



**Marine Protected Area (MPA)
Watch Regional Report**
San Luis Obispo County
January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024



Statewide, coastal State Parks staff and volunteers continue to be trained in MPA Watch protocol and collect data from transects and control sites along the length of the coast. State Parks is the only partner collecting and contributing MPA Watch Data in San Luis Obispo County.

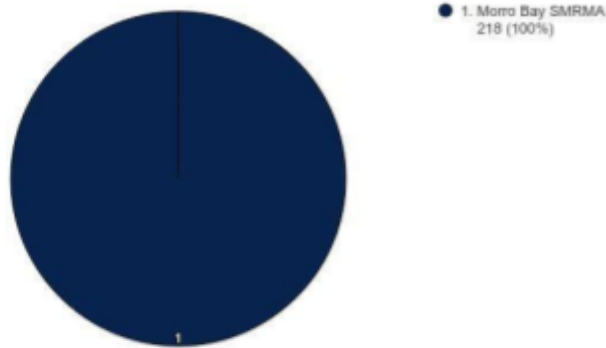
Executive Summary

- 16 surveys were collected by three State Parks volunteers during this reporting period.
- Two transects within the Morro Bay SMRMA were studied.
- Two violations were reported on April 22, 2024, however they are not true violations because they occurred the commercial oyster farms and are therefore an exception.

HUMAN USE OF MPAS January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

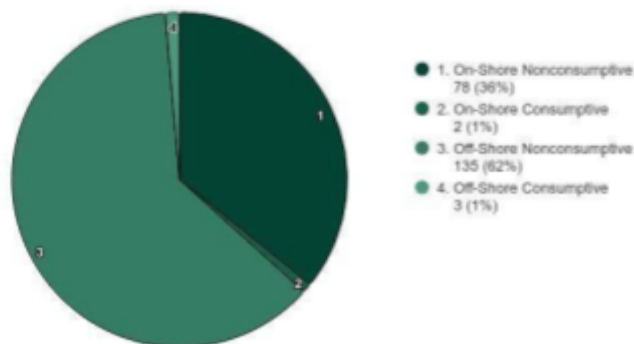
Top 1 MPAs by All Activity

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



All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024
216 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.

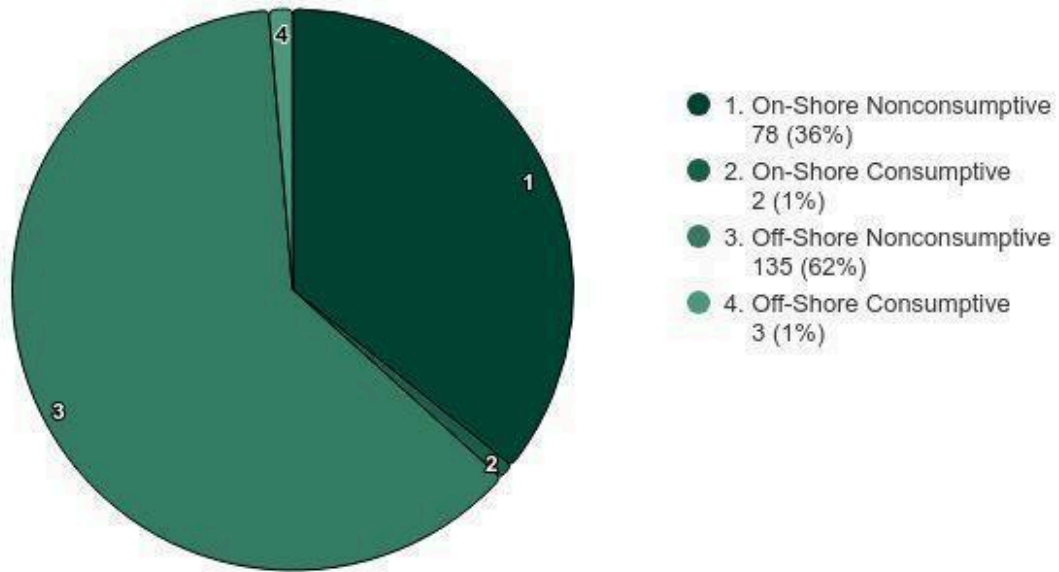
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

ACTIVITY BY MPA

Morro Bay SMRMA

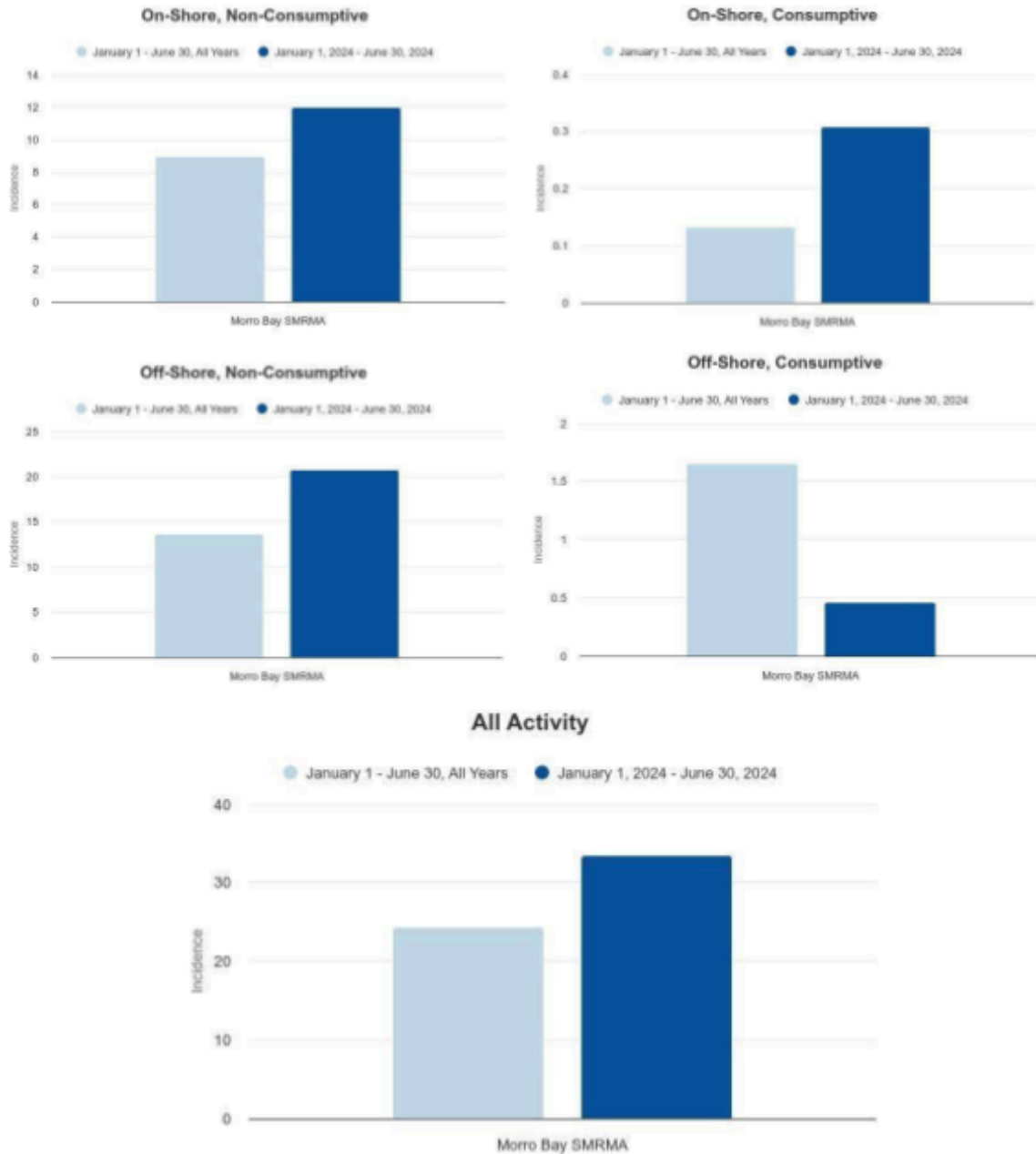
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024
218 activity events





MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGIONAL REPORT

ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA



NOTE: Morro Bay SMRMA allows commercial oyster farming. There is no category for this activity in MPA Watch, so it is recorded as consumptive “Boat fishing, trap, commercial, active” when oyster farmers are actively working on the farm’s barge or in the oyster beds.

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



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
Morro Bay SMRMA	9.0	12.0	0.1	0.3
All MPAs Combined	9.0	12.0	0.1	0.3

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
Morro Bay SMRMA	13.6	20.8	1.6	0.5
All MPAs Combined	13.6	20.8	1.6	0.5

MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
	Morro Bay SMRMA	24.3
All MPAs Combined	24.3	33.5

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

Morro Bay SMRMA

Kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and wildlife watching are popular activities in this location.



MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGIONAL REPORT

Two new MPA Watch transects were created in the fall of 2021, both of which are in Morro Bay State Park. With these two new MPA Watch transects will provide easier access for staff and

volunteers to complete surveys. There are three other MPA Watch transects within this MPA that don't fall inside of a State Park.

The top activities observed overall within this MPA are kayaking at 39%, beach recreation at 24%, paddleboarding at 9%, boating (fishing, trap, commercial, active) at 5%, and other boating at 3%. The top onshore activities are beach recreation/sandy at 24%, tidepooling at 3%, animals on leash/sandy at 3%, beach recreation/rocky at 2%, and wildlife viewing/sandy at 1%. The top offshore activities are kayaking at 39%, paddleboarding at 9%, boating (fishing, trap, commercial, active) at 5%, other boating at 3%, and paddle boating at 3%.

The top consumptive activities are boating (fish, trap, commercial, active) at 5%, boating (fishing, line, recreational, active) at 2%, hook fishing/sandy at less than 1%, boating (fishing, trap, recreational, active) at less than 1 %, and boating (fishing, net, commercial, active) at less than 1%.

NOTE: Morro Bay SMRMA allows commercial oyster farming. There is no category for this activity in MPA Watch, so it is recorded as consumptive "Boat fishing, trap, commercial, active" when oyster farmers are actively working on the farm's barge or in the oyster beds.

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

As for the 2 violations that were reported on April 22, 2024, they were the commercial oyster farms so therefore an exception.

NEXT STEPS

The SeaLife Steward volunteer program runs from May-October and these volunteers are trained in MPA Watch and generally conduct the majority of the surveys throughout the year. With the onboarding of new volunteers into this program, there are many who are interested in conducting MPA Watch surveys. A training will be planned in the near future to get these volunteers on board!

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.

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. If you see an activity that violates MPA regulations, please call CalTip to report the violation at (888) 334-2258.



MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) WATCH REGIONAL REPORT

California State Parks' involvement is funded by a Once-Through Cooling grant from the Ocean Protection Council which supports a team of MPA interpreters working across nine State Parks districts along the California coast.