

# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report

San Luis Obispo County  
January 1, 2024 – 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 is the only partner collecting and contributing MPA Watch Data in San Luis Obispo County.

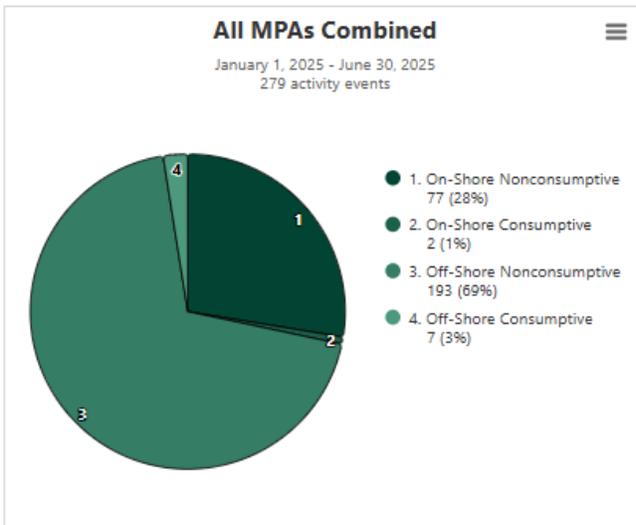
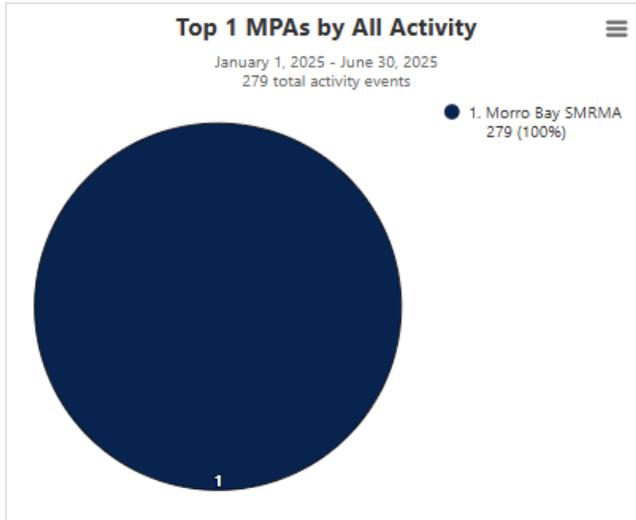
## Executive Summary

- 15 surveys were collected by three State Parks volunteers during this reporting period.
- Two transects within the Morro Bay SMRMA were studied.
- 10 “violations” were reported during this period; however, they are not true violations because they occurred in the commercial oyster farms and are therefore an exception.



# HUMAN USE OF MPAS INSERT REPORT DATES

## 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.

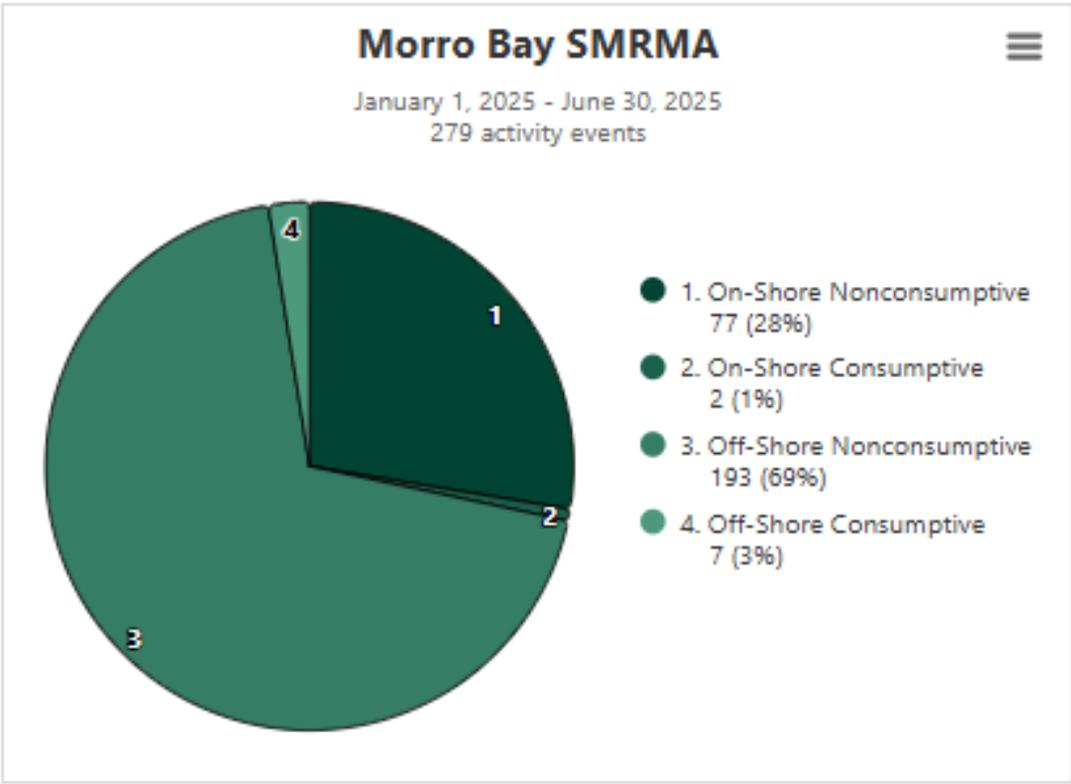
**Off-Shore** - Activities that take place offshore, typically in knee-deep water or deeper. Includes surfing, SCUBA diving, kayaking, boat fishing, etc.

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

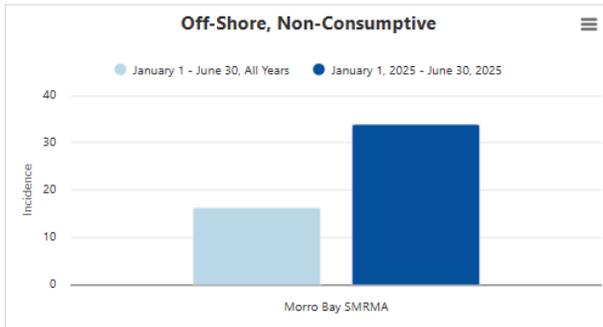
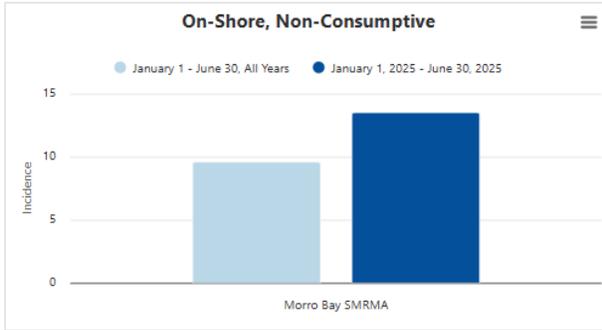
**Non-Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource is not collected.

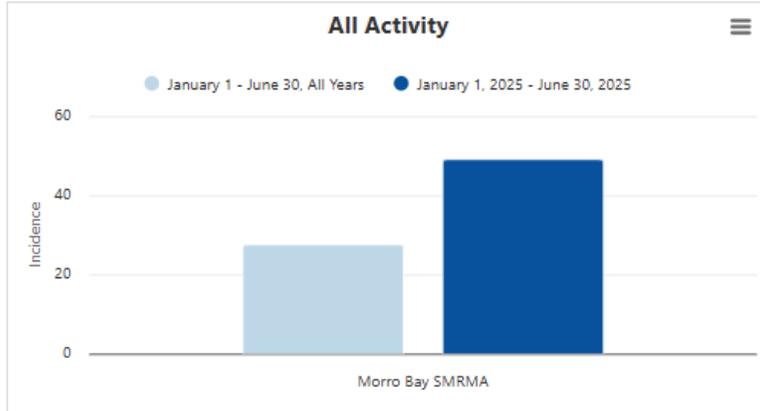


ACTIVITY BY MPA



## 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 Luis Obispo 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
Morro Bay SMRMA	9.6	13.5	0.2	0.4
All MPAs Combined	9.6	13.5	0.2	0.4

[Download Data Tables](#)

[Download PNG Image](#)

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
Morro Bay SMRMA	16.3	33.9	1.6	1.2
All MPAs Combined	16.3	33.9	1.6	1.2

[Download Data Tables](#)

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MPA	Total Combined	
	January 1 June 30 All Years	January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025
	Morro Bay SMRMA	27.6
All MPAs Combined	27.6	48.9

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. 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.

**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

The 10 "violations" were reported during this period; however, they are not true violations because they occurred in the commercial oyster farms and are therefore an exception.

## NEXT STEPS

The lead State Parks staff member who was training volunteers in MPA Watch and supporting the program has left the department. We will need to train a new staff member and offer a new training to volunteers who want to get involved.

## 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 [wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://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.

For additional information about California State Parks Marine Protected Area Outreach and Education Program, please contact Erika Delemarre at [erika.delemarre@parks.ca.gov](mailto:erika.delemarre@parks.ca.gov) or at (916) 704-5042.