



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 a consistent basis since January 2012 when Southern California MPA regulations went into effect.

While MPA Watch boat-based survey programs provide research data of fishing and consumptive activity the programs serve as a platform for our Community Compliance effort support in of and in collaboration with allied enforcement agency efforts. In addition to providing live on the water observations to enforcement officers, LAW's and the other MPA Watch boat-based survey efforts document all consumptive and non-consumptive boating activity, as well as all other consumptive activities observed taking place on or in the water, as well as all onshore fishing and consumptive activity occurring in and around the two our MPA's.

Boat-based surveys include collection of activity data points in control areas that extend two miles up and down shore of each MPA's boundary lines. LAW's effort is replicated in Santa Barbara and San Diego via Santa Barbara Channel Keeper and WildCoast. LAW provides mappings of their data for their 6 and 12 months reports in the format requested by CDFW since 2014.



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
12 Month Regional Report  
Los Angeles County Mainland  
January 2024 – December 2024**



Our boat-based survey results provide snapshot heat maps of overall fishing efforts and identify hot spots of MPA fishing violations. Boat-based data collected by LAW continues to assist allied enforcement agency effort to protect our MPAs.

LAW conducted 60 Boat Based Surveys of LA County MPAs in 2024.

Noting a decrease in fishing activity and what appeared to be more calculated poaching resulting in CDFW citations.

Also observed was commercial squid fishing in the PT Dume SMCA - noted in the Commercial Fishing heat map in figure 10. Light Boat -Squid Fishing is permitted in that area and usually occurs at night. Our team observed a heavy number of light boat vessels fishing with lights on and nets deployed during the day off of El Matador State Park legally fishing in the MPA SMCA.



**Marine Protected Area Watch  
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**Executive Summary**

- LAW's Marine Programs Director, Michael Quill, PhD., oversaw every LAW boat-based survey and he and members of LAW's MPA Watch Corps witnessed, recorded, and reported all potential violations observed occurring onshore and offshore within MPA boundaries to CalTip, CDFW Wardens and Rancho Palos Verdes and Point Dume Rangers and support staff with live on the water observation information.
- Potential MPA violations observed occurring onshore at the Point Vicente and Abalone Cove MPAs were reported to the RPV Rangers via text, to CalTip via phone call, and directly to CDFW Wardens as appropriate. All onshore Point Dume observed potential violations are reported to CalTip and local Point Dume Ranger support staff as appropriate.
- All on the water potential violations were reported to CDFW via CalTip or directly to CDFW Wardens as appropriate. All calls, texts and responses were documented and included in this report – see link below.
- The LAW Watch Corps 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.
- Multiple sewage spills and high bacteria warnings continued to occur again in 2024 as did intense early year rainfall and flooding events which limited fishing and monitoring activity.
- 20 days of land-based reconnaissance observations monitoring MPA signage lack and damage, as well as monitoring ongoing beach erosion took place around MPAs in 2024. Abalone Cove and surrounding onshore areas remain closed to the public due to landslide hazards as dramatic shifts of the coastline continue to be observed. Ongoing observable shifts in substrate and discharge of dewatering wells and artesian water continued June-December of 2024 with LAW updates of activity posted regularly on social media.
- Records of all LAW calls to and contact with RPV Rangers and CDFW Wardens made during LAW's surveys are submitted in a supplemental report to aide CDFW's research of CalTip efficiency as requested by CDFW and can be found at this link:
  - [LAW's POTENTIAL MPA VIOLATIONS REPORTED IN 2024](#)

## Jan - Jun 2024 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

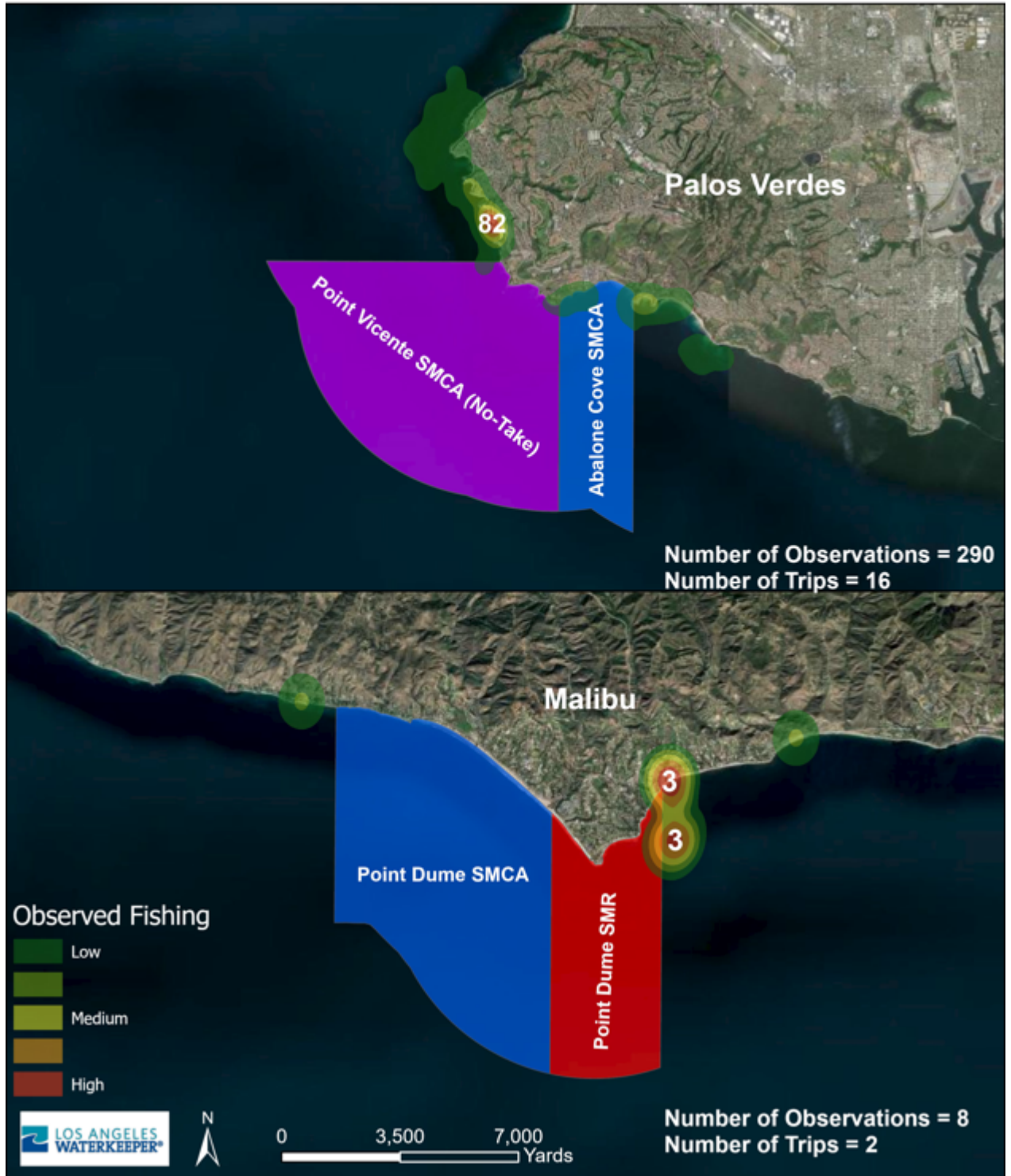


Figure 2

## Jan - Jun 2024 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

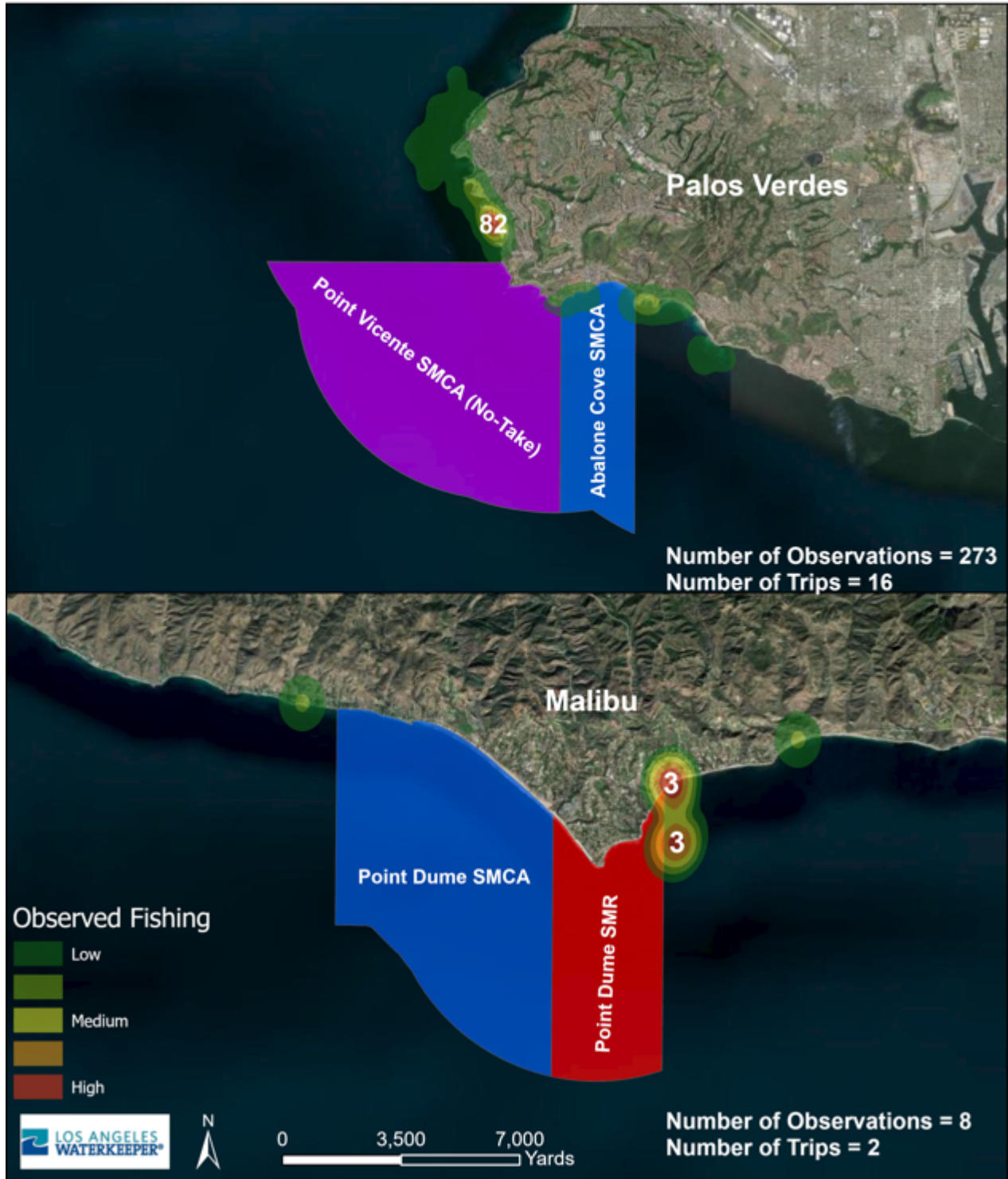


Figure 3

## Jan - Jun 2024 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

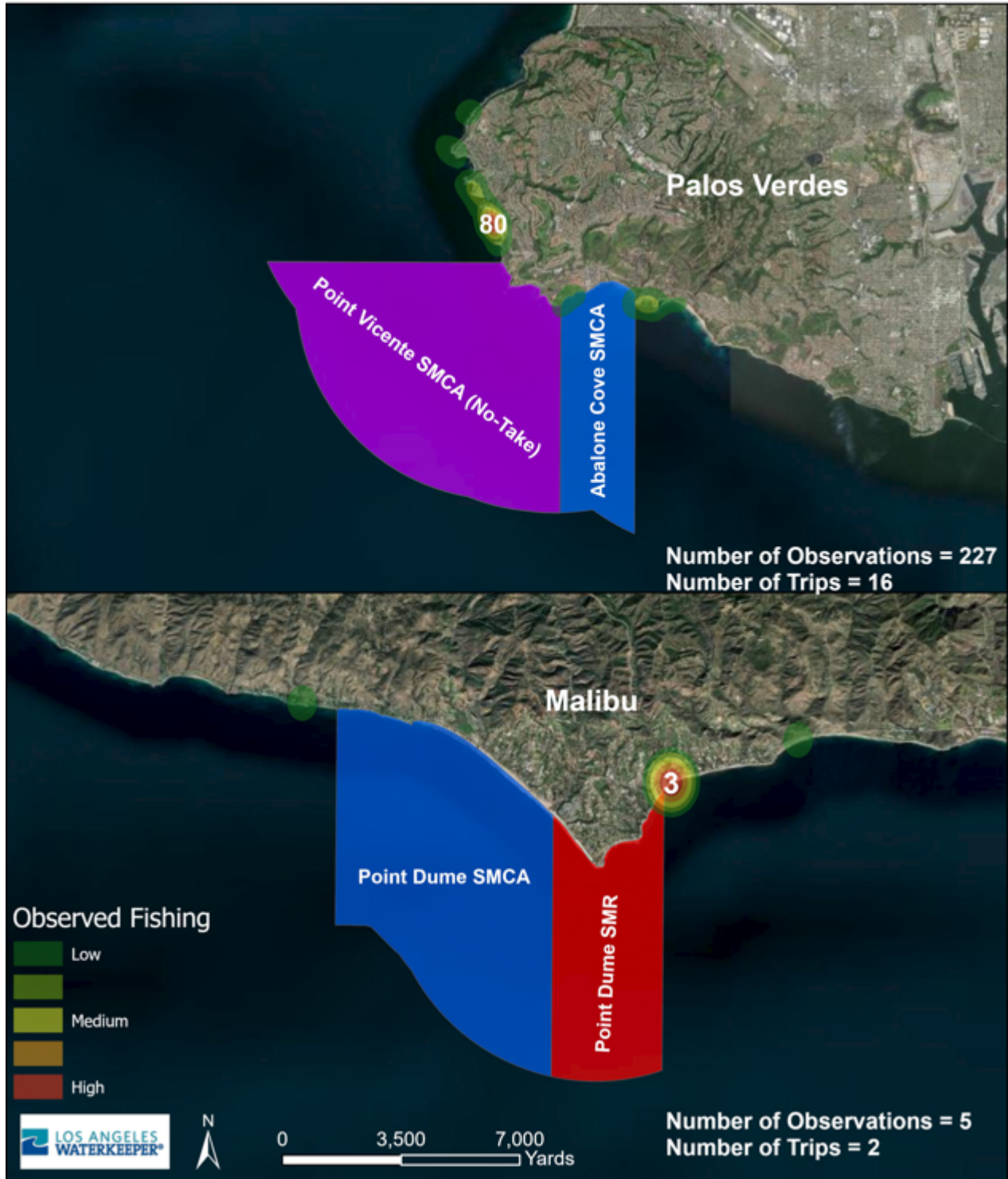


Figure 4

## Jan - Jun 2024 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

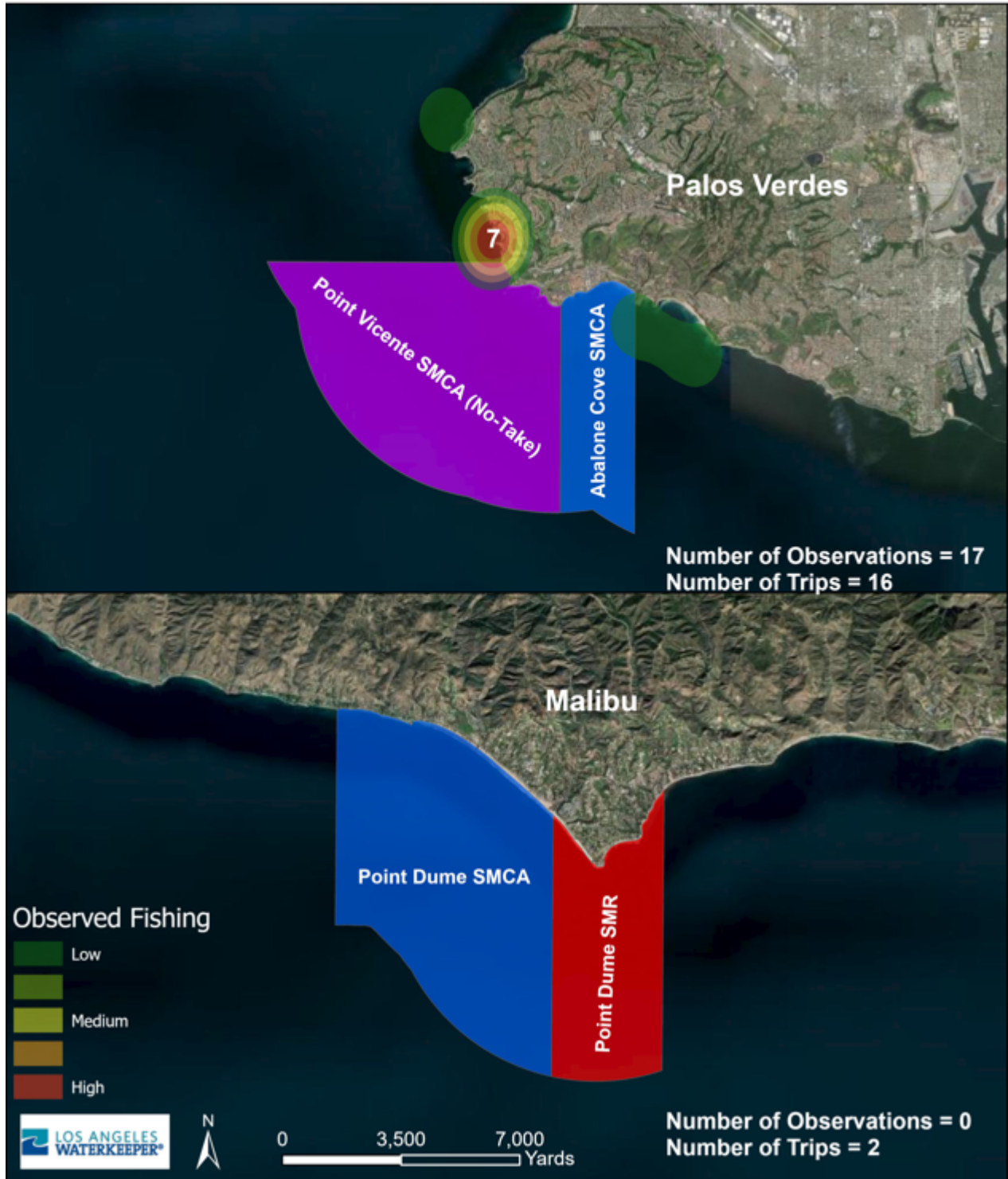


Figure 5

## Jan - Jun 2024 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu

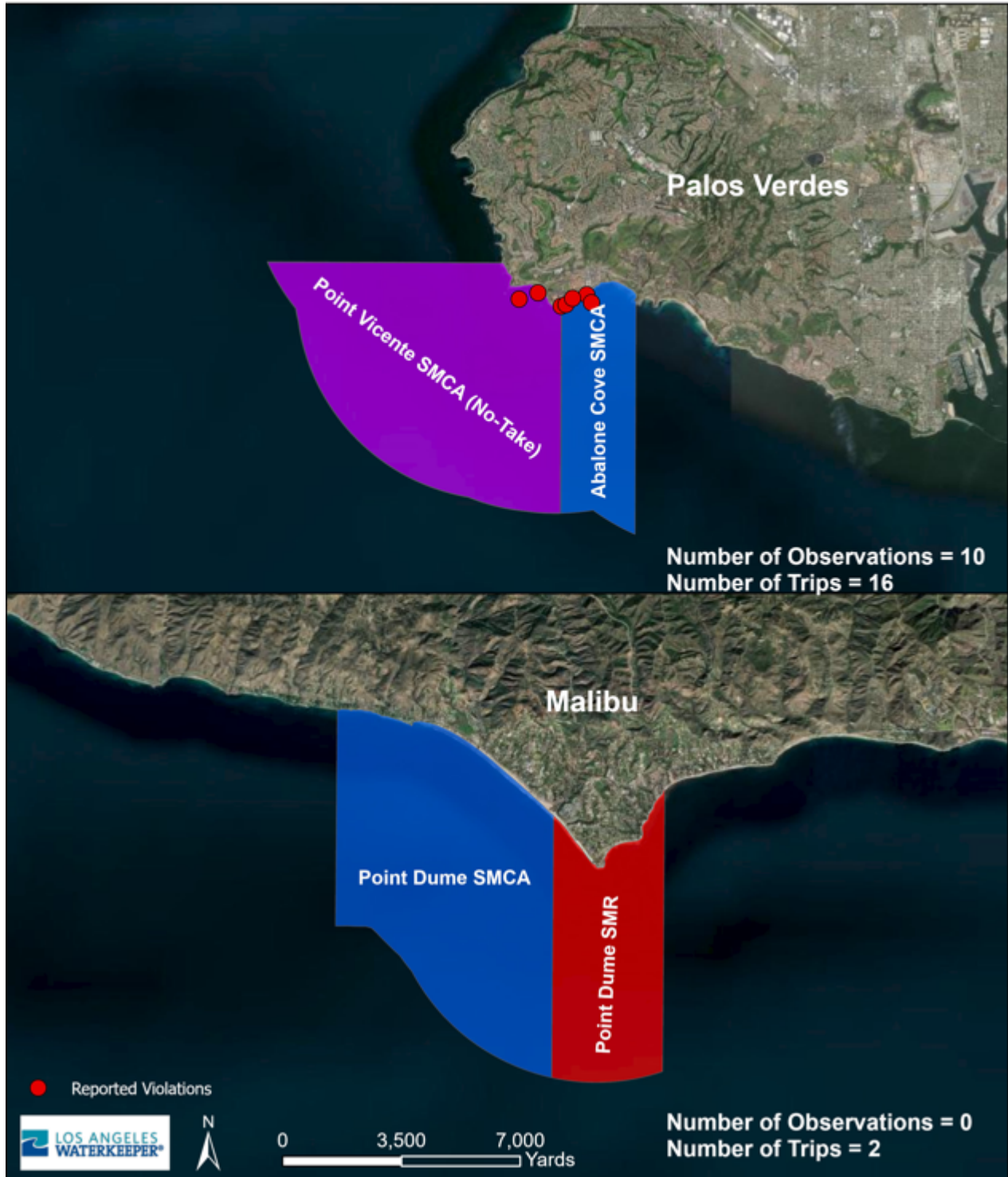


Figure 6



## Jul - Dec 2024 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

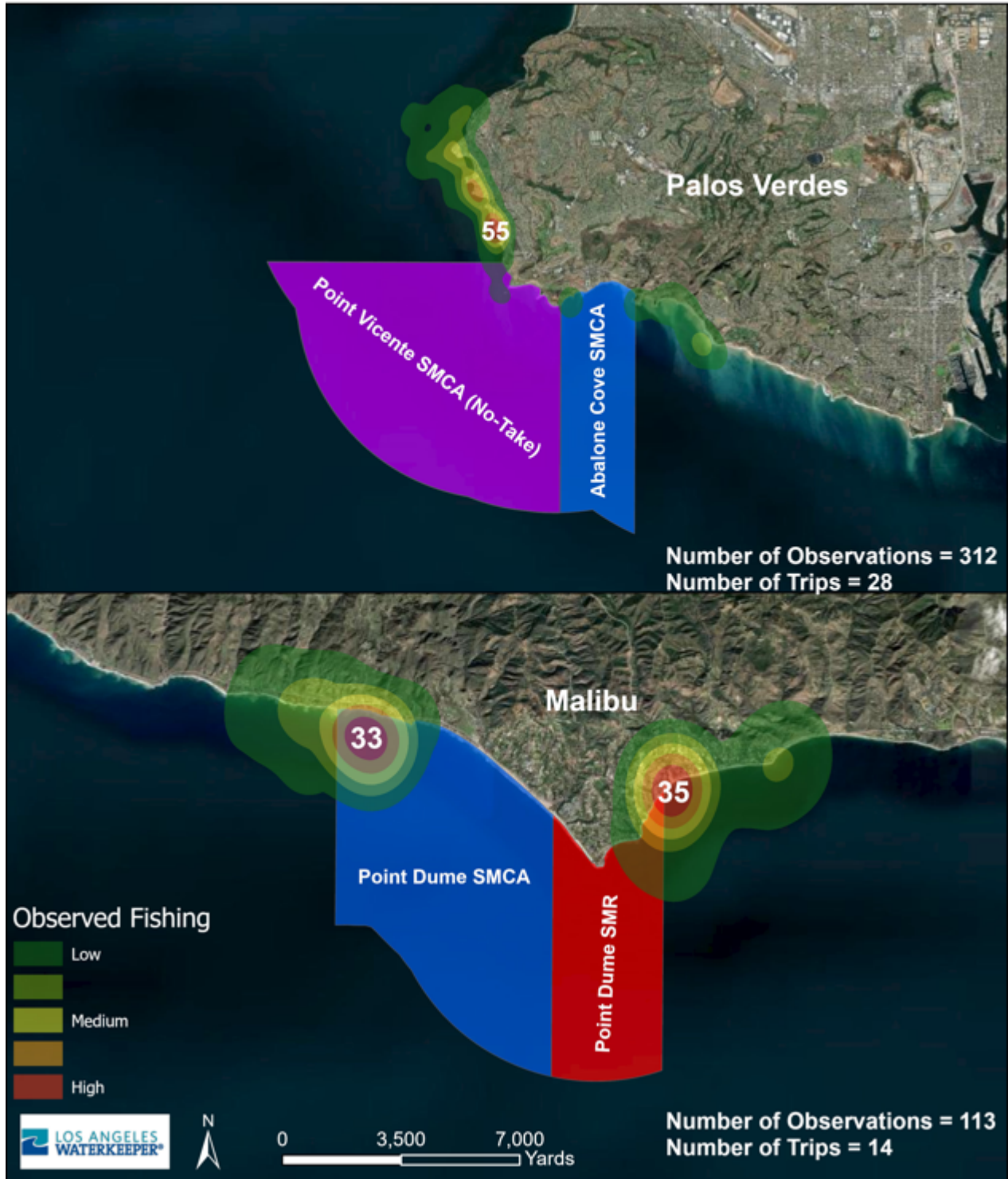


Figure 7

## Jul - Dec 2024 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

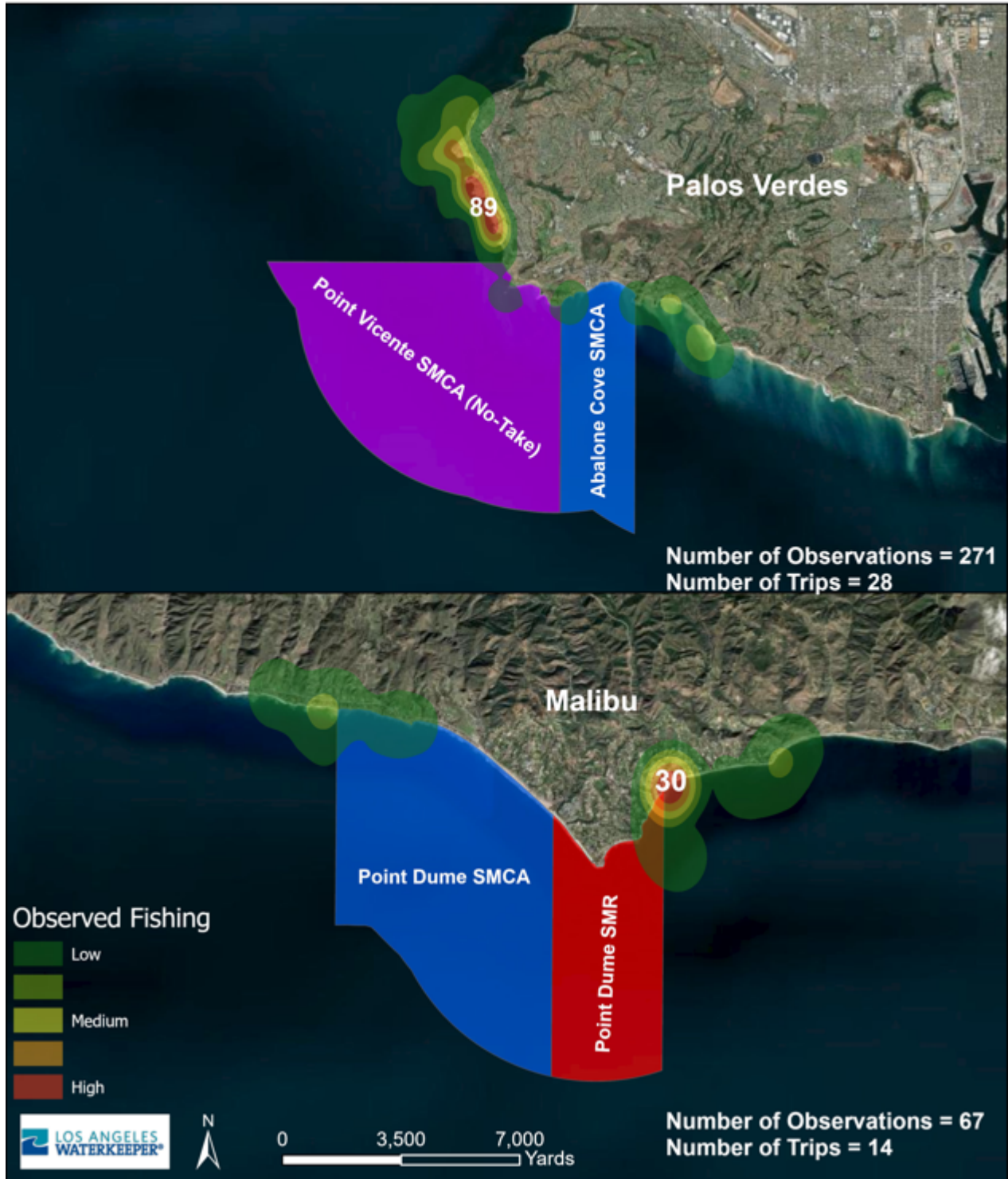


Figure 8

## Jul - Dec 2024 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

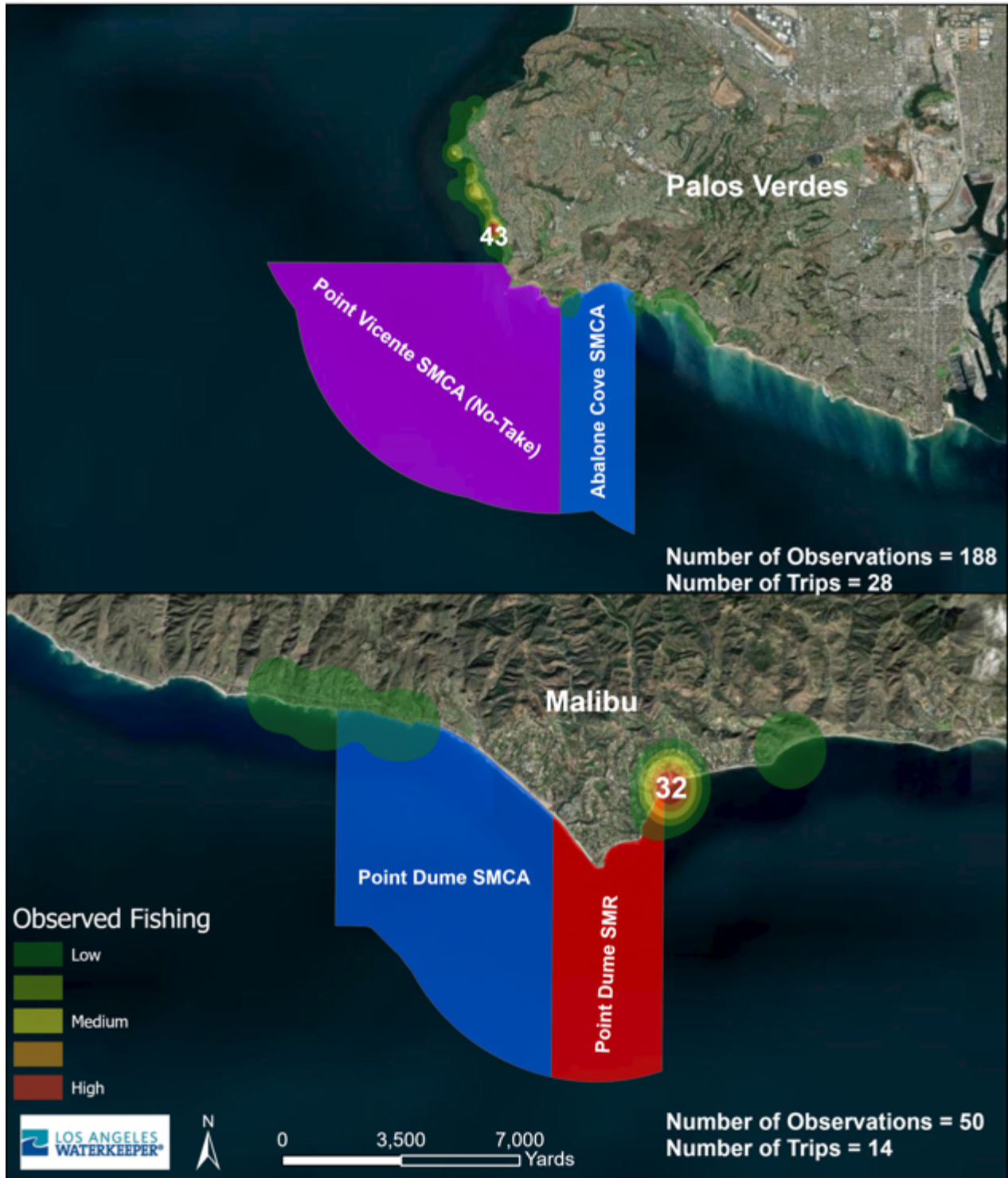


Figure 9

## Jul - Dec 2024 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu

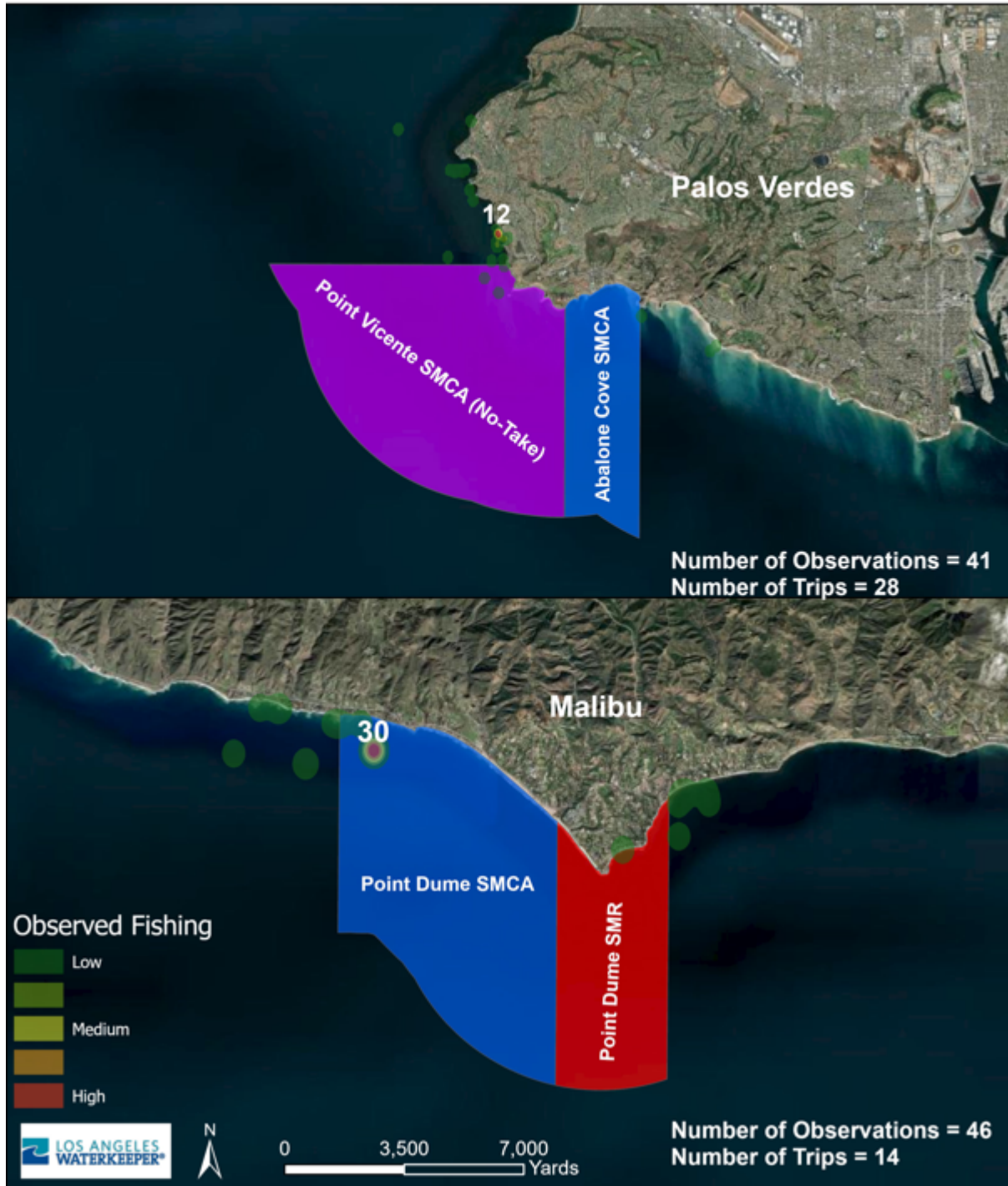


Figure 10

**The 30 Points Observed and indicated here are Commercial Squid Light Boats which are permitted to fish in the SMCA**

## Jul - Dec 2024 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu

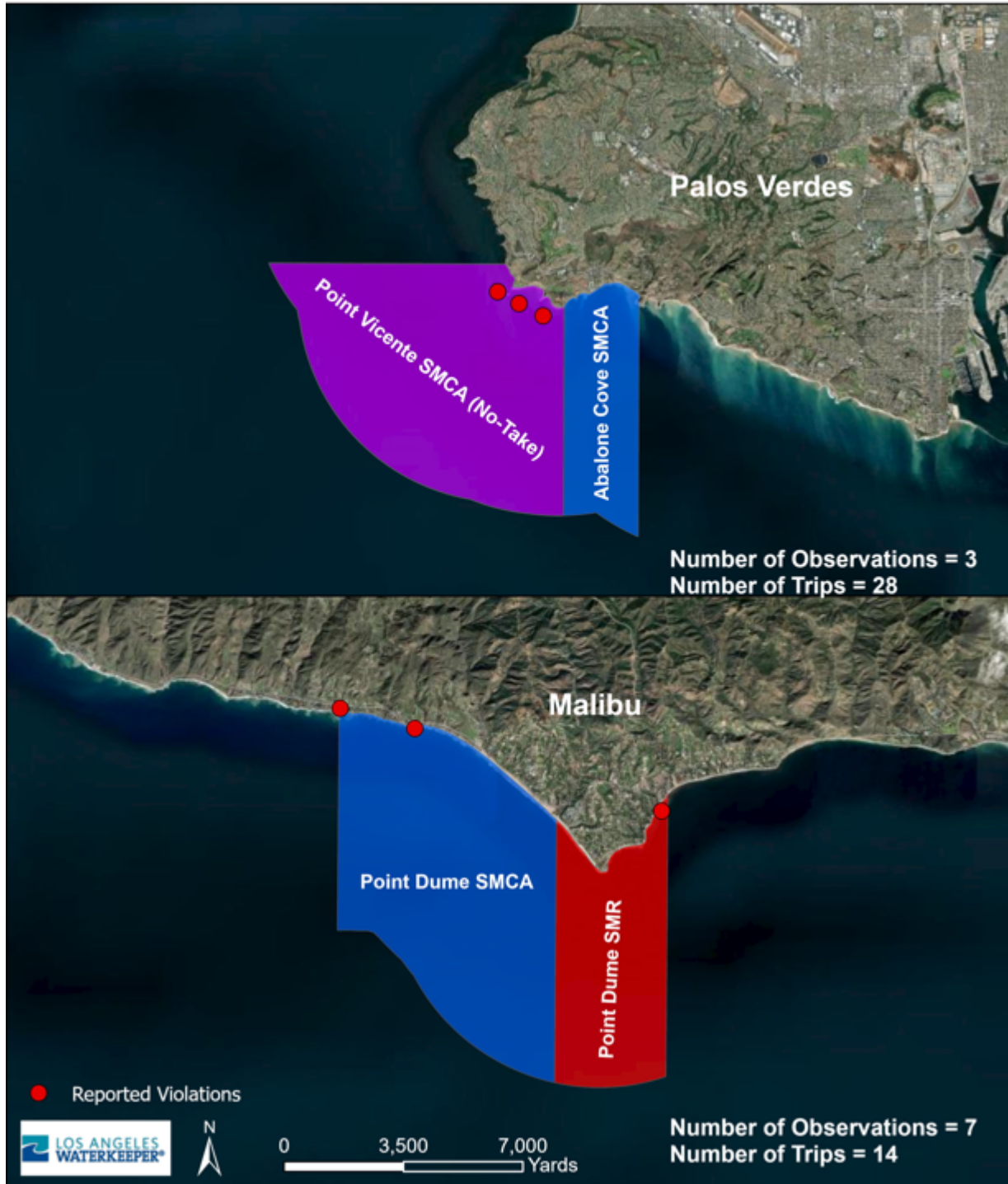


Figure 11

## Los Angeles Waterkeeper MPA Community Compliance Liaison



Figure 12

### LA's Water Watch Dog

## Our CDFW Wardens In Action



*Figure 13*

**In The Point Vicente SMCA No-Take!**

## A Beautiful Day For



Figure 14

## On The Water MPA Outreach and Education





Figure 15

## **Dedicated Volunteers Support Our Effort!**



*Figure 16*

## **Members of Our Corps of Veteran Volunteers!**

**One Time LAW MPA Intern Katrina Now Attorney-Advisor at  
U.S. Department of the Interior in The Shades  
Joel with the County of LA Public  
Health and Environmental Justice  
and  
Returning Volunteer Karissa!**



Figure 17

**Thank you, Ranch Palos Verdes Rangers  
Josh and Erin!  
An MPA Enforcement Training Survey Day!**



Figure 18

**Friendly MPA Outreach Sharing Printed Handouts With  
An MPA Aware Kayak Fisher –  
Fishing The Line At the Point Dume SMR**



Figure 19

**Friendly MPA Outreach Sharing Printed Handouts With A New  
& Very Happy Boating And Fishing Family First Outing In The  
PT Vicente SMCA NoTake MPA**



Figure 20

## **Abalone Cove MPA and Shoreline and Surrounding Areas Closed June – December 2024 and Into 2025**

**Ongoing Slides and Discharges Of Various Waters and  
“Liquids” Continue at Abalone Cove and Portugese Bend**

**The Earth Is Still Moving – Though Less Than In Mid Summer  
A New Substrait Has Emerged Off Shore**

**Off Shore Fishing and Observarions Of Potentila Violations  
Have Been Down But We Have Observed More Calculated  
Attempts to Fish Illgeally and Have Observed more Vessels  
Fleeing The Areae as Get Within a Half Mile Or So**

**Stay Tuned In 2025**



*Figure 21*

**LAW is Very Grateful for LAW's MPA Volunteer Corps of  
Trained MPA Watch Veterans  
See Info at The End of Report If Over The Age of 18 and  
Interested In Joining the Rotation**



*Figure 22*

## **Welcoming New Volunteers with On The Water Trainings**



*Figure 23*

**Yes, It Is A Long Day On The Water, 4- 6 hours  
Napping On The Way Home Is Encouraged**





*Figure 24*

**Thanks To Our Sister Hannah Onshore at Pt Dume  
CA State Parks For This Shot Of The Waterkeeper Heading  
Home After Completing A Pt Dume and Control Areas  
MPA Survey Day**



Figure 25

**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 potential violation at (888)-334-2258