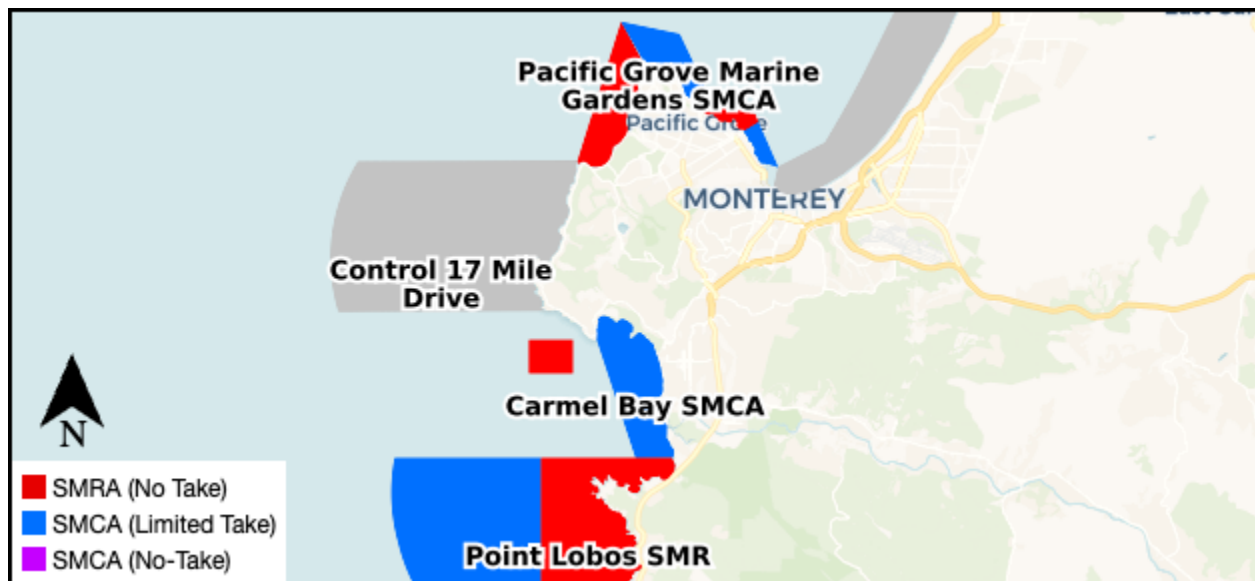


Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report

Monterey County
January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

Map of Region's MPAs



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' survey data has been incorporated into the other regional data reports from other MPA Watch managers with the exception of a few counties where State Parks is the only partner collecting and contributing MPA Watch Data or where local partners were unable to submit their report, like in Monterey County.

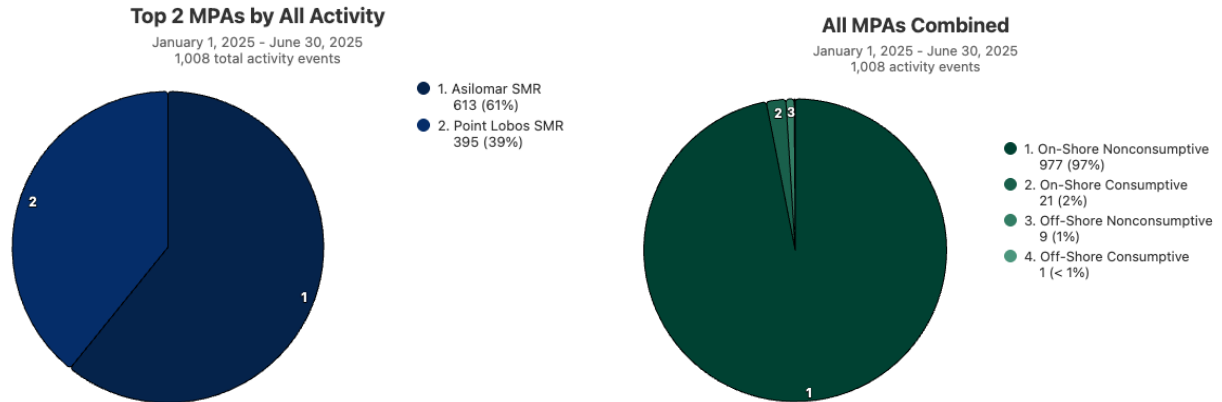
Executive Summary

- Six State Park volunteers completed 42 surveys walking a total of 39 miles and observing 1,008 activities in Monterey County.
- Two MPAs were surveyed; Asilomar State Marine Reserve (SMR) and Point Lobos SMR.
- 97% of all observed activities by CA State Park volunteers in both MPAs from January 1 to June 30, 2025 were on-shore and non-consumptive.



HUMAN USE OF MPAS JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2025

OVERVIEW



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.

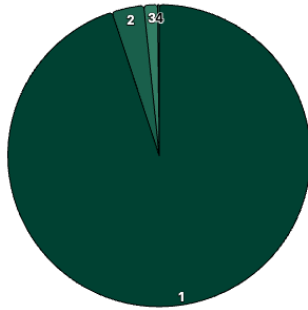
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

ACTIVITY BY MPA

Asilomar SMR

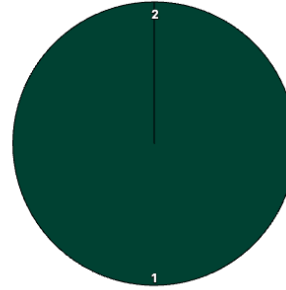
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
613 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
582 (95%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
21 (3%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
9 (1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (< 1%)

Point Lobos SMR

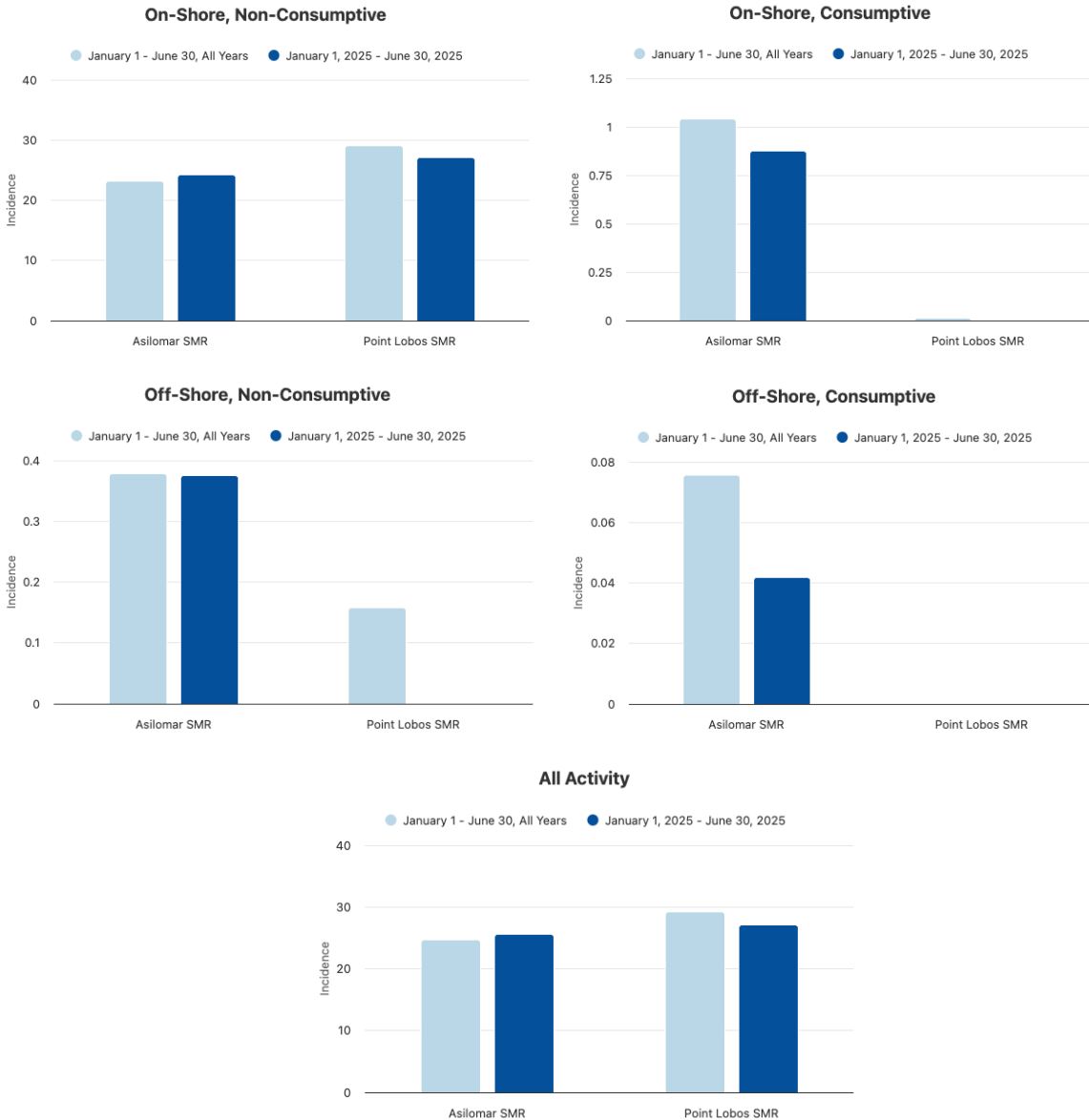
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
395 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
395 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

Incidence Bar Charts



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

Incidence Tables

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
Asilomar SMR	23.2	24.3	1.0	0.9
Point Lobos SMR	29.0	27.1	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	27.6	25.3	0.3	0.5

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
Asilomar SMR	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0
Point Lobos SMR	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0

MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Asilomar SMR	24.7	25.5
Point Lobos SMR	29.2	27.1
All MPAs Combined	28.1	26.1

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

Asilomar SMR

With an activity incidence of 25.5 thus far this year, Asilomar SMR is a popular spot for beach recreation (both sandy and rocky) (70%), tidepooling (23%), and animals on leash (3%). Offshore, there were seven whale watching vessels, an unknown fishing vessel, a work boat and a “other boating” activity observed. There were 19 instances of hand collection of biota observed, which is a violation of the MPA regulations for a state marine reserve. There also were two observations of hook fishing and one observation of unknown fishing, all of which would also be a MPA violation since no take of any kind is allowed in reserves.

Asilomar SMR experienced lower visitation in the winter season, and visitation picked up in March with the beginning of spring break. Beach recreation-whether on sandy or rocky shores- and tidepooling continue to be the most popular activities. Asilomar SMR experiences consistent violations, most often being the hand collection of biota and dogs that are off leash. In April, trail crews began repairing parts of the coastal trail, including staircases that provide coastal access. Trail work will continue for the rest of the summer, blocking off parts of the transect and blocking coastal access points for the public.

Asilomar’s lengthy coastline and many coastal access points provide many places to explore, but many opportunities to collect. The hand collection of shells and rocks is the most common violation; this is often spotted near Point Pinos, but can occur anywhere along the transect. While many of the locals at Asilomar will step in themselves if they see a violation such as fishing, shell collecting remains a violation that many are not aware of.

Point Lobos SMR

With an activity incidence of 27.1 thus far this year, Point Lobos SMR is also a popular spot for beach recreation (both sandy and rocky) (75%), tidepooling (25%), and wildlife viewing (<1%). There were no consumptive activities observed in this state marine reserve, indicating higher compliance than Asilomar SMR so far this year.

Two new volunteers were trained in MPA Watch in February. Point Lobos continues to see high visitation with most of those visitors exploring the rocky shoreline. Gibson Beach remains closed but after a break in construction due to a shortage in materials, repairs are currently underway. Docents are the eyes out on the coast and often step in to prevent any potential violations.

There were no potential violations reported. This could be attributed to the docents’ diligence when it comes to sharing MPA regulations with visitors.

NEXT STEPS

In Asilomar, there are very limited staff members surveying the transects right now. Park Interpretive Specialist Nichole was trained at the end of 2024, and has been able to conduct MPA Watch surveys 2x a month. Nichole's consistent surveys have been very helpful to provide more data. There is also a potential opportunity for Asilomar's three forestry aides to be trained in MPA Watch. These staff already spend time on the coastal trail and they would be an asset to the program, if they are approved to participate! In Point Lobos, State Parks will continue collecting data and recruit a couple more docents and is hopeful that Gibson Beach will be reopened soon!

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.

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.