

## Marine Protected Area Watch Regional Report Los Angeles County Mainland January 2023 – June 2023

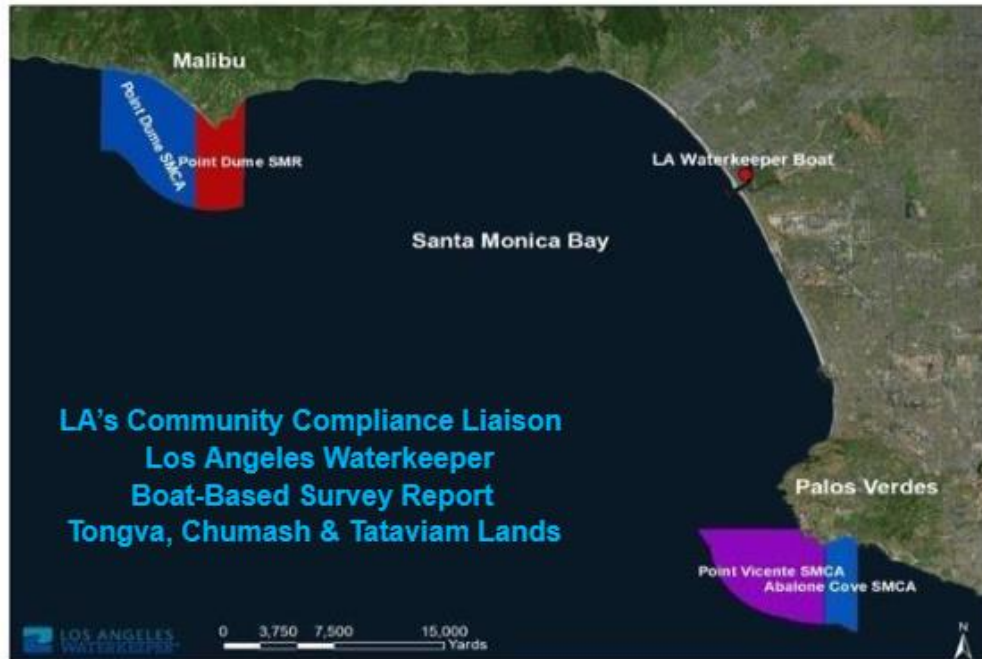


Figure 1

Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) has conducted boat-based surveys of our mainland LA County MPAs located at Point Dume in Malibu and at Point Vicente & Abalone Cove in Palos Verdes on consistent basis since January 2012 when Southern California MPA regulations went into effect.

LAW documents 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 two mainland LA County MPA's including control areas that extend two miles up and down shore of each of the MPA's boundary lines.

LAW's MPA boat-based survey effort is specifically focused on supporting CDFW and allied agencies in their efforts to enforce MPA regulations and increase overall MPA regulation compliance. Our surveys focus on overall fishing efforts and identifying hot spots of MPA fishing violations. We focus on fishing and consumptive activities inside and outside of our MPAs. LAW's data complements the land-based MPA multiple human use, and recreational focused MPA survey effort conducted by Heal the Bay in LA.

In response to the hazardous weather and ocean conditions that we've experienced in the LA area this year, LAW conducted 25 survey trips over the first 6 months of 2023.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- LAW's Marine Programs Director, Dr. Michael Quill, oversaw every LAW boat-based survey and he witnessed, recorded, and reported all potential violations observed occurring onshore and offshore within MPA boundaries to CalTip, Wardens and Rancho Palos Verdes Rangers as appropriate, as his observations were being made, from his on the water perspective.
- Potential MPA violations observed inside the Pt. Vicente/ Abalone Cove MPAs were reported to the RPV Rangers via text or phone as well as to CalTip via phone call. All Pt. Dume observed probable violations were 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 education to boaters and fishers. The LAW crew also reported any other observed potential violations to CDFW and the RPV Rangers as appropriate, though not included in official survey totals.
- LAW observed a substantial drop in overall fishing effort and the number of potential violations observed and reported in 2023. The dramatic drop-off of any observed offshore or onshore human activity was consistent January-June.
- Fishers Quill has engaged with have mentioned the frequent sewage spills that continue to plague Los Angeles, our year's intense rainfall and flooding, the consistent dangerous debris floats and the seemingly ongoing red tides that continue to plague our coastal waters from Malibu to Long Beach in 2023 as reasons to stay docked. In addition, signs of the 2023 demoic acid event have been percolating offshore since April of 2023. In addition, the year's rising gas prices and low water temperatures have been mentioned by fishers as a reason to stay home.
- The number of commercial fishing observed was minimal and so low that heat maps of activity were not generated. LAW has witnessed dramatic lack of fishing activity so far in 2023.
- Records of all LAW calls to CalTip and contact with RPV Rangers made during LAW's surveys are submitted a supplemental report to aide CDFW's research of CalTip efficiency as requested by CDFW and can be found at this link:  
[Click here for LAW's January - June 2023 Potential MPA Violations Reported](#)

# HUMAN USE OF MPAS JANUARY - JUNE 2023

ALL FISHING ACTIVITY

## Jan - June 2023 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

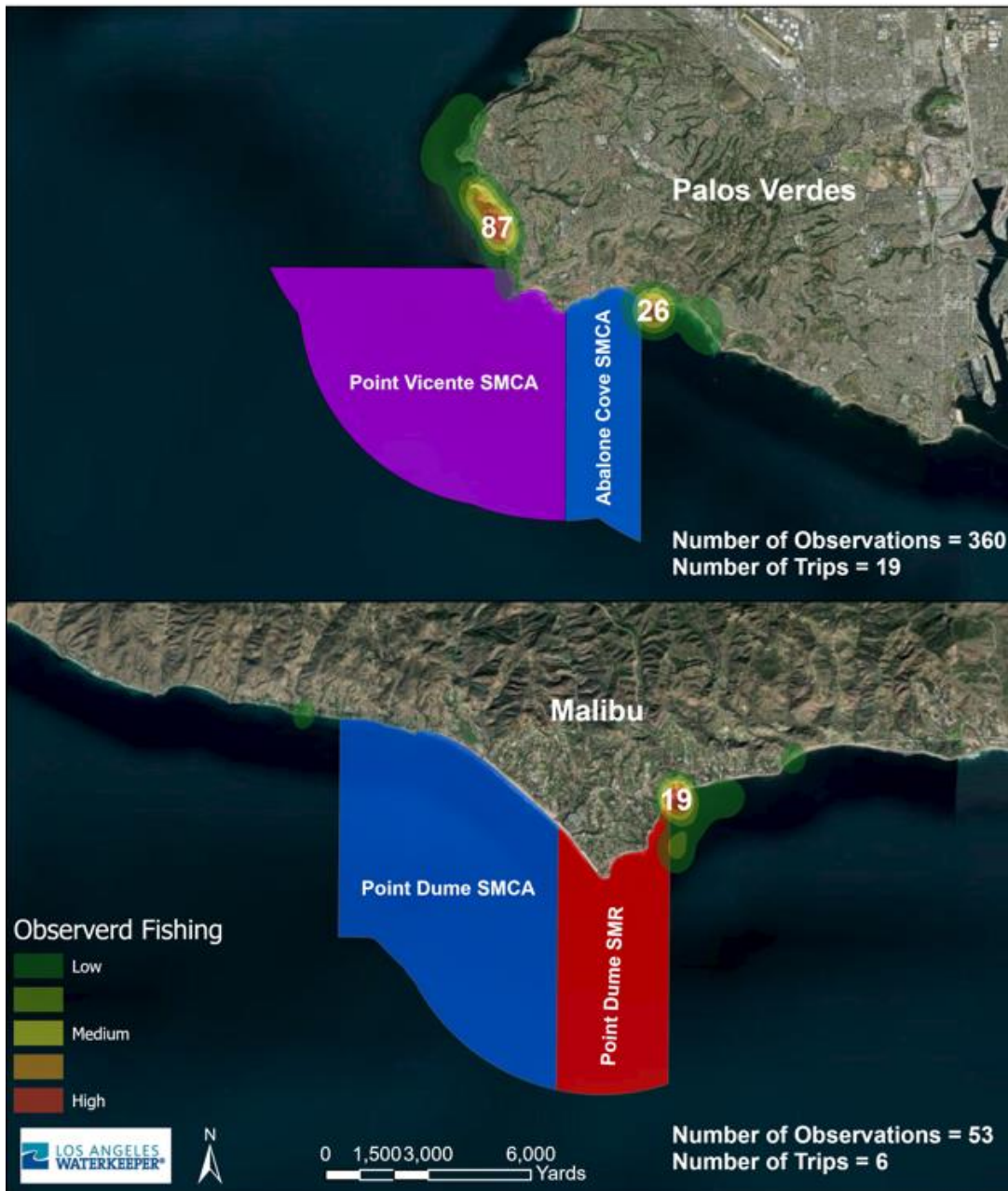


Figure 2

RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY

# Jan - June 2023 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

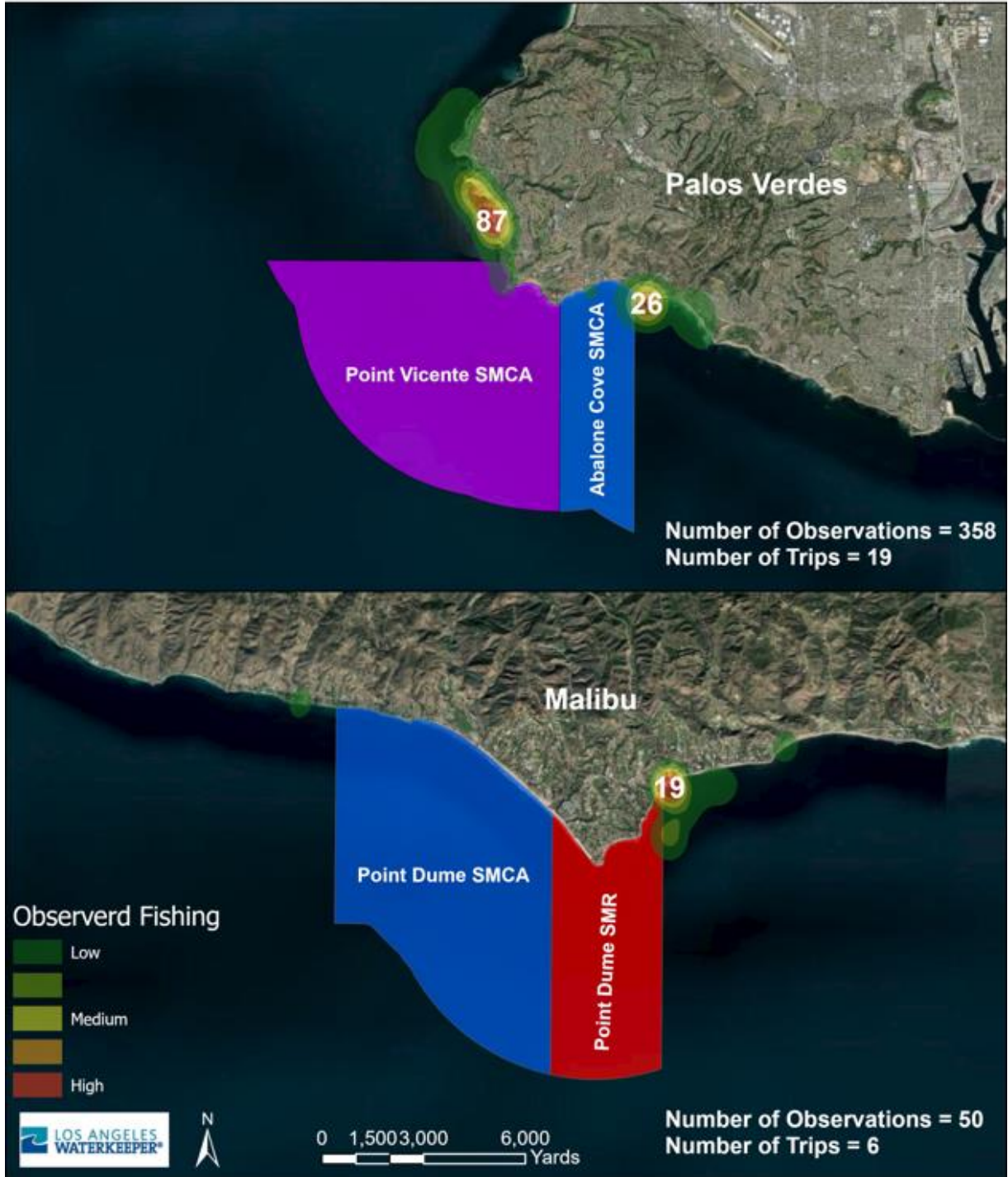


Figure 3

ONSHORE FISHING ACTIVITY

# Jan - June 2023 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

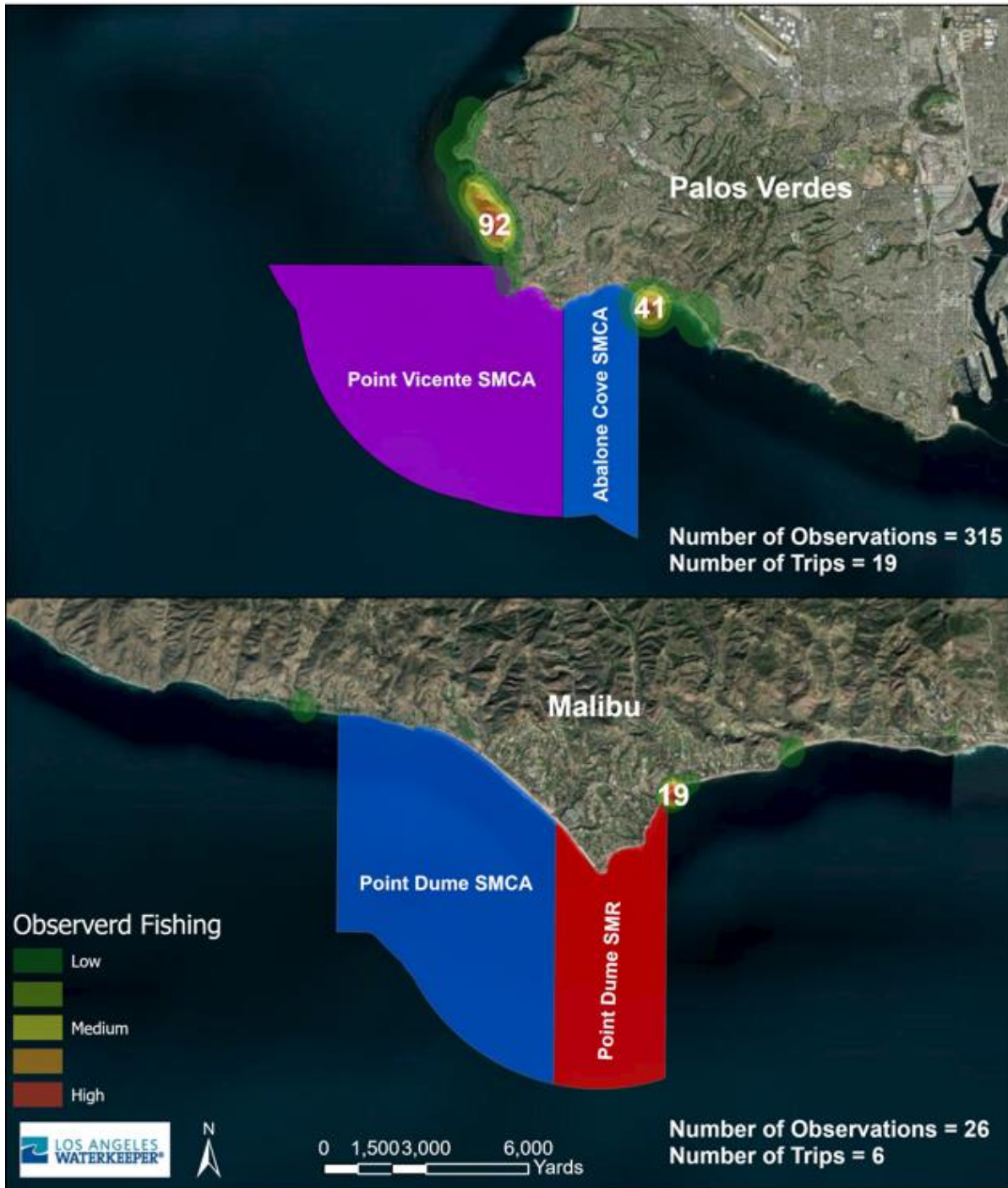


Figure 4

REPORTED VIOLATIONS

# Jan - June 2023 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu



Figure 5

## LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER



*Figure 6*

**LA'S WATER WATCHDOG!!**

# Ten Years of LAW MPA Watch Boat-Based Survey Data



Figure 7

**On Display March 2023  
The Decadal Management Review**



## An on The Water Rendezvous!

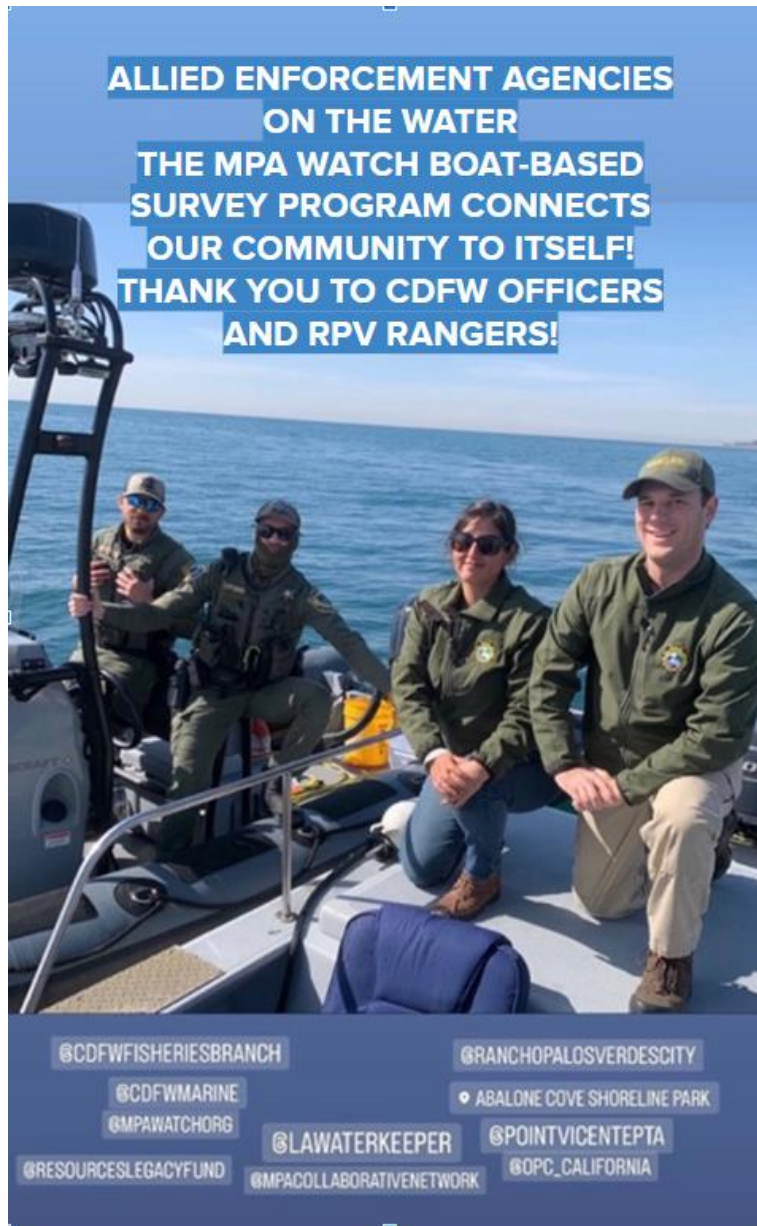


Figure 8

## CDFW Wardens and Rancho Palos Verdes Rangers On the Water Meet Up!

**Dedicated Volunteers Support Our Effort!  
On the Water Meet Up!**



*Figure 9*

**Documenting Onshore Fishing  
In Palos Verdes at Lunada Bay**



## Up Shore Pt. Vicente MPA Control Area

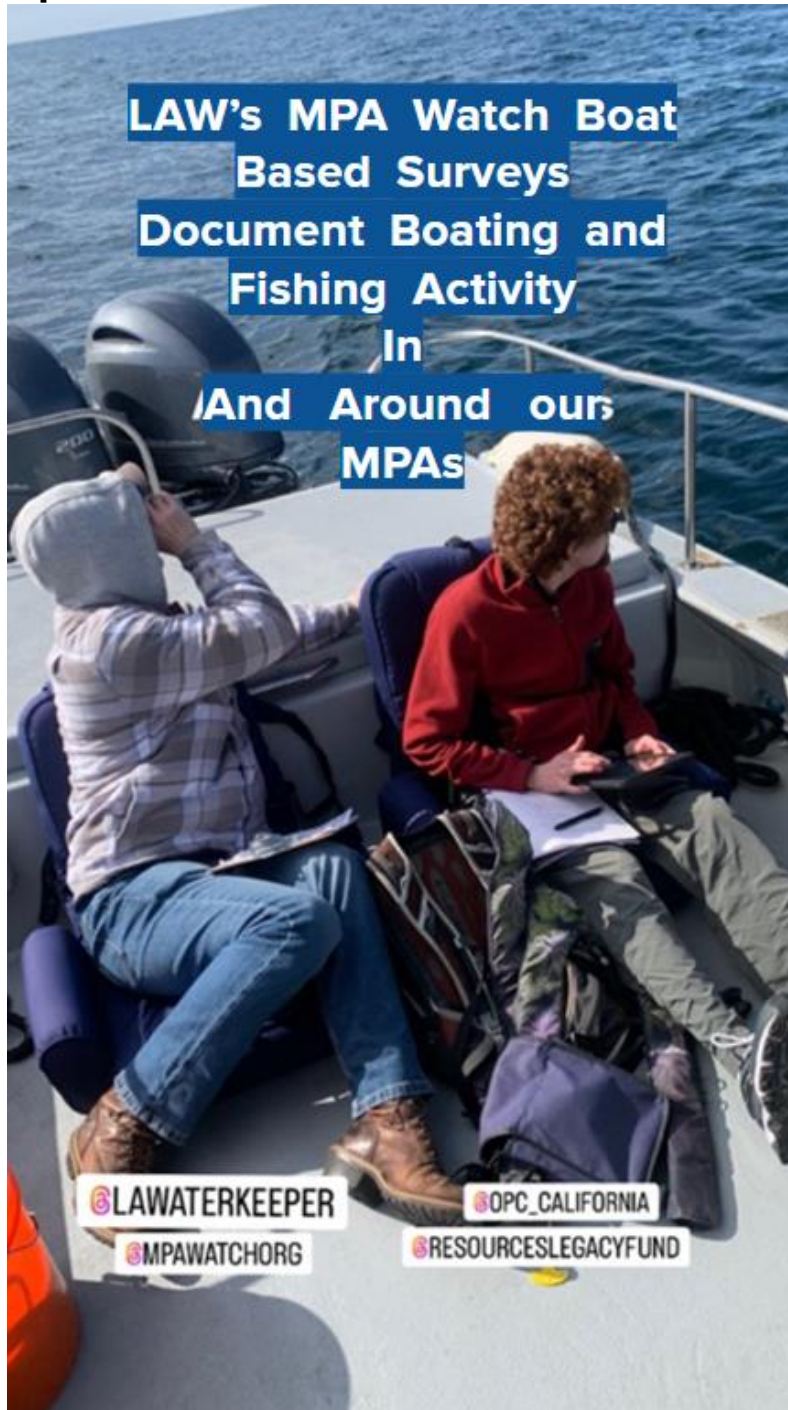


Figure 10

## UCLA School of Sustainability Volunteer Crew

## LAW Has Always Favored Boots On The Ground Outreach Support



Figure 11

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

For More Information Contact:  
Dr. Michael Quill, LAW Marine Programs Director  
[mquill@lawwaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawwaterkeeper.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.