

Pyramid Point MPA Watch Volunteer Field Guide



MPA Watch Local Emergency Resources

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

To report fishing or wildlife related illegal activities:

- Call the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) at **1-888-334-CaITIP (888-334-2258)** to make an anonymous call
- Text "CALTIP", followed by a space and your message, to **847411 (tip411)**
- Download the **CaITIP app** to post an anonymous tip

To report injured, sick, or stranded marine mammals:

- Call the Northcoast Marine Mammal Center Stranding Hotline at **707-951-4722**

To contact the Pyramid Point MPA Watch Program:

- Rosa Laucci, MPA Watch Program Coordinator: 707-487-9255;
rosa.laucci@tolowa.com

MPA Watch

Goal:

- Train volunteers to collect data on how humans are using marine resources both inside and outside of MPAs
- Data collected by volunteers provide important information to understand how people are using local Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and to help inform MPA management

For more information:

<https://www.mpawatch.org>
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>

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Introduction to Marine Protected Areas

What are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)?



MPAs are coastal ocean and estuarine regions that are subject to certain restrictions and regulations designed to protect marine life and ecosystems. They play the same role as our local, state, and national parks in the ocean, making them our underwater parks! In 1999, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) requiring the implementation of a science-based statewide network of MPAs. This law includes conservation goals focused on ecosystem protection, natural diversity and habitat restoration. As a result, there are 124 MPAs established in California, with 50 located in Southern California and 11 within San Diego County. There are three types of MPAs found in San Diego County that have varying regulations:

- State Marine Reserves (SMR): *all* take is prohibited
- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA): certain recreational and/or commercial fishing is allowed; fishing regulations differ per SMCA
- No Take State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA): recreational and commercial take is prohibited but take in accordance with the operation and maintenance of artificial structures located inside the SMCA is allowed; usually established in estuarine regions

All other non-consumptive recreational activities, including but not limited to tidepooling, surfing, kayaking, and snorkeling, are encouraged!

Why are MPAs important?

MPAs protect ecosystems from stress and allow impacted regions to rehabilitate and thrive by limiting fishing, habitat destruction, and other threats. Southern California's marine ecosystems have experienced the collapse of abalone, kelp bass, and barred sand bass, amongst other fisheries, due to severe overfishing. Kelp forests are also harmed by overfishing due to the removal of top predators and its impact down the food chain. MPAs have shown to be effective in parts of California, the Florida Keys, New Zealand, and Mexico, where they have resulted in diverse ecosystems with more abundant and larger-sized organisms.

While MPAs prove beneficial for marine life and habitats, they are also favorable to us humans. Healthy ecosystems provide good views for recreation such as tidepooling, snorkeling, and diving, and clean waters make it suitable for us to enjoy the ocean without putting our own health at risk. MPAs also provide undisturbed resources for learning and research.

What is MPA Watch?

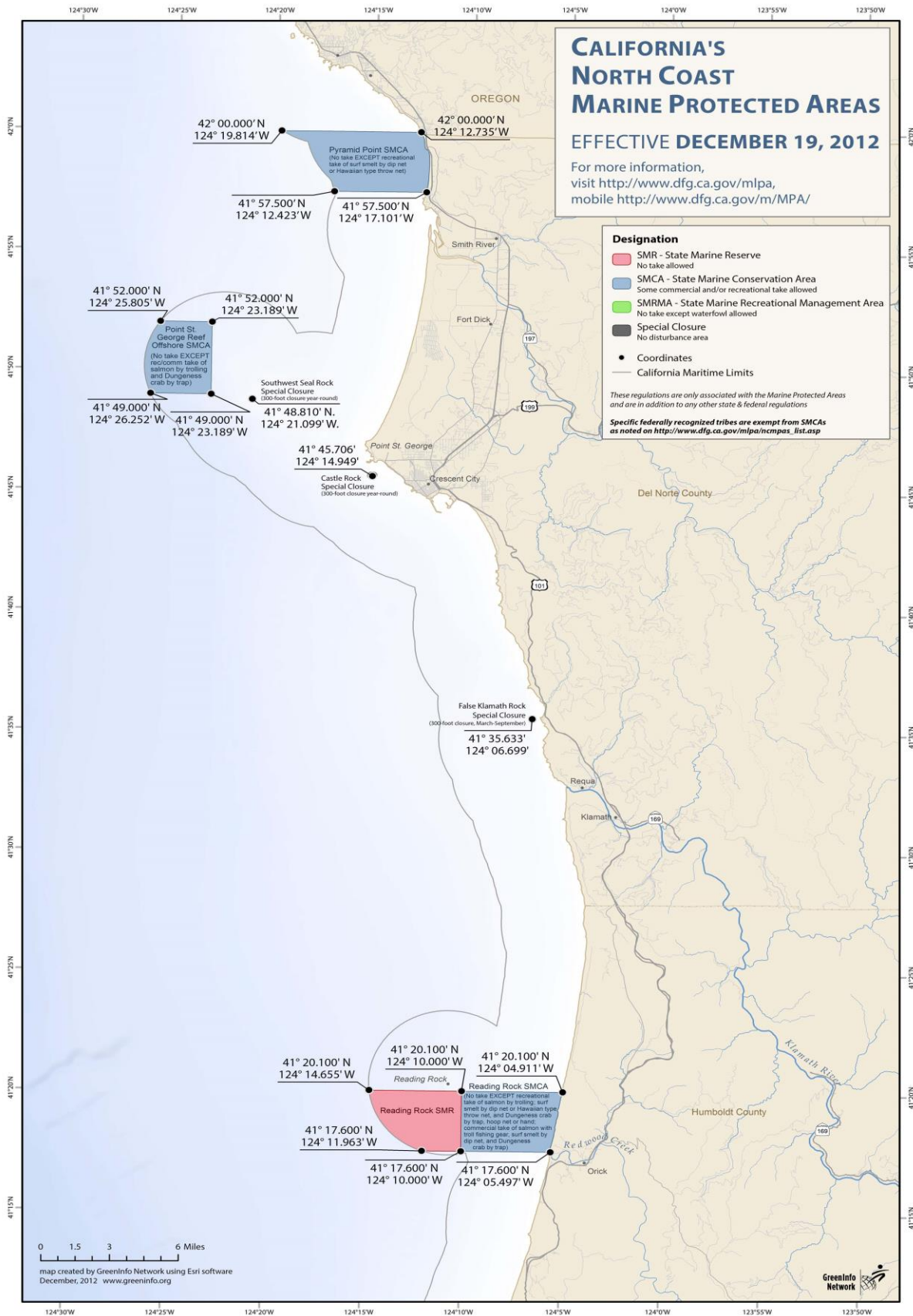
MPA Watch is a citizen science program that trains volunteers to observe and record human use of areas within and outside MPA boundaries. Volunteers collect data that contribute to the enforcement and management of MPAs, as well as research studying the effectiveness of MPAs and how human



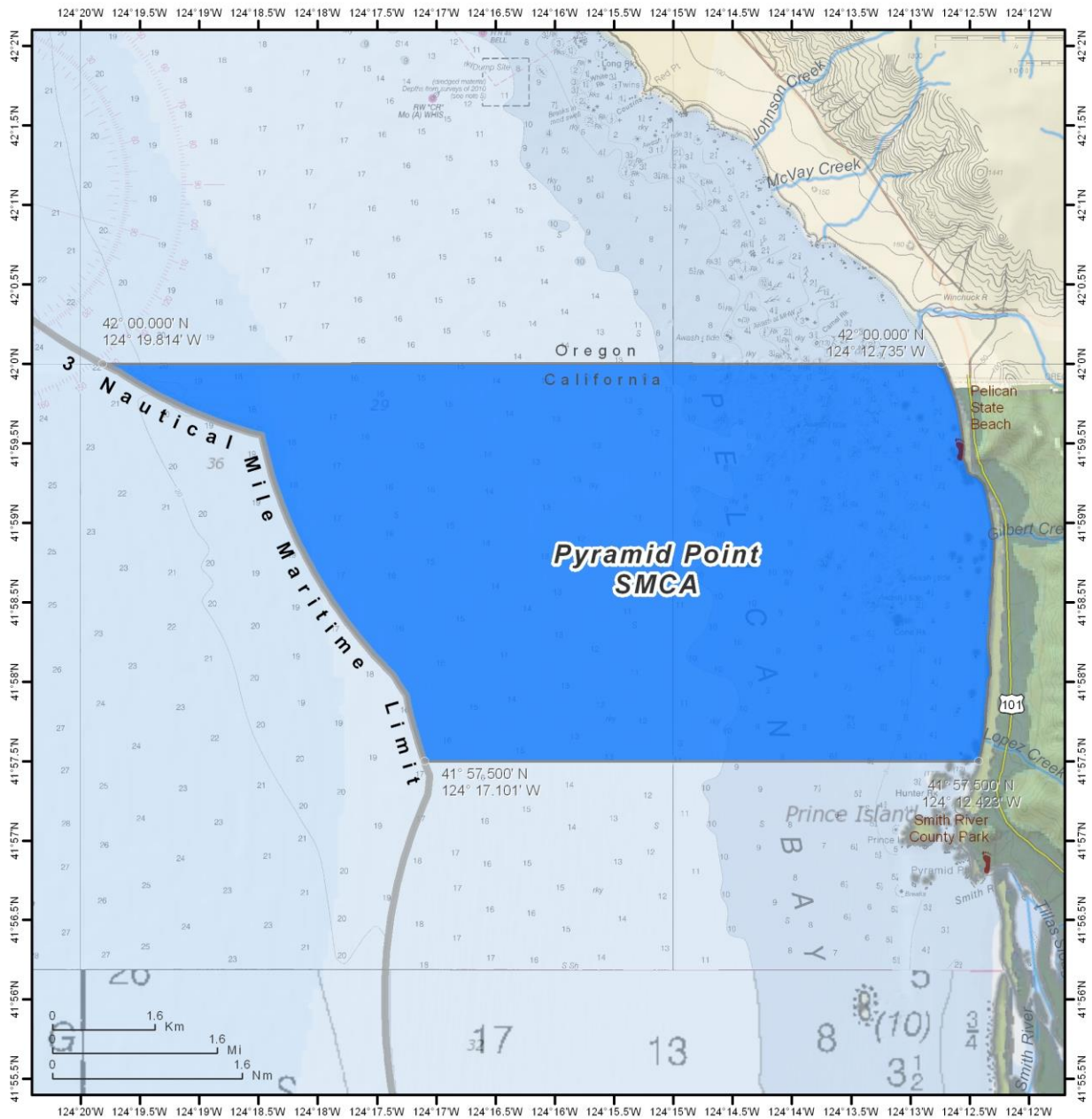
interactions change with their implementation. It is important to know how people interact with MPAs in order to guarantee that the public abide by the regulations and limit the amount of stress imposed onto ecosystems. Knowing which areas are most popular for certain activities also helps inform where enforcement efforts should be concentrated and where public outreach and engagement should be focused.

North Coast MPAs

The following maps show the various MPAs along Del Norte County.



California Marine Protected Areas



THIS CHART DOES NOT REPLACE THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION FOUND IN TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

State Marine Reserve (SMR)	State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)	Dual Designation (SMCA and SMP)	Three Nautical Mile Maritime Limit (State Water Jurisdiction)
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA - No Take)	State Marine Park (SMP)	Federal Marine Conservation Area (FMCA)	Coastal Access
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	Special Closure	Federal Marine Reserve (FMR)	

1:80,000
 (print size 8.5" x 11")

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Region GIS Lab ~ March 14, 2013

Pyramid Point MPA Watch Core Tally 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	
Sea State: Calm Sea (0-2ft) / 2-4 ft swell / 4-6 ft. swell / Too rough to observe		Comments:	

On-Shore Activities	Sandy	Rocky
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)	
Surfing/Boogie Boarding	
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	
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					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Unknown Fishing Boat						
Kayak/Canoe/Dinghy						
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)						

Did you observe: scientific research; education; beach closure; large gatherings (e.g., beach cleanup); enforcement activity

Describe below and provide counts of individuals involved where possible, and whether it took place on rocky or sandy or sandy substrate.

Did you report a violation: yes no If yes, how many violations did you report _____

Who did you report the violation to (mark all that apply): DFW State Parks other entity (e.g., lifeguard, harbor patrol)

Which method did you use to report your violation (mark all that apply): phone call text mobile app website email in person

How to conduct an MPA Watch survey

1. Walk to the designated starting point (northernmost point)
2. Fill out the top portion of the data sheet. Make sure you record the correct date and start/end times.
3. Walk from north to south along the mean high tide line to the stopping point (the mean high tide line is the middle area between the highest point that sea weed reaches on the beach and the lowest point that the water reaches)
4. Only record an activity as you pass the person doing that activity. Do not count people ahead or behind you. This is important to maintain scientific consistency across MPA Watch volunteers and programs. Do not count people twice if their activity changes.
5. The only activities you count if the person is not actively doing those activities are surfing and SCUBA diving. If a person is walking in full gear and holding equipment for surfing/diving, you can assume those are their only recreational activities. However, if you see a person sitting/laying on the beach with a surfboard, they are counted as “beach recreation”.
6. Make sure to properly mark if a person is actively fishing or not actively fishing, in the appropriate section of the data sheet. The fishing regulations in the MPAs that prohibit or limit certain types of fishing state that a person may transit through the MPA with fishing gear to the regulated fisheries, as long as the gear is not baited or ready to be used to fish.
7. Write the correct end time at the top of your data sheet once you reach your stopping point. Do not count anyone past the stopping point.
8. Total each individual row and circle the sum.
9. Submit your data sheet online at mpawatch.org (if you’ve set up an account) or send your data sheet to the program manager in one of the following ways:
 - a. Scan and email it to rosa.laucci@tolowa.com
 - b. Text it to 707-951-3712
 - c. Come by and drop it off in person
400 North Indian Road
Smith River, CA 95567
(In the Lucky 7 Casino parking lot)
10. You will receive a confirmation email from us when we receive your data sheet.

Onshore Non-Consumptive Activities

Beach Recreation Examples



Frisbee



Sunbathing



Skim-Boarding



Picnicking



Walking



Running



Tide pooling (NOT Collecting)

Onshore Non-Consumptive Activities



Media



Rock Climbing



Wildlife Viewing



Driving on Beach



Domesticated Animals



Research (NOT Collecting)

Onshore Consumptive Activities



Rod/Reel Fishing



Trap Fishing (ex. Hoop Net)



Cast Net Fishing



Sand Crab Raking/Hand Collection



Hand Collection
(kelp, tide pool, mussels)



Non-biological Collection
(rocks, shells, trash)

Offshore Non-Consumptive Activities



Swimming



Wading



Surfing



Boogie Boarding



Stand-up Paddle boarding



Kite Surfing/Wind Surfing

Offshore Non-Consumptive Activities



SCUBA Diving/Snorkeling



Research (NOT collecting)



Kayaking



Canoeing



Dinghy



Sailing

Offshore Non-Consumptive Activities



Jet Skiing



Private Power Boat
(NOT fishing boat)



Whale Watching Boat



Dive Boat
(with dive flag up)

Offshore Consumptive Activities



Snorkel/SCUBA Diving
(spear gun)



Snorkel/SCUBA Diving (nets)



Stand-up Paddle Boarding Rod/Reel



Stand-up Paddle Boarding Spear Gun



Kayak/Canoe/Dinghy with Rod/Reel



Kayak/Canoe/Dinghy with Spear Gun

Offshore Consumptive Activities



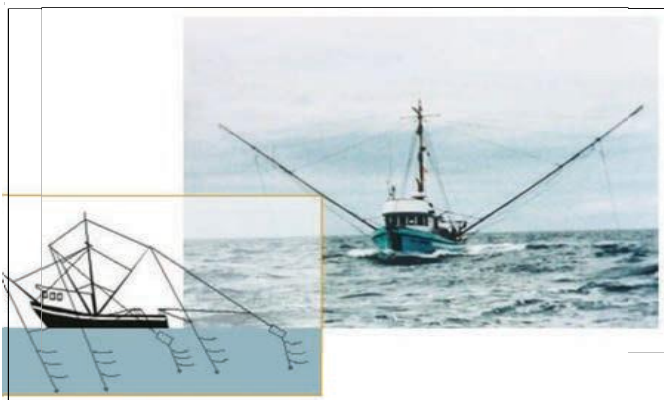
Private Vessel with Rod/Reel



Private Vessel with Hoop Nets



Party/Charter Fishing boat (5+ people)



Trolling Fishing Boat ("Wings")

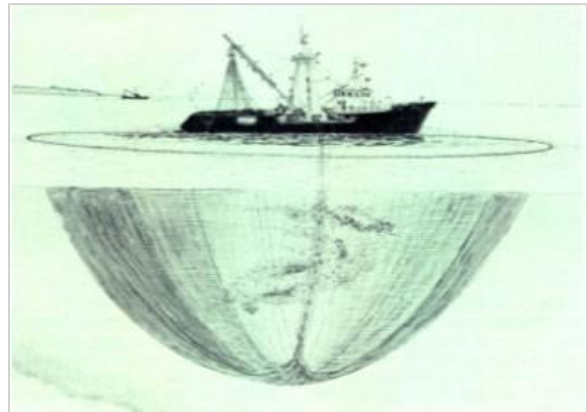
Offshore Consumptive Activities



Crab Fishing Boat (Traps & Crane)



Purse-Seine Fishing Boat
(Squid & Bait)



Underwater View



Rod/Reel Commercial Fishing Boat



Example: Commercial Boat

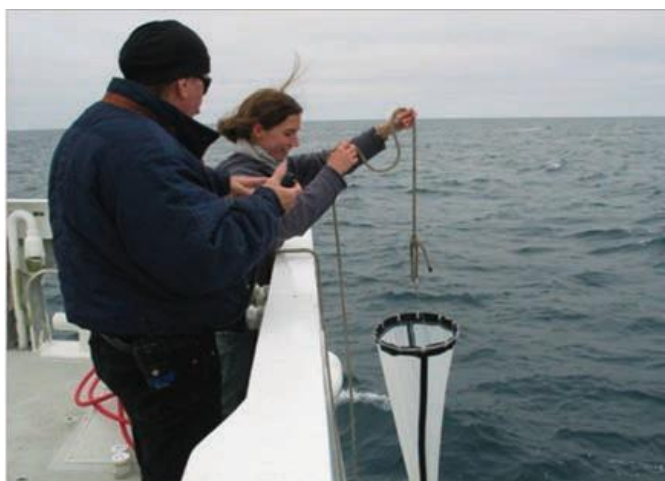
Offshore Consumptive Activities



Urchin/Cucumber Diving Boat (hookah)



Kelp Harvesting



Research Boat (collecting)

Pyramid Point SMCA Transect Sites



Boundary Description

Starts at the California/Oregon border and ends at Yaa-ghii~-'a~ or the Concrete Trail in The Beach at Smith River subdivision.

From 42°0'0.0"N 124° 12'44.91"W to 41°58'3.71"N 124°12'20.43"W

Surveys

Pyramid Point 1 (PP 1): CA/OR border to White Rock Resort (0.67 miles)

Pyramid Point 2 (PP 2): Gilbert Creek to Yaa-ghii~-'a~ (0.96 miles)

Background Information:

The fishing restrictions in this area are that there is no take, except for surf smelt with an A-frame net or Hawaiian throw net. If the tide is low enough, both sites can be surveyed back to back by making your way carefully around the rocky point and on to PP2 start point at Gilbert Creek.

Caution: Be aware of sneaker waves at all times!

PP 1



Start Point

The best way to get to the start point is through Crissy Field. As you'll see on the map, the north MPA boundary and CA/OR border are 2 different lines – the survey begins at $42^{\circ}0'0.0''N$ which is the MPA boundary. By taking the first path at Crissy Field when you first drive in, you'll come out on the beach very close to the start point. Crissy Field Station does have nice bathrooms, if needed. Use the GPS on your phone to find the right latitude the first time and locate a marker on the dunes to look for next time. The other public access point is in Pelican State Beach (no bathrooms) towards the end of the transect. If you choose this way, you'll need to walk north and find the right latitude and walk back south. Either way, orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean.

End Point

The end point is at the bottom of White Rock Resort, just before the rocky point begins.

PP 2



Start Point

The start point begins on the beach where Gilbert Creek comes out. If not accessing it from walking around the rocky point from PP1, the next public access is Kamph Park (bathrooms), half way through the transect, or at Yaa-ghii~-'a~ (no bathrooms), at the end of the transect. If choosing one of the public access areas, you'll need to walk north to the start point and then orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean.

End Point

The end point is at Yaa-ghii~-'a~ (the concrete trail in The Beach at Smith River subdivision).

MPA Watch Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between “sandy” and “rocky”?

A: Any activity that happens on the sandy beach will be counted under “sandy”. Any activities happening on any rocky outcropping/jetties/cliffs such as tidepooling and fishing will counted under “rocky”.

Q: How do I count someone who switches activities?

A: You only count someone **ONCE**. If you see someone switch activities, such as someone who was originally laying on the beach but then goes in the water, count them only under the activity that you first observed them.

Q: How do I count someone walking their dog?

A: A person and their pet count **SEPARATELY**. For someone walking their dog, count the person under “beach recreation” and the dog under “domestic animals on/off leash”.

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

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 were 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 “Other” and specify the activity (bottom part of the data sheet).

Q: Why do I need to differentiate if someone is “actively fishing” or “not actively fishing?”

A: The fishing regulations in the MPAs that prohibit or limit certain types of fishing state that a person may transit through the MPAs with fishing gear for the regulated fisheries, as long as the e 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 legally transiting through the MPA and a kayaker with a rod/reel that is illegally fishing inside the MPAs.

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, that 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 beachfront home?

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

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

A: No, you should not count washed up crab 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 illegal fishing activity going on in the MPA during my survey?

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 feel comfortable you can approach the person to let them know it is a protected area and no fishing is allowed. If you would like to report illegal activity to Cal-tip call this number 888-334-2285. Please do either activity AFTER completing your survey.