



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.

LAW conducted 25 surveys over the first six months of 2023 and 35 over the last six months of 2023 for a total of 60 boat-based surveys completed in 2023.



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
Twelve Month Regional Report  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2023 – December 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 and Pt. Dume Rangers and support staff as appropriate, live from LAW's 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 Pt Dume Rangers' support staff 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 while in transit, 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 consistently January-December, 2023
- Numerous sewage spills and a massive harmful algal bloom, high domoic acid levels reported, continued to occur in 2023 as did intense rainfall and flooding events.
- 2023 gas prices, low water temperatures, and dangerous debris flows were common from Malibu to Long Beach in 2023 and have been mentioned by fishers as a reason to stay home.
- 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 – December 2023 Potential MPA Violations Reported](#)

Note: The amount of commercial fishing effort observed was minimal January-June 2023. Heat maps of commercial fishing activity were not generated for the six-month report. Observations of commercial fishing efforts increased after June and are reflected in the July–December Commercial Fishing Heat Maps Included in this 12 Month 2023 Report

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

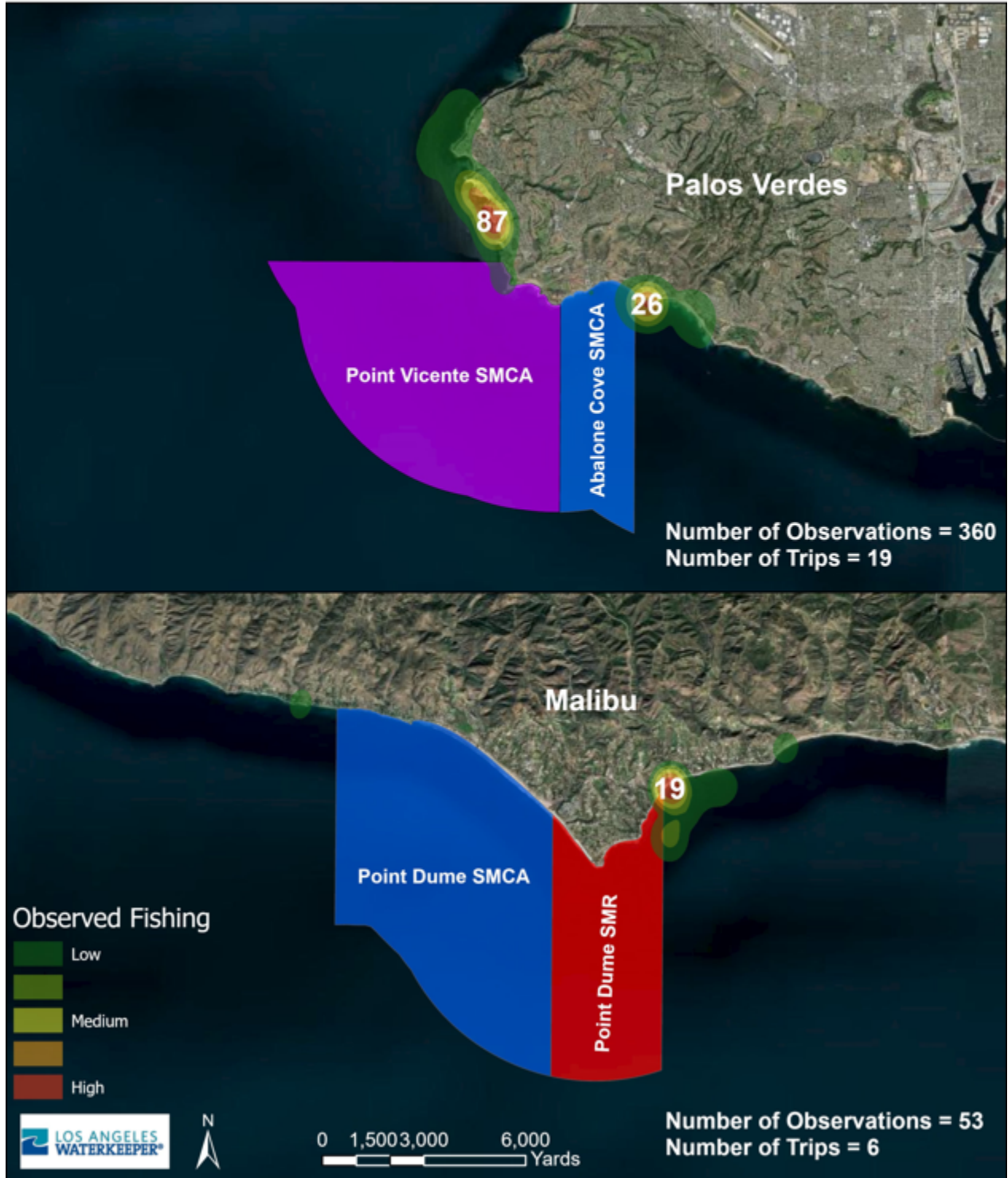


Figure 2

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

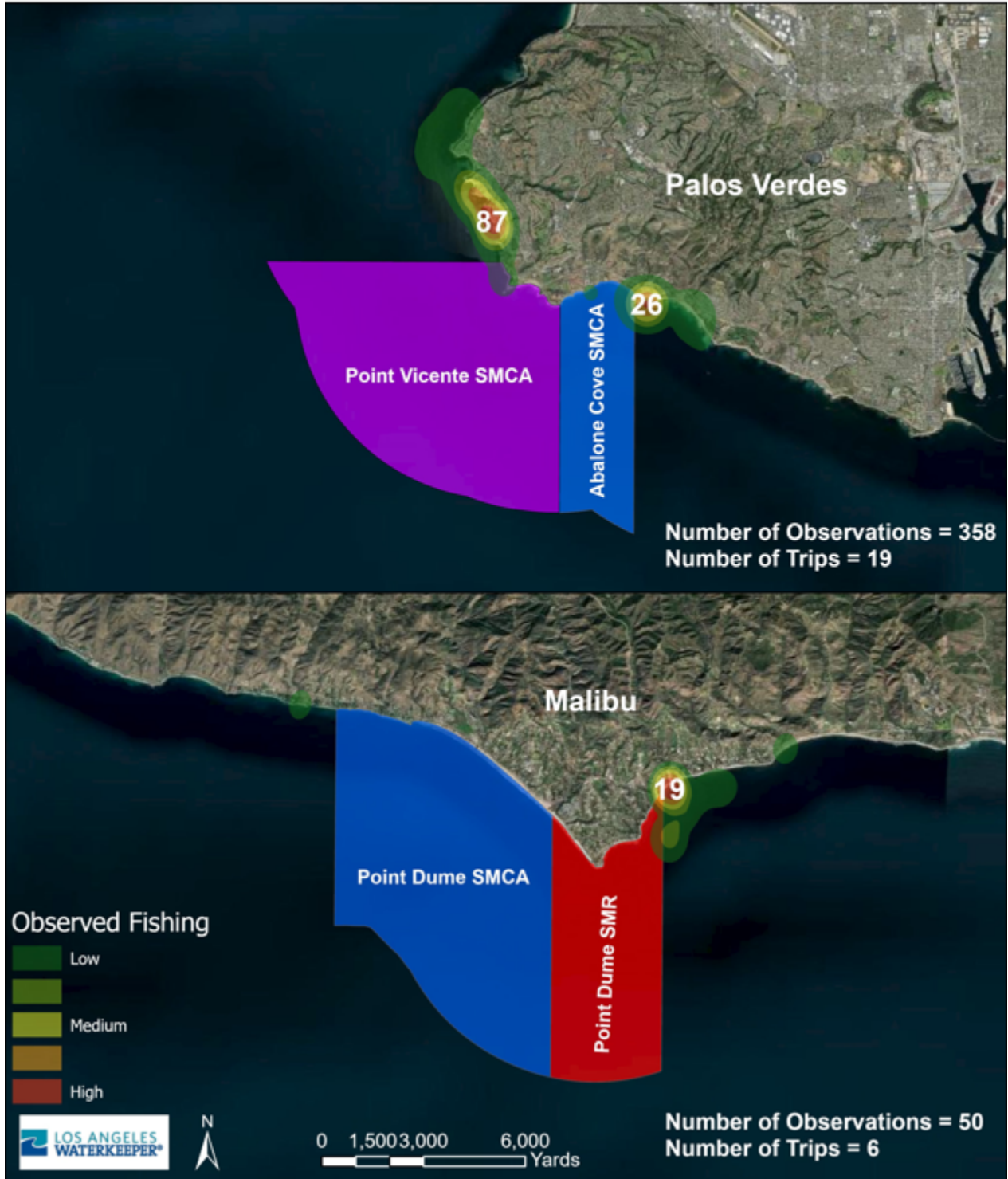


Figure 3

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

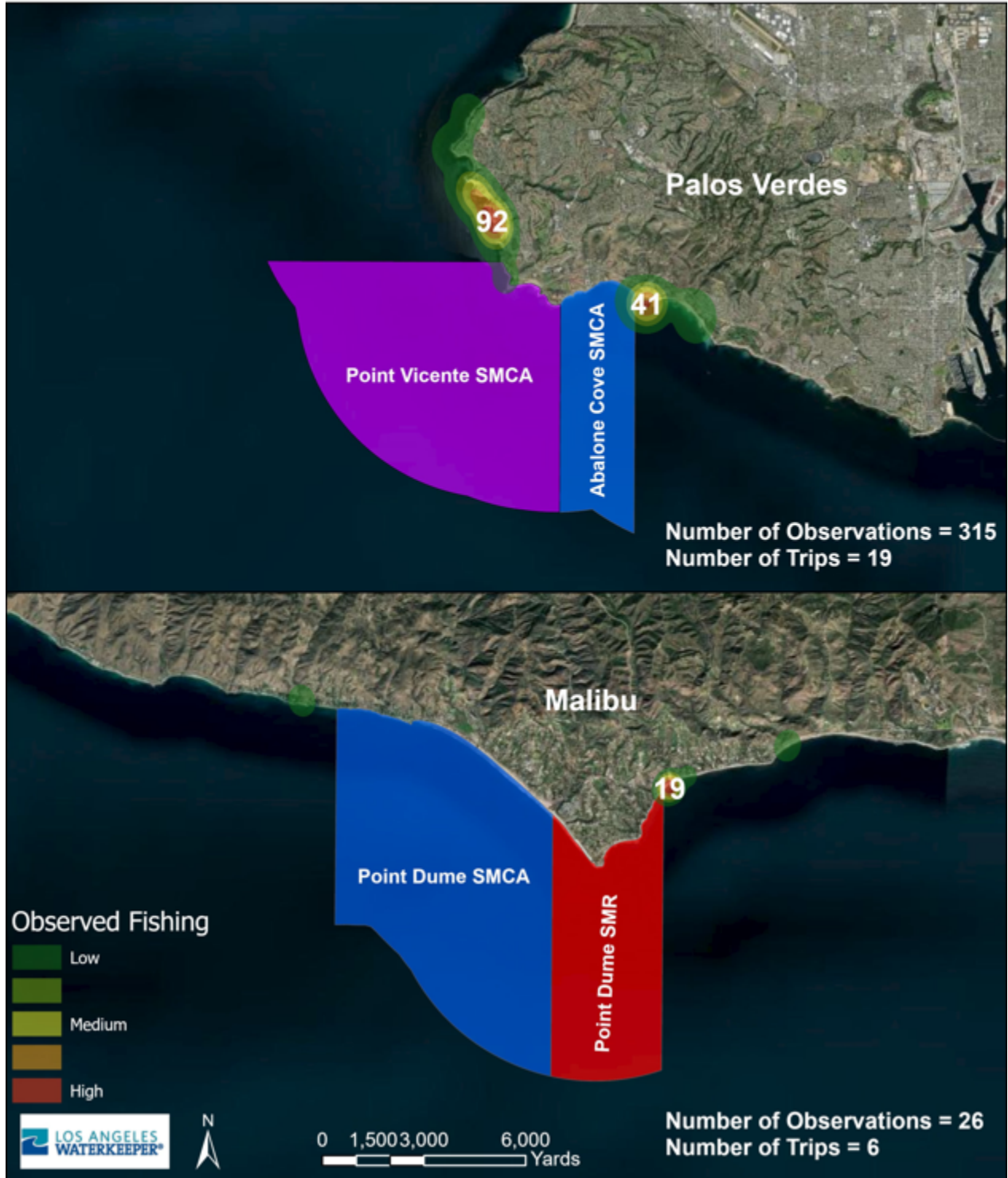


Figure 4

## Jan - June 2023 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu



Figure 5

## Jul - Dec 2023 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

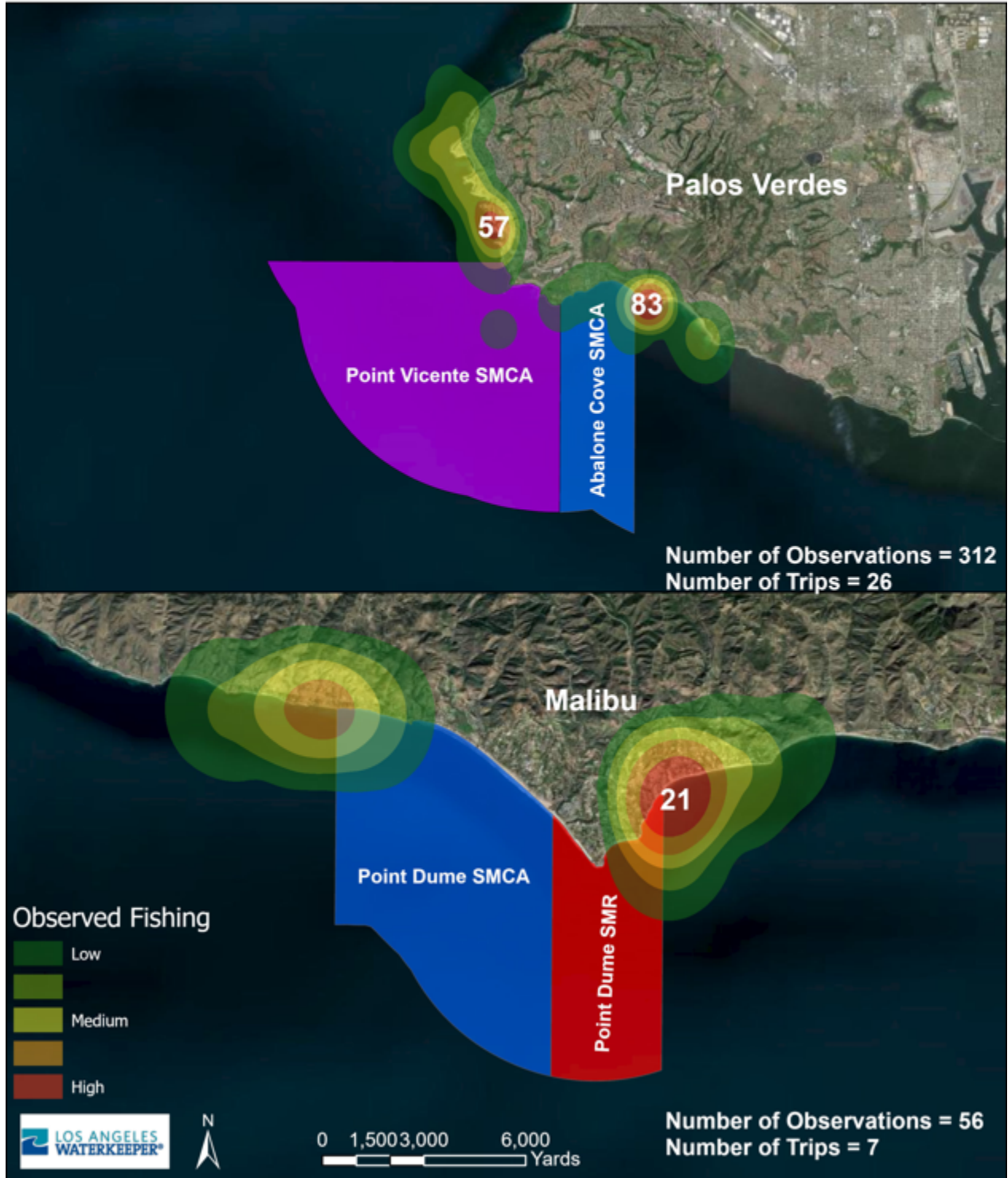


Figure 6

## Jul - Dec 2023 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

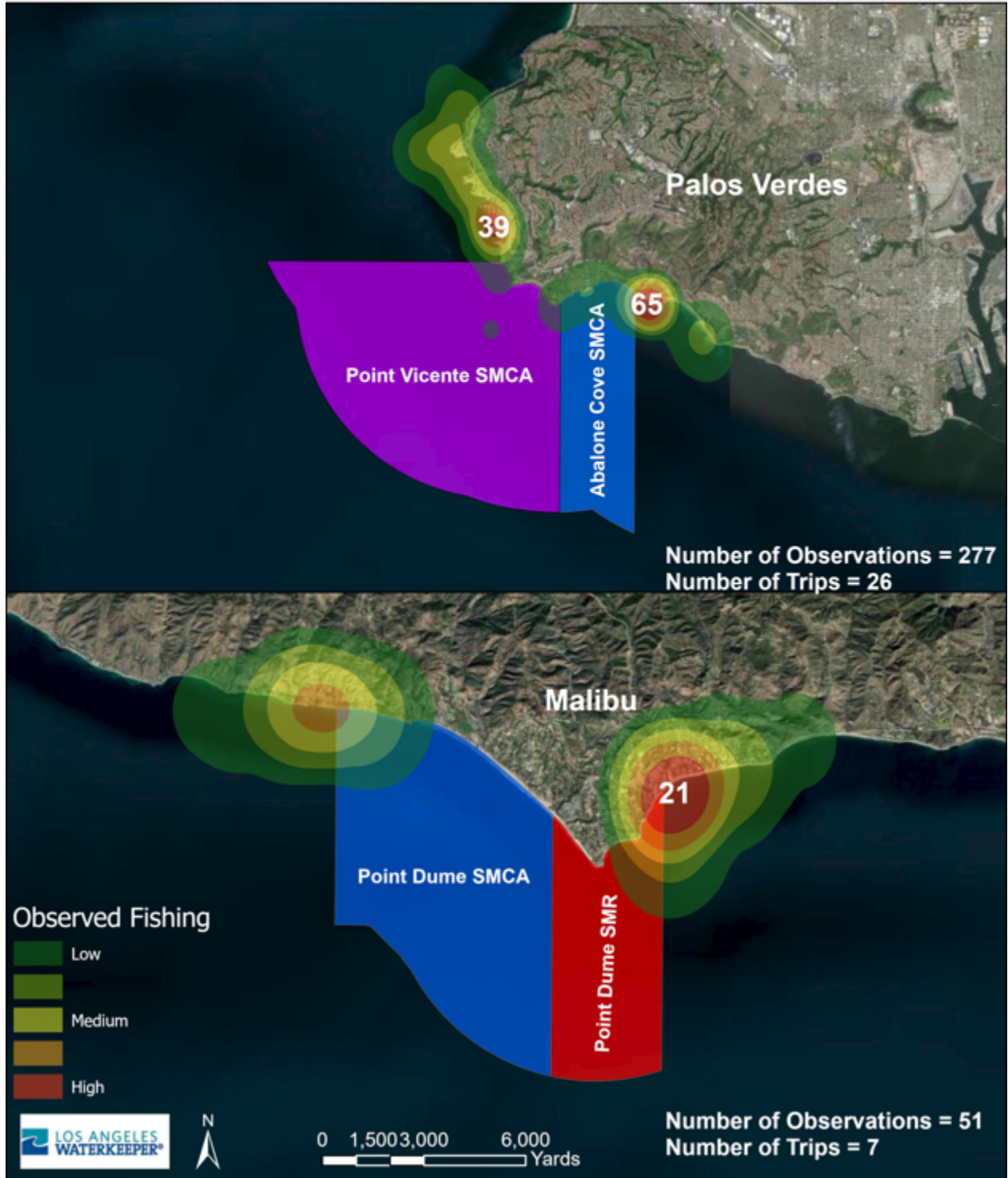


Figure 7



## Jul - Dec 2023 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

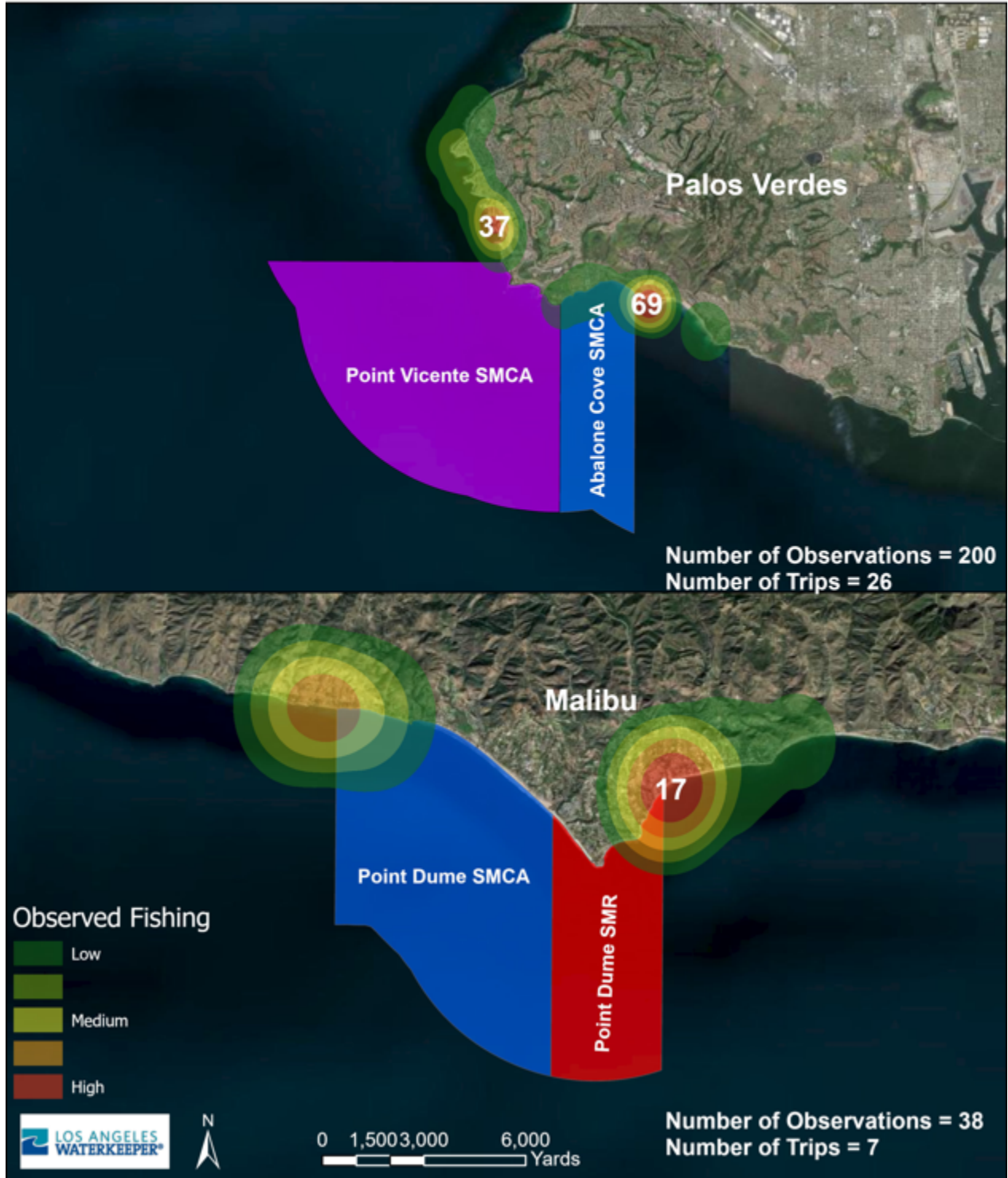


Figure 8

## Jul - Dec 2023 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

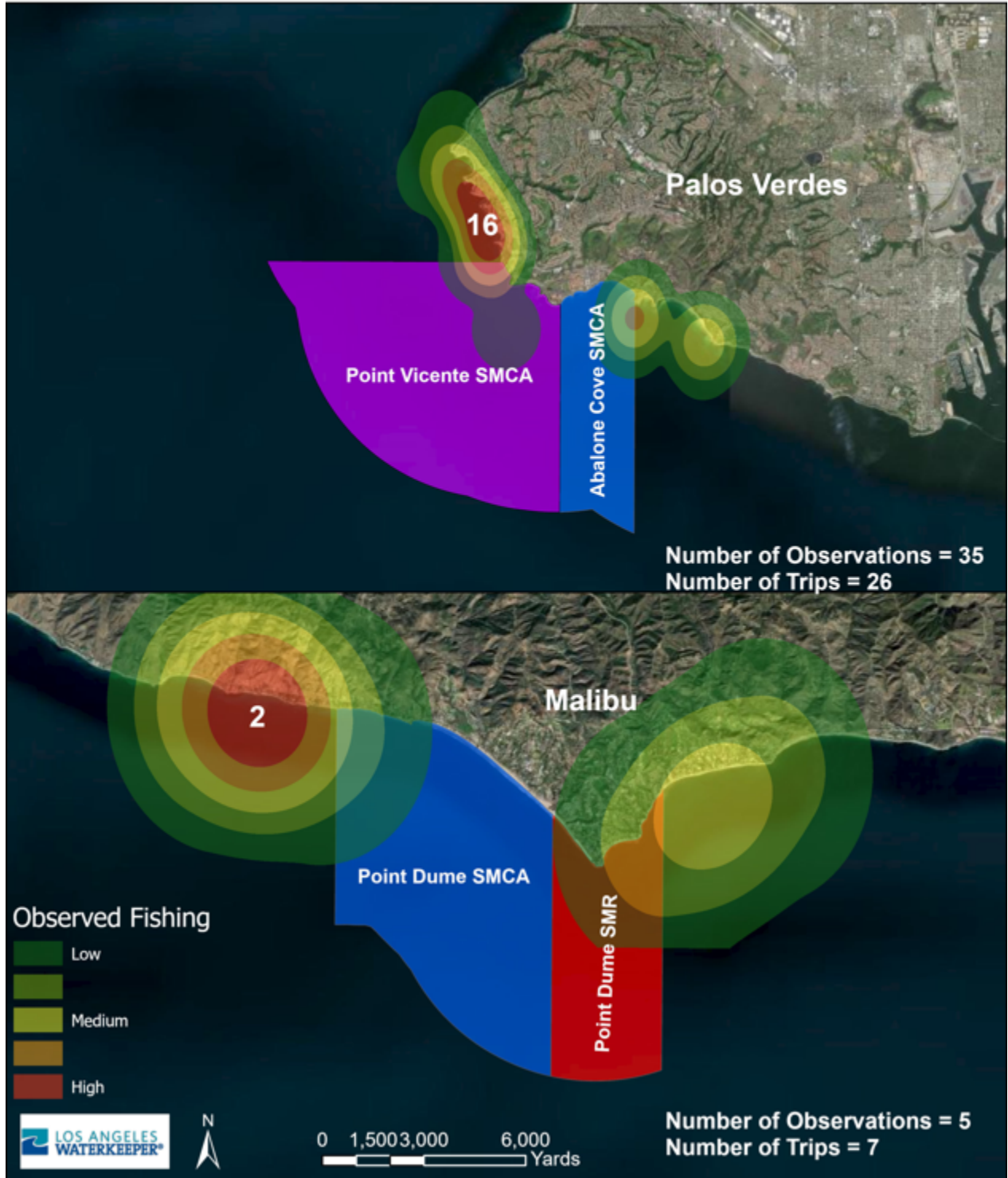


Figure 9

## Los Angeles Waterkeeper



*Figure 10*

**LA'S WATER WATCHDOG!!**

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



Figure 11

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

## An on The Water Rendezvous!



Figure 12

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

## Dedicated Volunteers Support Our Effort!



*Figure 13*

**Documenting Onshore Fishing  
In Palos Verdes at Lunada Bay  
Up Shore From The Pt. Vicente/Abalone Cove MPAs**

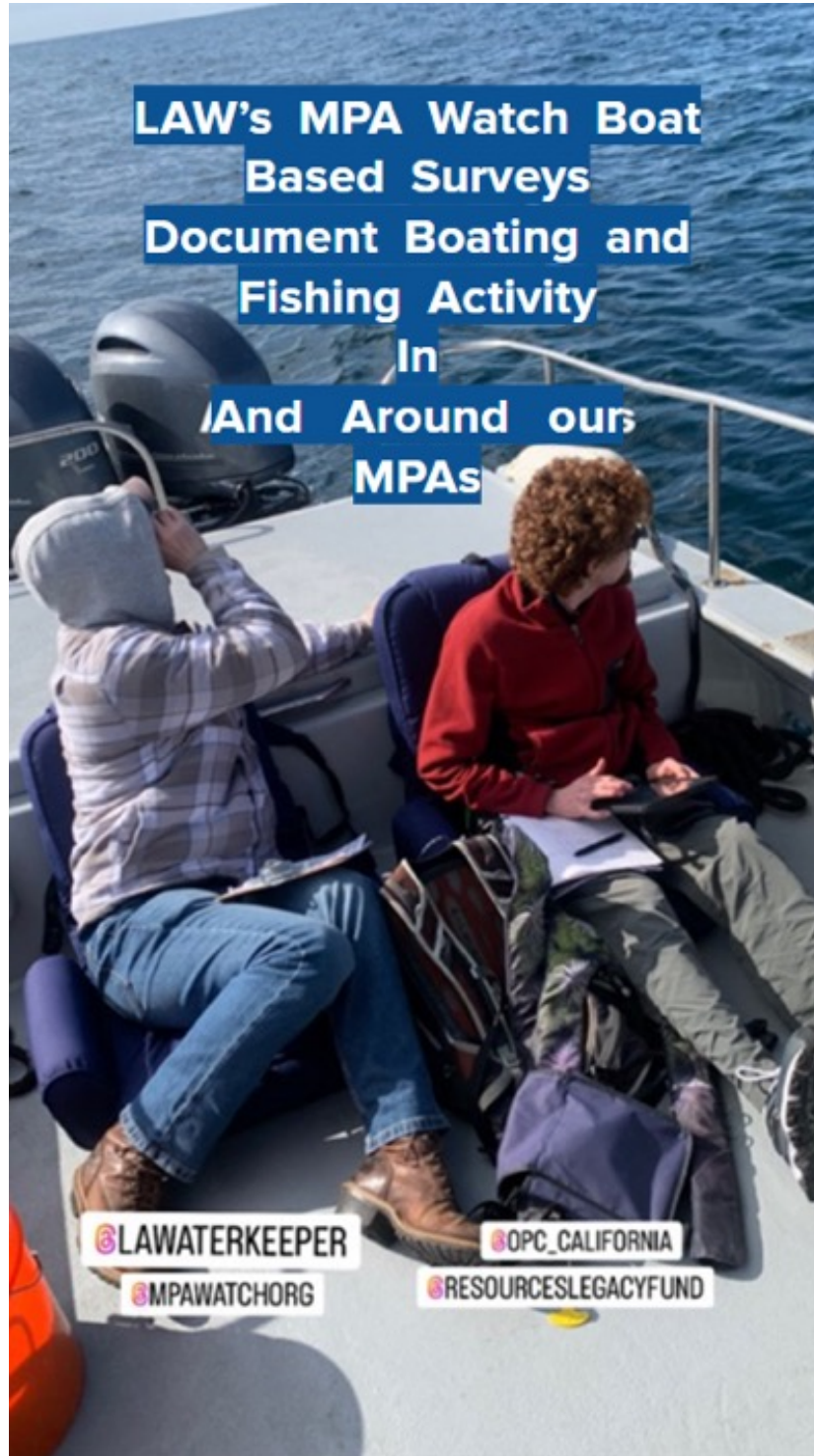


Figure 14

**UCLA School of Sustainability Volunteer Crew**

## WildCoast's & LA Waterkeeper LA Boat-Based Survey Day

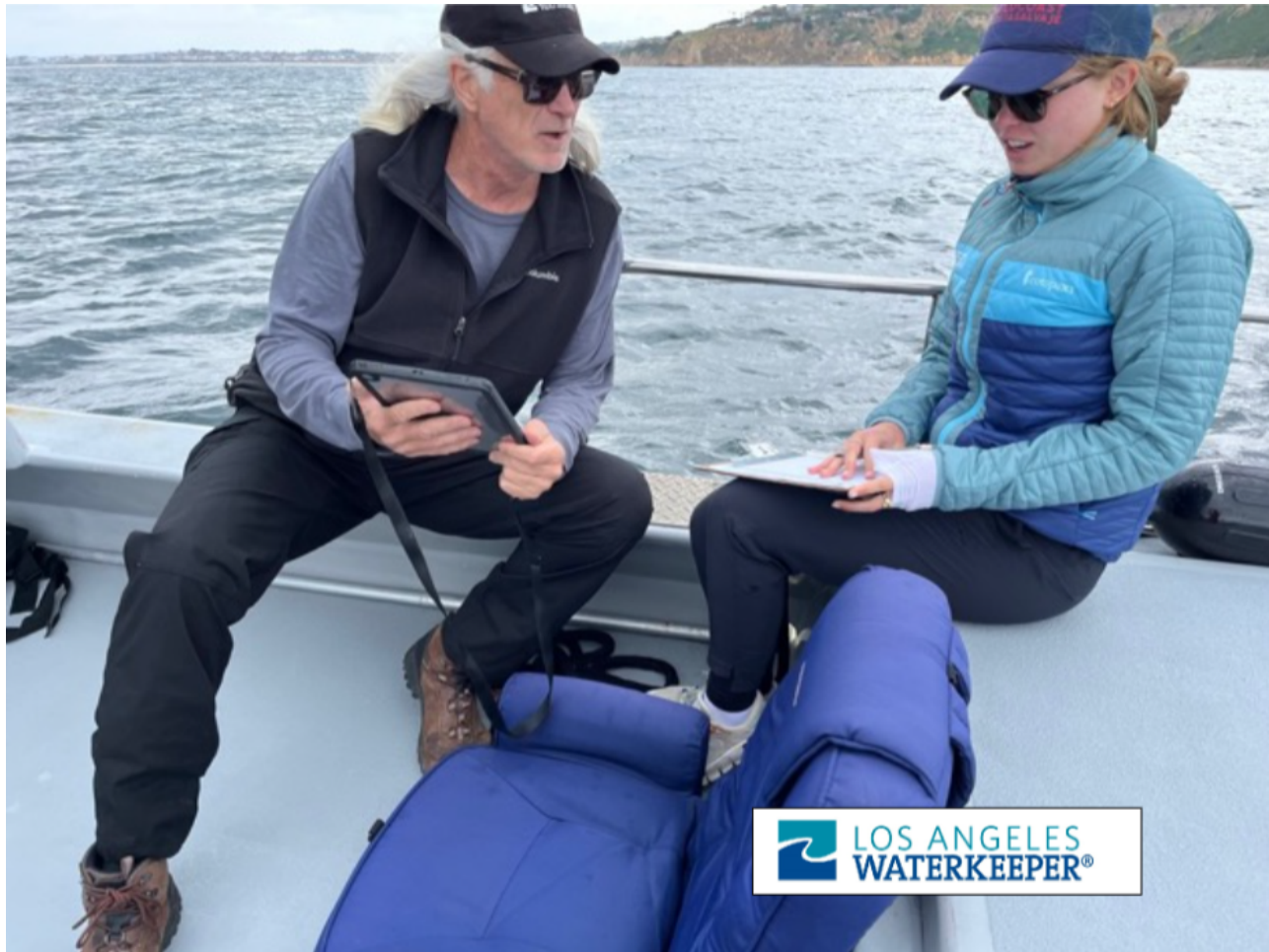


Figure 15

**WildCoast's Boat-Based Survey Lead,  
The Infamous Lillie Mulligan,  
Onboard the Waterkeeper for  
A Survey Protocol Review!**



## Welcoming New Faces Of LAW's MPA Watch Team!



Figure 16

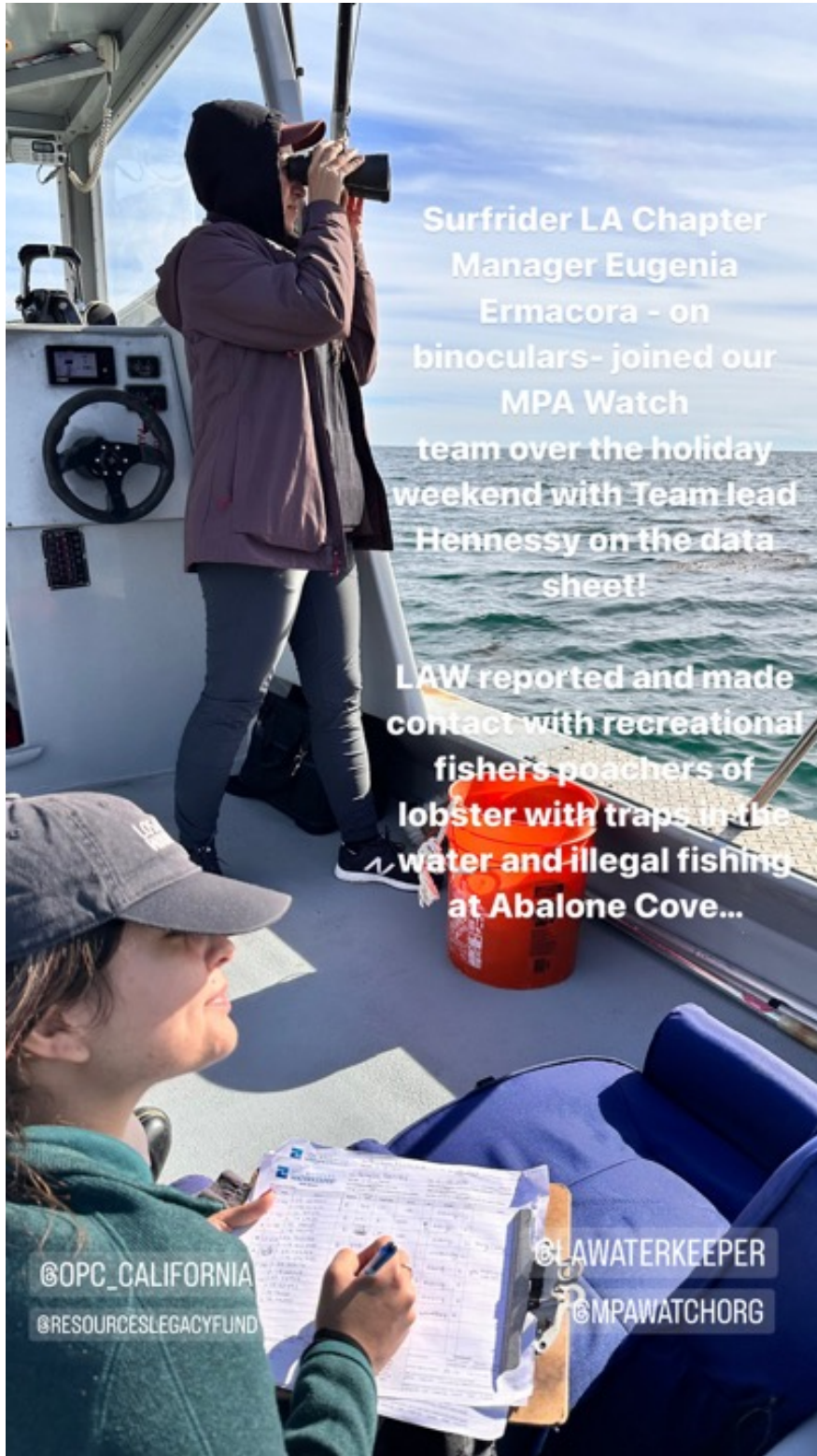
**Environmental Health Deputy for the County of Los Angeles,  
Joel Torrez And UCLA's Hennessy Martinez joined our  
Survey Team This Year!**

## Putting Joel To Work On Our MPA Watch Team!



Figure 17

**Thank you, Joel!!**



Surfrider LA Chapter  
Manager Eugenia  
Ermacora - on  
binoculars- joined our  
MPA Watch  
team over the holiday  
weekend with Team lead  
Hennessy on the data  
sheet!

LAW reported and made  
contact with recreational  
fishers poachers of  
lobster with traps in the  
water and illegal fishing  
at Abalone Cove...

@OPC\_CALIFORNIA

@RESOURCESLEGACYFUND

@LAWATERKEEPER

@MPAWATCHORG

**A Big Thank You Shoutout Again to Our Corps Team of  
Volunteers Who Support Our Effort!**

## Observing Potential Illegal Fishing Activity Inside an MPA is an *On the Water* MPA Outreach Opportunity



Figure 19



*Figure 20*

**Our Tireless Volunteers Do Put In Some Long Days!**



Figure 21

### 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@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 **this link:** [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.