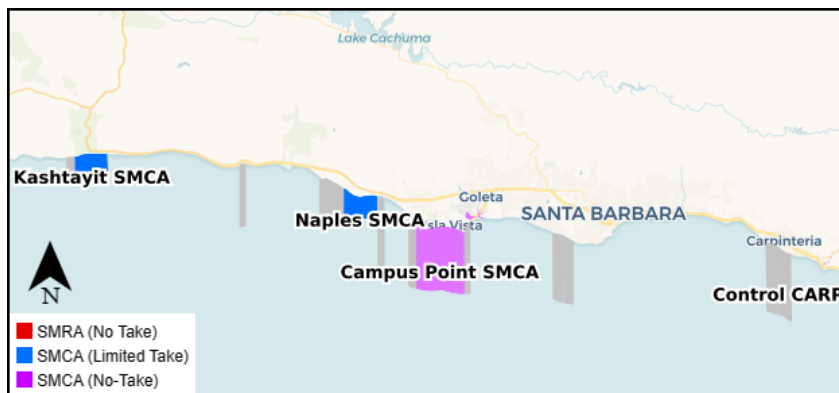


# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report

Santa Barbara County - Chumash Lands  
January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

## Map of Region's MPAs



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 Santa Barbara Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Program, organized by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, engages community scientists in conducting surveys in three MPAs in southern Santa Barbara County—Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area, Naples State Marine Conservation Area, and Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area. Additional MPA Watch surveys are also conducted by California State Parks staff at Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area (Gaviota State Beach).

## Executive Summary

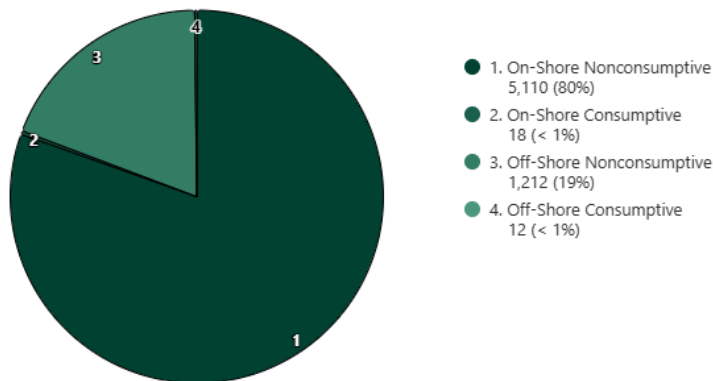
- In the first half of 2025, non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) accounted for 99.53% of observations (n=6,322) in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- There were no potential violations observed by MPA Watch volunteers during shore-based surveys at Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs from January to June 2025. There were also no potential violations observed during boat-based surveys at Campus Point and Naples MPAs during this time period.
- Channelkeeper trained 36 community members about MPAs and MPA Watch during the January to June 2025 period.



## HUMAN USE OF MPAS January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

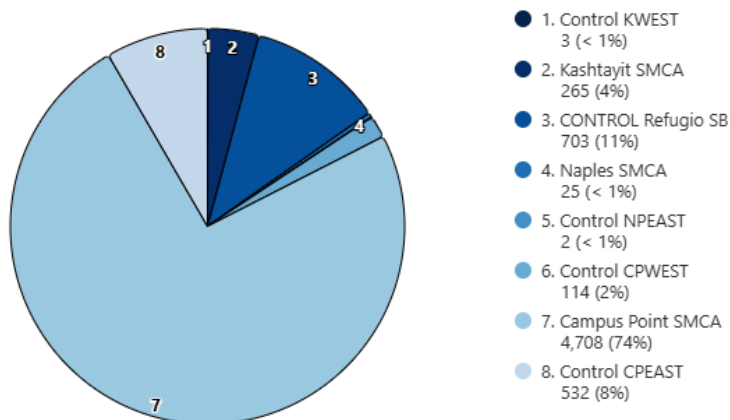
### All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025  
6,352 activity events



### Top 8 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025  
6,352 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.

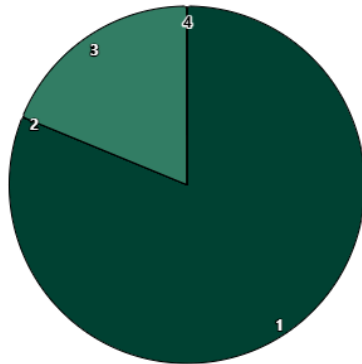
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

## ACTIVITY BY MPA

### Campus Point SMCA

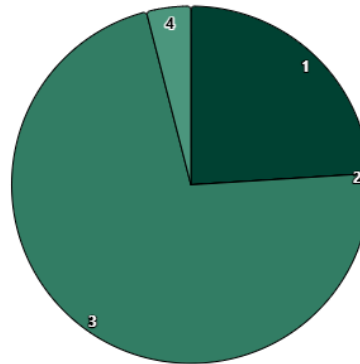
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025  
4,708 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
3,823 (81%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
885 (19%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)

### Naples SMCA

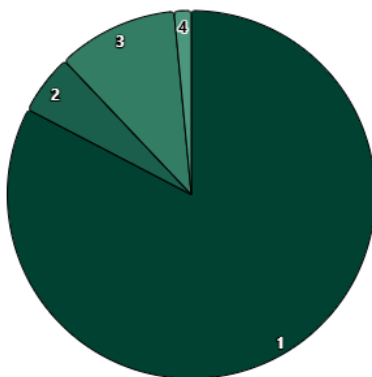
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025  
25 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
6 (24%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
18 (72%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
1 (4%)

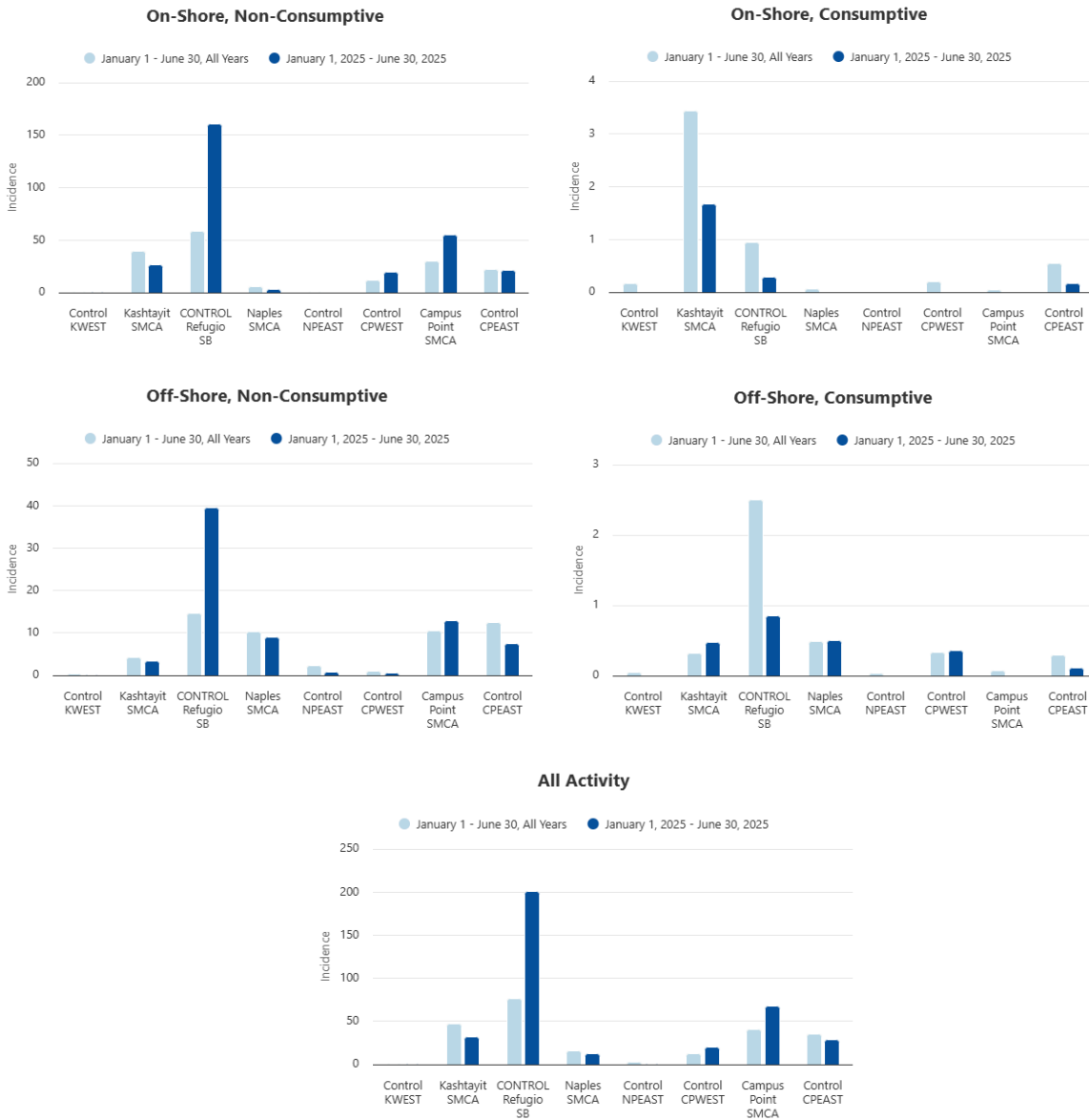
### Kashtayit SMCA

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



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive  
219 (83%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive  
14 (5%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive  
28 (11%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive  
4 (2%)

## ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA



The above charts show incidence values for each MPA monitored by MPA Watch in Santa Barbara County.

**Incidence is calculated as the 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, 2025 through June 30, 2025	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Control KWEST	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0
Kashtayit SMCA	39.0	26.1	3.4	1.7
CONTROL Refugio SB	58.7	160.3	0.9	0.3
Naples SMCA	5.2	3.0	0.1	0.0
Control NPEAST	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST	11.4	19.5	0.2	0.0
Campus Point SMCA	30.3	55.2	0.0	0.0
Control CPEAST	21.9	21.3	0.5	0.2
All MPAs Combined	29.9	42.9	0.3	0.2

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
Control KWEST	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0
Kashtayit SMCA	4.2	3.3	0.3	0.5
CONTROL Refugio SB	14.6	39.4	2.5	0.9
Naples SMCA	10.3	9.0	0.5	0.5
Control NPEAST	2.4	0.8	0.0	0.0
Control CPWEST	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.4
Campus Point SMCA	10.5	12.8	0.1	0.0
Control CPEAST	12.4	7.4	0.3	0.1
All MPAs Combined	9.4	10.2	0.2	0.1

MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
Control KWEST	1.0	0.3
Kashtayit SMCA	46.9	31.5
CONTROL Refugio SB	76.8	200.9
Naples SMCA	16.1	12.5
Control NPEAST	2.5	0.8
Control CPWEST	13.0	20.4
Campus Point SMCA	40.9	68.0
Control CPEAST	35.2	28.9
All MPAs Combined	39.8	53.4

## 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

### Campus Point SMCA

In January – June 2025, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 112 land-based surveys within the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 37 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders.

During this time period, Santa Barbara MPA Watch data shows a rate of 68.0 total use count per total miles surveyed in the Campus Point SMCA. This rate of total use is higher than the average over all years (average 40.9 total users per miles surveyed), a 66% increase over the average of past years. There were several spring surveys that observed significantly higher beach recreation than is typically observed and may have contributed to this increased total use count per mile. Nonconsumptive onshore activities (primarily beach recreation on sandy substrate - 76%) accounted for 81% of all observations in the first half of 2025 at Campus Point MPA. Offshore nonconsumptive activities accounted for 19% of all observations with surfing making up 14% of nonconsumptive offshore observations. There were also 67 observations of tidepooling (1% of all observations).

### Naples SMCA

In January – June 2025, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers conducted 20 surveys within the Naples State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) and 7 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border.

In the first half of 2025, the total use count per mile was 12.5, which shows a decline from the average of all total use counts for this same time period over the years (16.1). Part of this decrease in observed activity could be due to the winter storms, which limited access to the beach at Naples MPA. During this time period, surfing accounted for 44% of all observations followed by beach recreation, 20% of observations, and power boat observations at 8% of all observations. There was also one observation of an active kelp harvesting vessel, which is a permitted activity in this MPA, though not regularly observed.

### Kashtayit SMCA

During the January – June 2025 time period, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers and State Park volunteers conducted 42 surveys within the SMCA and 19 surveys outside of the MPA on the western border.

Overall, the total use rate at Kashtayit SMCA was 31.5 total use per mile surveyed for 2025, which is lower than the average of previous years during this time period (46.9). Part of this may be due to the closure of the State Beach during winter months. Sandy beach recreation accounted for 80% of all observations, followed by offshore recreation at 5% of observations and then onshore hook and line fishing at 5% of observations. Other observations include dogs on leash (2%) and kayaks (2%). Kashtayit SMCA allows for the recreational take of most species except for mussels and scallops.

## Santa Barbara County MPAs Boat-based Surveys

**January – June 2025**

In addition to the shore-based MPA Watch surveys, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper staff conduct offshore surveys from the Research Vessel *Channelkeeper* of Campus Point and Naples MPAs. Surveys are also conducted at control sites for two miles on the eastern and western areas adjacent to the Campus Point and Naples MPAs. Channelkeeper has conducted boat-based surveys of these two coastal MPAs since 2013.

During boat MPA Watch surveys, SBCK documents all consumptive and non-consumptive boating activity, as well as all fishing and other consumptive activities observed taking place on or in the water, as well as all onshore fishing and any other consumptive activity occurring in and around the MPA's, including control areas. Channelkeeper staff are present and conduct all surveys.

Channelkeeper completed 8 coastal boat MPA Watch surveys of Campus Point and Naples SMCAs during the first half of this year. Winter storms and typical Santa Barbara Channel spring weather conditions including strong winds and dense fog resulted in numerous survey trip cancellations due to small craft advisories and gale warnings.

There were no potential violations observed during the coastal boat-based surveys conducted during the January to June 2025 time period. Recreational hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier and in the area to the south and east of the pier in the control survey was the most observed activity.

The following heat map reflects fishing activity observed during Santa Barbara County coastal boat-based surveys for January to June 2025.



## Jan - Jun 2025 All Fishing Activity Santa Barbara





## POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS

In the first half of 2025, there were no potential violations observed in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs for both shore and boat-based surveys.

## NEXT STEPS

Channelkeeper will continue to educate and train new MPA Watch volunteers to conduct shore-based surveys at the three coastal MPAs in southern Santa Barbara County. As conditions and weather permits, we will also conduct boat-based surveys of the coastal MPAs at Campus Point and Naples SMCAs.

State Parks plans to continue to train hosts (who are interested) to conduct MPA Watch surveys at the Kashtayit SMCA.

## 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 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper does to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds, including to monitor and build support for local MPAs, please visit [sbck.org](https://sbck.org).