



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, 55-80 surveys yearly, since January 2012 when Southern California MPA regulations went into effect. Due to catastrophic events that have plagued LA in 2025 our current effort has been one of the most challenging and humbling of our program’s 13-years of covering LA county line to county line.

LAW’s MPA Watch boat-based survey program provides accurate research data of all boating, fishing and consumptive activity in and around our MPAs. In addition to providing live on the water observations to enforcement officers, MPA outreach to the public is conducted on the water as well.

LAW’s boat-based survey data collection protocol is currently replicated in Santa Barbara and San Diego via Santa Barbara Channel Keeper and WILD Coast. LAW gathers and provides data processing and mappings of all three boat-based program’s data collected. LAW provides data proofing and mappings included in 6-month and 12-month reports in the format requested by CDFW since 2014. LAW’s effort and the goal of the other MPA Watch boat-based survey efforts is providing accurate documentation of all consumptive and non-consumptive boating activity, as well as all



**Marine Protected Area Watch
12 Month Regional Report
Los Angeles County Mainland
January 2025 – December 2025**



other consumptive activities observed taking place on or in the water, as well as all onshore fishing and consumptive activity occurring in and around our MPAs.

LAW also serves as Los Angeles' "Watchdog on The Water" serving as LA's eyes on our coastal waterways providing MPA health and activity updates and collaborative water quality monitoring updates from county line to county line to Government Agencies, NGOs, and the public.

All boat-based surveys include collection of boat types & observed activity, onshore consumptive activity, recreational diving and all other consumptive in-water activity. Data collected includes accurate GPS locations of all observations not only within MPAs but also in the control areas that extend two miles up and down shore of each MPA's boundary lines.

LAW's boat-based survey results are displayed in our snapshot heat maps of overall fishing efforts. These mappings allow CDFW and allied enforcement to identify hot spots of MPA fishing violations at-a-glance. Boat-based data collected by LAW continues to assist allied enforcement agency efforts to protect our mainland MPAs in LA County.

An active landslide and water and sewage discharge in the Pt Vicente- Abalone Cove MPA and the complete closure of the Abalone Cove MPA coastline access resulted in low observed fishing and recreational activity in that area.

A toxic harmful algal bloom and resulting domoic acid poisonings of sea life including whales, dolphins, sea lions, birds, bivalves occurred in late December 2024 and continued through May serving to further limit fishing efforts.

In late January 2025, a catastrophic fire event in Malibu closed and then limited access to the PT Dume MPA and has left behind a sea of toxic material floating offshore halting vessel access to the area thru May. Ongoing concerns around continued water toxicity and the questionable health of fish caught in Santa Monica Bay must be considered as factors in ongoing low fishing efforts we observed throughout 2025.

Ongoing, often contradictory water quality reports serve to dampen the efforts of boaters to get out on the water in general.



Executive Summary

LAW's Marine Programs Director 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. Abalone Cove shore and most of the walkable park is closed. No shore fishing or onshore activity is permitted. Any Point Dume observed potential violations are reported to CalTip and if onshore, our local Point Dume Ranger and support staff as appropriate.

The LAW MPA Watch Corps, made up of 20 returning volunteers and 6 Shore Corps volunteers reported all other observed potential violations to CDFW and the RPV Rangers as appropriate while in transit to and from our transects which begin outside of the MPAs in control areas.

Violations that were observed several days in the second half of 2025 as we returned home though the MPA are not included in these official survey totals but are reported to CDFW and LAW does conduct outreach to those potential violators in those situations.

All on-the-water potential violations were reported to CDFW via CalTip or directly to CDFW Wardens as appropriate. Records of all LAW calls to and contact with RPV Rangers and CDFW Wardens made during LAW's surveys are submitted in this supplemental report [LAW's 2025 Potential Violations Reported](#)

LA's two catastrophic events, the devastating wildfires in Malibu and the ongoing landslide in Palos Verdes have impacted fishing and recreational use of Santa Monica Bay. LAW's ability to physically cross Santa Monica Bay to safely monitor the Malibu MPAs was prohibited due to hazardous fire run off and debris strewn along the waters of the Malibu coast through the first six months of 2025.

ICE raids ran county wide, including at public boat launches, piers and party boats, and public docks in 2025. High bacteria beach warnings were a daily occurrence, we had a sewage spill two or three, and reports of the probable ongoing presence of human feces in our coastal waters with fire runoff may have negatively influenced fishing activity into 2026.



**Marine Protected Area Watch
12 Month Regional Report
Los Angeles County Mainland
January 2025 – December 2025**



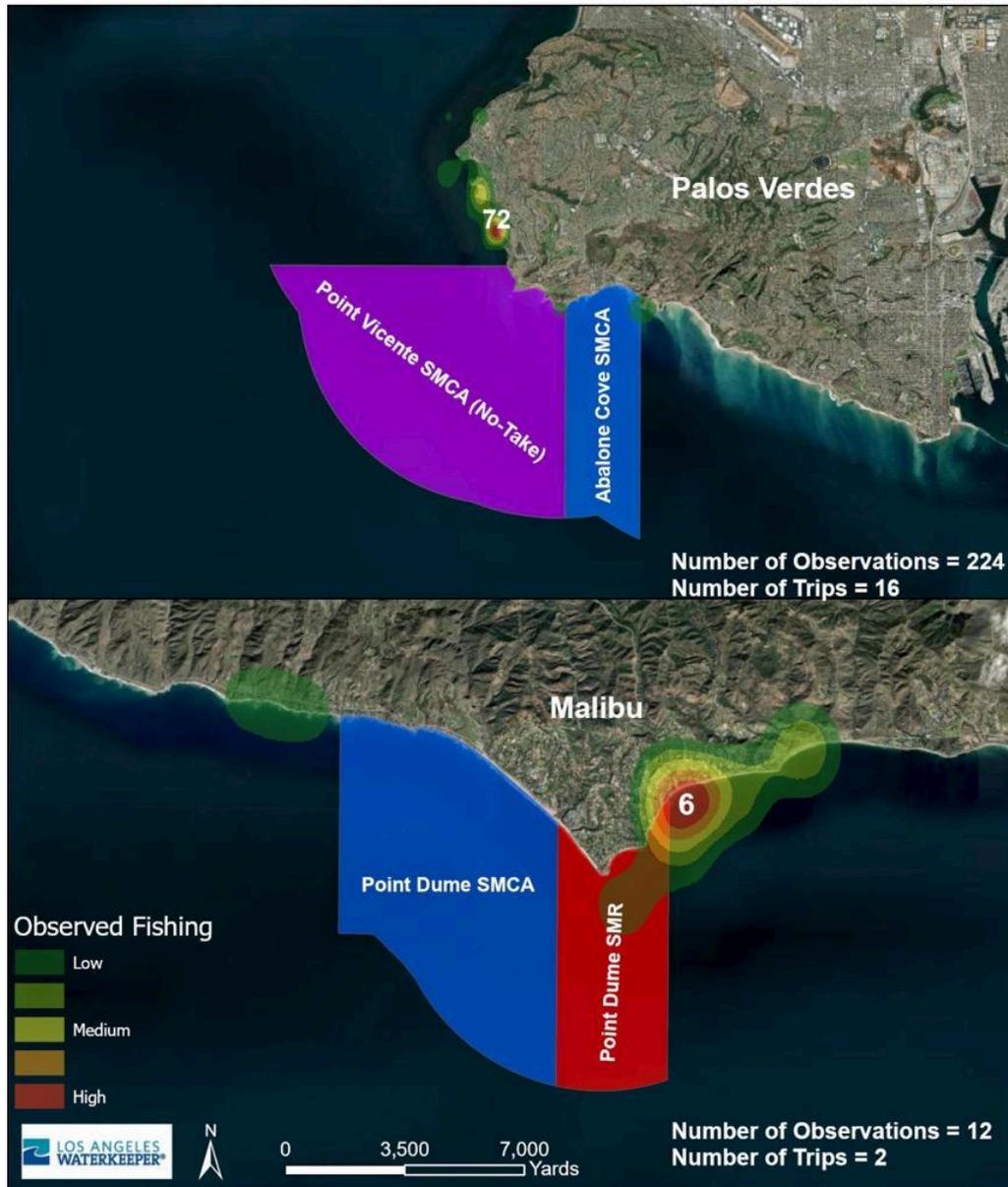
LAW's MPA Watch Corps witnessed, recorded, and reported all potential violations observed occurring onshore and offshore within MPA boundaries to CalTip, CDFW Wardens and Rancho Palos Verdes and Point Dume Rangers and some support staff with live on the water observation information.

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. Abalone Cove shore and most of the walkable park is closed. No shore fishing or onshore activity is permitted. Any Point Dume observed potential violations are reported to CalTip and if onshore, our local Point Dume Ranger and support staff as appropriate.

The LAW MPA Watch Corps observed potential violations while in transit to and from our transect beginnings in control areas. Violations that were observed returning home though the MPA are not included in these official survey totals but are reported to CDFW and LAW does conduct on-the-water outreach to the public in those situations.

Records of all LAW calls to and contact with RPV Rangers and CDFW Wardens made during LAW's surveys are submitted in this supplemental report: [LAW's 2025 Potential Violations Reported](#)

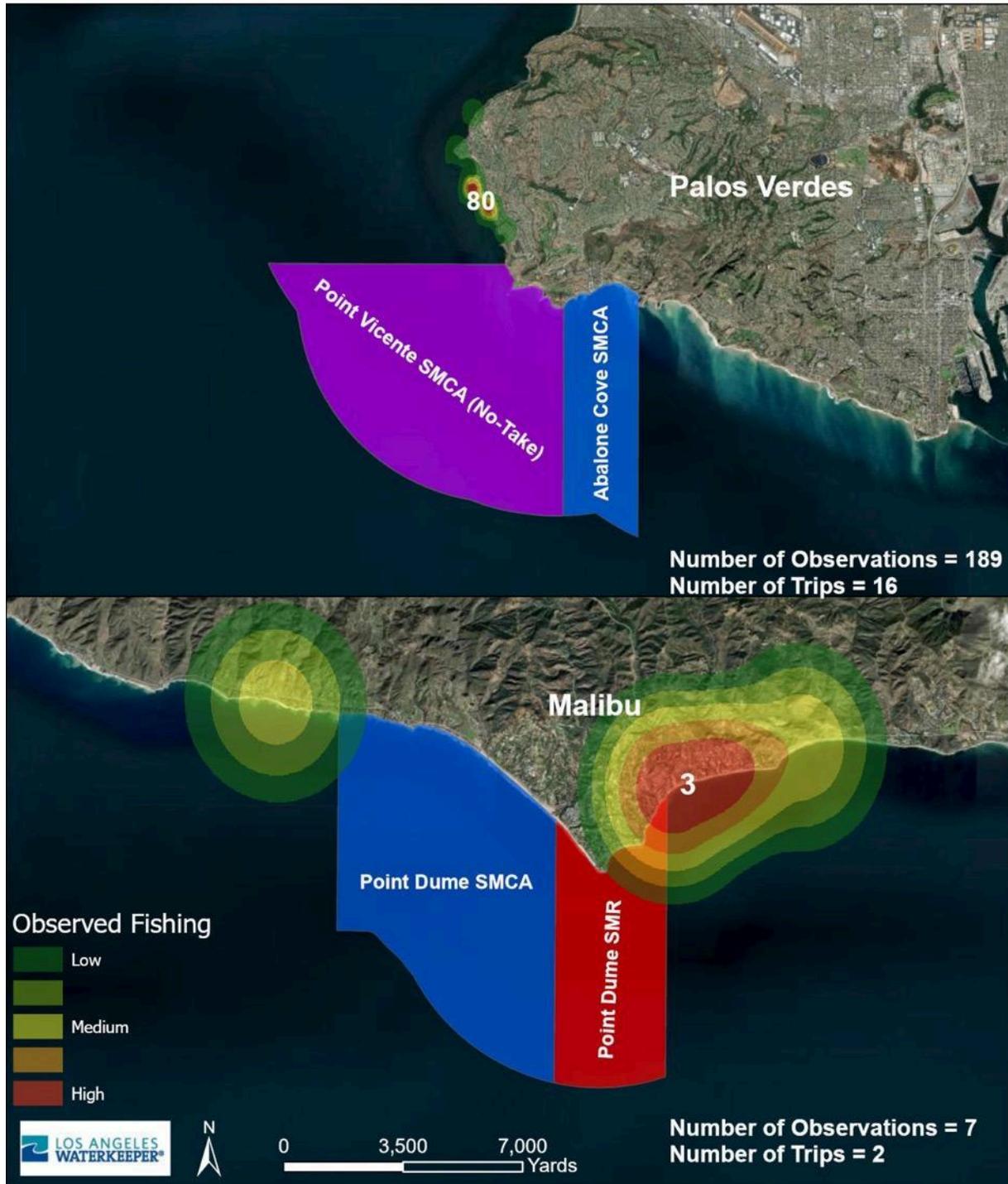
Jan - Jun 2025 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



• Figure 2

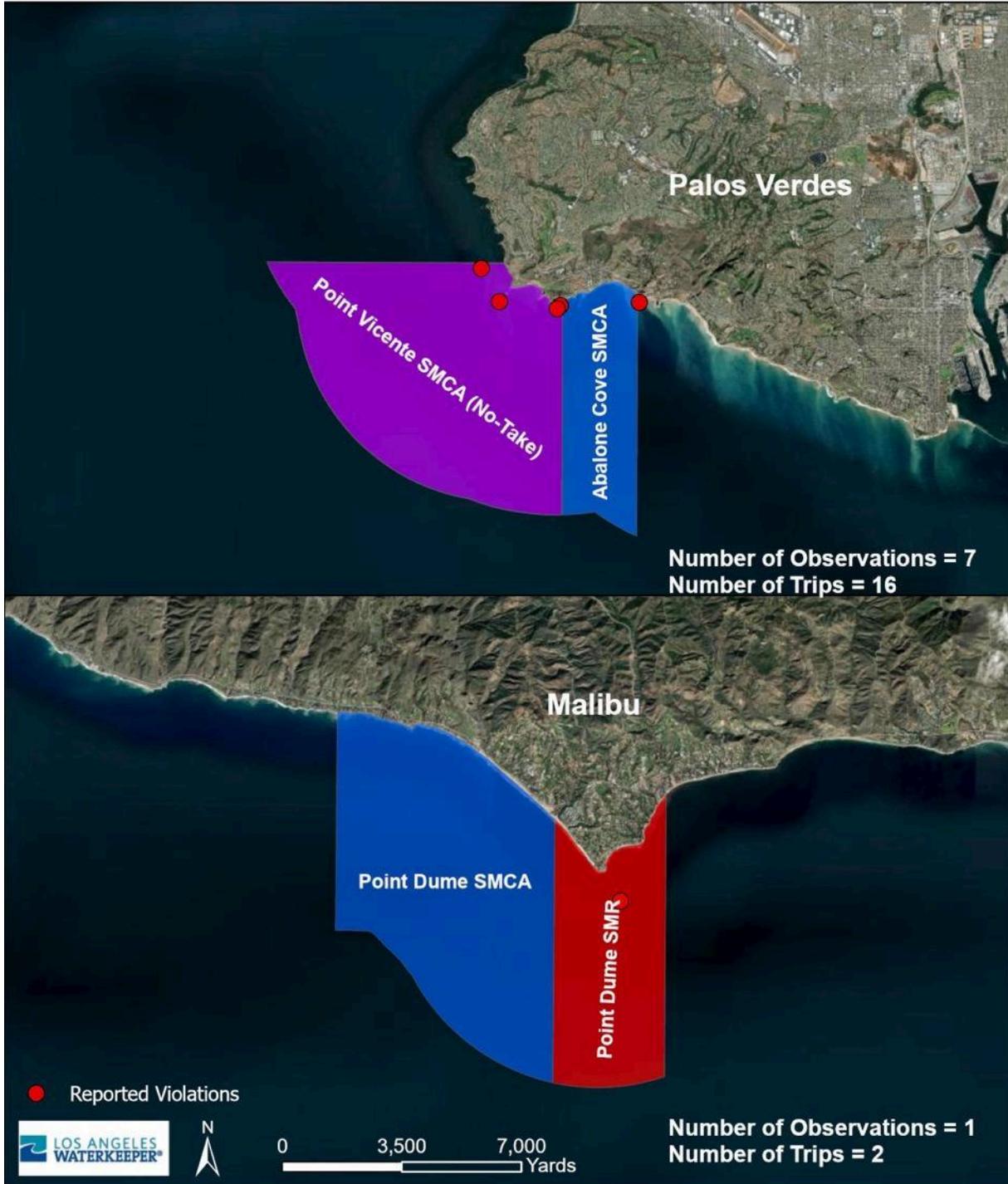
	Palos Verdes 16 Survey Days	Malibu 2 Survey Days
All Fishing	224	12
Recreational	221	11
Onshore	189	7
Commercial	3	1

Jan - Jun 2025 Onshore Fishing Palos Verdes and Malibu



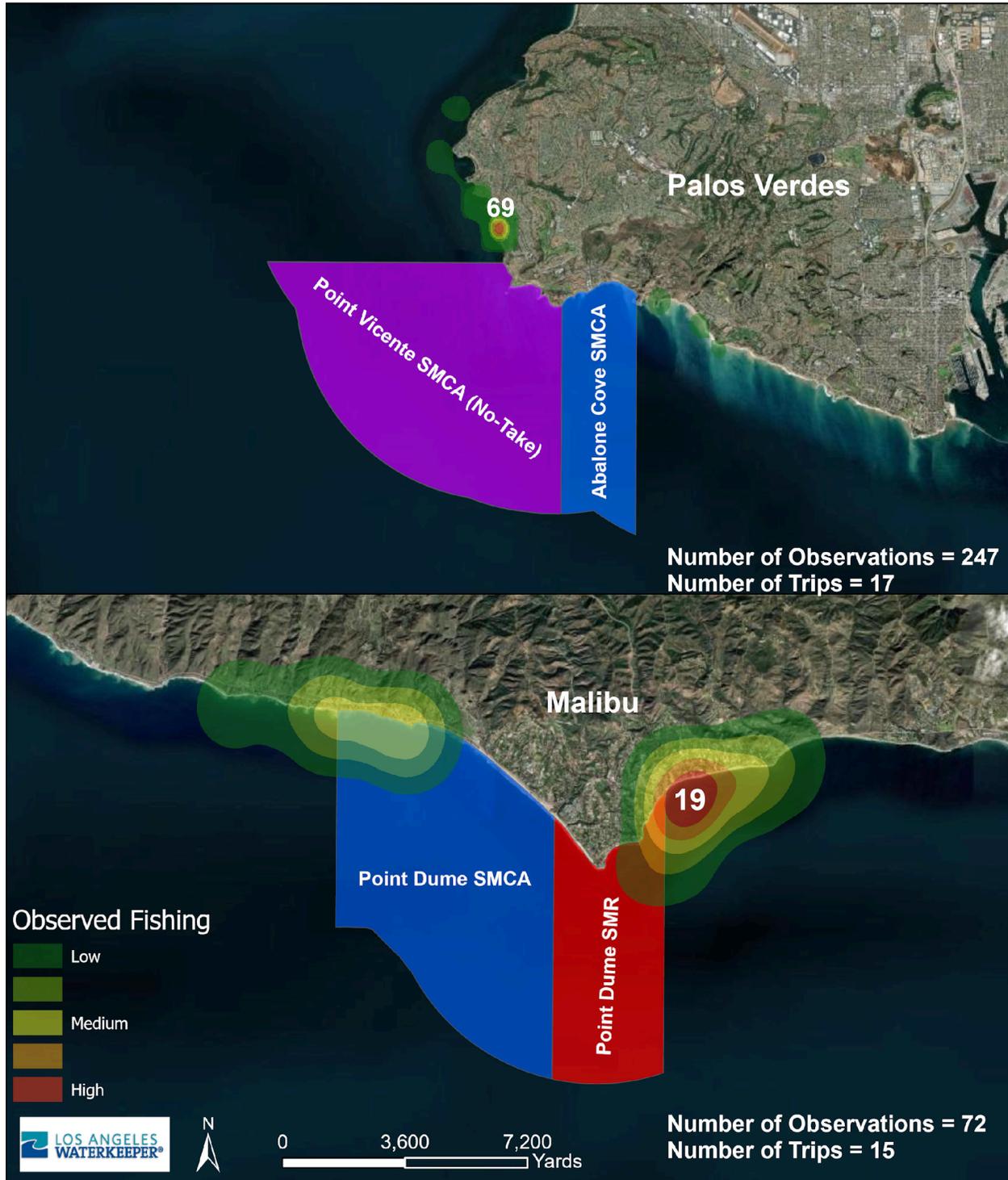
• Figure 3

Jan - Jun 2025 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu



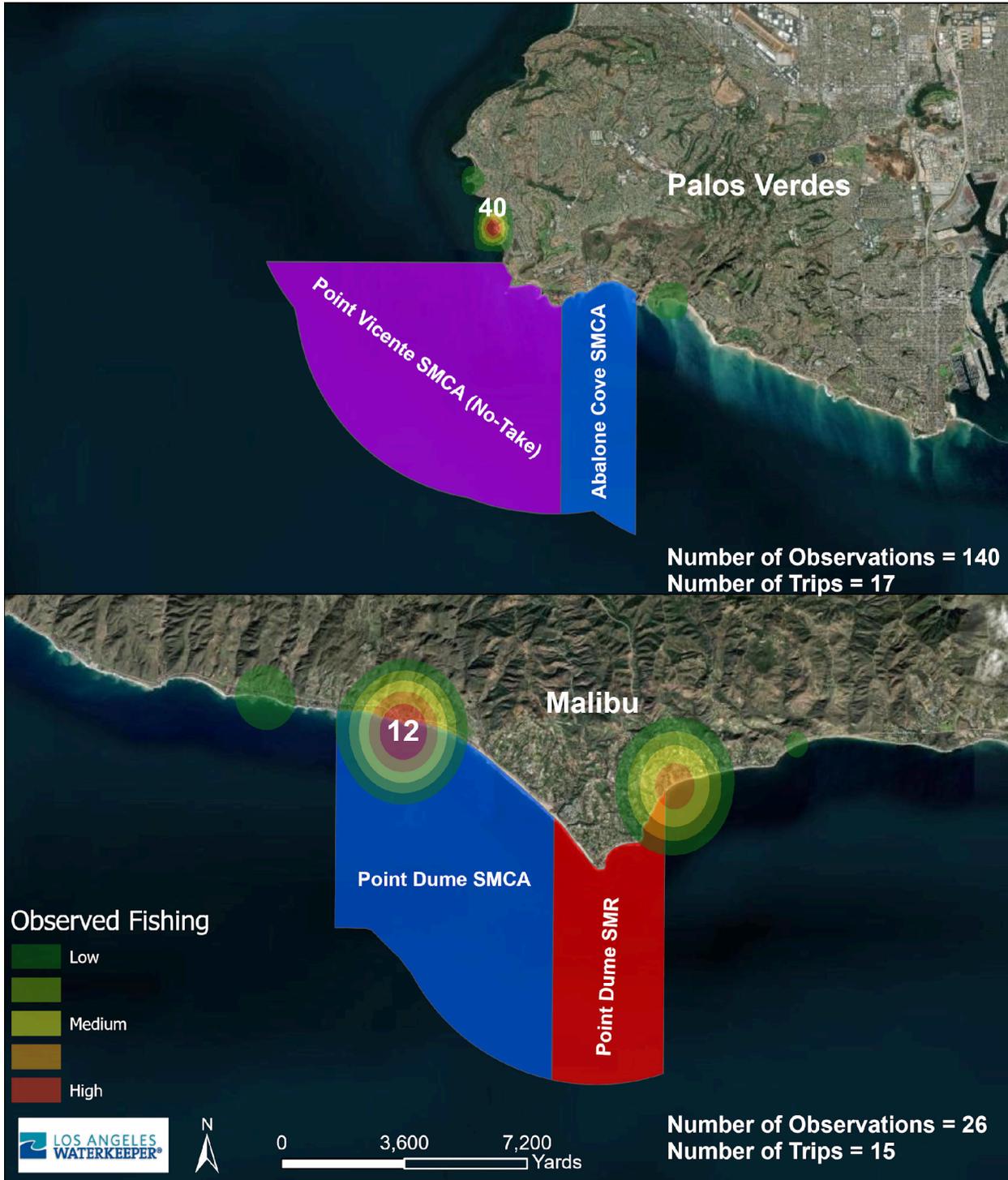
• Figure 4

Jul - Dec 2025 All Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



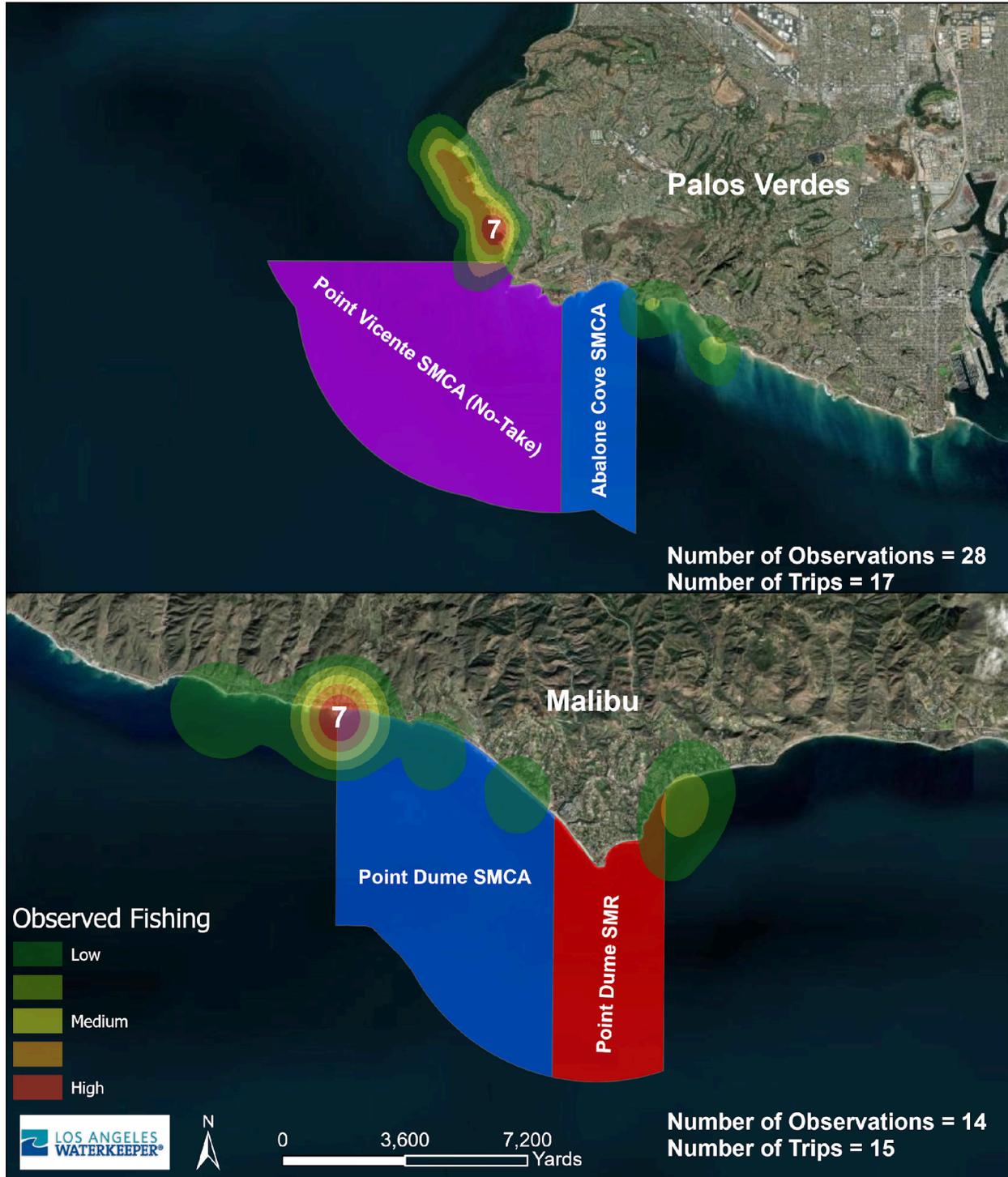
• Figure 5

Jul - Dec 2025 Onshore Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



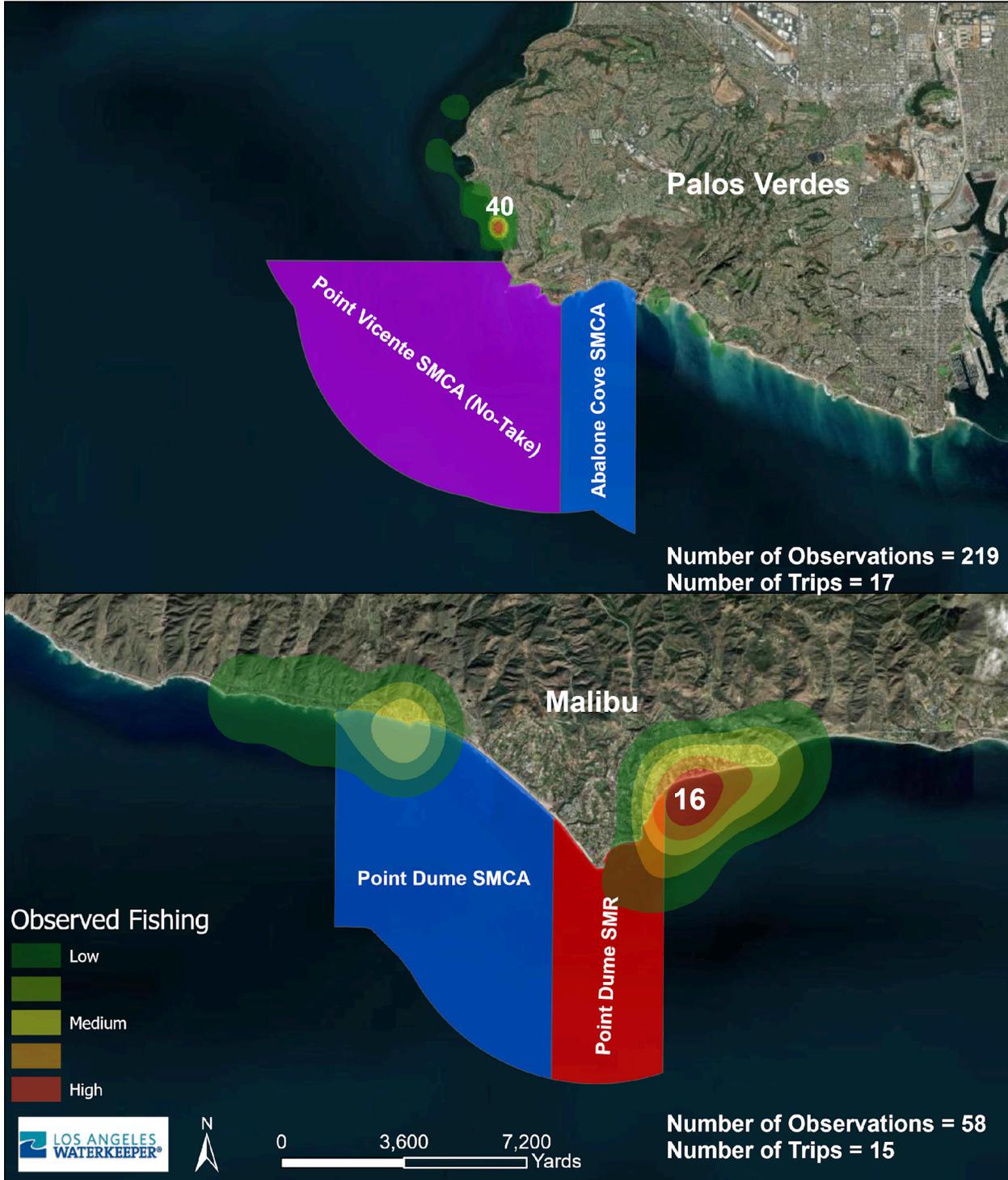
• Figure 6

Jul - Dec 2025 Commercial Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



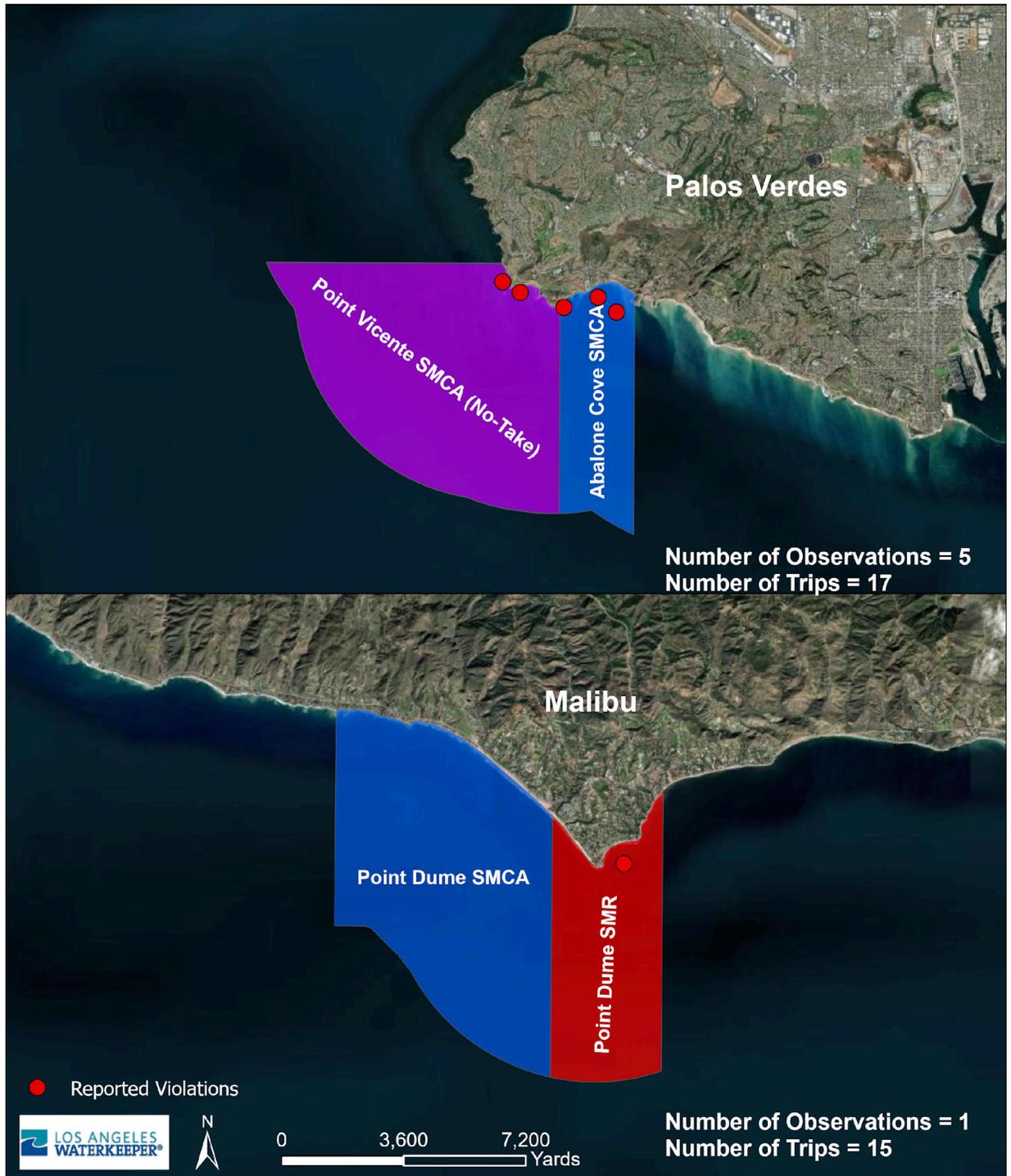
• Figure 7

Jul - Dec 2025 Recreational Fishing Activity Palos Verdes and Malibu



• Figure 8

Jul - Dec 2025 Reported Violations Palos Verdes and Malibu



• Figure 9

Photos: Los Angeles Waterkeeper LA's MPA Community Compliance Liaison



- *Figure 10*

AKA - LA's Water Watchdog



- *Figure 11*

**Thanks Once Again, To Our CA State Park Sister Hannah
For This Shot of The Waterkeeper Monitoring
Pt Dume's State Marine Reserve**



• *Figure 12*

**Great to See Our Spearfishing Friends Out On The Water
At Abalone Cove SMCA Off Of Terranea**



• *Figure 13*

**Abalone Cove MPA, Shoreline and Surrounding Areas
Closed June 2024
And Remains Closed as of January 2026**



• *Figure 13*

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

The Earth Is Still Moving – A New Substrate Continues To Emerge Off Shore



• *Figures 14*

**The Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Joined LAW's MPA Volunteer Corps In 2025**



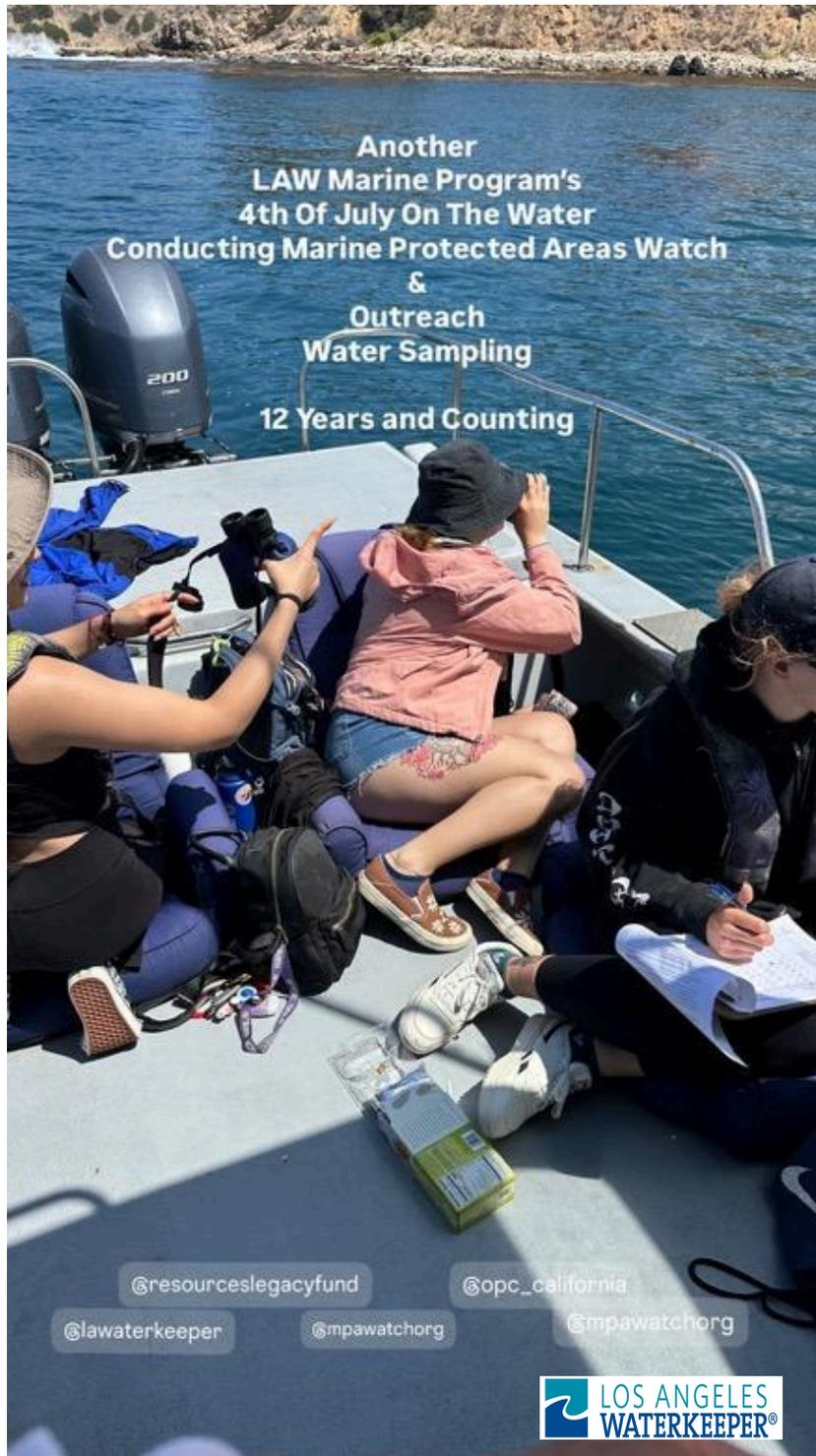
• *Figure 15*

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



• Figure 16

**A Day On The Water
Working In Collaboration With CDFW Wardens
As
LA's MPA Community Compliance Liaison**



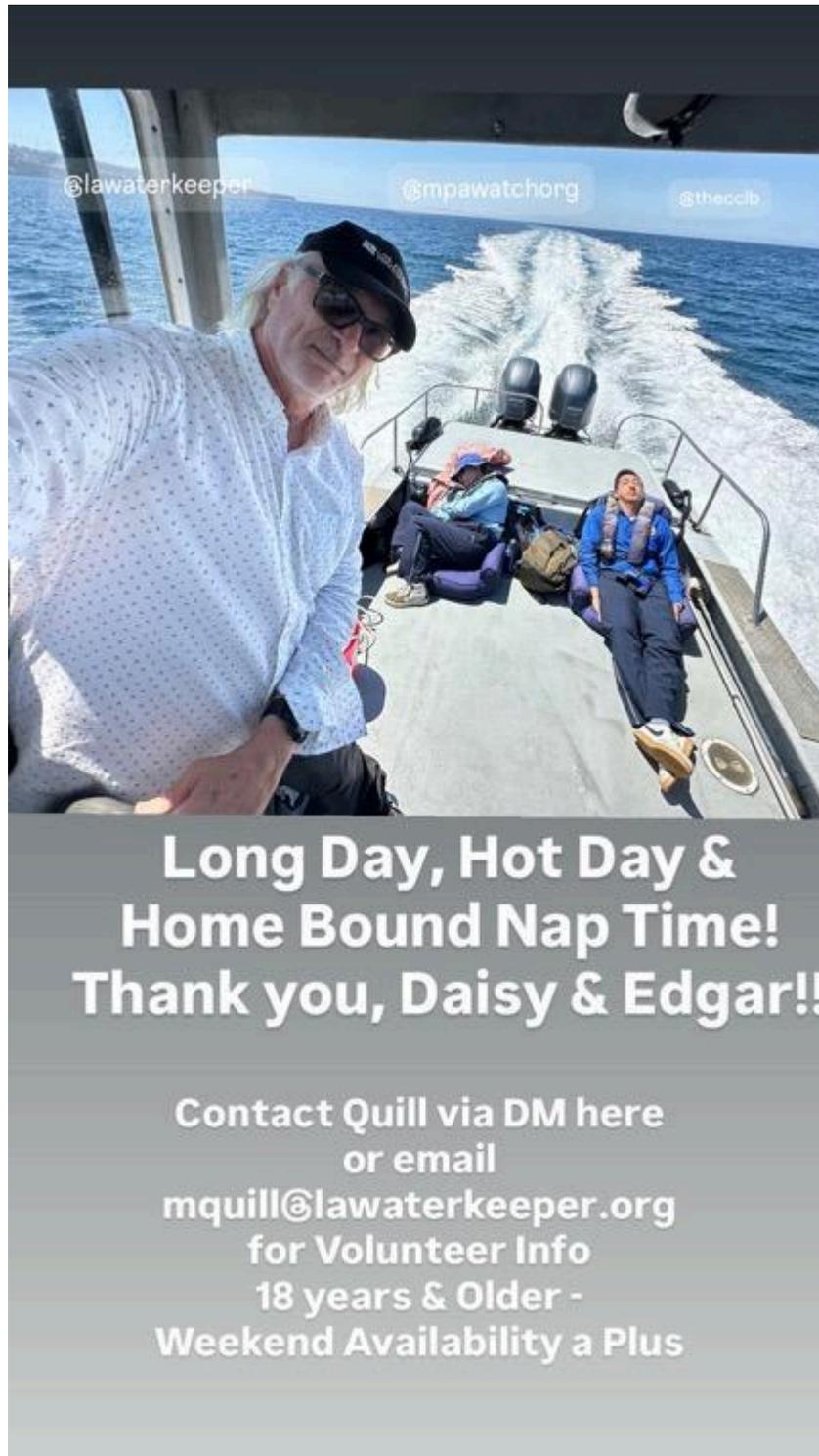
• Figure 17

**LAW's Marine Program Volunteer Corps Had Eyes On The Water Again
This 4th of July!**



• *Figure 17*

**We Are Serious About Obtaining Accurate Data
and
Correct Distance Points!**



• *Figure 18*

A Big Thanks to All of Our Dedicated Volunteers!!



• Figure 13

LAW Provides MPA Materials to Fuel Docks, Bait and Tackle Shops and Fishers – On-The-Water and Off-The-Water

For Waterkeeper MPA Corps Information Contact:

Dr. Michael Quill, LAW Marine Programs Director mquill@lawaterkeeper.org
[@ecopsych](https://www.instagram.com/ecopsych) [@lawaterkeeper](https://www.instagram.com/lawaterkeeper)

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](https://www.instagram.com/MPAWatchOrg).

For additional information regarding MPAs and regulations specific to the various classifications of MPAs please visit **this link:** 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