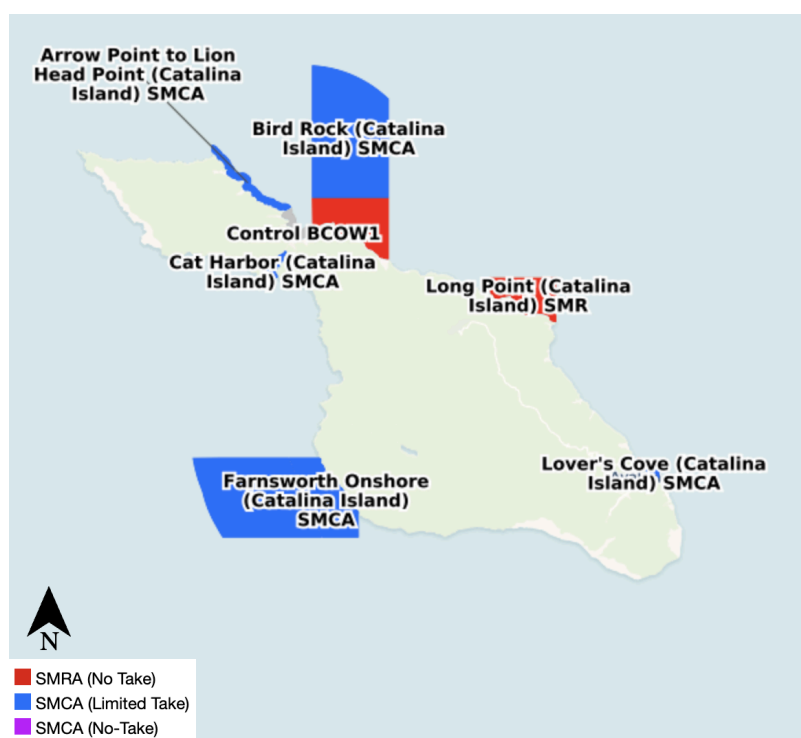


Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report

LA County (Catalina Island) County
January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Map of Region's MPAs



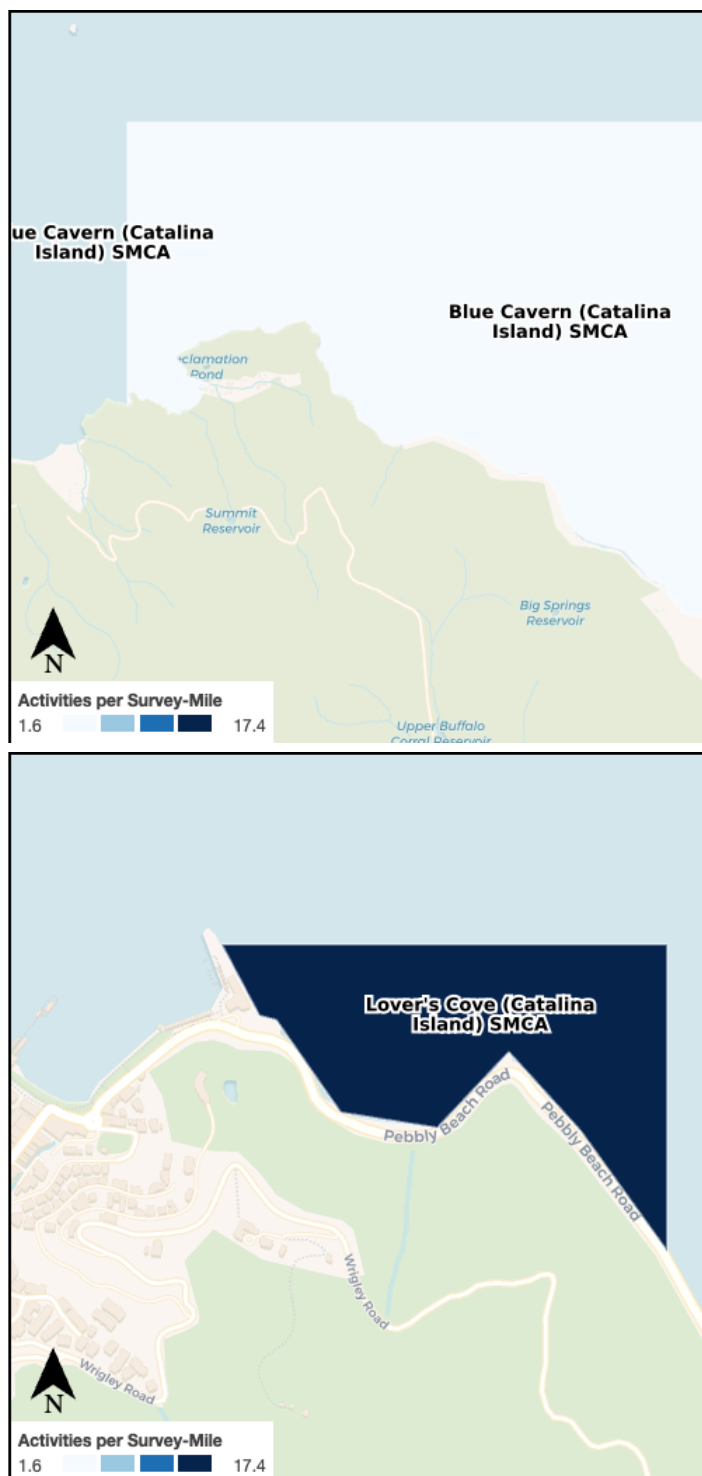
MPA Watch is a statewide collaborative effort to collect critical human use data to enhance the management and conservation of California's marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA Watch collects data inside and outside of MPAs along California's coast and data is compiled in a statewide database that allows us insight on how human uses change over time. MPA Watch trains volunteers to observe and collect unbiased data on coastal and marine resource use through standardized survey techniques. By involving local communities in this important work, MPA Watch programs inspire and empower stewardship, educate California communities about ocean ecosystems, and increase awareness of marine conservation.

Executive Summary

- Lover's Cove SMCA was the most surveyed MPA on Catalina Island from January to June 2026, recording 605 activities with a heavy lean towards beach recreation (including swimming and snorkeling) and hook and line fishing.
- Hook and line fishing in Lover's Cove is permitted on the Cabrillo Mole, explaining the spike in consumptive activity during Catalina surveys.
- Blue Cavern Onshore SMCA was surveyed in partnership with USC Wrigley and the Catalina Island Conservancy as a part of the California Naturalist field school.

HUMAN USE OF MPAS, January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

OVERVIEW

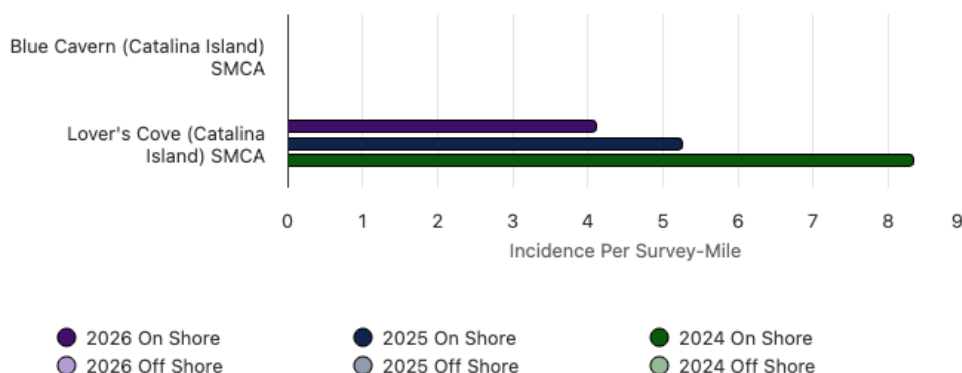


Caption: Map of MPAs in the region colored by activities per survey-mile for 2026. Blue Cavern (Catalina Island) SMCA, 1.6; Lover's Cove (Catalina Island) SMCA, 17.4;

CONSUMPTIVE VS. NON-CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVITY BY MPA, THREE YEAR COMPARISON

Standardized Consumptive Activity Incidence by MPA

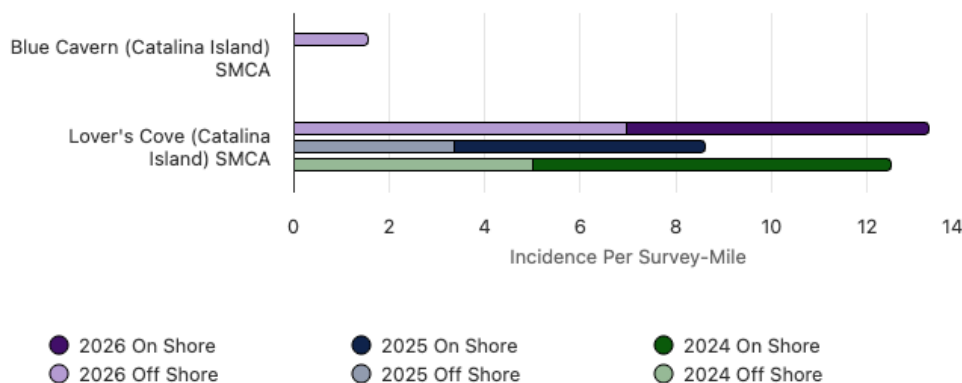
By Survey-Mile, January 1 - June 30, Last Three Years



Caption: Standardized Consumptive Activity Incidence by MPA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

Standardized Nonconsumptive Activity Incidence by MPA

By Survey-Mile, January 1 - June 30, Last Three Years



Caption: Standardized Nonconsumptive Activity Incidence by MPA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

ACTIVITY CLASSIFICATIONS

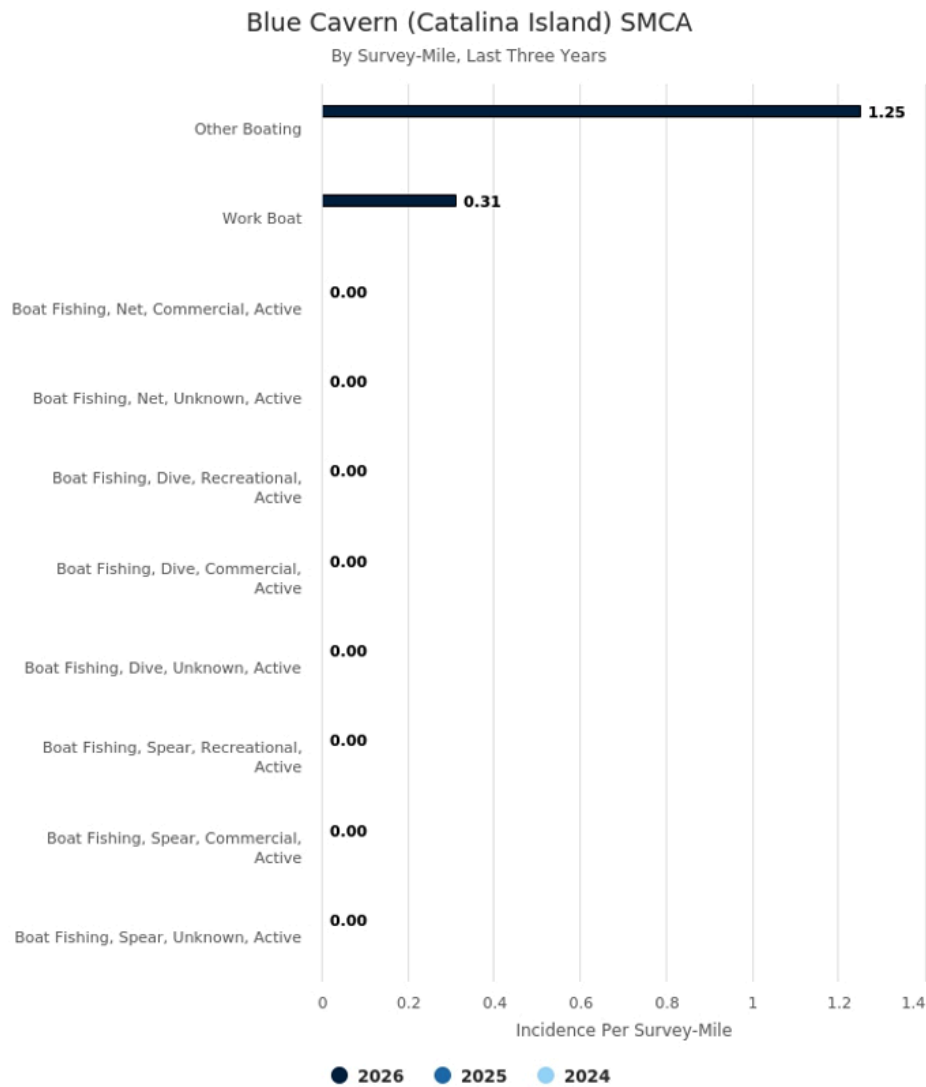
On-Shore - Activities that take place on a sandy or rocky beach. Excludes bluffs, trails, sea walls, parking lots, or other man-made structures. Includes recreation, tidepooling, shore-based fishing, etc.

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.

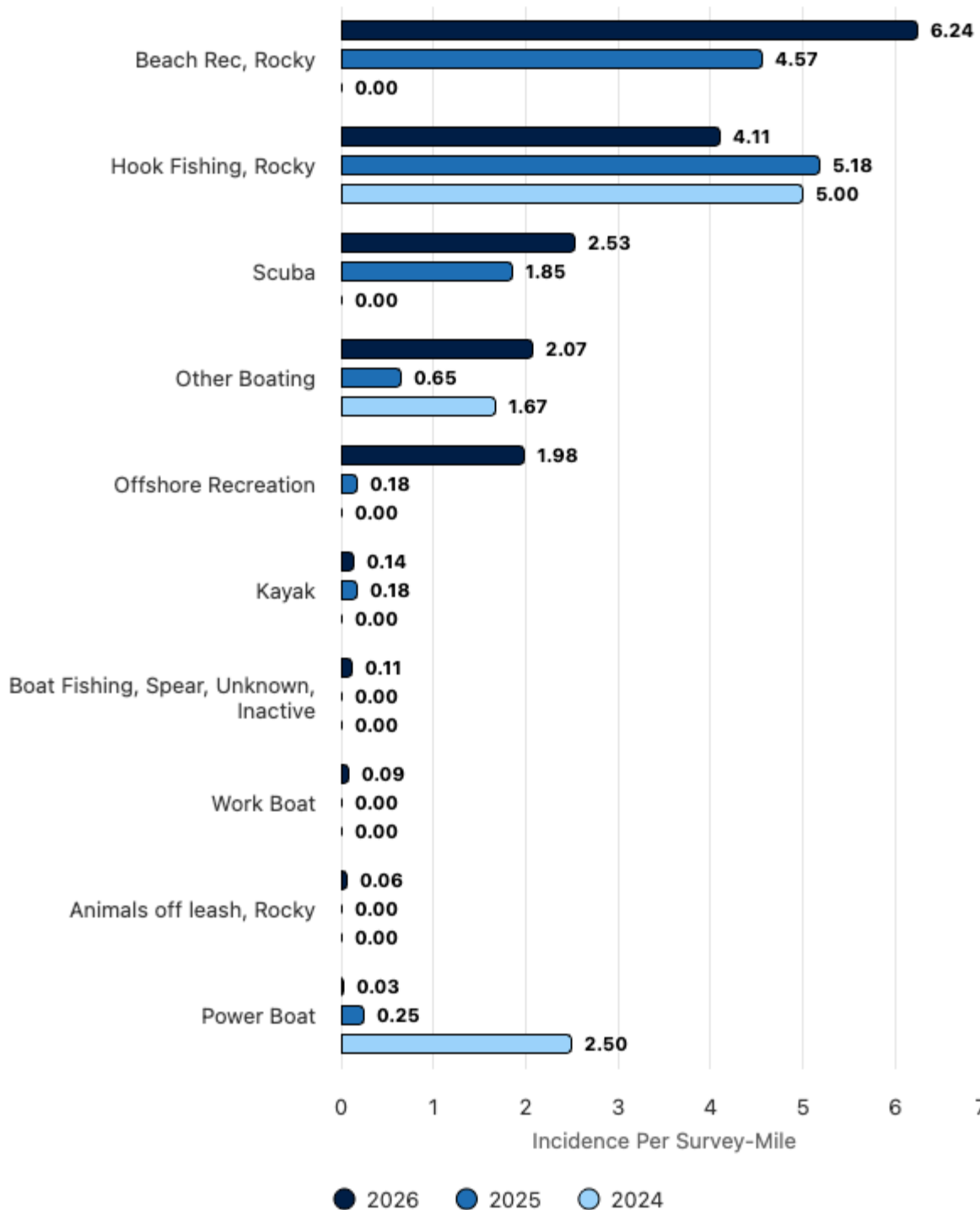
ACTIVITY BY MPA



Caption: Top 10 Activities for Blue Cavern (Catalina Island) SMCA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

Lover's Cove (Catalina Island) SMCA

By Survey-Mile, January 1 - June 30, Last Three Years

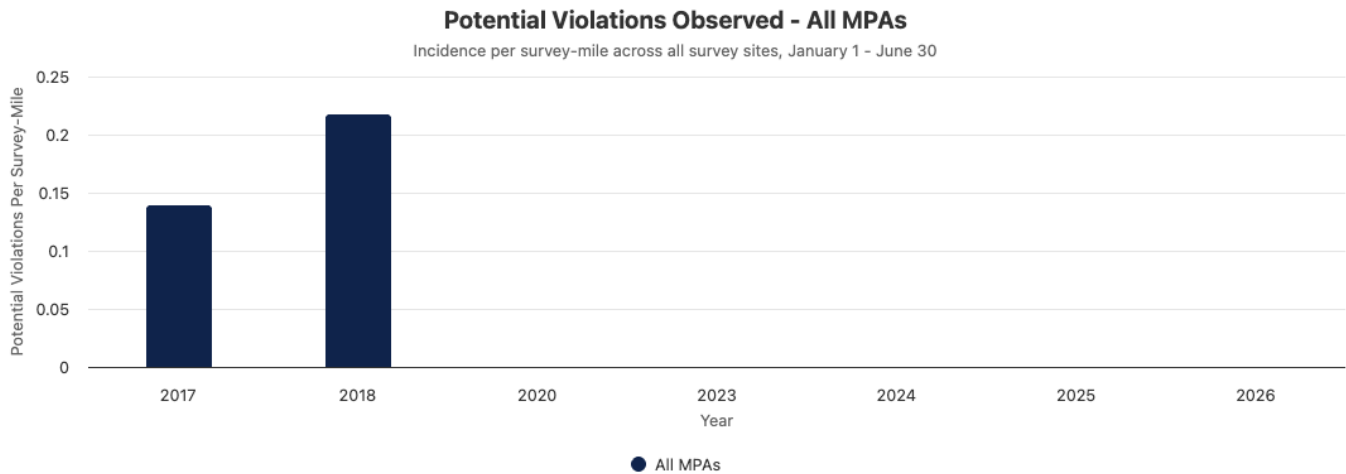


Caption: Top 10 Activities for Lover's Cove (Catalina Island) SMCA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

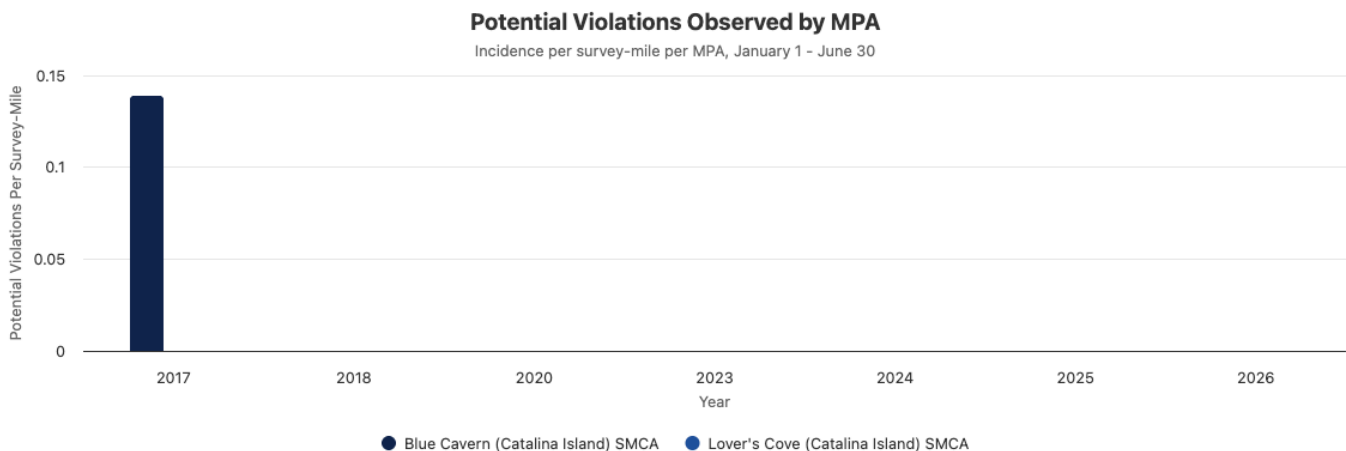
BREAKDOWN BY MPA

MPA	Number of Surveys January 1 - June 30, 2026	Activities Observed January 1 - June 30, 2026
Blue Cavern (Catalina Island) SMCA	1	5
Lover's Cove (Catalina Island) SMCA	58	605
All MPAs Combined	59	610

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS



Caption: Potential Violations Observed - All MPAs. Incidence per survey-mile across all survey sites, January 1 - June 30 of each year. 2017, 0.139; 2018, 0.217; 2020, 0.000; 2023, 0.000; 2024, 0.000; 2025, 0.000; 2026, 0.000



Caption: Potential Violations Observed by MPA. Incidence per survey-mile per MPA.

NEXT STEPS

Over the coming months, we will focus on expanding community participation while strengthening the consistency and quality of our long-term monitoring efforts. On August 9, Bleu World will host a Conservation and Citizen Science Volunteer Day, bringing together students from Los Angeles and Avalon for a day of hands-on coastal stewardship. As part of the event, participants will complete an MPA Watch survey, providing an opportunity to introduce new volunteers to the program. We will also establish a formal training pathway between Bleu World and Heal the Bay to support the many volunteers who participate in both organizations' programs, creating a more seamless experience and increasing the number of trained MPA Watch observers throughout Southern California.

In parallel with our outreach efforts, we will continue strengthening the Catalina Island MPA Watch program by improving data quality, expanding monitoring coverage, and building local capacity. This includes a comprehensive backend review and cleanup of Catalina Island transects, as well as the introduction of a new monitoring transect within the Arrow Point to Lion Head State Marine Conservation Area to ensure all survey data are accurately organized and represented. This fall, we will launch a seasonal MPA Watch training program for Emerald Bay staff to establish consistent monitoring of the Arrow Point to Lion Head SMCA during each season the staff is based at the camp. We also plan to increase survey frequency within Avalon by maintaining regular monitoring at Lover's Cove while expanding consistent data collection at Casino Point. Finally, we will host another MPA Watch training in Avalon to grow the local volunteer network, increasing the program's long-term sustainability through a larger, well-trained community of citizen scientists.

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.

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 additional information about Bleu World, including our Catalina Island MPA Watch program as well as other citizen science opportunities and how to get involved, please visit bleuworld.org or email us at team@bleuworld.org. Connect with Bleu World on social media @bleuworld_org.



Caption: Photos from MPA Watch training at USC Wrigley conducted for participants in the California Naturalist Training Field School with the Catalina Island Conservancy.