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

-Alexis, WILDCOAST Volunteer

## **BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST!**



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

31,000+ Land-based surveys completed

400+ Boat-based

Boat-based surveys completed

# 850+

Volunteers actively engaged

Number of MPAs surveyed

68

**59** Number of MPA Watch control sites

Geographic span: All coastal counties in California.

\*Statewide

# MPA Watch in San Diego County is managed by WILDCOAST.

WILDCOAST conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and addresses climate change through natural solutions. WILDCOAST:



Establishes and manages protected areas

Protects and restores blue carbon ecosystems

Partners with local communities, governments, and the private sector

#### WILDCOAST COSTASALVAJE

wildcoast.org

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY



# Community Science for Stewardship of Ocean Resources





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

## 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
  SCUBA/Snorkeling

#### Boating

- Boat Fishing
- Kayaks
- Party Boats

# Surfing

- Stand Up Paddle Boards

#### **Other Activities**

- Potential Poaching
- Education
- Enforcement

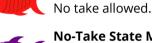
# Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

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 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 and download the MPA Wildlife and Recreation Guide.



## **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 WILDCOAST staff member. To schedule a training e-mail 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.

# 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.



**Offshore Activities**