

"I love that as an everyday person I can do science and help save the ocean."

-Alexis, WILD Coast Volunteer

## MPA Watch Facts and Figures\* (2013-2019)

**23,000+**  
Land-based  
surveys completed

**58**  
Number of MPAs  
surveyed

**400+**  
Boat-based  
surveys completed

**59**  
Number of MPA  
Watch control sites

**850+**  
Volunteers actively  
engaged

Geographic span:  
**All coastal  
counties in  
California.**

\*Statewide

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY



## Community Science for Stewardship of Ocean Resources



**WILD COAST  
COSTASALVAJE**

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch is a network of programs in California that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around our protected areas.

[wildcoast.org/mpawatch](http://wildcoast.org/mpawatch)

## BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST!



## MPA Watch in San Diego County is managed by WILD COAST.

WILD COAST conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife.

### WILD COAST:



*Establishes and manages  
protected areas.*



*Advances conservation policy.*



*Directly engages local  
communities in scientific  
monitoring and conservation.*

**WILD COAST  
COSTASALVAJE**  
[wildcoast.org](http://wildcoast.org)

## What data are collected and how?

Volunteers are trained to walk predetermined routes on the beach and record observations on an MPA Watch datasheet.

### Types of activities recorded include:

#### Onshore Activities

- Beach Recreation
- Tidepooling
- Shore-based Fishing

#### Offshore Activities

- Surfing
- Stand Up Paddle Boards
- SCUBA/Snorkeling

#### Boating

- Boat Fishing
- Kayaks
- Party Boats

#### Other Activities

- Potential Poaching
- Education
- Enforcement

## Who uses the data and results?

### Potential users of MPA Watch data include:

- Resource managers
- Local communities
- Academia

### MPA Watch currently engages with:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Parks
- California MPA Collaborative Network

Data reports may be obtained by e-mailing [angela@wildcoast.org](mailto:angela@wildcoast.org).

## Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Similar to state parks on land, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats they depend on, and the integrity of marine ecosystems by regulating the types of allowable take.

**California is home to a network of 124 MPAs. There are 11 MPAs in San Diego County, which fall into three categories:**



#### State Marine Reserve (SMR)

No take allowed.



#### No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

No take allowed.



#### State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)

Limited take. Allowable take varies.

**For more information on San Diego Co. MPAs view the Educational Materials at [wildcoast.org/resources](http://wildcoast.org/resources) and download the MPA Wildlife and Recreation Guide.**



Photo by Brian Skeery

## Volunteer Requirements

### MPA Watch volunteers must:

- Be at least 15 years old or accompanied by an adult (under age 18 requires parental or guardian consent)
- Commit to completing at least two surveys a month for at least three months
- Be able to walk outside, on the beach, on uneven terrain
- Provide own transportation to/from surveys

**New volunteers must complete a 60-90 minute training with a WILD COAST staff member. To schedule a training e-mail [angela@wildcoast.org](mailto:angela@wildcoast.org).**

## Survey Sites

### MPA Watch volunteers monitor 17 sites in:

- Encinitas
- La Jolla
- South La Jolla
- Imperial Beach

Surveys are completed along predetermined routes and range from 0.20 to 1.45 miles one direction. Once trained, volunteers may pick which site(s) they would like to survey.

Most sites are completed on foot; however, two driving sites exist in South La Jolla.

**Data sheets, site maps, and volunteer manual may be downloaded from [wildcoast.org/mpawatch](http://wildcoast.org/mpawatch).**

