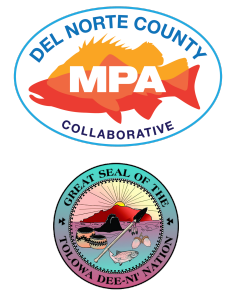




**Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch  
Regional Report**  
Del Norte County  
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023



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 tribal nations and 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 Del Norte County Marine Protected Area Watch Program, organized by Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (TDN) and Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove (EEFKC), engages tribal staff/scientists, tribal volunteers and community members in data collection in two MPAs in the county. TDN staff and volunteers are responsible for Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt (Pyramid Point) MPA surveys, EEFKC is responsible for False Klamath Rock Special Closure, and CA State Parks is responsible for Samoa SMCA and Reading Rock SMCA.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In the wake of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions impacting MPA Watch in 2020, there has been a return to regular operations, while still being mindful of the pandemic and taking precautions when necessary when COVID starts to surge.
- Compared to previous years, Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt continues to see a decline in take violations.
- CA State Parks have never witnessed any violations in the Samoa SMCA since 2022, so they are focusing efforts on the Reading Rock SMCA.

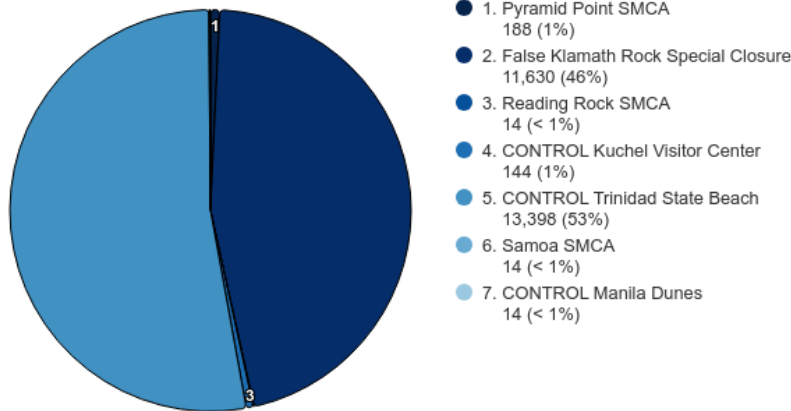
## HUMAN USE OF MPAS

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

### OVERVIEW

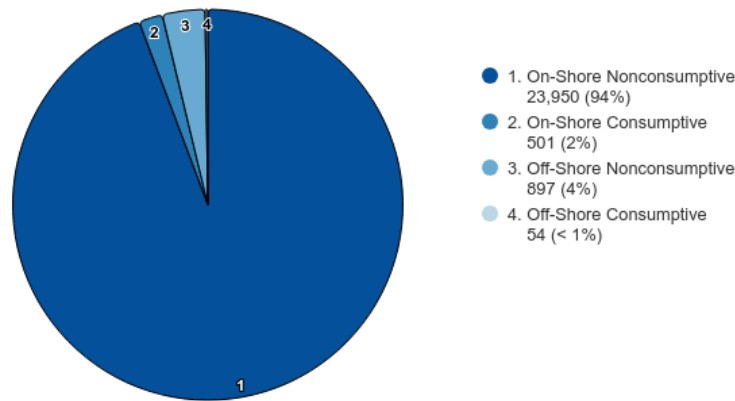
#### Top 7 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
25,402 total activity events



#### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
25,402 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.

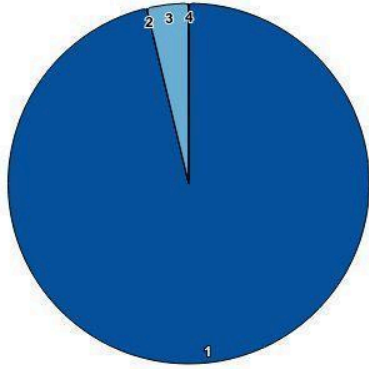
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

## ACTIVITY BY MPA

### Pyramid Point SMCA

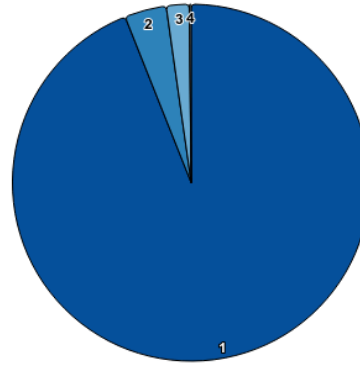
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
188 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
181 (96%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
7 (4%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

### False Klamath Rock Special Closure

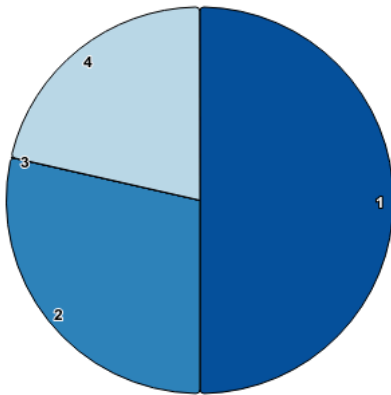
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
11,630 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
10,929 (94%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
442 (4%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
240 (2%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
19 (< 1%)

### Reading Rock SMCA

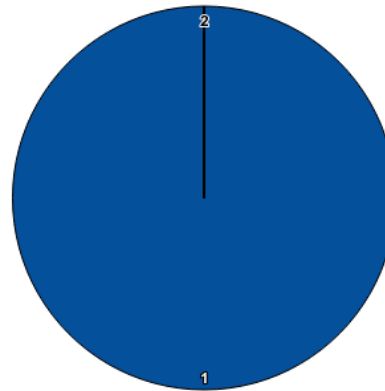
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
14 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
7 (50%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
4 (29%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
3 (21%)

### Samoa SMCA

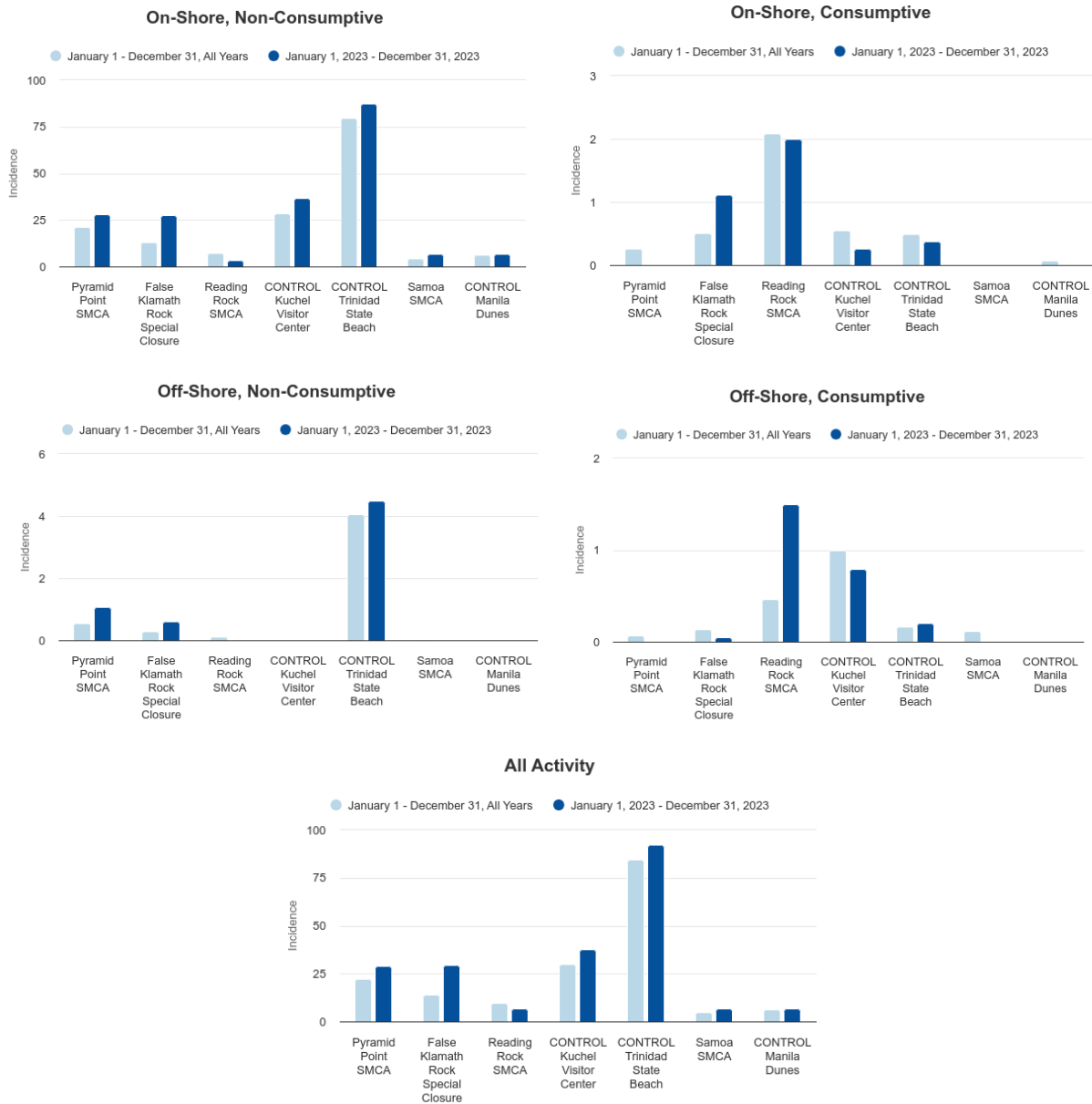
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023  
14 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
14 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

## ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

### INCIDENCE BAR CHARTS



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



INCIDENCE TABLES

MPA	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
Pyramid Point SMCA	21.4	27.8	0.3	0.0
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	12.9	27.7	0.5	1.1
Reading Rock SMCA	7.1	3.5	2.1	2.0
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center	28.4	36.8	0.5	0.3
CONTROL Trinidad State Beach	79.9	87.4	0.5	0.4
Samoa SMCA	4.5	7.0	0.0	0.0
CONTROL Manila Dunes	6.1	7.0	0.1	0.0
All MPAs Combined	18.5	43.1	0.5	0.9

MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
Pyramid Point SMCA	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.0
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0
Reading Rock SMCA	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.5
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8
CONTROL Trinidad State Beach	4.1	4.5	0.2	0.2
Samoa SMCA	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
CONTROL Manila Dunes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.6	1.6	0.1	0.1

MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
	Pyramid Point SMCA	22.2
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	13.8	29.5
Reading Rock SMCA	9.8	7.0
CONTROL Kuchel Visitor Center	29.9	37.9
CONTROL Trinidad State Beach	84.6	92.5
Samoa SMCA	4.7	7.0
CONTROL Manila Dunes	6.2	7.0
All MPAs Combined	19.7	45.7

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 MPAs 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 MPAs 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.

## BREAKDOWN BY MPA

### **Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt (Pyramid Point) SMCA**

From January 1 – December 31, 2023, 9 surveys were conducted within Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt at 2 transect sites (4 at Site 1 and 5 at Site 2), recording 188 total activities. We trained 2 new volunteers this summer, so we now have 5 volunteers covering 3 survey miles. 100% of our activities were non-consumptive (on and off-shore) and no consumptive activities for this time frame at either site. TDN continued their Netlh-'ii~-ne Stewards program, where Tribal citizens go through training to learn traditional stewardship protocols and natural resource management techniques in order to take care of their ancestral territory. MPA Watch surveys and procedures were a component of this training and have continued surveys this summer.



Southern boundary of Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt MPA, showing tire tracks and a crabbing boat dropping/retrieving pots at the edge of the MPA



### False Klamath Rock Special Closure

#### Samoa SMCA

Recreational activities, such as walking, running, and dog walking are the primary use of this MPA. No Violation observations.

#### Reading Rock SMCA

Recreational activities, such as walking, running, and dog walking are the primary use of this MPA. Sightings of parties fishing and collecting Sand Crabs on multiple occasions.

### POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

In Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt, no observed violations were reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens by MPA Watch volunteers, however, we were made aware of a gross violation within Site 2 of an entire family of 12 fishing for perch (most getting their limit) and getting written up by Wardens. The confiscated fish was donated to TDN, who used it for Elder food distribution events. Past violations recorded of driving on the beach due to a large homeless encampment in Site 2 and the destruction of gates and locks that deter vehicle access behind the Howonquet Hall Community Center continue but were not recorded during surveys. TDN is still trying to figure out the most efficient way to deter driving on the beach as this disrupts surf smelt spawning grounds.

In Reading Rock SMCA, CA State Parks had sightings of parties fishing, and collecting Sand Crabs (over the year). They use CalTip to report these when appropriate. When they find some people fishing close to the border of the MPA, they often talk to them about their location in the MPA. They also ask them if we can give them a brochure or coloring books for their children. Often people who are visiting from out of the area, who have no idea about MPAs, are happy to be informed and move the fishing activity out of the MPA.

### NEXT STEPS

In Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt for 2023, we have collaborated with CalPoly Humboldt's Marine Mammal Stranding Network to include carcass and stranding surveys to be conducted in tandem with our MPA Watch surveys and so far the partnership has developed nicely. TDN also implemented another class of Netl'h-ii~ne Stewards this summer and have included MPA Watch protocols in their training series. The 2 Stewards chosen for this summer started June 23<sup>rd</sup> and contributed surveys to Tr'uu-luu-k'wvt dataset.



CA State Parks Update:: This year a CDFW no fishing sign was put up in the parking which lasted approx 2 months, before vandals cut it down and it was removed. If a beautiful MPA information sign, like we have seen at other locations, could be created for Reading Rock there would be a better chance of survival, because it would show the boundaries.

### **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.

For more information regarding Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's MPA Watch program, please email Rosa Laucci at [rosa.laucci@tolowa.com](mailto:rosa.laucci@tolowa.com).

For more information about the work Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove does to conserve California's MPAs and other conservation projects please e-mail [ram58@humboldt.edu](mailto:ram58@humboldt.edu).