

# Los Angeles County



## Marine Protected Area (MPA) Community Compliance Forum Report September 15 & 16, 2020

With support and funding from:



# About

The **MPA Collaborative Network's Compliance Initiative** is supported by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and in partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the California District Attorneys Association, and Resources Legacy Fund. It is a multi-year initiative that aims to improve the compliance and enforcement of California's network of MPAs through community compliance forums, allied agency enforcement trainings, prosecutor training, and MPA violation data collection.

The individual **Community Compliance Forums** held for each coastal county provided space for local stakeholders to voice their MPA, ocean, and coastal compliance concerns and brainstorm ideas to address those concerns. The Collaborative Network hosted two in-person forums (pre-pandemic) and 13 virtual forums. Five hundred community members participated, resulting in over 2,200 compliance concerns and solutions mentioned during 40+ hours of engagement.

Two virtual forums were held for Los Angeles County, one focused on the Malibu area and one focused on the Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) area. This report summarizes the input gathered from stakeholders during the both of the Los Angeles County Forum discussions as well the input provided in the post-Forum evaluation forms, Google surveys, and printed surveys.

Refer to the separate **Statewide Compliance Forum Report** for more information about the universal categories used to group mentioned compliance concerns and solutions. Refer to the **Glossary** at the end of this report for definitions of commonly used acronyms.

# Key Takeaways

- It is essential that allied agency enforcement trainings incorporate guidance from communities that are not adequately represented at the forum and may be more impacted by a coastal enforcement presence (e.g., Black, Indigenous, people of color, anglers).
- Education and outreach about MPAs and ocean stewardship need to happen at the community level, ahead of visiting the coast, through engagement with organizations already working with/in these communities.
- “Know your regulations and location of MPAs” educational materials should be incorporated into fishing licenses.
- More docents/volunteers are needed to educate beach visitors about take and MPAs, especially in tidepools (e.g., Abalone Cove, Paradise Cove).
- There is a need for more outreach on reporting violations to CalTIP.

## Highlighted Compliance Concerns

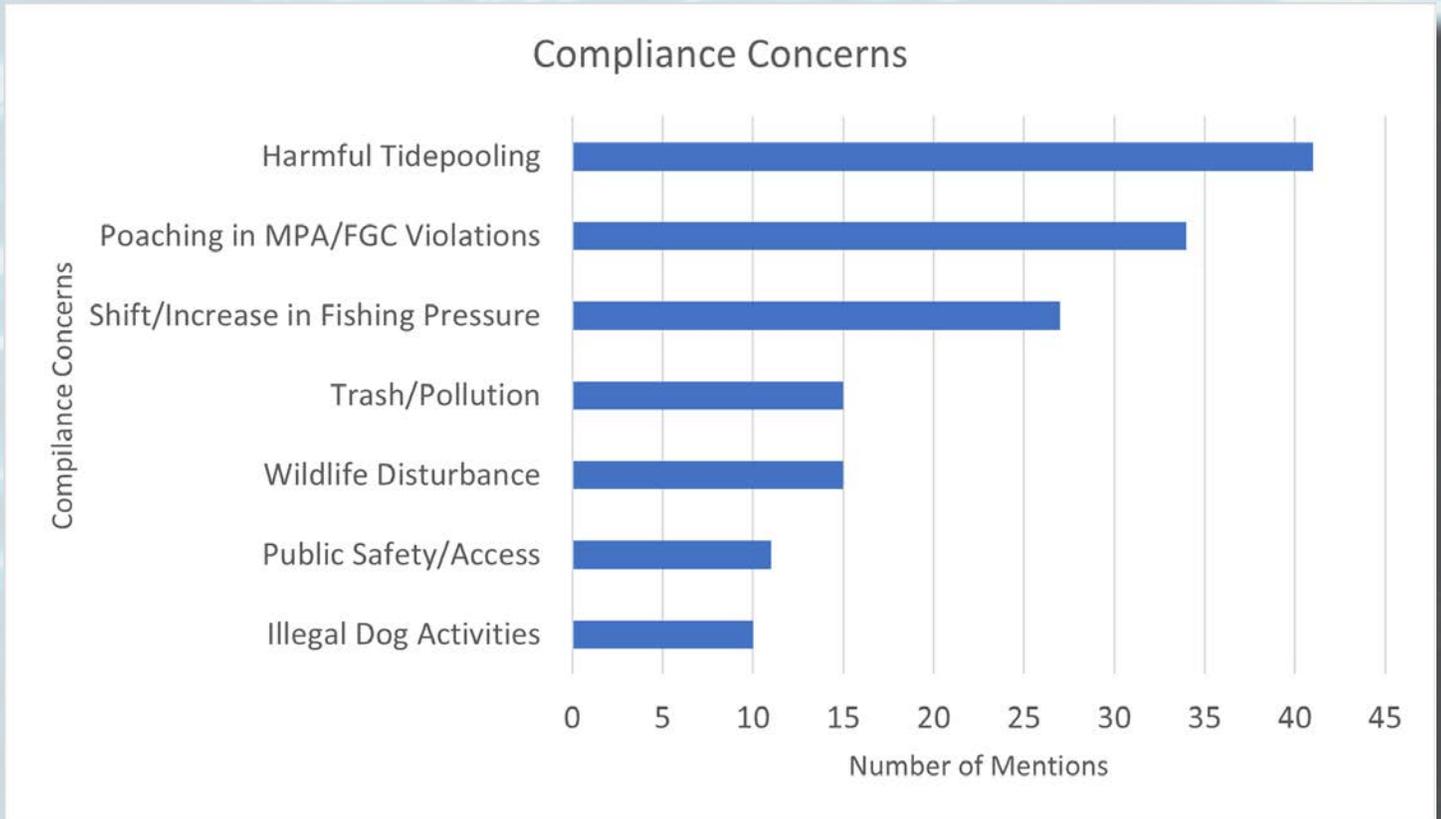
- Tidepooling impacts and unsustainable take is occurring, especially in Paradise Cove, Abalone Cove, and White Point.
- Boats are seen fishing in the early morning and on busy weekends off Lechuza in Point Dume SMCA and in Point Vicente SMCA.
- There is illegal hook and line fishing from shore at Broad Beach and El Matador in the Point Dume SMCA, in Pelican Cove in Point Vicente SMCA, and in front of Vanderlip Park in Abalone Cove SMCA.
- Spear/kayak fishing is occurring in Point Dume SMR.

# Participant Breakdown



- A total of **85 participants attended** the Community Compliance Forums with 26 participants at the Malibu Forum and 59 participants at the Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) Forum.
- The majority of attendees identified as individuals/community members, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers. Science and academia, government agency, and fishing representatives also attended.
- A total of **109 people registered** for one or both Forums and received MPA-related information, educational resources, and additional avenues for sharing input in the Forum follow-up email.
- It is estimated that the Forum resulted in at least **8 new Collaborative sign-ups**.
- In-meeting Zoom poll results indicated that 43% of respondents were “Very Familiar” with MPAs, 54% of respondents were “Somewhat Familiar” with MPAs, and 3% were “Not Familiar” with MPAs.

# Compliance Concerns



This chart summarizes the number of times each MPA compliance concern was mentioned during the Forum discussions and in the post-Forum evaluation forms, Google surveys, and printed surveys. Concerns are organized into general categories based on the overall input from the community. See the Statewide Compliance Forum Report for more category detail.

# Compliance Concerns

## Compliance Concerns in Detail

### • Harmful Tidepooling

- ◇ Poor tidepool etiquette (removing, picking up, or disturbing intertidal organisms and turning over rocks) has been observed in Malibu and Rancho Palos Verdes.
- ◇ Illegal tidepool take is occurring in Paradise Cove and Abalone Cove.
- ◇ Excessive tidepooling impacts have also been observed at Pelican Cove (off Terranea Resort) and at White Point and Sacred Cove.

### • Poaching in MPA/FGC Violations

- ◇ Illegal hook and line fishing from shore at Broad Beach is a major concern.
- ◇ Illegal hook and line fishing from shore is also occurring at El Matador in the Point Dume SMCA, in Pelican Cove in Point Vicente SMCA, and in front of Vanderlip Park in Abalone Cove SMCA.
- ◇ Multiple vessels are anchored and potentially fishing in the Point Vicente No-Take SMCA on nice weekends.
- ◇ At Point Dume SMR, there is illegal take of lobsters at night.
- ◇ Lobster traps have been spotted in Point Vicente No Take SMCA.
- ◇ Boats have been observed fishing in Paradise Cove and Little Dume in Point Dume SMR.
- ◇ Spearfishers are illegally fishing near the stairs at Big Dume in the Point Dume SMR and off the rock in Pelican Cove in Point Vicente No Take SMCA.
- ◇ In the early morning, offshore poaching may occur from fishing vessels off El Matador beach.
- ◇ People are throwing nets late at night at Trancas Creek.
- ◇ Lights have been observed in the early morning in the Abalone Cove tidepools and people have been caught taking huge buckets of urchins, mussels, snails and limpets.
- ◇ Unlawful tidepool take is also occurring at Paradise Cove, Pelican Cove, White Point, and Sacred Cove.

### • Shift/Increase in Fishing Pressure

- ◇ There has been increased fishing pressure at Broad Beach in Malibu.
- ◇ Individuals fish at or near the boundary line near the Vicente Bluffs Reserve.
- ◇ The number of boats has increased significantly around Paradise Cove and Little Dume; some boats are fishing.
- ◇ There has been a huge impact at Sacred Cove as tidepoolers/hook and line fishers are directed to move south out of the Abalone Cove SMCA.

# Compliance Concerns

## Compliance Concerns in Detail Continued

### • **Trash/Pollution**

- ◇ Participants discussed general pollution, trash, and lost fishing gear.
- ◇ Dumping of construction waste, which is an Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) violation, was observed at Point Dume SMR and at El Matador in Point Dume SMCA.
- ◇ Lost lobster traps wash ashore in Point Dume SMCA.

### • **Wildlife Disturbance**

- ◇ Marine mammal disturbance (e.g., getting too close, harassment, flushing of animals) occurs at the rookery in Pirates' Cove in Point Dume SMR.

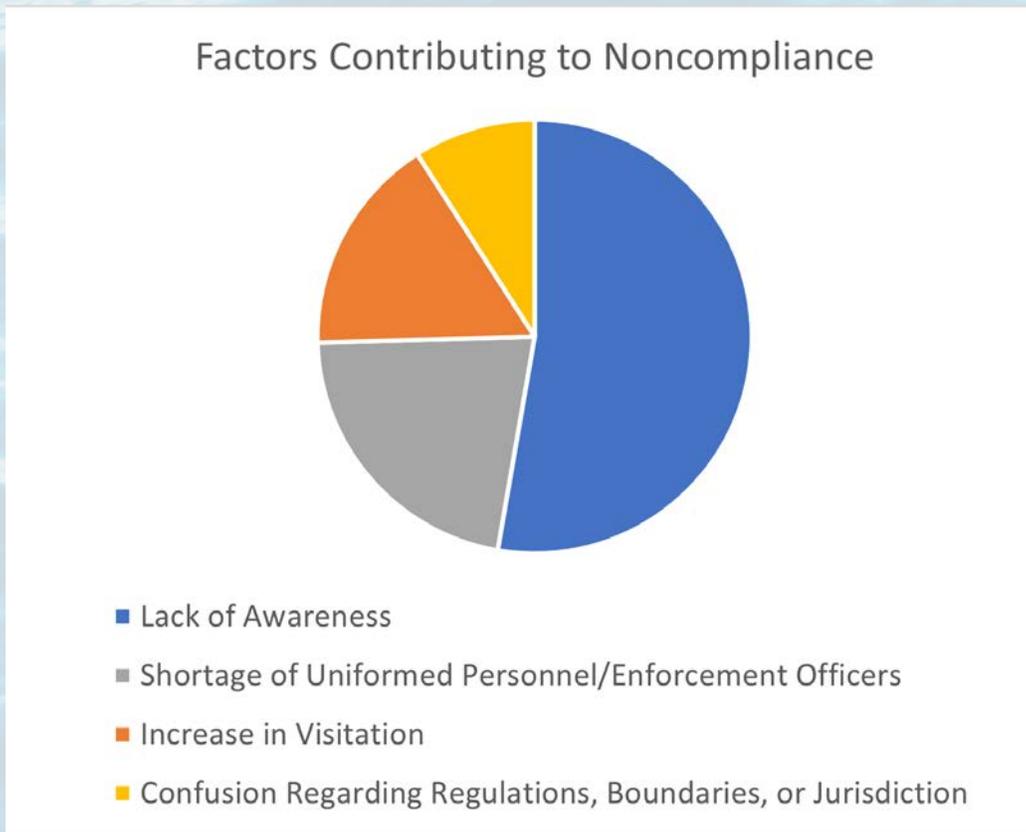
### • **Public Safety/Access**

- ◇ Participants were generally concerned about safety at access points to MPAs and coastal security.
- ◇ Home owners are yelling at beach goers below the mean high tide, telling them (erroneously) they are on private property at El Matador Beach.
- ◇ The staircase at Broad Beach needs repair.
- ◇ Illegal immigrants coming from Mexico land their pangas on the beach (weekly) to move personnel and supplies. Los Angeles County Lifeguards at Point Dume are aware of this safety/security issue.
- ◇ Unauthorized trail use of illegal spur trails occurs in the Vicente Bluffs Reserve (e.g., South East of Seascape Trail and Vista Point - Calle Entradero Parking Lot). Less of these violations occur at Terranea, or Pelican Cove. Most of these violations occur throughout the day, but because they are difficult to access for enforcement personnel on foot, folks are less likely to be informed about legal access routes.
- ◇ On multiple occasions, RPV Rangers have had to take down a system of cables and ladders. It appears this was illegally set up by fishermen to access the beach and the MPA.

### • **Illegal Dog Activities**

- ◇ There are many dog walkers and some off leash dogs, potentially flushing birds, at Point Dume.

# Contributing Factors



This chart summarizes the potential factors contributing to noncompliance in or near MPAs mentioned during the Forum discussions and in the post-Forum evaluation forms, Google surveys, and printed surveys. Factors are organized into general categories based on the overall input from the community. See the Statewide Compliance Forum Report for more category detail.

Across all the Forums, participants commonly mentioned an increase in visitation, a lack of awareness, a shortage of both enforcement officers and enforcement action, and confusion regarding regulations, boundaries, or jurisdiction as concerns. Due to their general nature and commonality across the state, these concerns were identified as underlying factors potentially contributing to noncompliance. During 2020, visitation to the coast and MPAs was elevated, especially in the summer months (except during mandated beach closures) in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Contributing Factors

## Potential Factors Contributing to Noncompliance in Detail

- **Lack of Awareness**

- ◇ There is a general lack of awareness among the public.
- ◇ There is unawareness around tidepooling etiquette , tidepool take regulations, and fishing regulations, particularly at Abalone Cove and Paradise Cove.

- **Shortage of Uniformed Personnel/Enforcement Officers**

- ◇ There is a general lack of enforcement capacity, presence, boat patrols, and ability to respond to all CalTIP calls.

- **Increase in Visitation**

- ◇ Participants were concerned about the increase in visitors (locals and tourists) that occurred during the pandemic and the associated impact to the area, such as trash, wildlife disturbance, trampling, etc.
- ◇ Intertidal areas at Broad beach (Malibu) and Abalone Cove (RPV) have experienced a dramatic increase in visitation.

- **Confusion Regarding Regulations, Boundaries, or Jurisdiction**

- ◇ Participants referenced boundaries were hard to identify, regulations were difficult to decipher, that there was confusion around who had jurisdiction, or the ability/responsibility to help with education or enforcement in a particular area.
- ◇ Some participants noted that the fishing regulations can be confusing, and it is difficult to find information on regulations on the CDFW website.
- ◇ Signage and boundaries can be confusing at Abalone Cove.

# Recommended Solutions



This chart summarizes the number of times each MPA compliance solution was mentioned during the Forum discussions and in the post-Forum evaluation forms, Google surveys, and printed surveys. Solutions are organized into general categories based on the overall input from the community. See the Statewide Compliance Forum Report for more category detail.

# Recommended Solutions

## Recommended Compliance Solutions in Detail

### • Signage

- ◇ There is a general need for more, updated, or new signage, and sign translations.
- ◇ Signage is needed at Broad beach. It is difficult to get signage on private property (i.e., HOA at Broad beach). A brown regulatory fishing sign (fishing line with anti-symbol) is needed. User friendly signs with a Spanish translation was suggested.
- ◇ The interpretive “You Are Here” sign is mangled at top of the ramp at private access from Paradise trailer park.
- ◇ There is a sign missing at El Matador beach.
- ◇ The Marina Del Rey sign placement (on the back of the restrooms) is poor; signs need to be highly visible.
- ◇ White Point signage with rules and regulations pictures would be helpful. The flyer that CDFW made for the tidepools would be great as a sign.
- ◇ One potential solution is to put signage on the back of the lifeguard tower at Abalone Cove (like Point Dume).
- ◇ Signs should be image based and regulatory, as opposed to interpretive signs.
- ◇ The “no fishing in an MPA” sign at Westward beach has graffiti over the CalTIP number and could really use a larger, more colorful, attractive sign.
- ◇ Signs with MPA regulations and a trail map need to be posted at the start and end of the trail to Abalone Cove.

### • Targeted Education & Outreach Programs/Events

- ◇ There is a general need for MPA-related educational programs and outreach events.
- ◇ Cultural sensitivity and addressing underserved/disconnected communities was a priority.
- ◇ Participants suggested translating verbal contacts/materials (e.g., Mandarin, Japanese) and translating the Forum in real time (e.g., Spanish).
- ◇ “Know your regulations and location of MPAs” educational materials should be incorporated into fishing licenses at time of purchase.

### • More Docents/Volunteers

- ◇ Participants expressed a need for more volunteer docents (and paid staff) at popular locations (e.g., tidepools) and docent training programs.

### • More Enforcement Officers

- ◇ Participants suggested enforcement-focused solutions including more enforcement officers, getting officers more engaged, and a joint allied agency enforcement training.

# Recommended Solutions

## Recommended Compliance Solutions in Detail Continued

- **Human Attitudes & Violations Data**

- ◇ Participants suggested doing an academic study on human attitudes towards MPAs.
- ◇ Record keeping and sharing of MPA violations (e.g., CalTIP data) was mentioned.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

- ◇ There needs to be more and diverse engagement in the Los Angeles Collaborative, specifically getting people involved from groups historically denied access to the coast, who may have or currently experience discrimination and prejudice, and who speak languages other than English.

- **Boundary Markers/Buoys**

- ◇ Buoys were suggested to mark the boundaries of Point Dume SMCA/SMR in Malibu.
- ◇ Onshore boundary markers are needed at the Abalone Cove/Point Vicente SMCA's boundary.

- **Printed Materials**

- ◇ The LA MPA and fishing brochure in English and Spanish has been effective.

- **Digital Resources**

- ◇ Participants suggested digital resources including a better mobile app with MPAs (e.g., FishLegal, CDFW mobile app, and using an app like Monterey Bay's Seafood Watch as a model) as a compliance solution.

- **Manuals**

- ◇ Printing Los Angeles MPA Training Manuals and distributing them to allied agency officers is a priority.

# Wrap-Up Discussion

## 1. What are our high priority needs?

- Need to improve inclusivity and prioritize intersectional environmentalism
- Highly visible regulatory signage is needed, especially in impacted/oft visited locations
- More enforcement and record keeping of violations is needed

## 2. What programs or projects could be used to increase compliance?

- Volunteer patrols can be used to educate people in tidepools
- Allied agency/joint trainings
- Need to revisit incorporating MPA educational materials into fishing licenses

## 3. What key partners need to be at the table to assist with law enforcement?

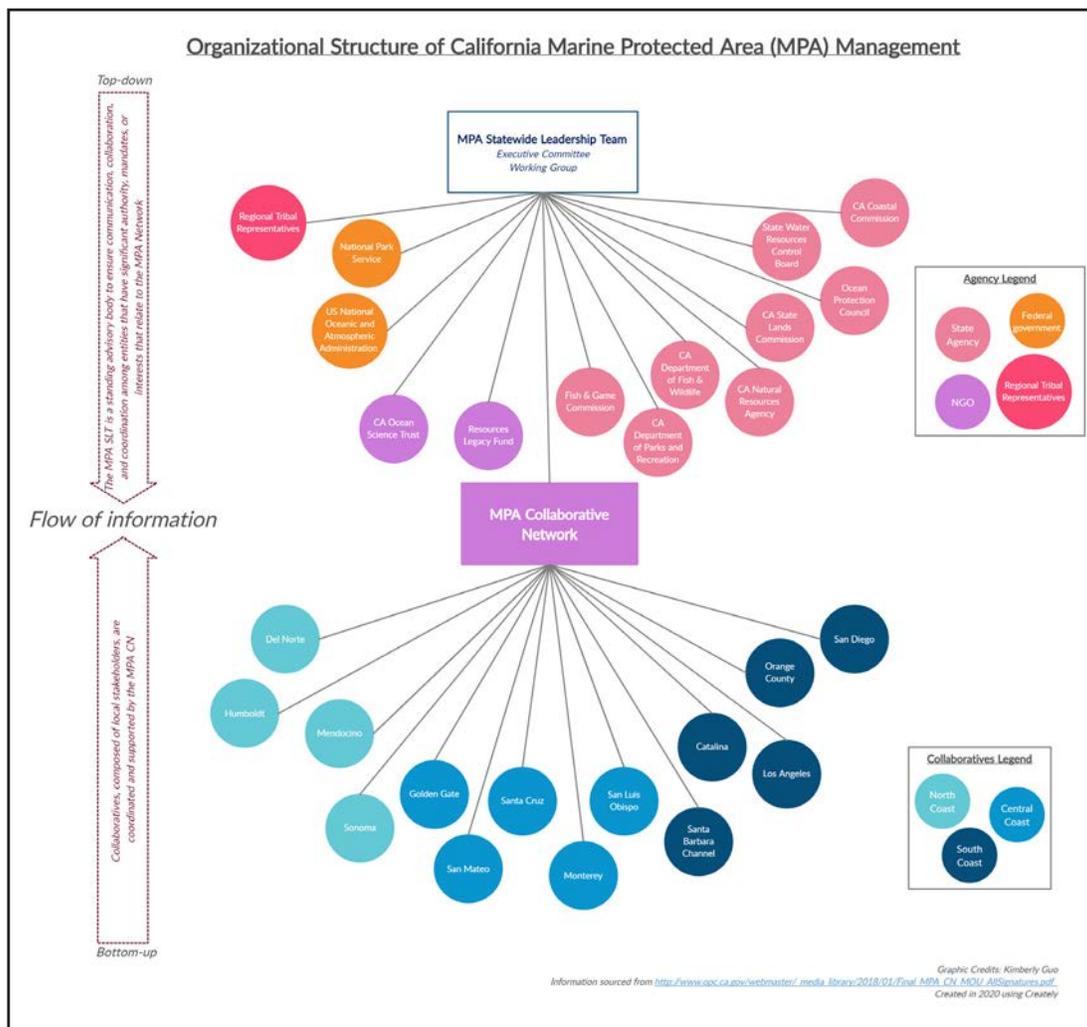
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)
- City of RPV Park Rangers
- California State Parks
- LA County Lifeguards
- LA County Sheriffs
- US Coast Guard
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)
- District Attorneys
- Other allied agencies (uniformed personnel)

# Issues for Elevation

As a member of the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team](#) (MSLT), the MPA Collaborative Network can elevate issues, concerns, and ideas shared by stakeholders at the local level to the State managing agencies that have jurisdiction over MPAs in California.

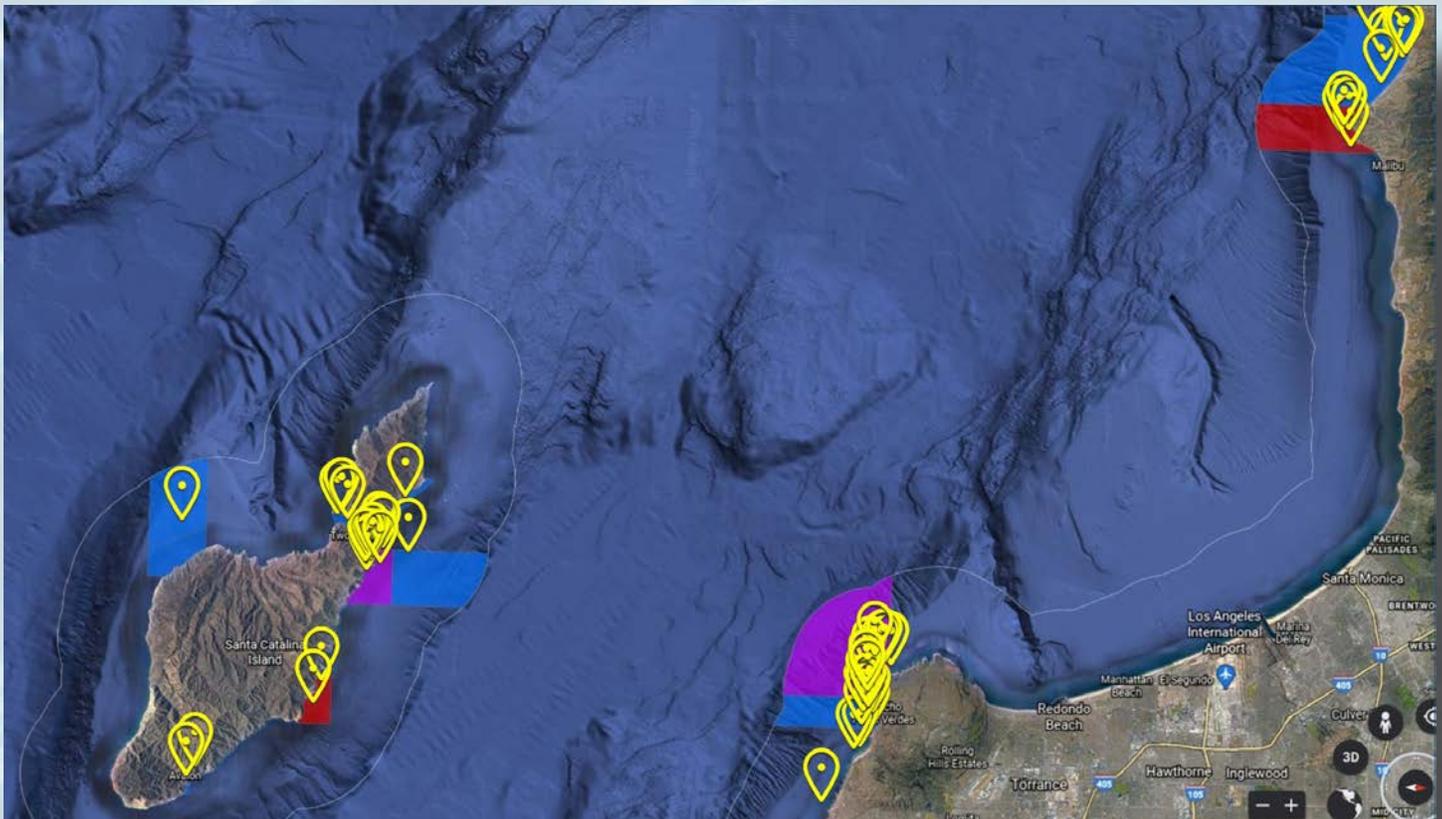
## Issues identified during the Forum that have a potential for elevation and discussion with the MSLT include:

- ◇ Addressing environmental justice issues (comfortability, access, equal treatment) in ocean resource management and to remove barriers through cross-agency coordination is a top priority. There is a need for a systematic change in recruitment, training, and funding/resources for CDFW Wardens (e.g., more CDFW wardens/officers patrolling the coast/MPAs).
- ◇ There is a need for increased involvement local law enforcement in the field to write citations and District Attorney offices to prosecute, especially to address unsustainable levels of intertidal take that occurred during 2020.



# Interactive Map Results

Areas of MPA compliance concern were anonymously identified by Forum participants on interactive maps using the virtual collaboration platform Poll Everywhere. A total of 25 participants put pins on the map with 141 total responses (pins). Yellow pin shapes indicate the location of a virtual push pin placed by a participant. The pinned areas corresponded with the MPA compliance discussions.



Identified areas of concern in and near all Los Angeles County MPAs (mainland and Catalina).



# Glossary

The Glossary defines the acronyms used in any or all the Compliance Forum Reports.

- **ADA:** American Disabilities Act.
- **ASBS:** Area of Special Biological Significance.
- **BIPOC:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
- **CaITIP:** Californian's Turn in Poachers and Polluters.
- **CDFW:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **CHP:** California Highway Patrol.
- **COVID-19:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (also referred to as COVID and the pandemic).
- **CPFV:** Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (also referred to as a party boat).
- **DA:** District Attorney.
- **FGC:** Fish and Game Code.
- **GPS:** Global Positioning System.
- **HOA:** Homeowner's Association.
- **M2:** Marine Monitor (M2) Radar System.
- **MPA:** Marine Protected Area.
- **MSLT:** MPA Statewide Leadership Team.
- **NMS:** National Marine Sanctuary.
- **NOAA:** National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.
- **NPS:** National Park Service.
- **OLE:** Office of Law Enforcement (within NOAA).
- **QR:** Quick Response [code].
- **SCP:** Scientific Collecting Permit.
- **SCUBA:** Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.
- **SMCA:** State Marine Conservation Area.
- **SMR:** State Marine Reserve.
- **SMRMA:** State Marine Recreational Management Area.
- **SUP:** Stand Up Paddle Board.
- **ROV:** Remotely Operated Vehicle.
- **UC:** University of California.
- **USFWS:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **USCG:** United States Coast Guard.



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These materials and MPA Community Compliance Forums made possible by a grant from the California Ocean Protection Council's Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Interim Mitigation Fund.

**Learn more about the MPA Collaborative Network at  
[www.mpacollaborative.org](http://www.mpacollaborative.org)**

**Join your local MPA Collaborative to get involved in bottom-up resource management.**

**Visit the California MPA website at  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)**