

Orange County MPA Watch



VOLUNTEER MANUAL & FIELD GUIDE

IN AN EMERGENCY: CALL 911

- County Sheriff's Department – 714-773-4520
- County Fire Department – 714-573-6000
- Lifeguard – 949-276-5050

To report fishing or wildlife related illegal activities:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Cal-TIP for poachers & polluters: 888-334-2258
Regional Tip Lines
- Dana Point (714) 325-1420
- Laguna Beach (949) 497-0701
- Newport Beach (949) 644-3036

To report injured or sick wildlife (including marine mammals, birds, etc.)

- Pacific Marine Mammal Center: 949-494-3050

Organization Contact information

- Orange County Coastkeeper: 714-850-1965
- Ray Hiemstra: ray@coastkeeper.org

MPA Watch Manual

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Background on MPAs

California's marine ecosystems are stressed and continue to face many threats such as habitat destruction, fishing pressure, and pollution. Several fish stocks have crashed statewide, causing many fisheries to be closed or severely limited. As a valuable tool for both ecosystem protection and fisheries management, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) will help replenish these depleted populations. MPAs have shown to be effective in parts of California, the Florida Keys, New Zealand, and other areas of the world. In 1999, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requiring the implementation of a science-based statewide network of MPAs implementation. This law includes conservation goals focused on ecosystem protection, natural diversity and habitat protection. January 1st, 2012 was the implementation date for the South Coast MPAs from Point Conception to the Mexican border as defined by the MLPA. The Orange County Marine Protected Area (OC MPA) Watch Program began monitoring and collecting data for OC beaches in 2012. The OC MPA Watch Program, organized by Orange County Coastkeeper (OCCK), enlists the help of volunteers, community groups, and local government to monitor human usage in the Marine Protected Areas. There are seven Marine Protected Areas along the Coast of Orange County:



Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve (SMR)

Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Bolsa Basin State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)



Orange County Coastkeeper

OCCK monitors and records human usage within five of the seven Orange County Marine Protected Areas. Our most frequented survey sites fall in the Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area and the Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve. The information recorded is sent to a variety of organizations such as the City of Newport Beach, City of Laguna Beach, California State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and numerous others. It is also available to the public on the Coastkeeper website.

What is MPA Watch?

MPA Watch is a statewide citizen science monitoring program that trains volunteers to monitor human uses of coastal natural resources by training and supports volunteers in the collection of relevant, scientifically rigorous, and broadly

accessible data. Data are meant to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's marine protected areas (MPAs) and allow us to see 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 individuals about California's ocean ecosystems. MPA Watch volunteers collect data from both within and outside MPAs, allowing for useful comparisons. The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) is collaborating with MPA Watch programs throughout California to enhance and expand the relevance and utility of the data collected by MPA Watch programs, and coordinate between programs and regions.

Goals

1. To help determine how effective MPAs are at meeting their goal of enhancing recreational activities by tracking changes and trends over time.
2. To provide contextual information on human use for interpretation of biological monitoring data.
3. To inform MPA enforcement and management decisions regarding human activity inside MPAs.
4. To train MPA Watch volunteers as effective public educators regarding MPAs.

Methods

MPA Watch volunteers walk along California's beaches and bluffs surveying and recording all offshore and onshore coastal activities within and outside MPAs. Volunteers are trained to recognize different types of activities, using binoculars to view activities offshore, and to record what they see on data sheets. Examples of activities that volunteers record include consumptive activities such as commercial and shore fishing, and non-consumptive activities such as swimming, tidepooling, SCUBA diving, and wildlife watching. Volunteers are trained to accurately begin and end their surveys, as well as to identify MPA boundaries. All data that is collected undergo rigorous quality assurance and quality control protocols by coordinating organizations before being accepted and shared.



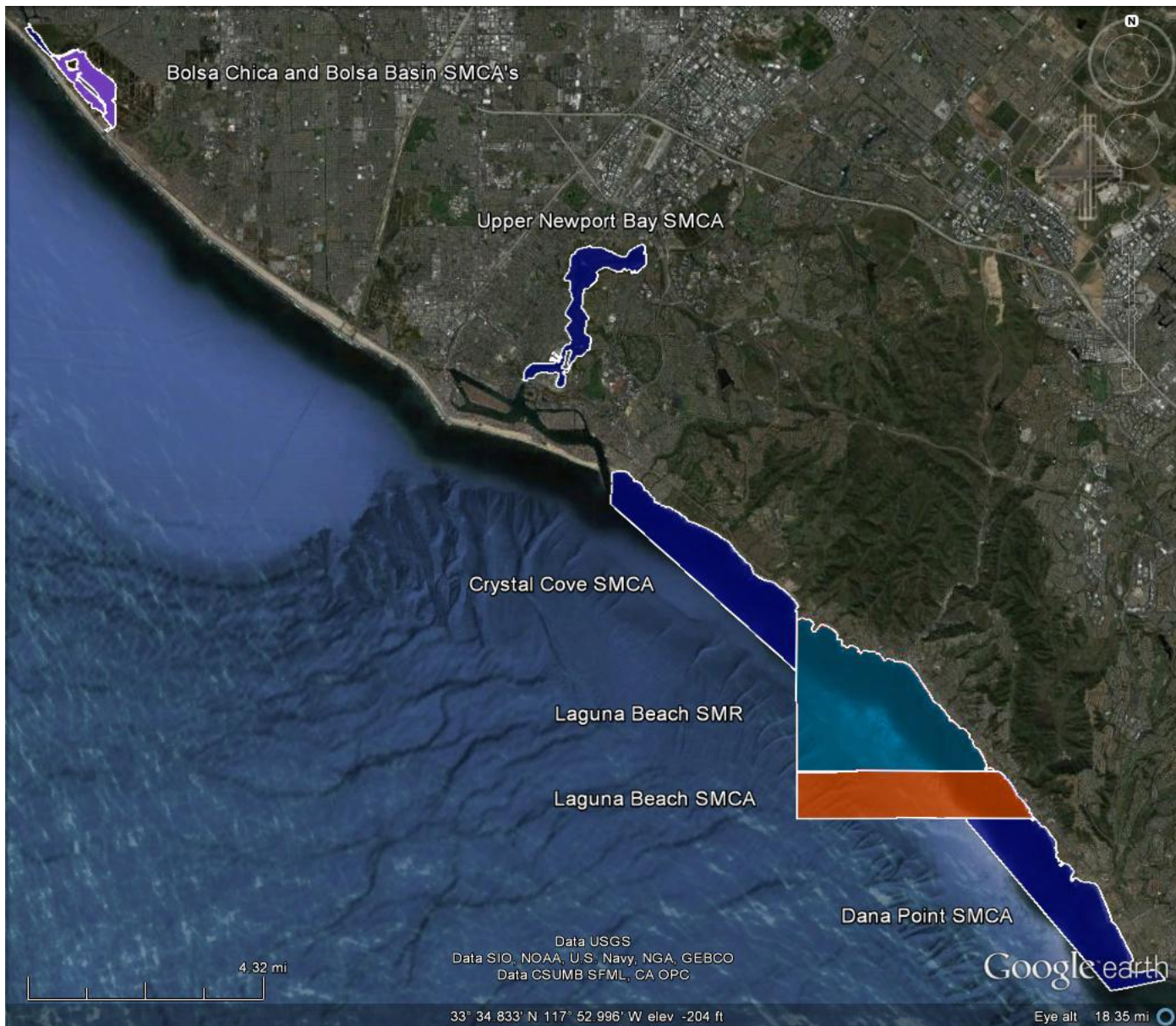
MPA Watch Data

Potential users of MPA Watch data span academia, natural resource management agencies, and local communities. A key focus for the program is to inform California's management of MPAs. Data are meant to inform:

- Management
- Enforcement
- MPA Science
- How are human uses changing as a result of MPA implementation?

Local Study Area

Our study area includes beaches and offshore areas from Newport Beach to Dana Point



Growing Statewide Network

Groups that are currently training MPA Watch volunteers:

- Heal the Bay
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Marin Environmental Action Committee
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- The Otter Project
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- WILDCOAST



MPA WATCH

In the Classroom...



The first part of MPA Watch training is in the classroom and includes information on the MLPA, MPA regulations and locations, and how to identify consumptive and non-consumptive activities.

In the Field...

A new group of citizen scientists complete their field training at Corona Del Mar State Beach. During trainings, volunteers learn to identify about 30 consumptive and non-consumptive activities, both onshore and offshore.



One of the consumptive ocean uses MPA Watch citizen scientists record includes commercial boat fishing using traps.

Some of the consumptive and non-consumptive ocean uses are prevalent along a survey routes include shore-based rod/reel fishing, kayaking, swimming, wading, and beach recreation.



For more information about MPA Watch, please contact Ray Hiemstra at ray@coastkeeper.org or visit www.coastkeeper.org

MPA Watch Core Tally Sheet: May 2014

Name(s):		Date: ____/____/____	Transect ID:
Start Time:	End Time:	Clouds: clear (0%) / partly cloudy (1-50%) / cloudy (>50% cover)	Precipitation: yes / no
Air Temperature: cold / cool / mild / warm / hot		Wind: calm / breezy / windy	Tide Level: low / med / high
Visibility: perfect / limited / shore only		Beach Status: open / posted / closed / unknown	

On-Shore Activities	Rocky	Sandy
Recreation (walking, resting, playing, etc. NOT tidepooling)		
Wildlife Watching		
Domestic animals on-leash		
Domestic animals off-leash		
Driving on the Beach		
Tide-pooling (not collecting)		
Hand collection of biota		
Shore-based hook and line fishing		
Shore-based trap fishing		
Shore-based net fishing		
Shore-based spear fishing		

Off-Shore Activities (Non-Boating)	
Offshore Recreation (e.g., swimming, bodysurfing)	
Board Sports (e.g., boogie boarding, surfing)	
Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (alternatively can tally in paddle operated boat below)	
Non-Consumptive SCUBA and snorkeling	
Spear Fishing (free diving or SCUBA)	
Other Consumptive Diving (e.g., nets, poles, traps)	

Boating	Recreational		Commercial		Unknown	
	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active
Boat Fishing - Traps						
Boat Fishing - Line						
Boat Fishing - nets						
Boat Fishing - Dive						
Boat Fishing - Spear						
Boat Kelp Harvesting						
Unknown Fishing Boat						
Paddle Operated Boat (can separately tally stand-up paddle boarding above under board sports)						
Dive Boat (stationary – flag up)						
Whale Watching Boat						
Work Boat (e.g., life-guard, DFW, research, coast guard)						
Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (5+ people)						
Other Boating (e.g., powerboat, sail boat, jet ski)						

Comments
<p>Did you observe: <input type="checkbox"/> scientific research; <input type="checkbox"/> education; <input type="checkbox"/> beach closure; <input type="checkbox"/> large gatherings (e.g., beach cleanup); <input type="checkbox"/> enforcement activity</p> <p>Describe below and provide counts of individuals involved where possible, and whether it took place on rocky or sandy or sandy substrate.</p> <p>Did you report a violation: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, how many violations did you report _____</p> <p>Who did you report the violation to (mark all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> DFW <input type="checkbox"/> State Parks <input type="checkbox"/> other entity (e.g., lifeguard, harbor patrol)</p> <p>Which method did you use to report your violation (mark all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> phone call <input type="checkbox"/> text <input type="checkbox"/> mobile app <input type="checkbox"/> website <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> in person</p>

How to Conduct a Survey for MPA Watch

1. Fill out the top portion of the data sheet, writing in your **Name, Date, and Transect ID**.
2. Walk to the designated start point.
3. Write in the metadata (Start Time, Weather, Tide, etc.)
4. Most of our MPA sites have physical borders so it is easy to tell where a segment and survey is supposed to end (see site maps). For beaches where walking the length of the site is required (where a vantage point doesn't exist or on crowded summer days), walk to one of boundaries before you begin counting. Now you can begin your survey. On your data sheet, include all activities inside the borders of the survey segment. The MPA offshore boundary varies offshore up to 2.5 miles in Laguna Beach, which is about what you can see in clear weather with the naked eye.
5. If possible, walk along the **mean high tide line** to the stop point tallying people doing activities on the beach or in the water, walking steadily along the transect at a relatively even speed. Do not count people on bluffs, trails, roads, or parking lots. The first occurrence of infrastructure or bluff onshore constitutes the shoreward boundary.

In some cases limited access prevents volunteers from moving steadily along a transect. Instead, they must visit pre-defined vista points and scan the coast to document activities occurring across a wide area. For all vista points, the following guidelines should apply: 1.) The time spent observing at each vista point should be the smallest amount of time needed to count all activities. 2.) The use of vista points will be called out in the meta-data.

6. As you walk, record any activity in the appropriate categories **when you pass the people doing that activity**. For example, if you see someone surfing 50 feet ahead of you, do not count that activity until you pass the person who is surfing. People's activities may change from the time you first see them until the time you pass them, so to maintain scientific consistency, you should only record the activity you see them doing when you pass them. MPA Watch volunteers count every single person they see, except in the case of boats (a boat gets one tally regardless of the number of people aboard). **Each person or boat counted gets a tally in only one category**. For some variables the tallies are broken out into categories, such as rocky vs. sandy substrate, and recreational/commercial/unknown for boats.
7. Do not count any activity that is happening behind you. **Only count activity that is happening between you and the stop point as you pass them**. However, for example, if a person is running along the beach in the same direction you are walking and he passes you from behind, you should count that activity as running when he passes you (as long as you have not counted him earlier in the survey). **Try not to double-count people if their activity changes**.
8. The only activities you can count if the person is not actively doing those activities in the water are **surfing and SCUBA diving**. If a person is in a wetsuit and is walking with his surfboard along the beach (and he has no other beach recreational items with him), it can be assumed that his only activity is or was surfing. The same can be assumed for a person walking along the beach in a wetsuit and SCUBA gear. **However**, if a person is next to a surfboard lying on the sand and is in clothes or a bathing suit (NOT a wetsuit), you should count that activity as "beach recreation" because we cannot assume that his only activity is or was surfing.

9. Wildlife watching should only be counted if the activity is taking place on the beach or in the water- not on bluffs or trails. Wildlife watching is indicated by the use of binoculars or overt pointing and gesturing towards wildlife (such as whales, sea lions, etc.)
10. When recording consumptive boat fishing activities, make sure to properly mark if a person is **inactive or active** in the appropriate section of the data sheet. Active fishing is indicated by lines in the water, traps be set or pulled up from the water, and divers with fishing gear entering or exiting the water. Inactive fishing is when fishing gear is visible or present on board, but not baited, in the water, or being used. It is allowed for a person to transit through an MPA with fishing gear to areas where fishing is permitted, as long as the gear is not baited or ready to be used to fish. Therefore, for example, we need to differentiate between a kayaker with a rod/reel on board who is legally transiting through an MPA, and a kayaker with a rod/reel that is actively fishing inside the MPA.
11. Now you have ended your survey. Write the **end time** at the top of the data sheet you were working on.
12. **Total** the tally marks in each individual box and **circle** the numbers when you finish your survey.
13. Begin your next survey on the next data sheet. You may survey the same area more than once a day, even immediately after your previous survey.
14. You can submit your data directly online at the MPA Watch website www.mpawatch.org using your login information. You can also send your data sheet to the Coastkeeper office in one of the following ways: a) scan it and email it to ray@coastkeeper.org b) fax it to 714-850-1592, c) mail it to 3151 Airway Avenue, Suite F-110, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, or d) come by and drop it off in person. You will receive a confirmation email from us when we receive your data sheet.

Other Tips:

- Each survey should take no longer than one hour (one direction).
- Only mark the activity the person is actively engaging in.
- Some surveys may have no activity – fill out data sheet and write “no activity”
- Fill out a separate data sheet for EACH survey.
- SAFETY FIRST!
 - Do not compromise your safety to collect the data!
 - Be aware of people approaching you- be friendly, provide them with a general overview of what you are doing and MPAs information (such as a pocket guide to MPAs) if asked, BUT:
 - Do not approach people engaged in an activity- especially fishing, as you are taking *observational* surveys and do not want to influence behavior while conducting a survey, or put yourself in a controversial or dangerous situation.

Equipment Checklist

MPA Watch Items:

- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Datasheet
- Field Guide
- Watch
- Binoculars
- Compass



Personal Items:

- Water
- Sunscreen
- Close-toed shoes
- Camera
- Hat
- Backpack
- Snacks
- First aid supplies
- Cell phone
- Layers of clothes



Expectations for Volunteers

- Must provide own transportation
- Try to complete at least two surveys per month
- Submit your survey results by the end of each month
- Report any potential MPA violations seen to Cal tip and the appropriate local authority

Public Transportation Options

Unfortunately, public transportation is extremely limited in Orange County. Bus service is available along Pacific coast Highway. During the summer there is a free shuttle service in Laguna Beach that will help you get to the survey sites. These options can help you move between survey sites along the coast.

Activities to Record:

Onshore Non-Consumptive Activities

Beach Recreation



Example: Frisbee



Example: Sunbathing



Example: Skim-boarding

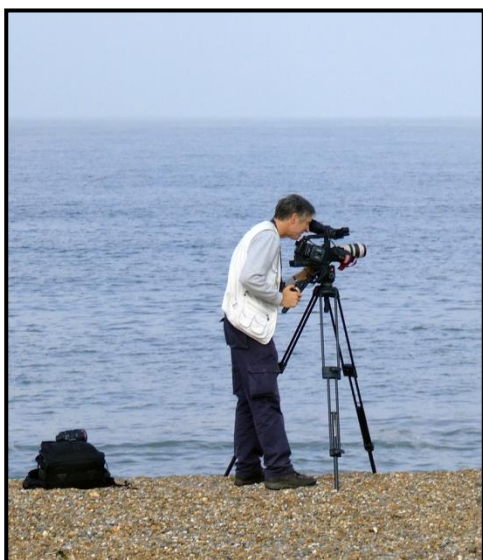


Example: Picnicking



Example: Playing in the surf

Wildlife Watching



Onshore Non-Consumptive Activities

Domesticated Animals



Driving on the Beach



Tidepooling (NOT Collecting)

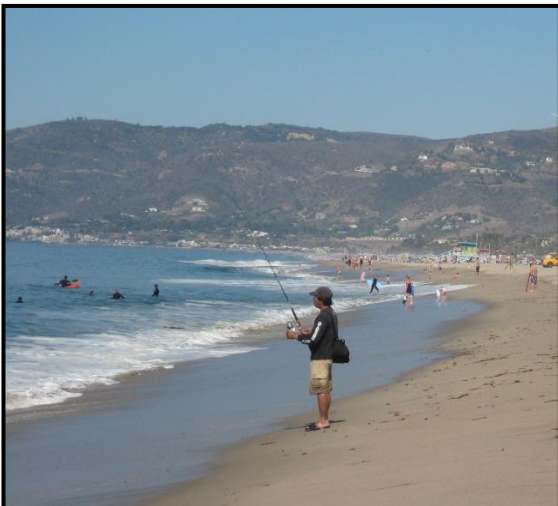


Onshore Consumptive Activities

Hand Collection (sand crabs, kelp, tidepool, mussels)



Shore-Based Hook and Line Fishing



Onshore Consumptive Activities

Shore-Based Net Fishing



Shore-Based Spear Fishing



Offshore Non-Consumptive Activities

Board Sports (Surfing and Boogie Boarding)



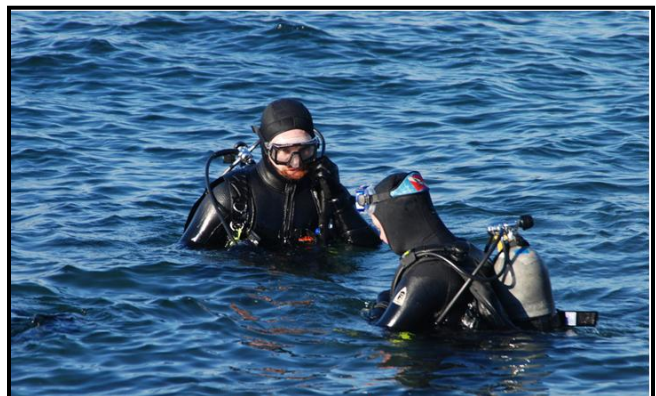
Stand-Up Paddle Boarding



Swimming



SCUBA Diving



Offshore Consumptive Activities

Boat Fishing – Spear



Other Consumptive Diving



Boating Consumptive

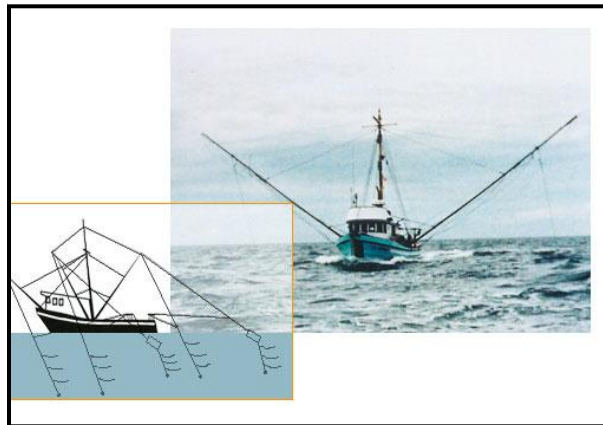
Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel



Boat Fishing – Traps

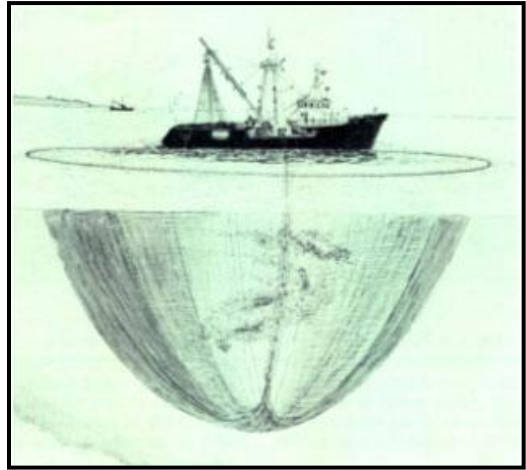


Boat Fishing – Lines



Boating Consumptive

Boat Fishing – Nets



Boat – Kelp Harvesting



Boating Non Consumptive
Dive Boat (with dive flag up)



Whale Watching Boat



Work Boat (lifeguard, coast guard, research, etc.)



Other Boating

Private Power Boat (NOT a fishing boat)



Sail Boat



Jet Skiing



Definitions of Activities

	Onshore	Offshore
Consumptive		
Non-consumptive		

Core categories

Item	Definition	Tally Sheet Guidelines	Other Notes
Recreation	walking, hiking, running, resting, playing, sitting, camping, art, other (NOT TIDEPOOLING)	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	
Driving on the beach	Motorized vehicles, actively driving, or parked.		
Wildlife watching	Possession of binoculars or a spotting scope OR overt interaction with wildlife (e.g. pointing) NOT a camera.	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	
Domestic animals on-leash	Dogs, horses, etc.	Count animals as individuals, and count people separately in some other category. Note non-dogs in the comments section. Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	Horses are considered on-leash. Animals and people counted separately because it can be difficult to associate dogs with owners in some cases.
Domestic animals off-leash	Mostly Dogs.	Count animals as individuals, and count people separately in some other category. Note non-dogs in the comments section. Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	Animals and people counted separately because it can be difficult to associate dogs with owners in some cases.
Tidepooling	Actively observing tide-pools.	Raw count	
Shore-based Hook and Line	Actively fishing. Line in, casting, etc.	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	This is modified from rod and reel, so it now includes poke poling
Shore-based Trap Fishing	Actively fishing.	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	

Shore-based Net Fishing	Actively fishing. Net in, throwing, etc.	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	
Shore-based spear fishing	Standing on-shore with a spear (includes poke-poling).	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	
Hand Collection of biotic material	Extraction <i>into</i> a bucket or other vessel (nets)	Raw count broken down by rocky or sandy substrate.	Examples include: sand-crabs, kelp, tidepool species
Offshore recreation	Swimming, wading, bodysurfing. Anyone in the water who does not fall into another category.	Raw count	This mirrors the onshore recreation category.
Board sports	Surfing/ Boogie Boarding, Kite Surfing/ Wind Surfing. (NOT Paddle-boarding)	Raw count	
Stand-Up Paddleboarding	Can alternatively count this under paddle-operated boat.	Raw count	
Non-consumptive SCUBA and snorkeling	Gearing up, entering or exiting the water.	Raw count DO NOT count divers gearing up outside of the count area (e.g. the parking lot).	This includes research, which can be noted in the comments field.
Spear Fishing	Gearing up, or coming out of the water.	Raw count	
Other consumptive diving	Lobster, scallops, goodie bags. Observed take in bags as they come out of the water.	Raw count	
Boat fishing – traps		Raw count recreational, commercial, unknown. active vs inactive	
Boat fishing – line		Raw count recreational, commercial, unknown. active vs inactive	
boat fishing – nets		Raw count recreational, commercial, unknown. active vs inactive	
Boat fishing – dive		Raw count	

		recreational, commercial, unknown.	
		active vs inactive	
	Kelp Harvesting	Raw count	
		active or inactive	
	Unknown fishing boat	Volunteer must have visual evidence that the boat is a fishing boat, but be unable to discern a gear type.	Raw count
			This won't be categorized as other fishing boats because it is by definition inactive, and there's too much uncertainty around the recreational vs commercial question.
	CPFV	5+ people visible on board. (or local knowledge of vessels)	Raw count
			active or inactive
	Paddle-operated	On the water, launching, or pulling out. (includes kayaks, dingies, canoes, etc)	Raw count
	Dive boat	Stationary, flag up.	Raw count
	Whale Watching boat		Raw count
	Work Boat	Including life-guard boats, enforcement, research, military, coast guard.	Raw count
	Other Boating	Any powerboat, jetski, or sailboat, which is not obviously a work boat.	Raw count
	Comments	This is for things volunteers note as important, but which are not accommodated by the data sheet.	<p>Check the boxes if scientific research, education, beach closure, large gatherings, or enforcement activity are present – all these activities should be tallied and counted in the appropriate categories in the data sheet.</p> <p>Fill in if volunteer reported any violations, by what means, to who, and how many reports were made.</p>

Illegal Activities

What do you do when you witness possible poaching or illegal activities in an MPA?

- Do NOT confront the person
- Position yourself in a safe place, or just continue with your survey (incognito-style)
- Call 911 if a dangerous or emergency situation
- It's up to you if you want to report poaching or polluting
- If you feel comfortable, call 1-888-DFG-CalTIP (1-888-334-2258)
- CalTIP (*Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters*) is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide Fish and Wildlife with factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters
- Be prepared to give the fullest possible account of the incident including the name, address, age and description of the suspect, vehicle description, and direction of travel, license number, type of violation and when and where it occurred.
- For more information, go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/caltip.aspx>



Our Study Sites

Within the seven Orange County Marine Protected Areas, there are over 30 possible survey sites. We have chosen 5 sites as “priorities” to monitor more often. These sites are representative of the common types of beaches found in Orange County. The 5 sites listed in detail below and with maps included are:

- Crescent Bay
- Shaw’s Cove
- Moss Point
- Aliso Creek State Beach
- Table Rock Beach

Crescent Bay



From PCH south turn right onto Crescent Bay Drive. There is free residential parking. Use the observation point to conduct the survey. Additional parking may be found on Cliff Drive, where there is an access point to the beach.

Shaw's Cove



From PCH south, there are a number of streets for parking. Turning onto Cliff Drive circles the area. There is free residential parking on Cliff Drive and Marine Drive. The beach access point is on Fairview Street. Fisherman's Cove is an additional site but not regularly monitored. Access is from Shaw's Cove at low tide and from Cliff Drive near a parking lot.

Moss Point



From PCH south, turn right onto Moss Street. There is limited free residential parking on Moss Street and Ocean Way. Parking may also be found on PCH. Access point is on Moss Street. Wood's Cove is an additional but not regularly monitored site within walking distance on Ocean Way.

Aliso Creek State Beach



From PCH south, turn right onto Aliso Way to find paid parking in the parking lot. Parking may be found on PCH up the hill.

Table Rock Beach



Table Rock is the small cove in the upper portion of the picture. Access is from Table Rock Drive. Parking is on PCH between West Street and Table Rock Drive. Paid and limited time public lots can be found near Table Rock Drive.

MPA Watch Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where can I find a tide calendar?

A: We suggest this website:

<http://www.surflife.com/surflife/tides/getXtideLocation.cfm?alias=malibucam>

Q: Should I include lifeguards in my survey?

A: If you see a lifeguard standing on the beach or on the lifeguard tower, DO NOT count them in your survey. It is assumed that there are lifeguards at the beach, and therefore their presence does not affect the number of people visiting the beach.

Q: How do I count a lifeguard vehicle driving on the sand?

A: If you see a lifeguard car driving down the beach, please count that under the category “Driving on the Beach”, because that activity does have an effect on the beach ecology. Be careful not to double-count the same vehicle if it passed you earlier.

Q: How do I count a lifeguard vehicle parked on the sand next to a lifeguard tower?

A: DO NOT count a lifeguard vehicle parked in the sand next to a lifeguard tower.

Q: How do I count a lifeguard vehicle parked on the sand, but NOT next to a lifeguard tower?

A: A lifeguard vehicle parked on the sand but not next to a lifeguard tower should be counted as “Driving on the Beach”. Be careful not to double-count the same vehicle if it passed you earlier.

Q: How do I count a lifeguard vehicle in the parking lot?

A: DO NOT count any activity in the parking lot, including lifeguard vehicles.

Q: How do I count the life guard boat?

A: Count the lifeguard boat as “Work Boat.” Make a note on your data sheet that it was a lifeguard boat.

Q: Do I count surf instructors under the category “Surfing” or under the category “Beach Recreation”?

A: Even though the surf instructors may not actually be surfing, you should count their activity under the category “Surfing” because their action is only related to surfing, not beach recreation. Therefore, if there is one student and one instructor, you would count two people under the category “Surfing”.

Q: How do I count people walking on the beach using metal detectors?

A: People with metal detectors would count as Beach Recreation.

Q: What is the difference between “inactive” and “active” fishing?

A: When recording consumptive boat fishing activities, make sure to properly mark if a person is **inactive** or **active** in the appropriate section of the data sheet. Active fishing is indicated by lines in the water, traps be set or pulled up from the water, and divers with fishing gear entering or exiting the water. Inactive fishing is when fishing gear is visible or present on board, but not baited, in the water, or being used. It is allowed for a person to transit through an MPA with fishing gear to areas where fishing is permitted, as long as the gear is not baited or ready to be used to fish. Therefore, for example, we need to differentiate between a kayaker with a rod/reel on board who is legally transiting through an MPA, and a kayaker with a rod/reel that is actively fishing inside the MPA.

Q: What should I do if I see NO activity during the entire survey?

A: Even if you did not see any activity during a survey, which is still valuable scientific data. Please walk the entire survey segment and turn in your data sheet with the top portion filled out, and make a note that there was no activity seen.

Q: How do I count contractors working on a beach-front home?

A: Do not count any contractors working on a beach-front home, even if they are standing on the beach. Their purpose of being there is not to enjoy the beach, but is to work on private property.

Q: How do I count beach groomers driving on the beach?

A: Count beach groomers as “other” at the bottom of your data sheet and then specify the activity as “beach groomer”. Beach groomers have a specific purpose for driving on the beach (cleaning up trash), so they should not be counted in the same way as a car driving on the beach.

Q: Should I count washed up lobster traps and other fishing gear washed up on shore?

A: No, you should not count washed up lobster traps and other fishing gear. If you would like to make a separate note of it and email it to us, that would be great!

Q: What should I do if I see possible illegal fishing activity?

A: Please record the fishing activity on your data sheet, as you would any other survey activity. You are not required to do so, but if you would like to report illegal activity to Cal-TIP, you can call 1-888-334-2258. Please DO NOT attempt to approach fishermen/women to tell them they are illegally fishing.

Q. Do you count people on bluff trails?

A. No. You only count people on the beach below a bluff, or in the water. Do not count people on trails, parking lots, roads, or bluffs.

Q: What should I do with my data sheet after I have finished my survey?

A: Thanks for completing your survey! Please write the total number for each column in each survey and circle it. Then you can submit it online at www.mpawatch.org or send it to the Orange County Coastkeeper office in one of the following ways: a) scan it and email it to ray@coastkeeper.org b) fax it to 714-850-1592, c) mail it to 3151 Airway Avenue, Suite F-110, Coast Mesa, CA 92626, or d) come by and drop it off in person. You will receive a confirmation email from us when we receive your data sheet.