

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.

MPA Watch trains volunteers to observe and collect data on human uses of coastal and marine resources both inside and outside of marine protected areas (MPAs). Volunteers use standardized protocols to collect relevant, scientifically rigorous, and broadly accessible data.

Data are meant to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's marine protected areas, and allow our network of programs to track how the public uses coastal areas.

By involving local communities in this MPA monitoring, MPA Watch programs inspire and empower stewardship, and educate the public about California's ocean ecosystems.

MPA Watch is currently preparing materials to submit to the 2022 decadal management review, including a comprehensive modeling analysis being conducted in partnership with the UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science.

Highlights from MPA Watch

- MPA Watch has hundreds of trained volunteers regularly making observations in every coastal county in California.
- MPA Watch volunteers could be utilized by OPC and other agencies to collect additional data.
- Regional data reports are available on mpawatch.org and customized data reports may be requested from any of the regional managers (listed on our website).
- Please contact Angela Kemsley at angela@wildcoast.org for more information.

Organizations Currently Training and Supporting California MPA Watch Volunteers

- Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation (Del Norte County)
- Eagle Eyes of False Klamath Cove (Del Norte County)
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (Marin County)
- California Academy of Sciences (Marin County)
- Greater Farallones Association (San Francisco County and Surrounding Areas)
- NOAA (San Francisco County and Surrounding Areas)
- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (Monterey County)
- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (Santa Barbara County)
- Heal the Bay (Los Angeles County, Land-Based)
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Los Angeles County, Boat-Based)
- Orange County Coastkeeper (Orange County)
- WILDCOAST (San Diego County)
- California State Parks (Statewide)

