

# ORANGE COUNTY MPA WATCH PROGRAM




# ORANGE COUNTY COASTKEEPER'S MISSION

“To protect and preserve the region’s watershed and marine habitats through education, restoration, research, and enforcement.”

“Our ultimate vision is to develop solutions to ensure clean waterways, harbors and coastal waters as well as safe, consistent, and adequate water supply”



# HOW WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION

- We use a regional, collaborative approach to watershed management
  - Develop water quality solutions to meet the needs of both the environment and community
  - Implement actions and programs that have well-defined, measurable results
  - Increased environmental awareness among citizens, students, policy makers, and business communities
  - Ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act as well as state, local, and federal environmental regulations
  - Conduct research to identify pollution impacts and provide evidence to enforce regulations
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# THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT (MLPA)

The MLPA was passed in 1999 requiring the reevaluation of all existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and the redesign of new MPAs to fit California's changing needs.

Purpose: Improve the array of MPAs existing in California waters through the adoption of a comprehensive master plan.



Crescent Bay

# WHAT IS AN MPA?

- A marine protected area is a discrete geographic marine or estuarine area designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat.

- Benefits of these areas include:

- an increase in biomass or the mass of plants and animals

- overall increase in population density of plants and animals in a given area

- increased animal body size

- increase in overall species diversity

There are three different types of MPAs in  
Orang County:

State Marine Reserves (SMR)

State Marine Park (SMP)

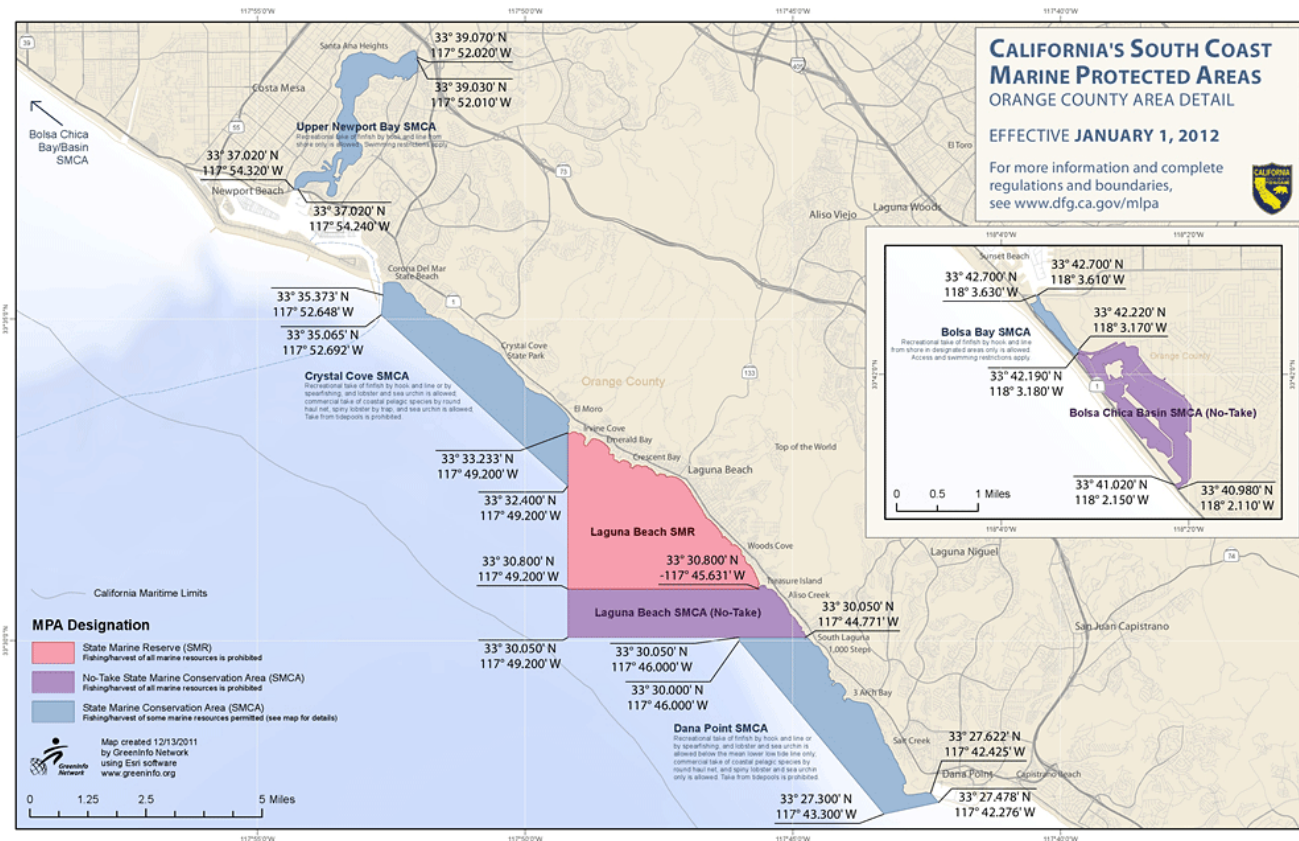
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)



Garibaldi

# THERE ARE SEVEN MPAS WITHIN ORANGE COUNTY

1. Bolsa Bay SMCA
2. Bolsa Chica Basin SMCA
3. Crystal Cove SMCA
4. Dana Point SMCA
5. Laguna Beach SMCA
6. Laguna Beach SMR
7. Upper Newport Beach SMCA



**There are 35 monitoring sites in the seven MPAs covered by the Orange County MPA Watch program.**

# **ORANGE COUNTY MPA REGULATIONS (SIMPLIFIED)**

## **Bolsa Bay SMCA**

Recreational take of finfish by hook and line only from designated areas.

## **Bolsa Basin SMCA**

No Take

## **Upper Newport Bay SMCA**

fishing from shore using hook and line only in designated areas

## **Crystal Cove and Dana Point SMCA**

No take from tidepools

## **Laguna Beach Reserve and SMCA**

No take



# ORANGE COUNTY MPA WATCH SURVEYS

## Crystal Cove

- Big Corona
- Little Corona\*
- Morning Canyon
- Pelican
- Los Trancos
- Reef Point

## Upper Newport Bay

- North Star Beach
- Castaways\*
- Rocky Point
- Jamboree Bridge

## Laguna Beach

- Crescent\*
- Shaws\*
- Fisherman's Cove
- Heisler
- Main
- Cress
- Bluebird
- Woods
- Moss Point\*
- Victoria
- Montage

- Aliso Beach\*

- West Beach

- Table Rock\*

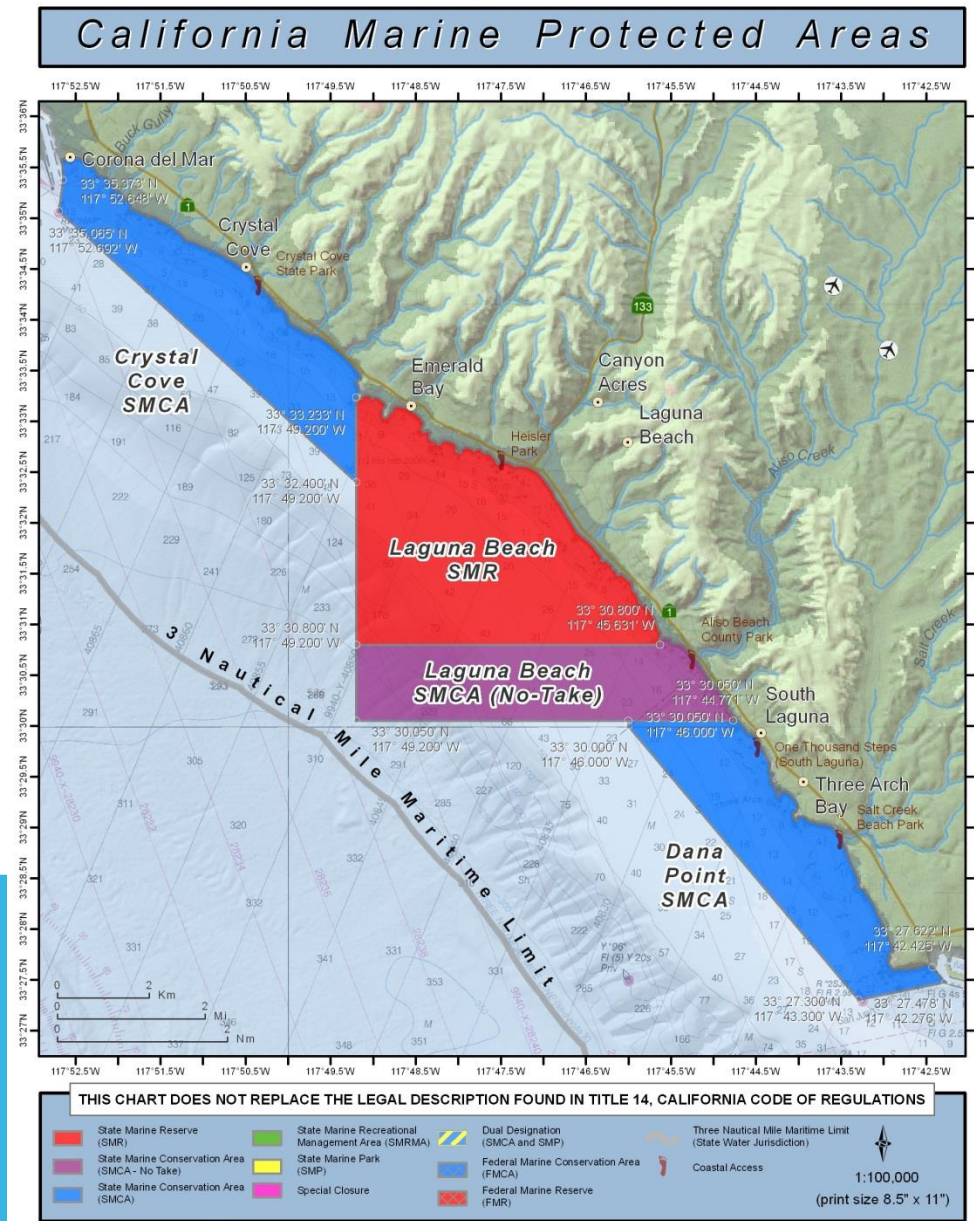
## Dana Point

- Totuava
- Thousand Steps
- Three Arch Bay
- Salt Creek
- Dana Point
- Strands

\* Priority Monitoring Site

# PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Dana Point
- City of Laguna Beach
- City of Newport Beach
- Ocean Institute
- Ocean Quest
- Crystal Cove Alliance



# THE MPA WATCH PROGRAM

- Volunteer based program that enlists volunteers, community groups, and local government to monitor human uses in and around the MPAs
- Groups or volunteers are assigned to specific monitoring locations to record observed activities in hopes of addressing the following:

*What human uses occur in and around MPAs?*

*Are regulations being followed?*

*Have consumptive and non-consumptive uses changed since the MPAs were implemented?*

*What resources are needed to support the MPAs?*



# DATA SHEET & OBSERVABLE ACTIVITIES

## **Consumptive**

- Rod/Reel Fishing
- Hand Collection
- Kelp Harvesting
- Private Vessel with Rod/Reel
- Charter Fishing Boat
- Lobster Fishing Boat
- Trap Fishing
- Spear Fishing

## **Non-Consumptive**

- Beach Recreation
  - Tidepooling (not collecting)
  - Dogs on/off Leash
  - Swimming/Wading
  - paddleboarding
  - Whale Watching Boat
  - Boating
  - Surfing
  - Wildlife Watching
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# MPA WATCH PROGRAM



- Survey segments are coves or segments of sandy beach. Surveys take from several minutes to a half-hour to complete
- Surveys are done by walking a beach or observing from a vantage point, recording both on and off shore activities.
- Surveys occur at varying intervals, data reports are produced quarterly.

Laguna Beach Sea Anemone

# NECESSARY PROVIDED EQUIPMENT



Clipboard  
And Data Sheet



Maps



Binoculars

# OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT (NOT PROVIDED)



Camera



Jackets/Outerwear



Sunscreen

Cell Phone



# STATEWIDE MPA WATCH WEBSITE



<http://www.mpawatch.org/site>

- Learn more about MPA watch
- View the MPA map
- Explore data

# OCCK MPA WATCH DATA SHEET

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	
<b>On-Shore Activities</b>		Rocky	Sandy
Recreation (walking, hiking, running, resting, playing, sitting, camping, art, other, but 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			
<b>Off-Shore Activities (Non-Boating)</b>			
Board Sports (including stand-up paddle-boarding)			
Offshore Recreation (e.g., swimming, bodysurfing)			
Non-Consumptive SCUBA and snorkeling			
Spear Fishing (free diving or SCUBA)			
Other Consumptive Diving (e.g., nets, poles, traps)			

# DATA SHEET ONSHORE CONSUMPTION

## ROD/REEL FISHING



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## TRAP FISHING



# DATA SHEET OFFSHORE CONSUMPTIVE USES

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING  
WITH A ROD/REEL



STAND-UP  
PADDLEBOARDING WITH A  
SPEAR GUN



# DATA SHEET ONSHORE CONSUMPTION

## CAST NET FISHING



# DATA SHEET OFFSHORE CONSUMPTIVE USES

KAYAKING/CANOEING  
WITH ROD/REEL



KAYAKING/CANOEING  
WITH SPEARGUN



# DATA SHEET CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVATES

## TYPES OF BOATS

PRIVATE VESSEL  
WITH ROD/REEL



HOOP NET



# DATA SHEET CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVATES

## TYPES OF BOATS

TROLLING FISHING  
BOAT



LOBSTER FISHING  
BOAT



# DATA SHEET CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVATES

## TYPES OF BOATS

PURSE-SEINE  
FISHING BOAT



URCHIN/CUCUMBER  
DIVING FLOATS AND  
HOOKA GEAR



# DATA SHEET CONSUMPTIVE ACTIVATES

## TYPES OF BOATS

PARTY/CHARTER  
FISHING BOAT



KELP HARVESTING  
VESSEL



# DO'S AND DONTs

## Do

- Have Fun
- Be accurate
- Submit your data online
- Report potential violations

## Don't

- Compromise your safety
- Confront anyone



# QUESTIONS?

