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NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report from Beach Watch Project Data

Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties
January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025



Background

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 our 10-year baseline rate (Stewarts Point, Russian River SMCA, Russian River SMRMA, Estero de Limantor, Point Reyes SMR, Montara SMR, Año Nuevo SMR), at 2 we observed significant increases from baseline (Del Mar Landing and Bodega Head), and 1 MPA saw no significant change from baseline (Sea Lion SMCA).
- 1,263 activity events were observed during the first six months of 2025. Shore-based recreational activities accounted for 96% (n=1,208) of observed activities. Offshore recreational activities accounted for 4% (n=46) of observed activities. Permitted shore-based consumptive activities accounted for <1% (n=3) of observed activities. Offshore consumptive activities accounted for 1% (n=6) of observed activities.

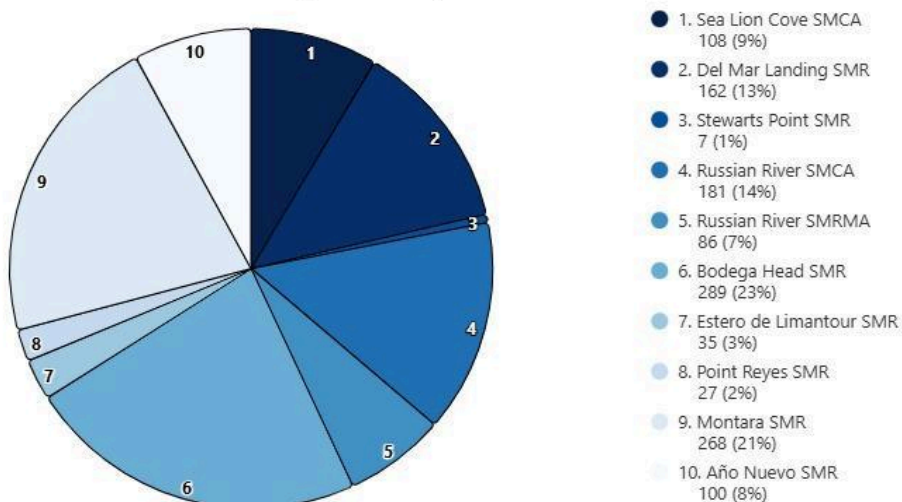


HUMAN USE OF MPAS JANUARY - JUNE 2025

OVERVIEW

Top 10 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
1,263 total 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.

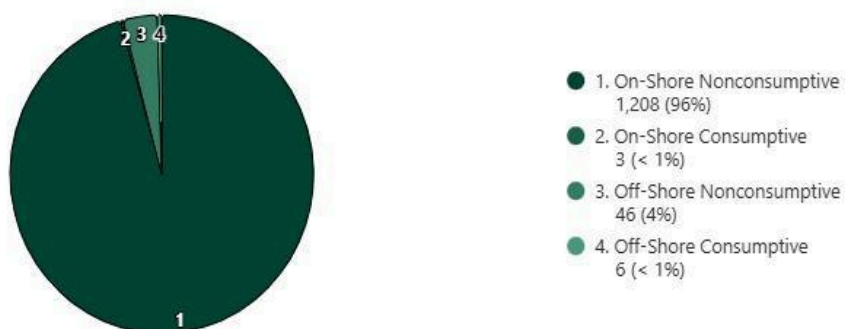
Off-Shore - Activities that take place offshore, typically in knee-deep water or deeper. Includes surfing, SCUBA diving, kayaking, boat fishing, etc.

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.

All MPAs Combined

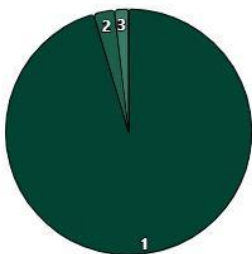
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
1,263 activity events



ACTIVITY BY MPA

Sea Lion Cove SMCA

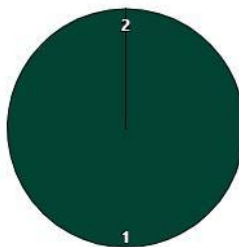
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
108 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
103 (95%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
3 (3%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
2 (2%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Del Mar Landing SMR

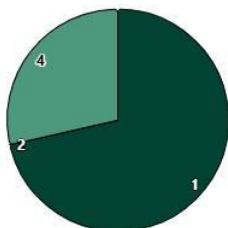
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
162 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
162 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Stewarts Point SMR

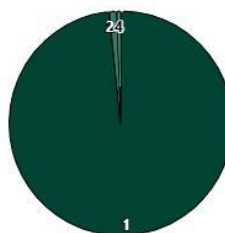
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
7 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
5 (71%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
2 (29%)

Russian River SMCA

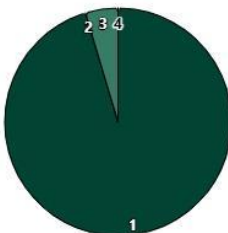
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
181 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
178 (98%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
2 (1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (1%)

Russian River SMRMA

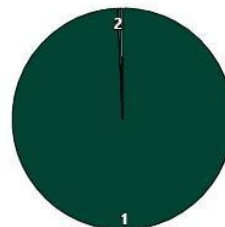
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
86 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
82 (95%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
4 (5%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Bodega Head SMR

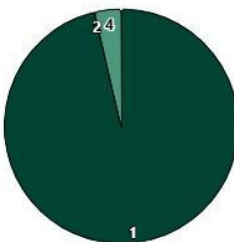
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
289 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
287 (99%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
1 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (< 1%)

Point Reyes SMR

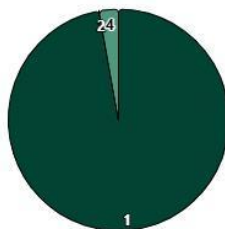
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
27 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
26 (96%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (4%)

Estero de Limantour SMR

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
35 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
34 (97%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (3%)

Montara SMR

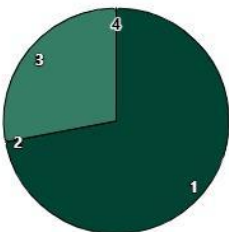
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
268 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
234 (97%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
9 (3%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Año Nuevo SMR

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
100 activity events

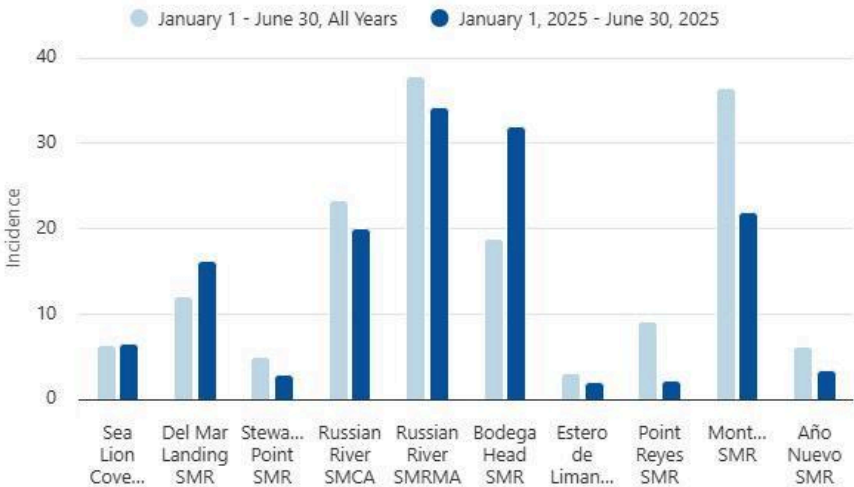


- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
72 (72%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
28 (28%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

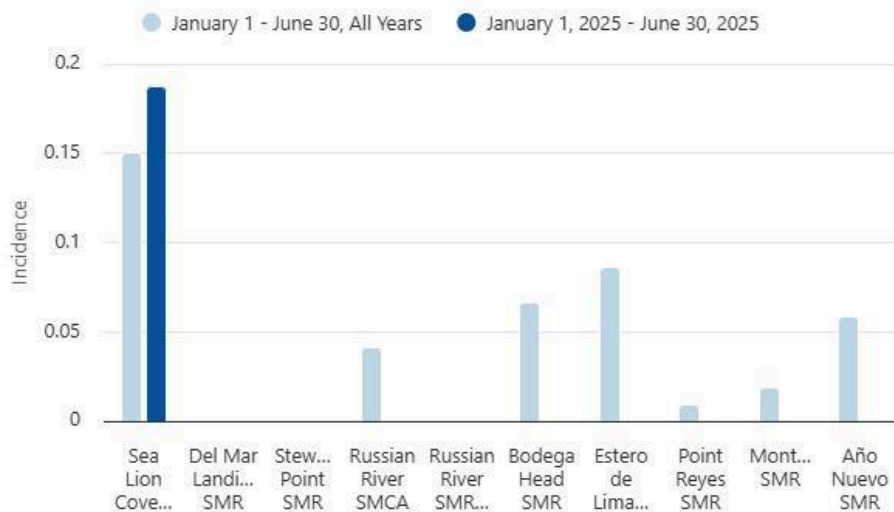
ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

The charts below show incidence values for each MPA monitored by the Beach Watch project. **Incidence is calculated as the number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.**

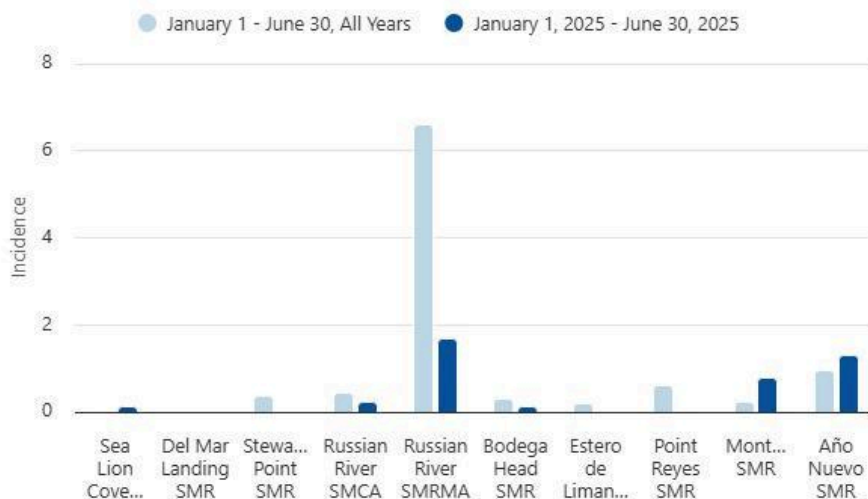
On-Shore, Non-Consumptive



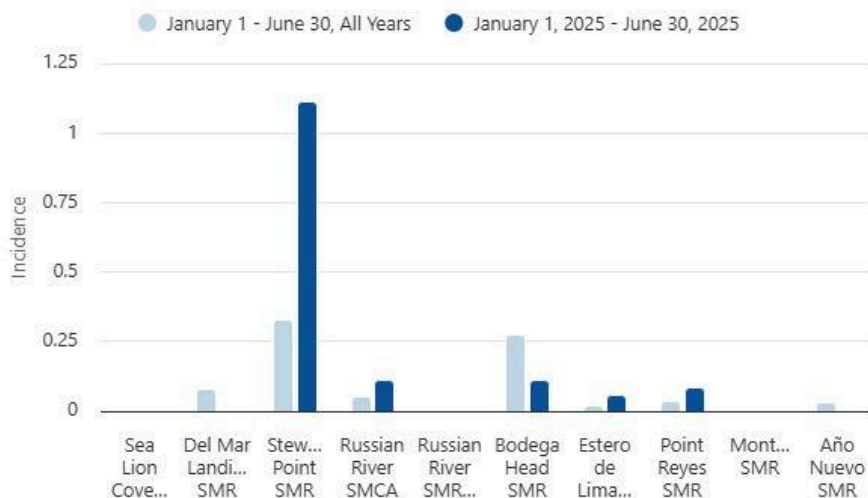
On-Shore, Consumptive



Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

MPA	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	6.3	6.4	0.2	0.2
Del Mar Landing SMR	12.1	16.2	0.0	0.0
Stewarts Point SMR	4.9	2.8	0.0	0.0
Russian River SMCA	23.2	20.0	0.0	0.0
Russian River SMRMA	37.9	34.2	0.0	0.0
Bodega Head SMR	18.7	31.9	0.1	0.0
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.0	2.0	0.1	0.0
Point Reyes SMR	9.1	2.2	0.0	0.0
Montara SMR	36.4	21.9	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	6.1	3.3	0.1	0.0
All MPAs Combined	14.3	11.0	0.1	0.0

MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	0.0	0.1	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	1.1
Russian River SMCA	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1
Russian River SMRMA	6.6	1.7	0.0	0.0
Bodega Head SMR	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
Estero de Limantour SMR	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Point Reyes SMR	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1
Montara SMR	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	1.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1

MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	6.5	6.8
Del Mar Landing SMR	12.2	16.2
Stewarts Point SMR	5.6	3.9
Russian River SMCA	23.8	20.3
Russian River SMRMA	44.5	35.8
Bodega Head SMR	19.4	32.1
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.3	2.1
Point Reyes SMR	9.8	2.3
Montara SMR	36.7	22.7
Año Nuevo SMR	7.1	4.7
All MPAs Combined	14.9	11.5

BREAKDOWN BY MPA

Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 6.8 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (n=10 surveys). This is a slight (4.6%) increase from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 95% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities on-shore, such as beach recreation, wildlife viewing, and on leash animal use. 3% of activities were on-shore consumptive, hook fishing rocky shore, comparable to 2024.

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 16.2 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (n=10 surveys). This is a 33% increase from the 10-year annual baseline 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 and off leash. No consumptive activities were observed.

Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 3.9 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (3 surveys completed). This is a 30% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 71% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based non-consumptive activities such as wildlife watching. 29% of activities were offshore commercial trap fishing.

Russian River State Marine Conservation Area

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's and CA State Parks MPA Watch reports a rate of 20.3 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (12 surveys completed). This is a 15% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 98% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities on-shore, such as beach recreation and wildlife viewing, and animals on and off leash. 1% of activities were offshore non-consumptive, surfing. Offshore consumptive activities accounted for 1% of activities observed were commercial boat line fishing.

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 35.8 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (8 surveys completed). This is a 19% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 95% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based non-consumptive activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching, and 5% offshore recreation paddle boarding. No consumptive activities were observed.

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 32.1 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (10 surveys completed). This is a 66% increase from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 99% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore recreation, such as beach recreation, wildlife watching, and animals on leash. Offshore consumptive activities boat fishing line recreational accounted for 1% of activities observed.

Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 2.1 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (7 surveys completed). This is a 36% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 97% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in onshore non-consumptive activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching. 3% of human activity observed was consumptive unknown fishing boats offshore.

Point Reyes State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 2.3 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (7 surveys completed). This is a 77% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 96% of people observed in the MPA taking part in non-consumptive shore-based activities such as wildlife viewing. 4% of activities were offshore consumptive, unknown fishing boat activities were observed.

Montara State Marine Reserve

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 22.7 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (18 surveys completed). This is a 38% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 97% of people observed in the MPA taking part in non-consumptive shore-based activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching and tide-pooling (34%), and 3% offshore non-consumptive recreation and surfing. No consumptive activities were observed.

Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's MPA Watch reports a rate of 4.7 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA (26 surveys completed). This is a 34% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 72% 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 28% offshore activities like surfing. No consumptive activities were observed.

NEXT STEPS

GF/CBNMS and GFA continue to maintain 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. 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.

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.