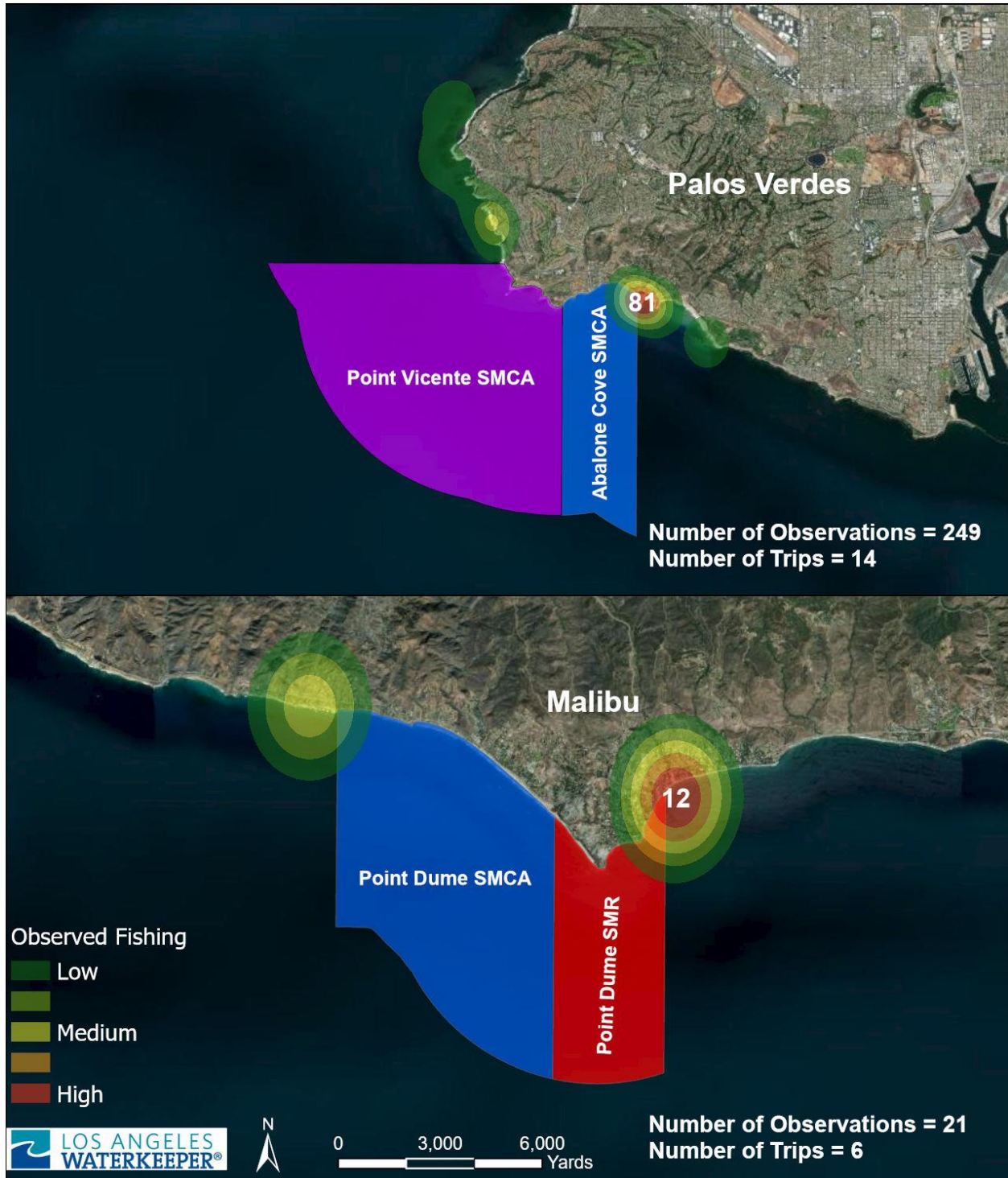
Marine Protected Area Watch  
Six Month Regional Report  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2022 – December 2022



## Jul - Dec 2022 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu

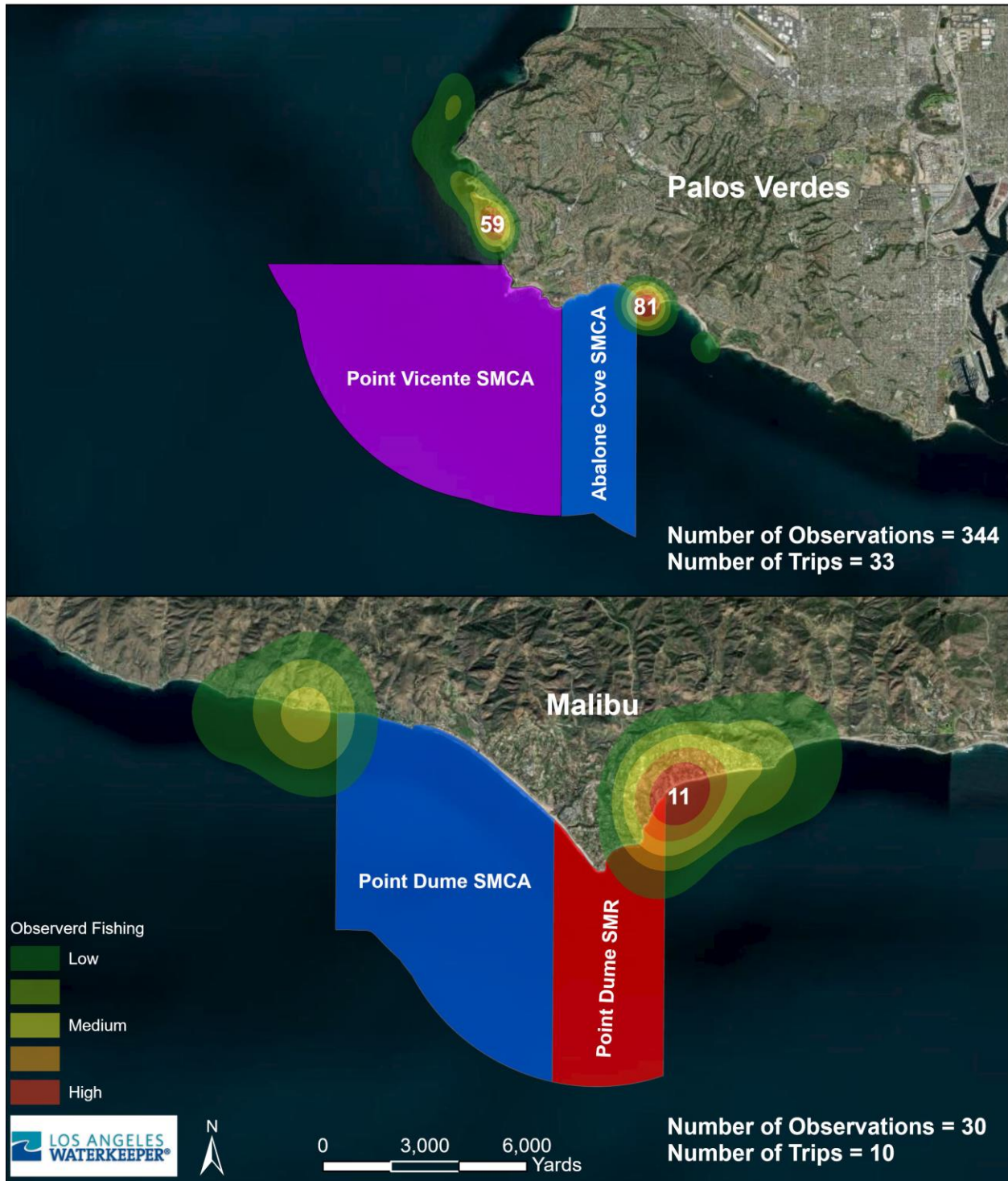


## Jan - June 2022 Recreational Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu



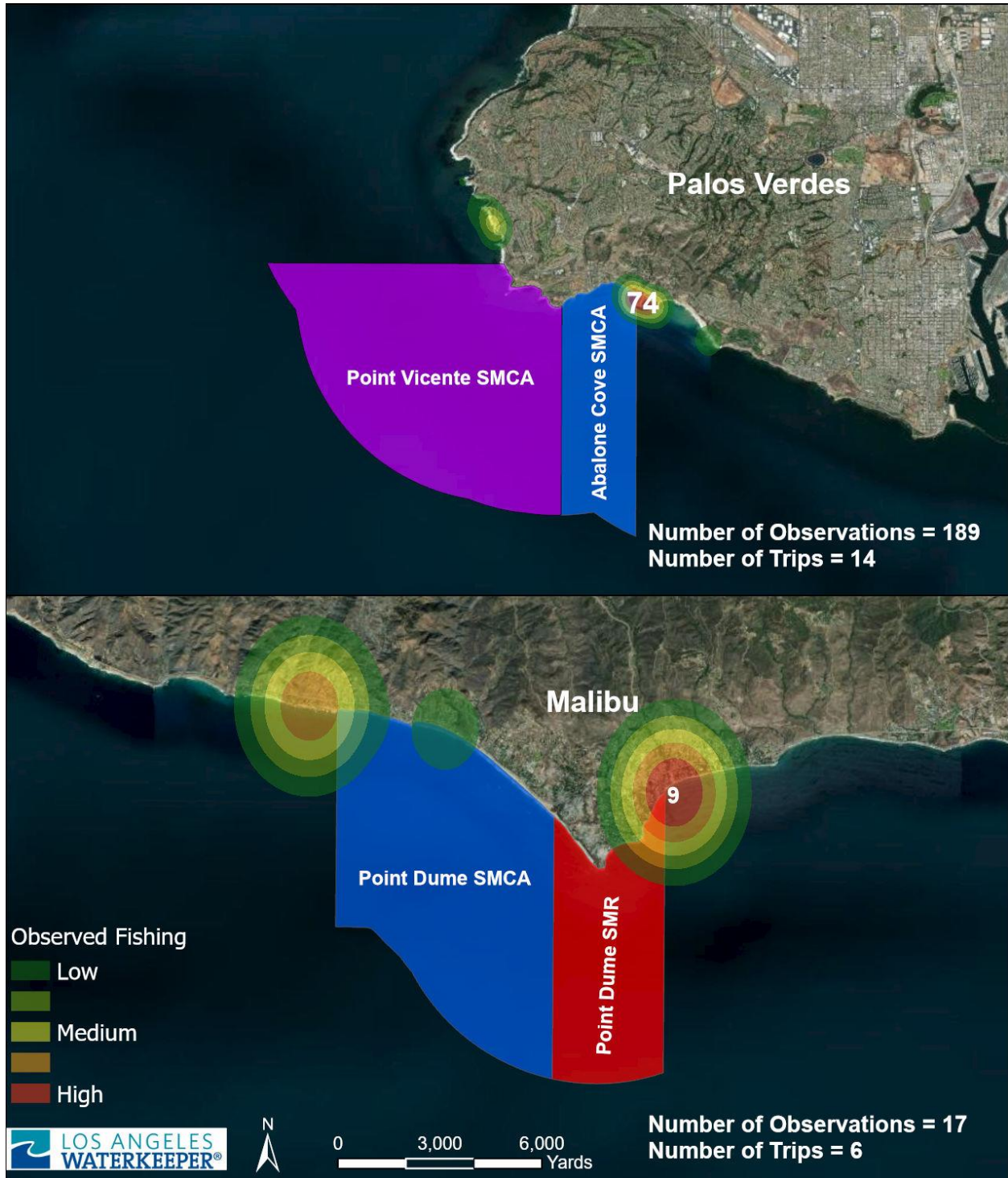


## Jul - Dec 2022 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

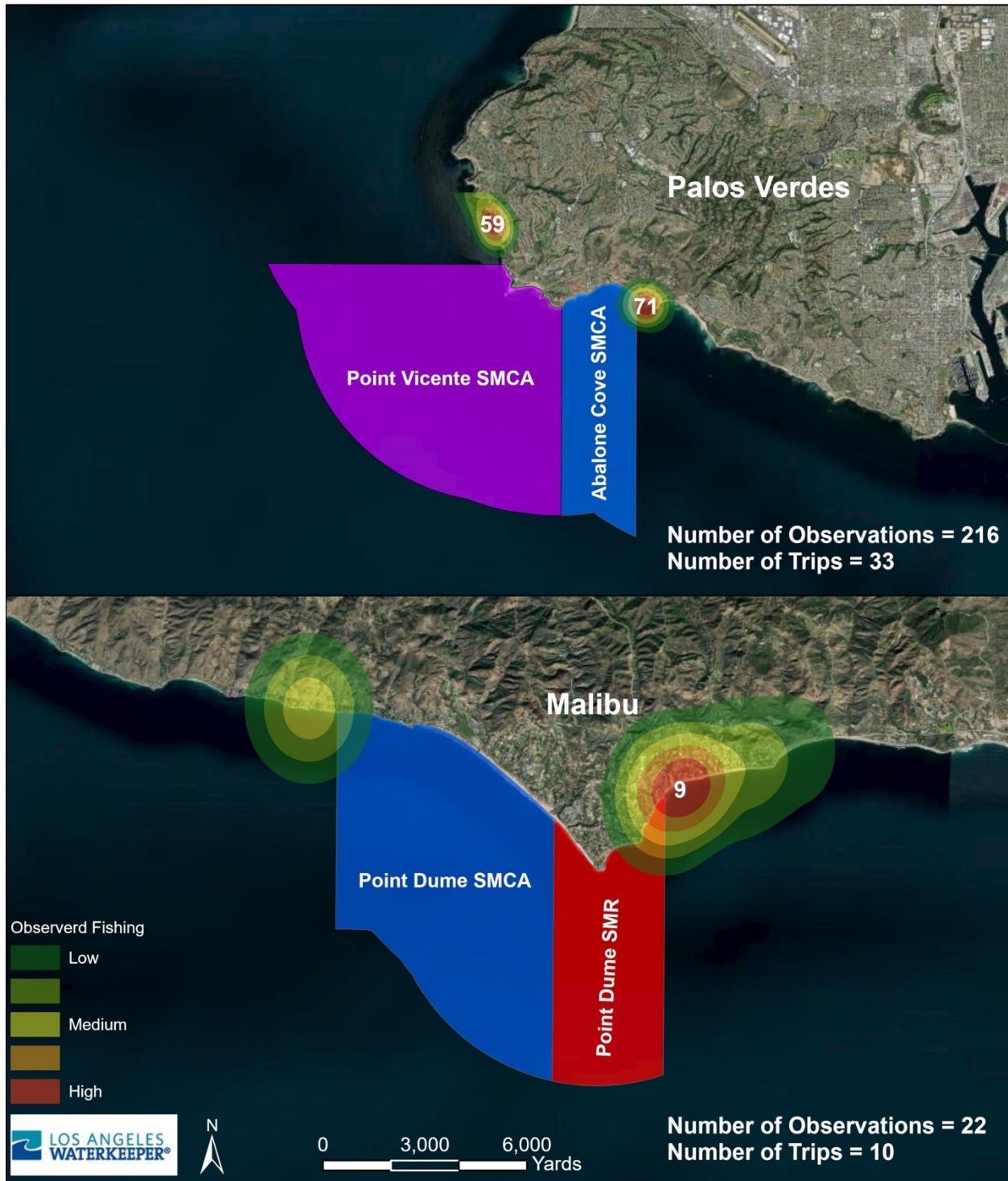




## Jan - June 2022 Onshore Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu

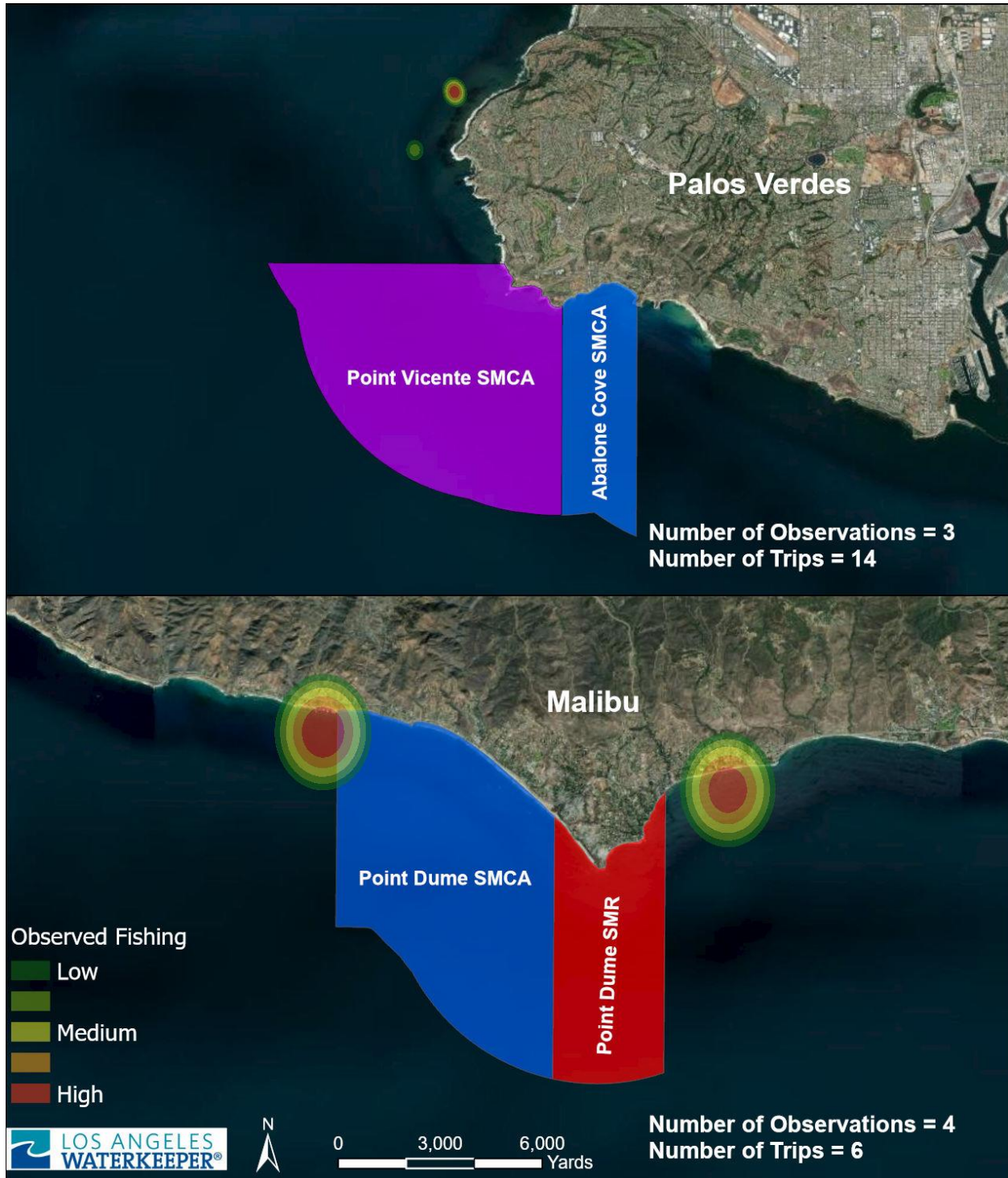


## Jul - Dec 2022 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

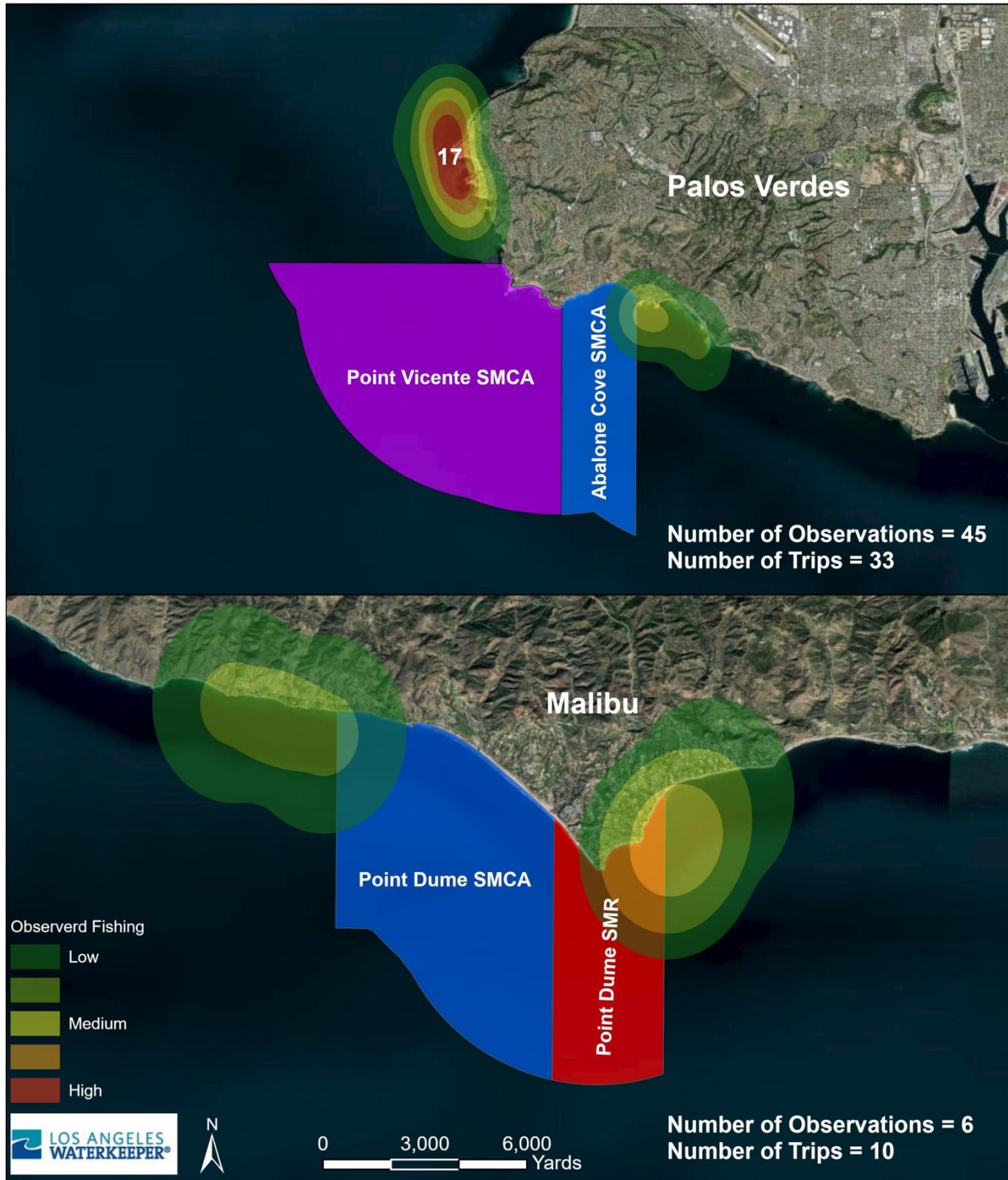




## Jan - June 2022 Commercial Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu



## Jul - Dec 2022 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu





## LAW'S MPA WATCH BOAT-BASED SURVEYS



MPA Watch Boat-Based Surveys conducted from onboard the LA Waterkeeper (LAW) vessel focus on boating and fishing activity in and around the Point Dume and Point Vicente/Abalone Cove Los Angeles County Mainland MPAs. GIS mappings are produced. Collected data and mappings inform CADFW and future scientific studies of our MPA human activity and especially hotspots of MPA violations.

### MPA Watch Boat Crew Positions - Volunteer Spots Are Available Each Trip

1. Boat Operator – Dr. Quill, LAW Staff
2. Spotter – Binoculars – Distance Finder Operator
3. Photographer
4. Data Scribe
5. IPAD with GPS Operator

### Transect Start and End Points

Surveys begin and end two miles past either side of the MPA boundaries.

### Boat speed during transect

Transects are run at a speed of approximately 10 knots and roughly a half-mile from shore, topping to observe activity on the water or onshore as needed

### Data Collection



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
Six Month Regional Report  
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January 2022 – December 2022**



All boating activity and all onshore fishing observed, inside or outside the MPAs, while traveling a transect are documented.

Waterkeeper stays at a safe, unobtrusive distance from the observed vessels, moving to position the observed on a heading of directly North, South, East, or West from the Waterkeeper.

For Each Vessel or Onshore Fishers:

1. The time of sighting is documented.
2. Waterkeeper's GPS position is documented.
3. The compass heading from the Waterkeeper is documented.
4. The distance from the Waterkeeper is documented
5. Vessel type or onshore fishing method is documented.
6. Quantity of observed vessels or fishers onshore is documented.
7. Two Photos are taken of the vessel or fishers.
8. Any additional notes and comments are documented.

If fishers are violating MPA Regulations from a vessel or onshore, CDFW is called, and a report is filed. That action is also documented.

## **On The Water Outreach and Education**

LA Waterkeeper views fishers fishing from vessels positioned on MPA boundary lines and within MPA boundaries as potential on the water outreach opportunities. After collecting data from a safe distance, LAW reports the probable violation to CalTip or other enforcement agencies. If enforcement officers are unavailable, Waterkeeper may approach violating fishers in vessels slowly and safely, and on a case-by-case basis,

As part of our good neighbor outreach and education approach, LAW staff informs probable violators of the MPA regulations, and provides information on where fishing is permitted. After making contact and getting permission from the boaters/fishers, Waterkeeper will safely approach, inform boaters, fishermen, and other fellow watermen about MPA boundaries and MPA regulations. LAW offers CDFW MPA Guides and the LA's Guide to MPAs and Fishing which are distributed if desired and if that can be done so safely.

If boaters are open to conversation and possess a VHF radio that may be used to communicate if boater to boater conversing is hampered.



### Join Us on the Waterkeeper Boat for a MPA Watch Trip!



#### What is a MPA?

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of the ocean where consumptive human activities such as fishing are limited or restricted in order to protect or conserve marine life or habitats.

On land, we have National Parks, National Forests, Reserves, etc. Marine Protected Areas provide similar protection to small areas in the ocean.

The main purpose of MPA Watch is to conduct outreach to local fisherman, boaters, and watersports enthusiasts about the new boundaries and restrictions and to gather data on the trends of boating and fishing in and around the Los Angeles County Marine Protected Areas.

Waterkeeper's MPA Watch Trips run about 4-5 hours. We travel from Marina Del Rey to the Point Vicente and Abalone Cove MPAs in Palos Verdes or to the Point Dume MPAs in Malibu.

MPA Watch Boat Trips are scheduled on our Calendar at [www.LAWaterkeeper.org/mpa-watch](http://www.LAWaterkeeper.org/mpa-watch).



Contact Michael Quill: [mquill@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org) (310) 394-6162, ext. 113 – If you'd like to join our MPA Watch Crew.





## **LA'S WATER WATCHDOG**



## **Onshore Tide Pool Take Observed at Abalone Cove**

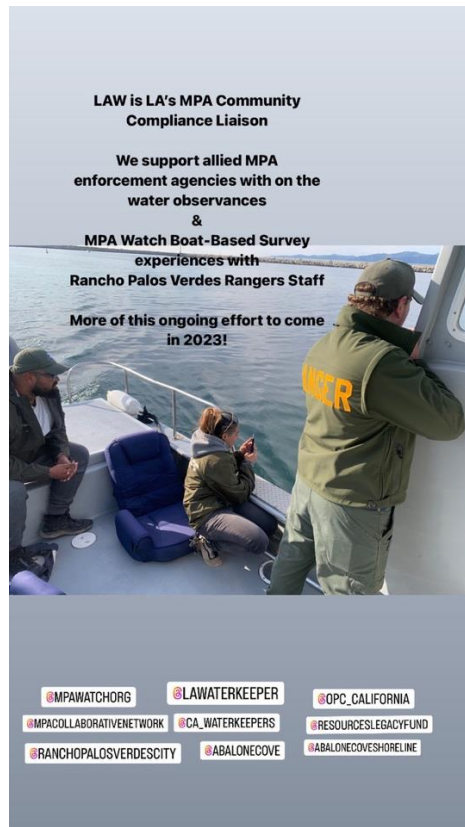




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## **Spreading The MPA Word at THE SCUBA Show...**



## **And To Our Rancho Palos Verdes Rangers and Staff!**

Los Angeles County – Boat-Based MPA Watch  
January – December 2022

[mpawatch.org](http://mpawatch.org)

[mquill@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org)

[lawaterkeeper.org](http://lawaterkeeper.org)



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**A Brief 2022 Fishing Highlight Chat - Marina Del Rey**



**Finally Started Getting Back on The Water  
With Longtime Friends and Colleagues in 2022!!**





## LAW Provides MPA Materials to Fuel Docks, Bait and Tackle Shops and Fishers On The Water and Off

**To Join Our Crew Contact:**  
**Dr. Michael Quill, LAW Marine Programs Director**  
[\*\*mquill@lawaterkeeper.org\*\*](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org)

### 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](http://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](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs). If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations, please call CalTip to report the violation at (888)-334-2258.