



GREATER FARALLONES ASSOCIATION



GREATER FARALLONES & CORDELL BANK 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 – December 31, 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 and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMSCBNMS) and Greater Farallones Association (GFA) which engages 140 community scientists in 9 MPAs, spanning 5 counties¹.

Executive Summary

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 Overall Highlights

- At 4 of 9 MPAs we observed significant increases from baseline (Del Mar Landing, Russian River SMCA, Russian River SMRMA, Bodega Head).
- At 5 of 9 MPAs monitored we observed slight decreases in human activities from our 10-year baseline rate (Sea Lion Cove SMCA, Stewarts Point SMR, Point Reyes SMR, Montara SMR, Año Nuevo SMR).
- 2,431 activity events were observed during 2025. Shore-based recreational activities accounted for 95% (n=2,320) of observed activities. Offshore recreational activities accounted for 4% (n=86) of observed activities. Shore based consumptive activities accounted for <1% (n=12) of observed activities. Offshore consumptive activities accounted for 1% (n=13) of observed activities.

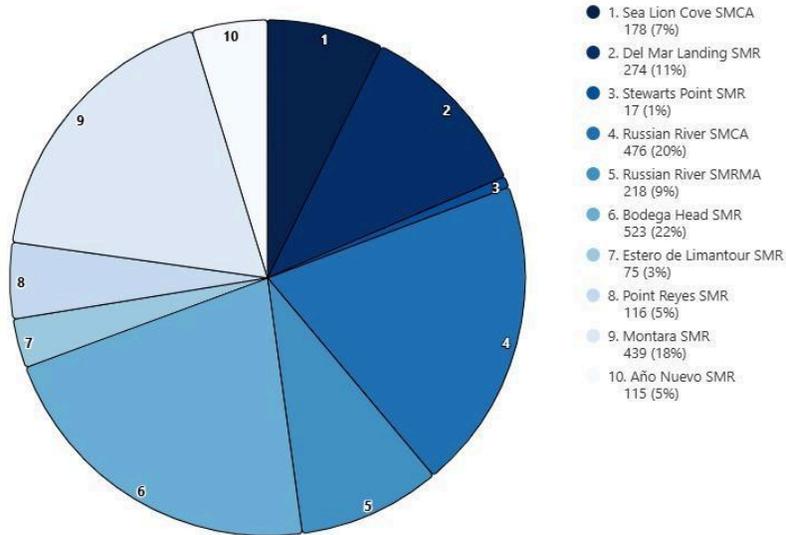


¹ Marin County, included in this report, also has additional MPA Watch data that can be found in the 2025 Marin County Report by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. Please visit mpawatch.org/reports for all reports

HUMAN USE OF MPAS JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025

Top 10 MPAs by All Activity

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
2,431 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.

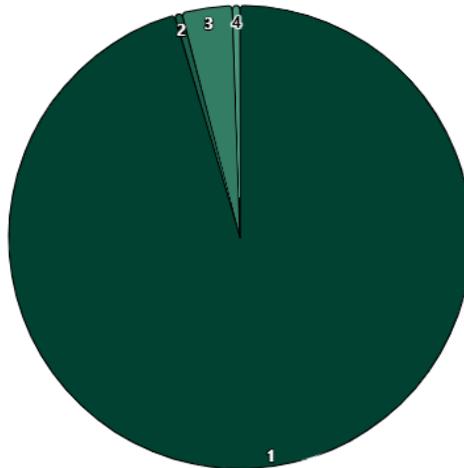
Consumptive - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

OVERVIEW

All MPAs Combined

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
2,431 activity events

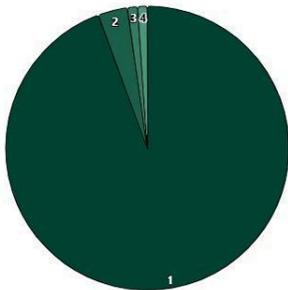


- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
2,320 (95%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
12 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
86 (4%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
13 (1%)

ACTIVITY BY MPA

Sea Lion Cove SMCA

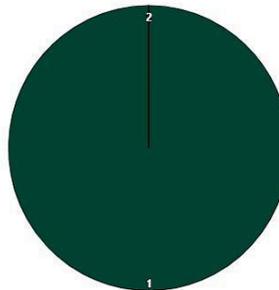
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
178 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
168 (94%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
6 (3%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
2 (1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
2 (1%)

Del Mar Landing SMR

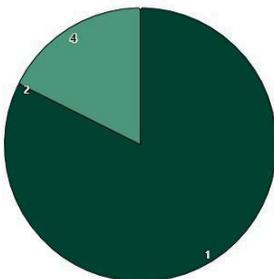
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
274 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
274 (100%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Stewarts Point SMR

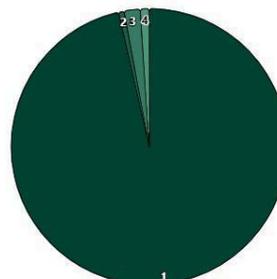
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
17 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
14 (82%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
3 (18%)

Russian River SMCA

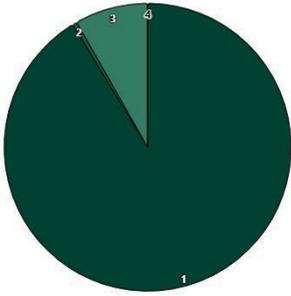
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
476 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
459 (96%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
3 (1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
9 (2%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
5 (1%)

Russian River SMRMA

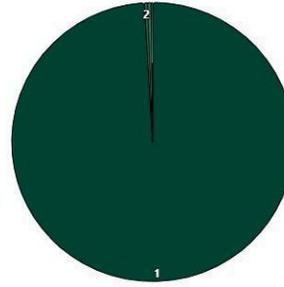
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
218 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
199 (91%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
1 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
18 (8%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Bodega Head SMR

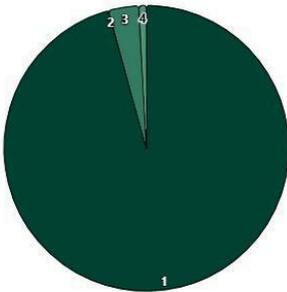
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
523 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
518 (99%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
2 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
2 (< 1%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (< 1%)

Point Reyes SMR

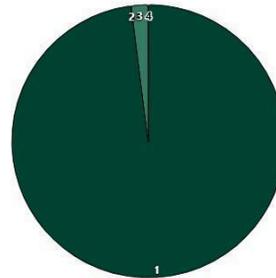
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
116 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
111 (96%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
4 (3%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
1 (1%)

Montara SMR

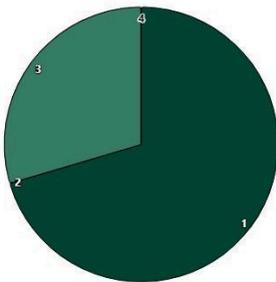
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
439 activity events



- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
430 (98%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
9 (2%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

Año Nuevo SMR

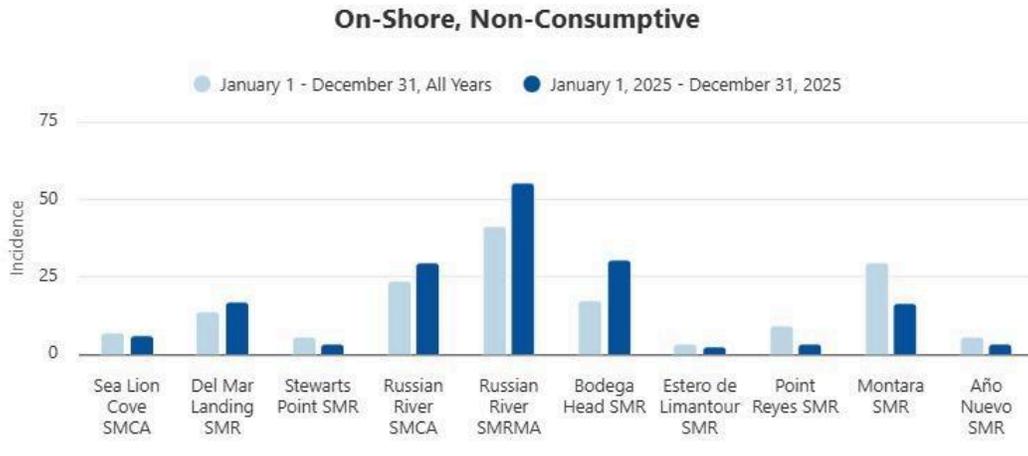
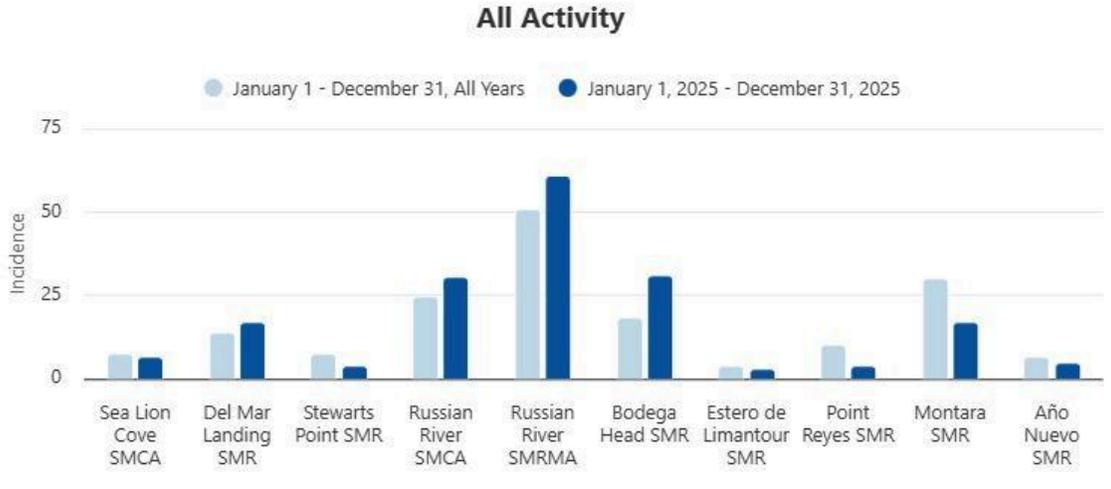
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
115 activity events



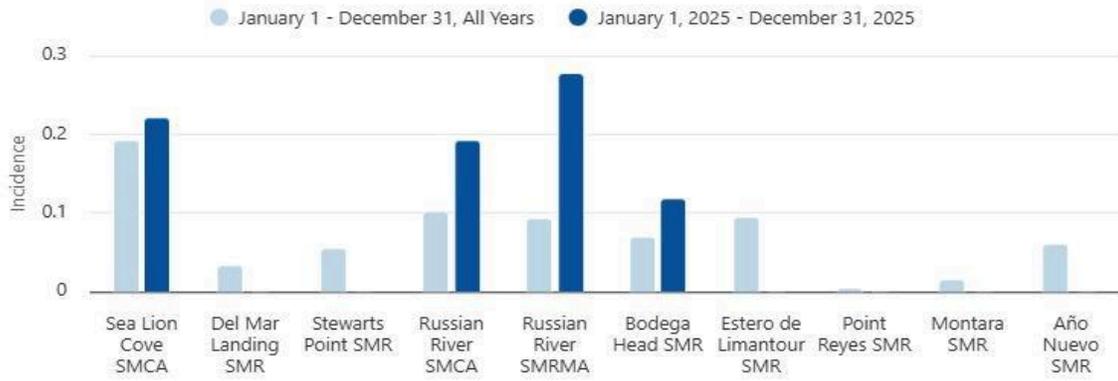
- 1. On-Shore Nonconsumptive
81 (70%)
- 2. On-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)
- 3. Off-Shore Nonconsumptive
34 (30%)
- 4. Off-Shore Consumptive
0 (< 1%)

ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA

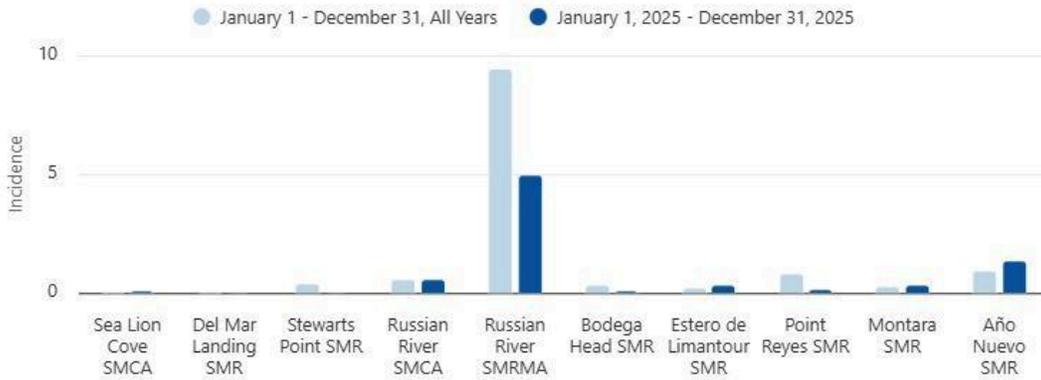
The charts below show incidence values for each MPA monitored by the Beach Watch project. **Incidence is calculated as the number of activities recorded divided by total survey-miles.**



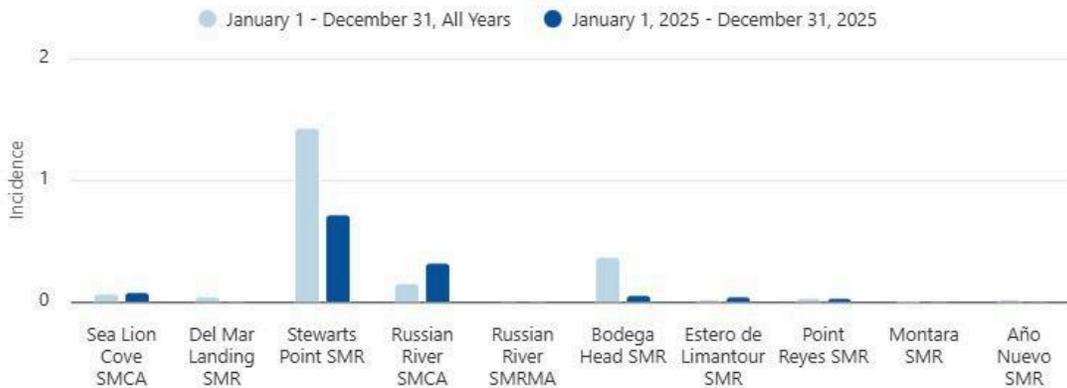
On-Shore, Consumptive



Off-Shore, Non-Consumptive



Off-Shore, Consumptive



ACTIVITY INCIDENCE BY MPA TABLES

MPA	On-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
	Sea Lion Cove SMCA	7.1	6.2	0.2
Del Mar Landing SMR	13.7	17.1	0.0	0.0
Stewarts Point SMR	5.5	3.3	0.1	0.0
Russian River SMCA	23.6	29.4	0.1	0.2
Russian River SMRMA	41.3	55.3	0.1	0.3
Bodega Head SMR	17.4	30.5	0.1	0.1
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.3	2.5	0.1	0.0
Point Reyes SMR	9.4	3.6	0.0	0.0
Montara SMR	29.6	16.7	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	5.7	3.2	0.1	0.0
All MPAs Combined	13.3	12.1	0.1	0.1

MPA	Off-Shore			
	Non-Consumptive		Consumptive	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
	Sea Lion Cove SMCA	0.0	0.1	0.1
Del Mar Landing SMR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stewarts Point SMR	0.4	0.0	1.4	0.7
Russian River SMCA	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.3
Russian River SMRMA	9.4	5.0	0.0	0.0
Bodega Head SMR	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1
Estero de Limantour SMR	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
Point Reyes SMR	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0
Montara SMR	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Año Nuevo SMR	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.0
All MPAs Combined	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1

MPA	Total	
	Combined	
	January 1 December 31 All Years	January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	7.4	6.5
Del Mar Landing SMR	13.8	17.1
Stewarts Point SMR	7.4	4.0
Russian River SMCA	24.4	30.5
Russian River SMRMA	50.8	60.6
Bodega Head SMR	18.2	30.8
Estero de Limantour SMR	3.7	2.8
Point Reyes SMR	10.3	3.7
Montara SMR	29.9	17.0
Año Nuevo SMR	6.7	4.6
All MPAs Combined	14.1	12.7

BREAKDOWN BY MPA

Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area (n=17 surveys, 178 total observations)

Between the months of January and Dec 2025, GFA’s Beach Watch reports a rate of 6.5 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 12% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 94% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities on-shore, such as beach recreation rocky and sandy, wildlife viewing, and on and off leash animal use. 4% of activities were consumptive, hook fishing rocky shore (n=6), and boat fishing trap commercial (n=2), comparable to 10-year baseline.

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve (n=16 surveys, 274 total observations)

Between the months of January and Dec 2025, GFA’s Beach Watch reports a rate of 17.1 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is an 23.9% increase from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 100% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore including beach recreation rocky, wildlife watching rocky, animals on and off leash. No consumptive activities were observed.

Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve (n=7 surveys, 17 total observations)

Between the months of January and Dec 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 4.0 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 45.9% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 82% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore (wildlife watching). 18% of activities were consumptive, boat fishing commercial trap (n=2) and boat line fishing recreational (n=1).

Russian River State Marine Conservation Area (n=21 surveys, 476 total observations)

Between the months of January and December 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 30.5 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 25% increase from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 96% 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. Offshore and onshore consumptive activities accounted for 2% of activities: hook fishing (n=3), unknown fishing (n=1), boat fishing line recreational (n=2), and boat fishing line commercial (n=2).

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area (n=12 surveys, 218 total observations)

Between the months of January and June 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 60.6 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 19% increase from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 91% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in shore-based non-consumptive activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching, and 8% were offshore recreation paddle boarding and kayaking. 1% of activities were shore based consumptive, hook and line fishing was observed (n=1).

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve (n=19 surveys, 523 total observations)

Between the months of January and December 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 30.8 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 69.2% 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. 1% of activities were offshore consumptive activities categorized as line fishing from a boat (n=1).

Point Reyes State Marine Reserve (n=16 surveys, 116 total observations)

Between the months of January and December 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 3.7 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 64% 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 recreation including surfing and kayaking. 1% of activities were fishing offshore.

Montara State Marine Reserve (n=40 surveys, 439 total observations)

Between the months of January and December 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 17.0 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 43% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 98% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive shore-based activities such as beach recreation, wildlife watching and tide-pooling (31%), and 2% were offshore non-consumptive recreation. No consumptive activities were observed.

Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (n=30 surveys, 115 total observations)

Between the months of January and December 2025, GFA's Beach Watch reports a rate of 4.6 total uses per mile surveyed in this MPA. This is a 31% decrease from the 10-year annual baseline rate. 70% of people observed in the MPA were taking part in non-consumptive activities onshore such as wildlife watching and beach recreation, and off leash dogs, while the remaining 30% were observed offshore recreational surfing. No consumptive activities were observed.

NEXT STEPS

GFNMS/CBNMS and GFA continue to maintain their roughly 140 Beach Watch 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.