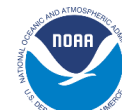




# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report from Beach Watch Project Data Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024



GREATER FARALLONES  
& CORDELL BANK  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



GREATER  
FARALLONES  
ASSOCIATION



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 North-central Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Program, conducted by the Beach Watch project, a joint program of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and Greater Farallones Association (GFA) which engages 150 community scientists in 10 MPAs, spanning 5 counties.

## Executive Summary

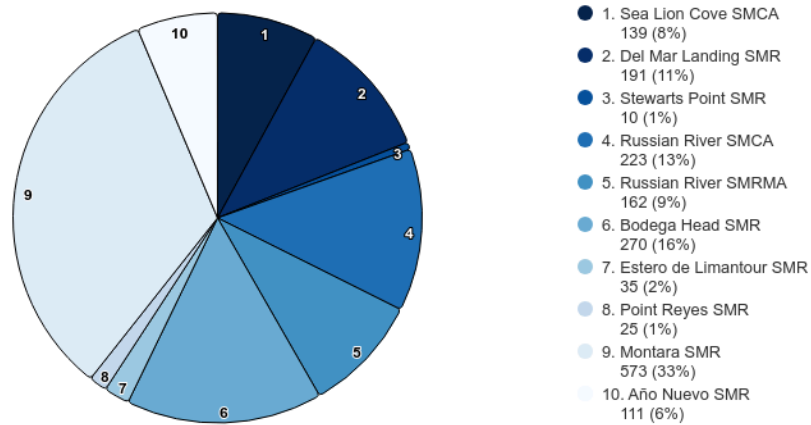
- Overall, at 7 of 10 MPAs monitored we observed significant decreases in human activities from the same months last year (Jan-June 2023).
- We observed a significant increase in shore-based hook and line fishing at Estero de Limantour.
- 2,138 activity events were observed during January-June 2024. Shore-based recreational activities accounted for 95% (n=2,033) of observed activities. Offshore recreational activities accounted for 4% (n=85) of observed activities. Permitted shore-based consumptive activities accounted for <1% (n=6) of observed activities. Offshore consumptive activities accounted for 1% (n=14) of observed activities.

# HUMAN USE OF MPAS

## January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

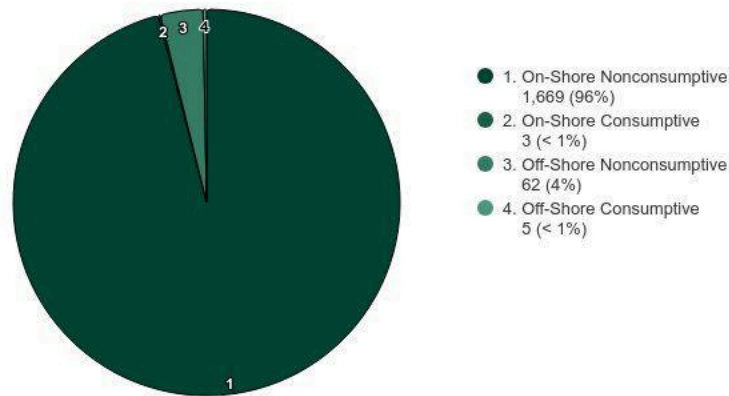
### Top 10 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
1,739 total activity events



### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
1,739 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.

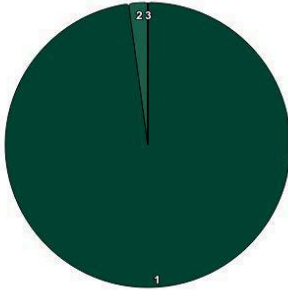
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

# ACTIVITY BY MPA

## Sea Lion Cove SMCA

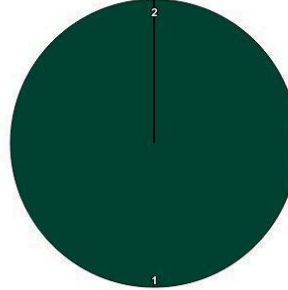
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
139 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
136 (98%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
3 (2%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

## Del Mar Landing SMR

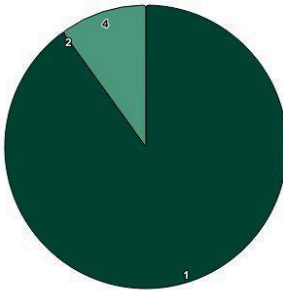
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
191 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
191 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

## Stewarts Point SMR

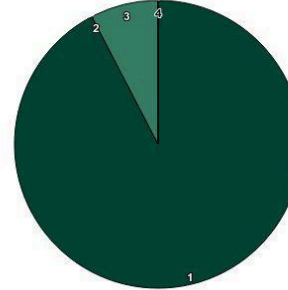
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
10 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
9 (90%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
1 (10%)

## Russian River SMCA

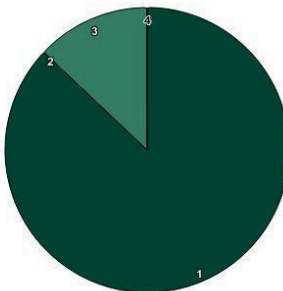
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
223 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
206 (92%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
17 (8%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

## Russian River SMRMA

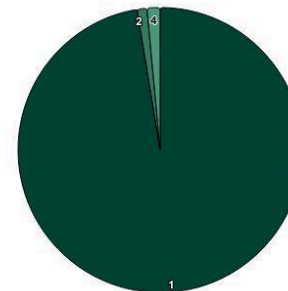
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
162 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
141 (87%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
21 (13%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

## Bodega Head SMR

January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
270 activity events

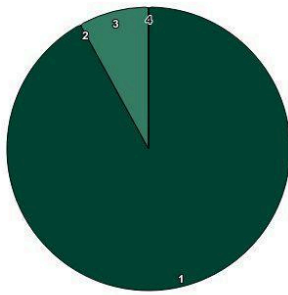


- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
263 (97%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
3 (1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
4 (1%)



### Point Reyes SMR

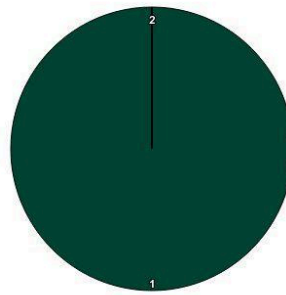
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
25 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
23 (92%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
2 (8%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

### Estero de Limantour SMR

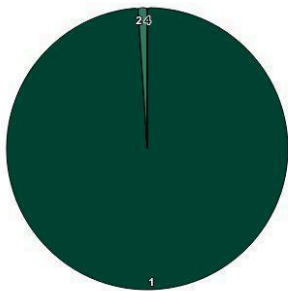
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
35 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
35 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

### Montara SMR

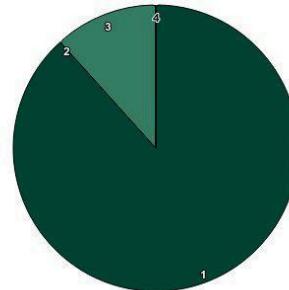
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
573 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
567 (99%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
6 (1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

### Año Nuevo SMR

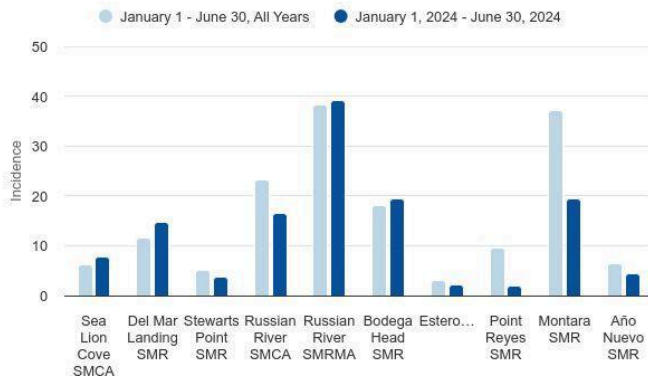
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024  
111 activity events



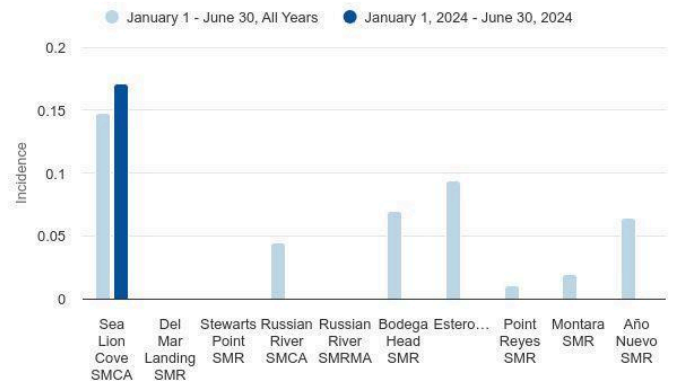
- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
98 (88%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
13 (12%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

# ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

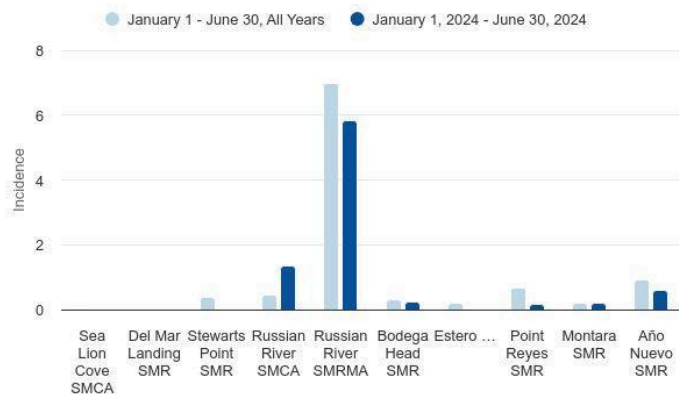
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



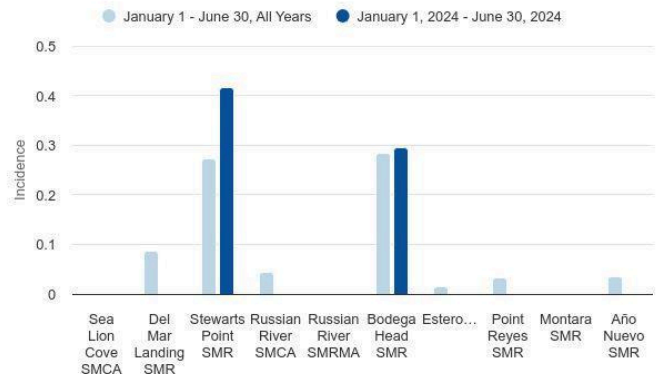
On-Shore, Consumptive



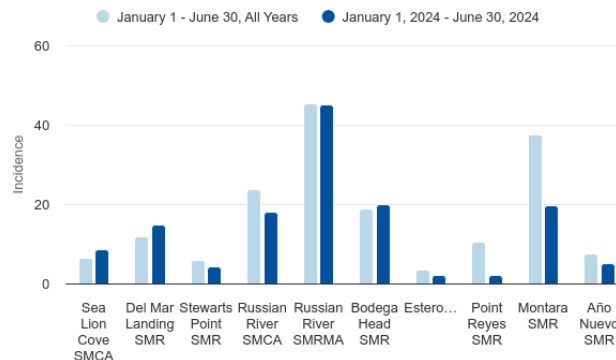
Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



All Activity



## 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.

## ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

MPA	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	6.2	7.7	0.1	0.2
Del Mar Landing SMR	11.6	14.7	0.0	0.0
Stewarts Point SMR	5.0	3.8	0.0	0.0
Russian River SMCA	23.2	16.5	0.0	0.0
Russian River SMRMA	38.2	39.2	0.0	0.0
Bodega Head SMR	18.1	19.3	0.1	0.0
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.0	2.1	0.1	0.0
Point Reyes SMR	9.6	1.8	0.0	0.0
Montara SMR	37.2	19.4	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	6.3	4.3	0.1	0.0
All MPAs Combined	14.6	11.6	0.1	0.0

MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Del Mar Landing SMR	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Stewarts Point SMR	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.4
Russian River SMCA	0.5	1.4	0.0	0.0
Russian River SMRMA	7.0	5.8	0.0	0.0
Bodega Head SMR	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Estero de Limantour SMR	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Point Reyes SMR	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0
Montara SMR	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	6.3	7.9
Del Mar Landing SMR	11.7	14.7
Stewarts Point SMR	5.7	4.2
Russian River SMCA	23.8	17.8
Russian River SMRMA	45.1	45.0
Bodega Head SMR	18.7	19.9
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.3	2.1
Point Reyes SMR	10.3	2.0
Montara SMR	37.4	19.6
Año Nuevo SMR	7.4	4.9
All MPAs Combined	15.2	12.1

## BREAKDOWN BY MPA

### **Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 7.9 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (n=11 surveys). This is comparable to the January-June 2023 data rate. People observed in the MPA were primarily taking part in non-consumptive activities on-shore, such as beach recreation, wildlife viewing, and on leash animal use. Onshore recreation accounted for 99% of the activities logged in the MPA Watch surveys. Onshore consumptive activities accounted for 1% of human use, comparable to January-June 2023.

### **Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 14.7 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (n=13 surveys). This is an 30% increase compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore, such as beach recreation, wildlife watching, and dogs on leash. No consumptive activities were observed.

### **Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 4.2 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (4 surveys completed). Survey effort was too low to draw comparisons with previous years. 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based non-consumptive activities such as wildlife watching. No consumptive activities were observed.

### **Russian River State Marine Conservation Area**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 17.8 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (17 surveys completed). This is an 40% decrease compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 94% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities on-shore, such as beach recreation and wildlife viewing and 3% of activities were offshore non-consumptive, surfing. Consumptive activities accounted for 1% of activities observed offshore.

### **Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 45.0 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (12 surveys completed). This is an 21% decrease compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 82% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based non-consumptive activities such as beach



recreation, wildlife watching, and 18% offshore recreation kayaking and paddle boarding. No consumptive activities were observed.

### **Bodega Head State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 19.9 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (15 surveys completed). This is a 39% decrease compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 97% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore recreation, such as beach recreation and wildlife watching. Offshore consumptive activities accounted for 2% of activities observed.

### **Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 2.1 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (7 surveys completed). This is a 19% decrease from the January-June 2023 data rate. 81% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in onshore non-consumptive activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching, dog off leash, and 12% offshore recreation surfing. 7% of human use was comprised of hook and line fishing onshore.

### **Point Reyes State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 2.0 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (7 surveys completed). This is a 55% decrease compared to the January-December 2022 data rate. 96% of people observed in the MPA taking part in non-consumptive shore-based activities such as beach recreation, and 3% in offshore non-consumptive recreation such as surfing. No consumptive activities were observed.

### **Montara State Marine Reserve**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 19.6 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (45 surveys completed). This is a 41% decrease compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 100% of people observed in the MPA taking part in non-consumptive shore-based activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching and tide-pooling (27%), and offshore non-consumptive surfing. No consumptive activities were observed.

### **Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area**

Between the months of January and June 2024, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 4.9 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (29 surveys completed). This is a 20% increase compared to the January-June 2023 data rate. 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore and offshore recreation such as

wildlife watching and beach recreation, off leash dogs, and surfing (10%). No consumptive activities were observed.

## NEXT STEPS

GF/CBNMS and GFA continue to maintain its roughly 150 volunteers through training new volunteers and continuing education for experienced volunteers. MPA Watch collaborates with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to distribute MPA Watch reports to regional managers in order to improve the management and enforcement of MPAs. MPA Watch is also looking to expand its network of partner organizations to enhance the scale and scope of MPA monitoring across California. MPA Watch maintains publicly accessible data on our website to make it accessible to partners, resource agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. One of the goals of MPA Watch is that volunteers and community members help spread knowledge and awareness of MPAs to the communities that surround them, inspiring marine stewardship in our populations.

## 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](https://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](https://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 the Greater Farallones Association does to conserve California's Federal and California MPAs and other conservation projects please visit [farallones.org](https://farallones.org).

