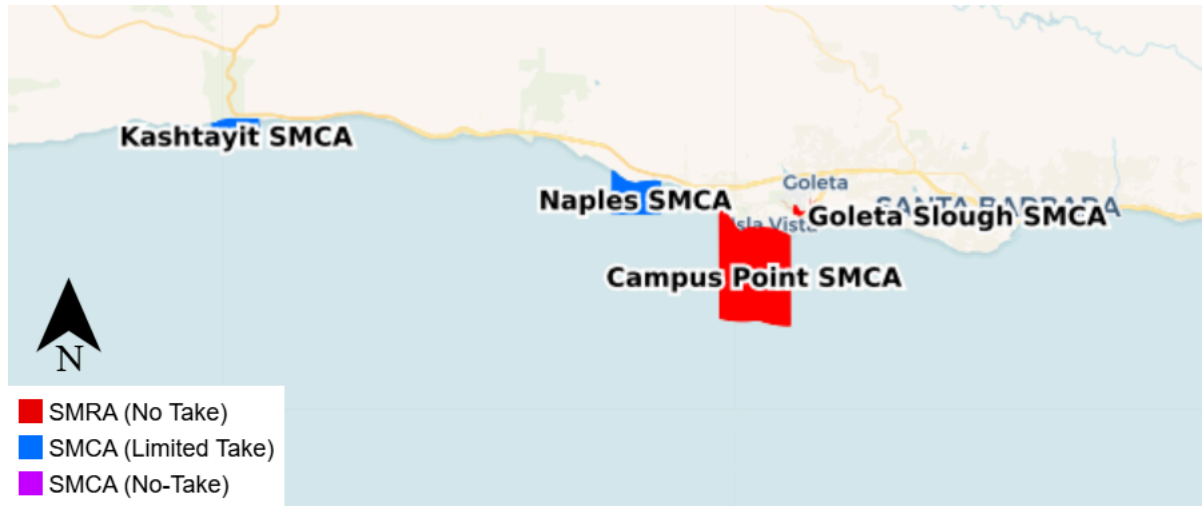


# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch Regional Report

Santa Barbara County

January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

## Map of Region's MPAs



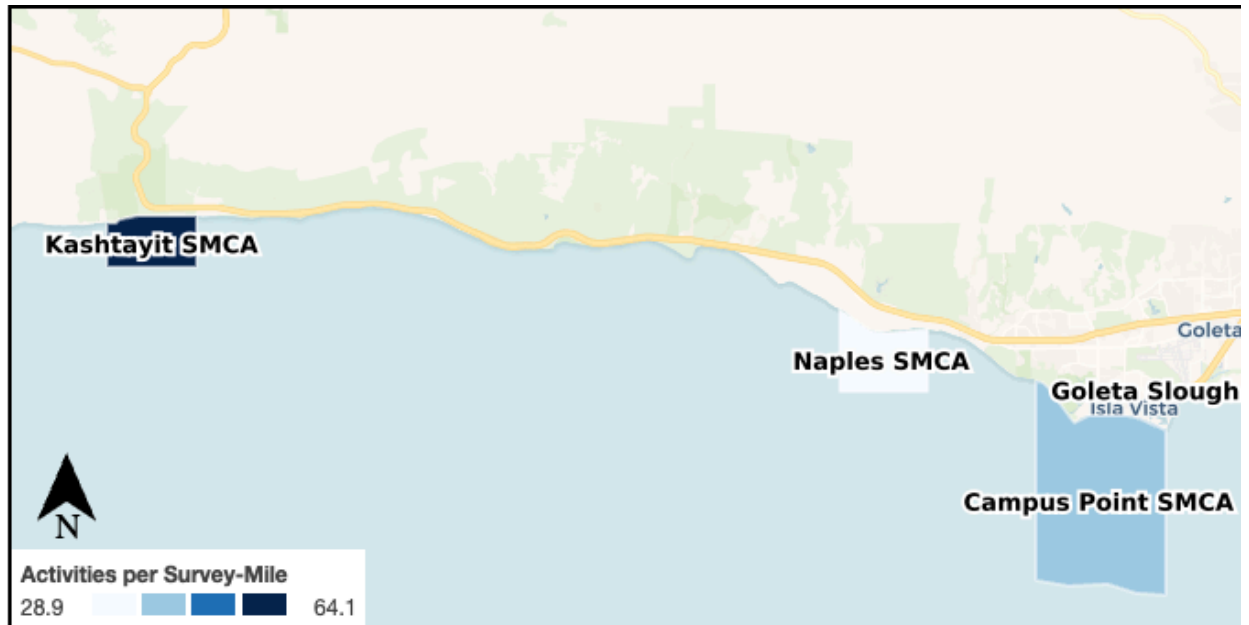
MPA Watch is a statewide collaborative effort to collect critical human use data to enhance the management and conservation of California's marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA Watch collects data inside and outside of MPAs along California's coast and data is compiled in a statewide database that allows 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. The MPA Watch Program in southern Santa Barbara County is organized by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and engages community scientists in conducting surveys in three MPAs—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 six months of 2026, non-consumptive activities (onshore and offshore) accounted for 99.35% of observations in the Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs.
- There were three potential violations observed in the Campus Point MPA during the first half of 2026. Two observations of shore-based hook and line fishing and one observation of a recreational boat hook and line fishing at Coal Oil Point. There were no potential violations observed during shore-based MPA Watch surveys at Naples and Kashtayit MPAs to date in 2026. There were also no potential violations observed during boat-based surveys at Campus Point and Naples MPAs during this time period.
- Channelkeeper trained 22 community members about MPAs and MPA Watch from January to June 2026. MPA Watch participants conducted 467 surveys, equal to 241 survey miles, and observed 6,899 activities.

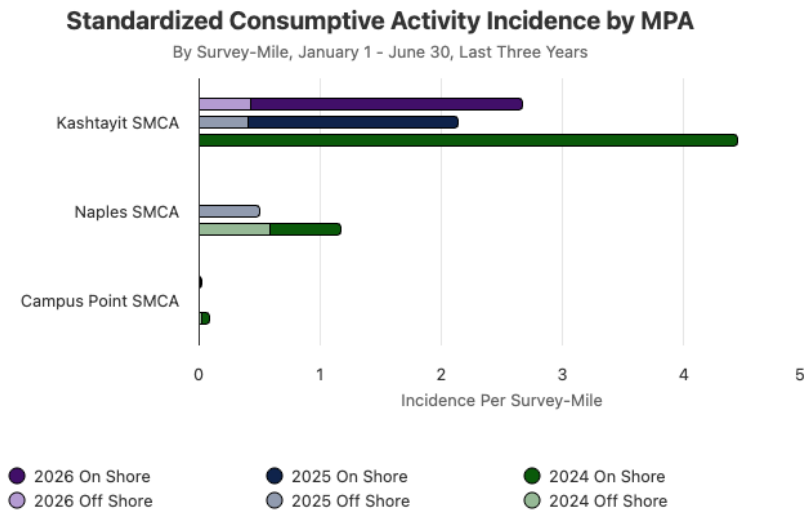
# HUMAN USE OF MPAS, January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

## OVERVIEW

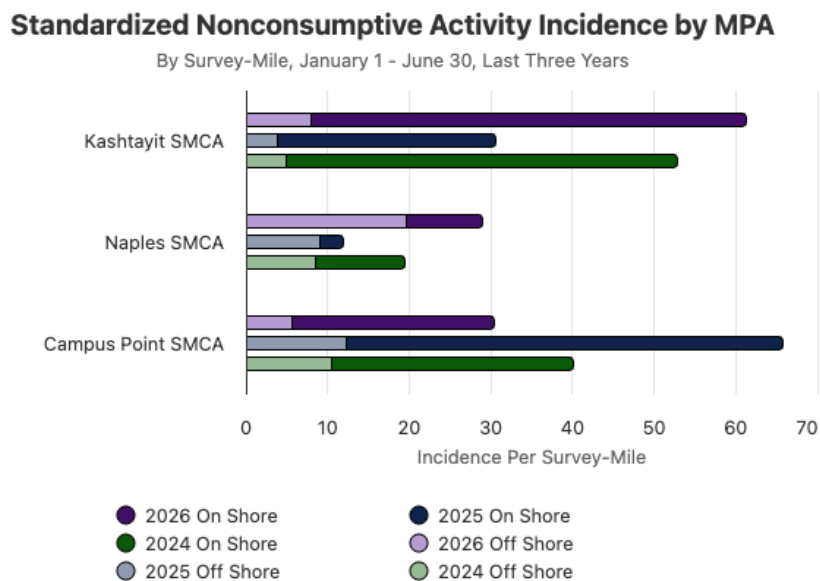


Caption: Map of MPAs in the region colored by activities per survey-mile for January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026. Kashtayit SMCA, 64.1; Naples SMCA, 28.9; Campus Point SMCA, 30.4

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



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

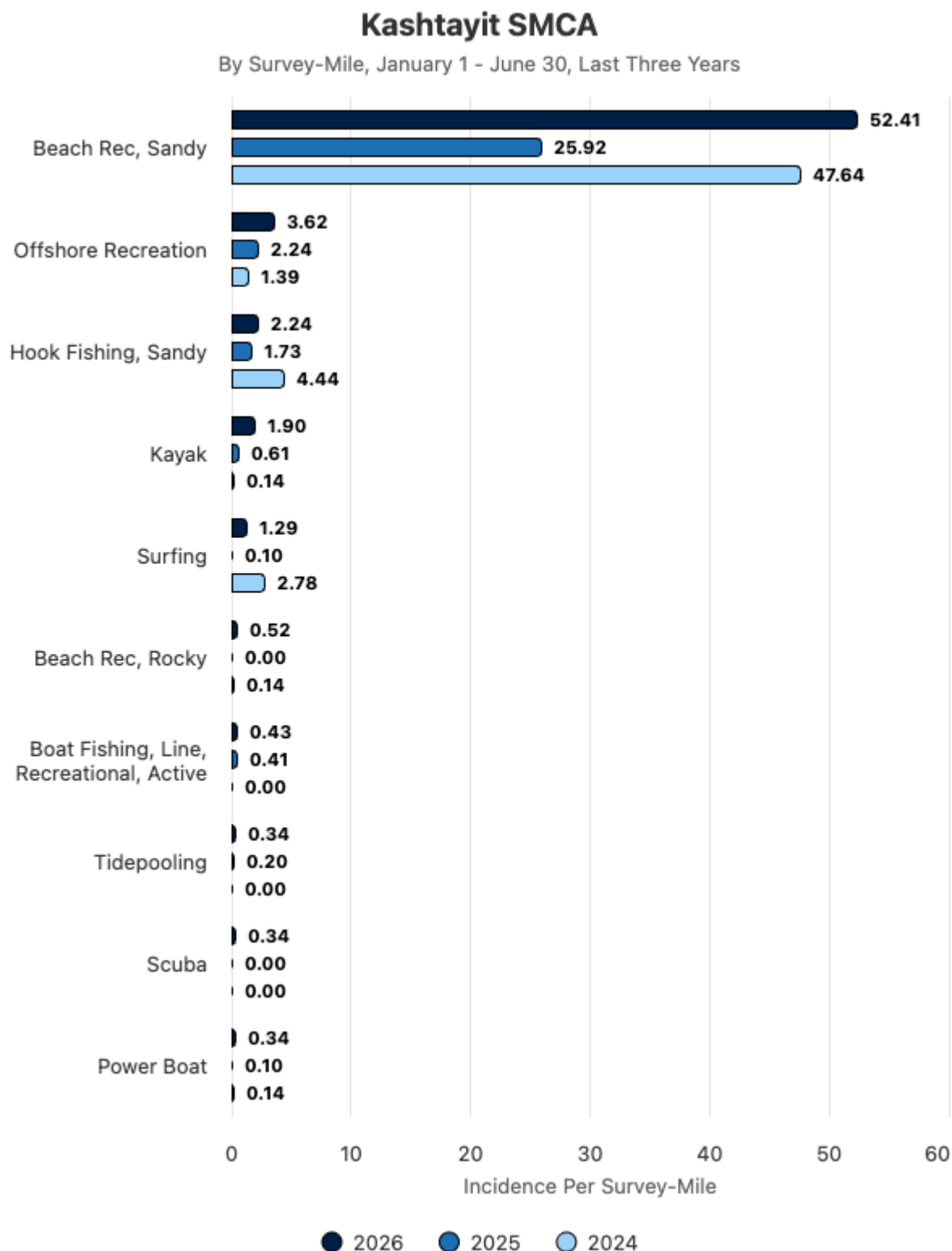
**Consumptive** - An activity in which a natural resource (i.e. fish, kelp, shells) is being collected.

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

### Santa Barbara County MPA Watch Report

January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

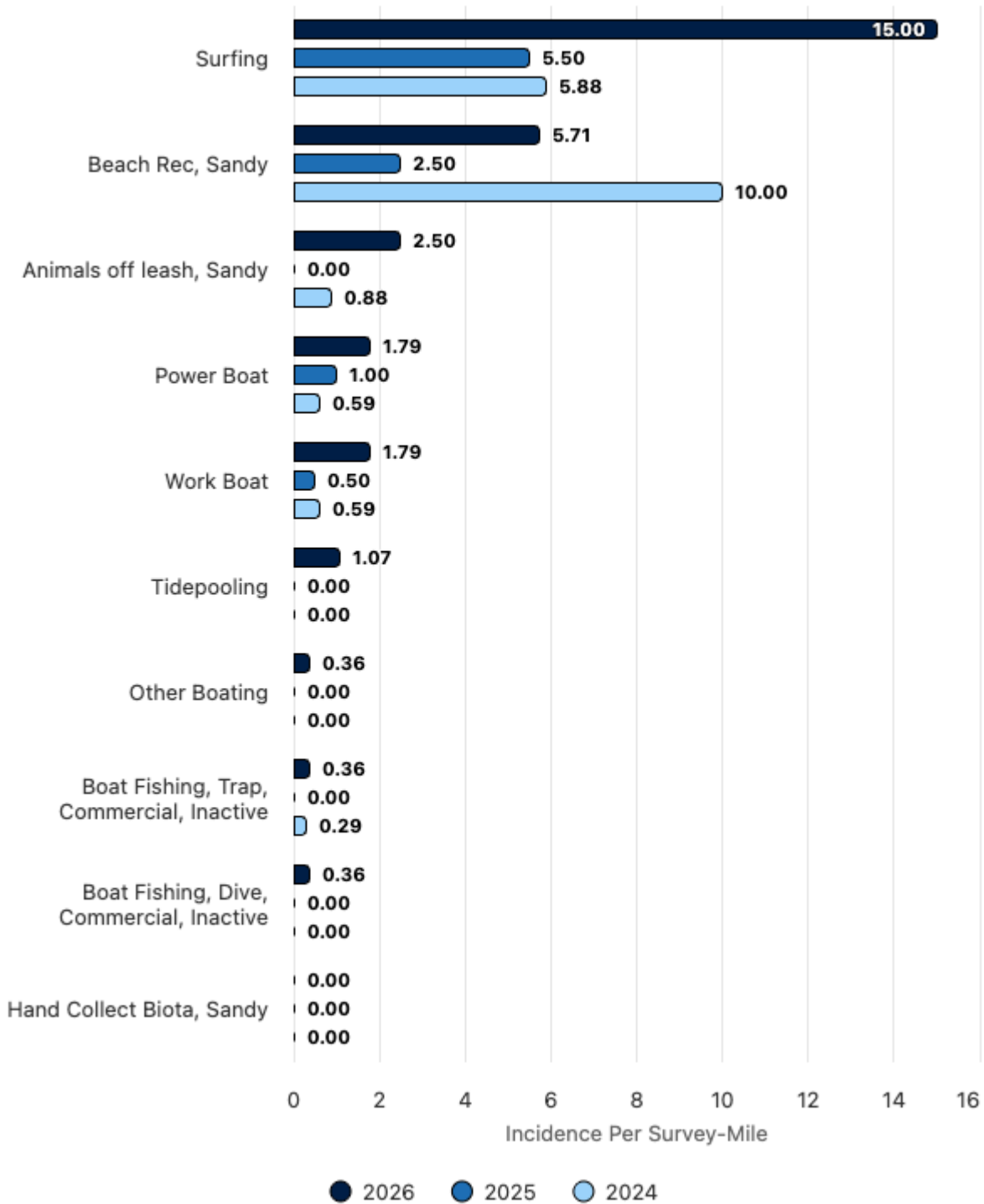
## ACTIVITY BY MPA



Caption: Top 10 Activities for Kashtayit SMCA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

## Naples SMCA

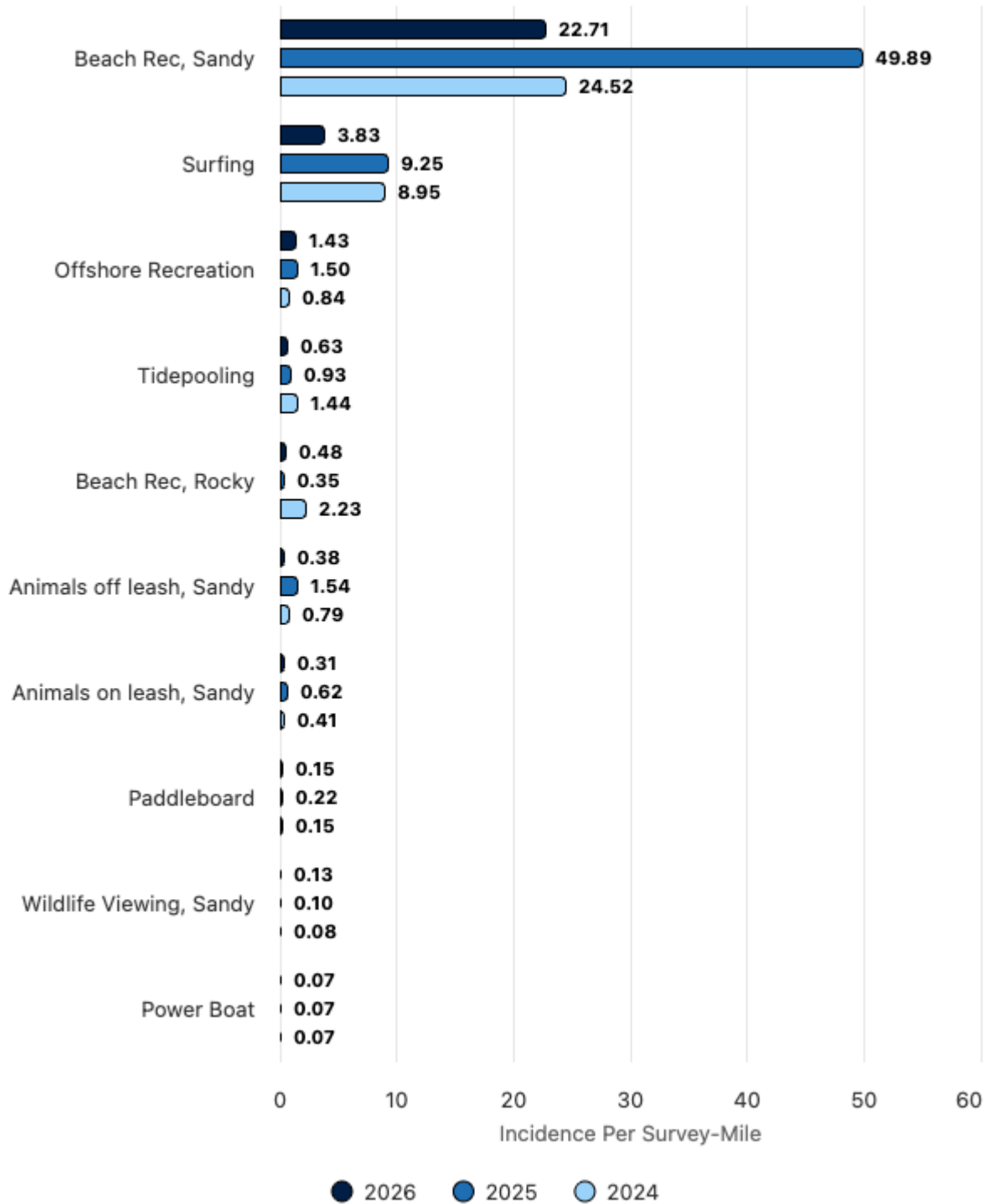
By Survey-Mile, January 1 - June 30, Last Three Years



Caption: Top 10 Activities for Naples SMCA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

## Campus Point SMCA

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



Caption: Top 10 Activities for Campus Point SMCA, By Survey-Mile, Last Three Years.

## BREAKDOWN BY MPA

| MPA                      | Number of Surveys<br>January 1, 2026 - June<br>30, 2026 | Activities Observed<br>January 1, 2026 - June<br>30, 2026 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Kashtayit SMCA           | 58                                                      | 743                                                       |
| Naples SMCA              | 28                                                      | 81                                                        |
| Campus Point SMCA        | 236                                                     | 4,579                                                     |
| <b>All MPAs Combined</b> | <b>322</b>                                              | <b>5,403</b>                                              |

### Kashtayit SMCA

During the January – June 2026 time period, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Marine Protected Area (SB MPA) Watch volunteers and State Park volunteers conducted 58 surveys within the SMCA and 27 surveys outside of the MPA on the western border. Sandy beach recreation continues to be the top activity observed at this MPA and in the first half of 2026 accounted for 82% of all observations, followed by offshore recreation, 6%, shore-based hook and line fishing on sandy substrate, 3%, and kayaking, 3%. This MPA is within Gaviota State Beach and allows for the recreational take of most species except for mussels and scallops.

### Naples SMCA

In January – June 2025, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper MPA Watch volunteers conducted 28 surveys within the Naples SMCA and 28 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern border. Surfing was the number activity observed during this time period accounting for 52% of all observations. Other top activities observed were beach recreation on sandy substrate which accounted for 20% of the total observations and animals off leash accounting for 9% of the observations.

### Campus Point SMCA

In January – June 2025, Channelkeeper MPA Watch interns and volunteers conducted 236 land-based surveys within the Campus Point SMCA and 86 surveys outside of the MPA on the eastern and western borders. Nonconsumptive onshore activities (primarily beach recreation on sandy substrate) accounted for 76% of all observations thus far in 2026. Offshore nonconsumptive activities accounted for 19% of all observations, with surfing making up 13% of all observations. There were also 95 observations of tidepooling (2% of all observations). During this time period, there were two observations of shore-based hook and line fishing from just inside the eastern side of the MPA closest to Campus Point and one observation of a recreational boat hook and line fishing off Coal Oil Point towards the western side of the MPA.

## **Santa Barbara County MPAs Boat-based Surveys** **January – June 2026**

In addition to the shore-based MPA Watch surveys, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper staff conducts offshore surveys from the Research Vessel *Channelkeeper* of Campus Point and Naples MPAs. Surveys are also conducted outside the MPA 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, Channelkeeper 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 the survey areas outside of the MPAs. 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 six months of the year. Winter storms and typical windy and dense foggy conditions in the spring resulted in numerous small craft advisories that caused several scheduled survey boat days to be cancelled during this time period.

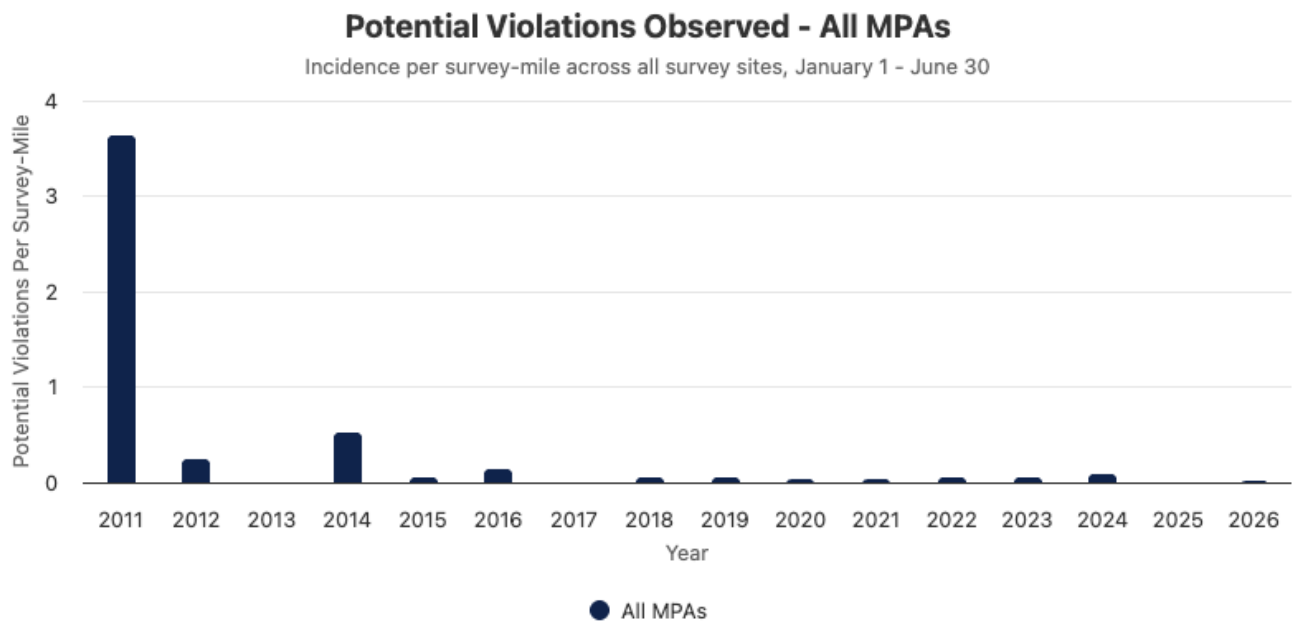
There were no potential violations observed during the coastal boat-based surveys conducted during January to June 2026. Recreational hook and line fishing from the Goleta Pier and in the area to the south and east of the pier in the survey east of the Campus Point MPA is the most observed offshore fishing activity. There were also several observations of shore-based hook and line fishing east of Goleta Pier.

The following heat map reflects all fishing activity observed during Santa Barbara County coastal boat-based surveys for January to June 2026.

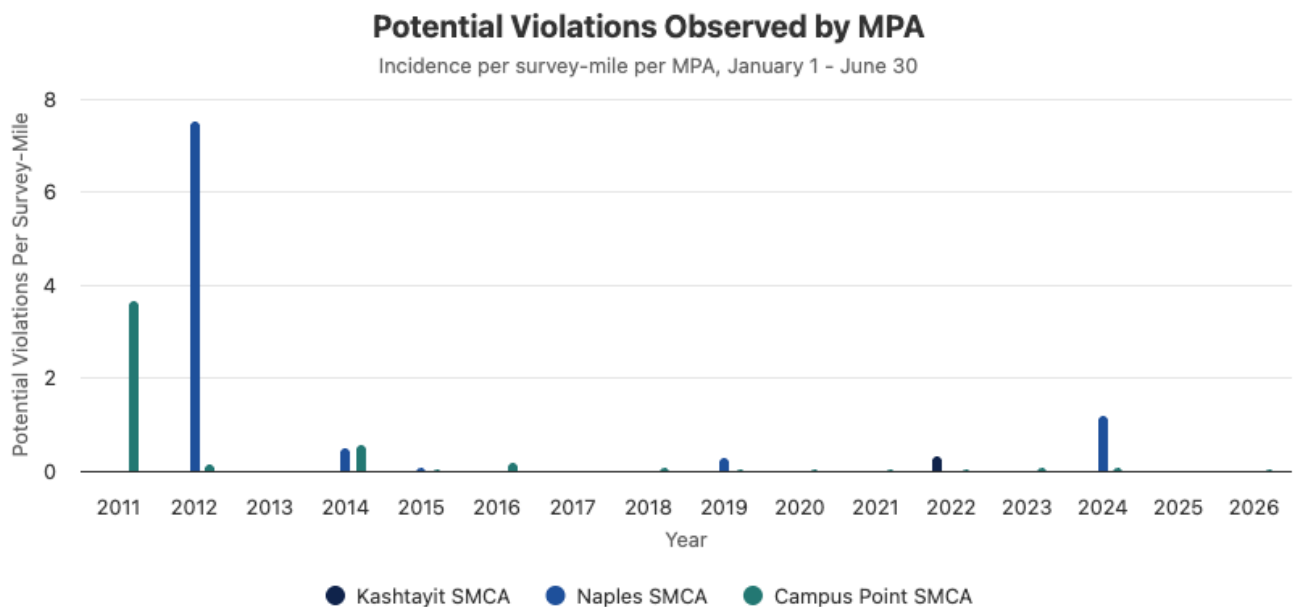
# Jan - Jun 2026 All Fishing Activity Santa Barbara



## POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS



Caption: Potential Violations Observed - All MPAs. Incidence per survey-mile across all survey sites, January 1 - June 30 of each year. 2011, 3.636; 2012, 0.237; 2013, 0.000; 2014, 0.514; 2015, 0.048; 2016, 0.134; 2017, 0.000; 2018, 0.058; 2019, 0.052; 2020, 0.037; 2021, 0.026; 2022, 0.051; 2023, 0.054; 2024, 0.087; 2025, 0.000; 2026, 0.018



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

## 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.

California State Parks plans to continue to train interested hosts 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](http://mpawatch.org).

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.

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](http://sbck.org).