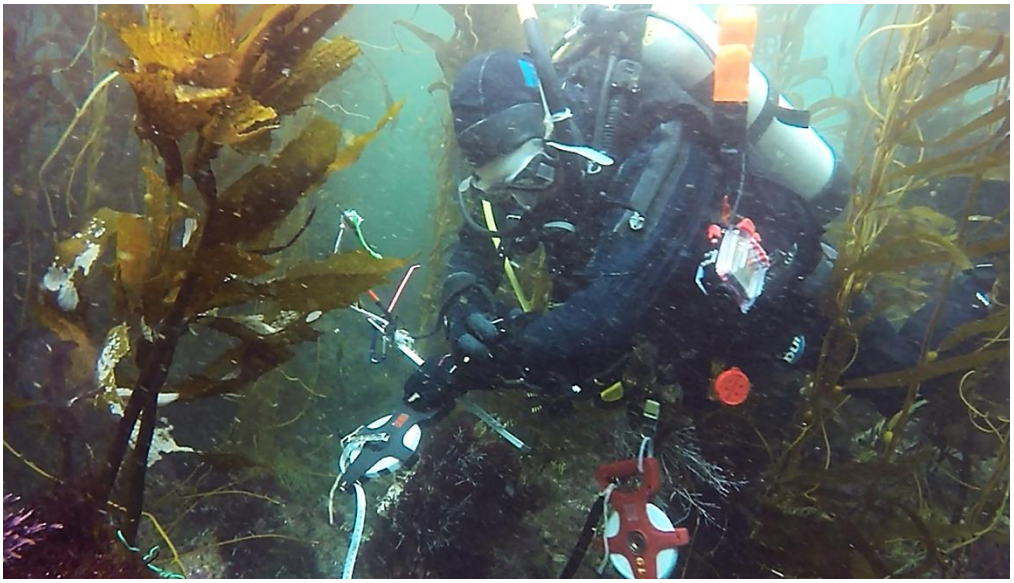


CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Scientific Collecting Permits Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What does "take" of wildlife entail?

A. Take means to "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." (Fish and Game Code §86).

Q. What is covered under the term "educational purposes"?

A. This category includes activities like classroom work, docent led tide-pool trips, filling aquariums, etc. If a permit involves students doing research, this would fall under the research category, not the educational category.

Q. I want to collect stuff that washed up on the beach during a storm for my classroom (algae, invertebrates, fish, etc.); do I need an SCP?

A. Yes, that is called salvaging and you need an SCP.

Scientific Collecting Permits in the South Coast Marine Protected Areas

A Scientific Collecting Permit (SCP), issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), is required to take wildlife (including marine fishes, invertebrates, algae, and seagrasses) for scientific, educational, or propagation purposes. SCPs are also required when research or educational activities injure or damage habitats and/or marine organisms within marine protected areas (MPAs). An SCP is not necessary when a researcher merely observes, records, or documents wildlife without direct physical interaction with the organisms or habitats.

SCP Review Process

All SCP requests go through a rigorous review process by CDFW, especially those project requests within MPAs. To help inform the review process for proposed projects within MPAs, CDFW uses a decision tree. While the decision tree provides a straightforward guideline for reviewing projects, it does not consider cumulative ecological effects from multiple projects in the same MPA. Thus, in 2012, CDFW embarked on a four-year process in collaboration with the Ocean Protection Council's Science Advisory Team to **develop an ecological impact assessment model that not only objectively evaluates impacts from single projects, but also quantifies cumulative impacts from all projects occurring within a single MPA.** The model's output will improve CDFW's objective decisions about approving or denying a request to conduct research and educational activities in MPAs.

By the Numbers (2016)

53 SCPs issued to study MPAs in the South Coast

2 SCPs issued for education

313 South Coast projects

33 MPA invertebrate related projects

44% of projects occurred within state marine conservation areas

173 projects in no-take MPAs

126 projects within island MPAs

15 MPA fish related projects

SCP Activities in South Coast MPAs

The number of projects permitted annually within MPAs in the South Coast, which encompasses California's jurisdictional waters (0-3 nautical miles from shore) from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the US–MEX border, including waters around offshore islands, increased four-fold from 2010 to 2014, from 25 to 105 projects, respectively (Figure 1). The increase was in response to the implementation of baseline monitoring in the South Coast MPAs in 2011, and an overall interest in studying MPA effects after implementation. Projects were split between no-take MPAs (state marine reserves [SMRs] and no-take state marine conservation areas [SMCAs]) and limited take SMCAs. The slight decrease in permits issued in 2013 was likely due to the two-year issuance period applied to the 2012 SCPs. SCPs were issued for a wide variety of projects, from MPA directed research such as the 9 projects as part of the South Coast baseline monitoring effort; to docent led educational trips; and research on the sex changing abilities and behavior of Blue Banded Gobies.

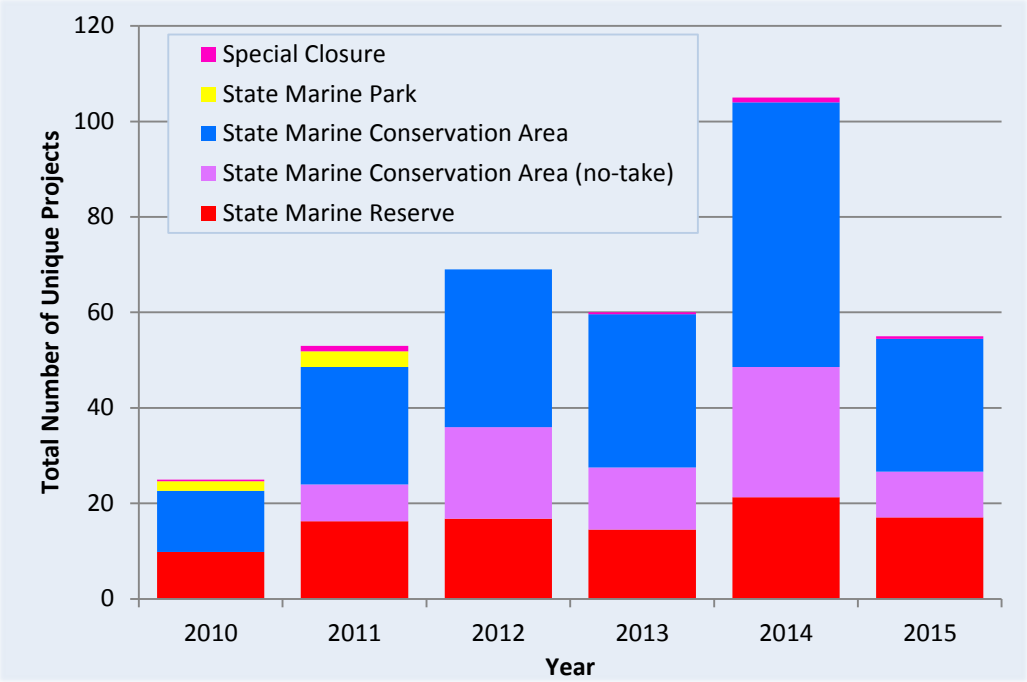
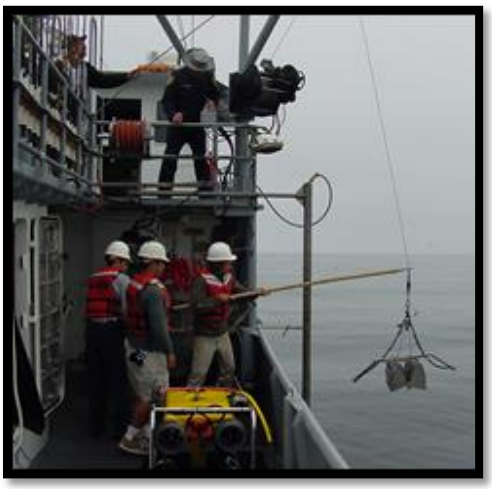


Figure 1. Total number of unique projects permitted to work in the South Coast MPAs and special closures from 2010 to 2015. Stacked bars represent the distribution of these projects proportionally throughout the South Coast by MPA designation type.

What happened to State Marine Park research after 2011?

The disappearance of state marine parks (SMPs) represented in the stacked bars after 2011 (Figure 1) is attributed to the South Coast Marine Life Protection Act Initiative design and siting process, which removed existing SMPs in the region. It does not reflect a lack of interest in those areas from research or educational



Prevalence of SCPs in South Coast MPAs

Since 2012, the Orange County MPAs occupy three of the top five highest spots for the average number of projects permitted per year within the South Coast (Table 1). For instance, Crystal Cove SMCA, Dana Point SMCA, and Laguna Beach SMR had on average, 19, 17, and 14 projects permitted, respectively. **The high usage rates of these Orange County MPAs is likely due to the fact that over 13 miles of coastline are covered by MPAs** and are in close proximity to a number of academic and non-profit scientific organizations.

Table 1- Average number of permitted projects[1] within South Coast MPAs, 2012-2015; MPAs listed by most permitted projects to fewest

South Coast MPA[2]	County	Average Permitted Projects/Year
Crystal Cove SMCA	Orange	19
Dana Point SMCA	Orange	17
Point Vicente SMCA (no-take)	Los Angeles	15
Laguna Beach SMR	Orange	14
South La Jolla SMR	San Diego	13
Abalone Cove SMCA	Los Angeles	12
San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA	San Diego	12
Campus Point SMCA (no-take)	Santa Barbara	11
Laguna Beach SMCA (no-take)	Orange	11
Upper Newport Bay SMCA	Orange	10
Blue Cavern Onshore SMCA (no-take)	Los Angeles	10
Matlahuayl SMR	San Diego	9
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point SMCA	Los Angeles	6
Bolsa Chica Basin SMCA (no-take)	Orange	6
Cabrillo SMR	San Diego	6
Point Dume SMCA	Los Angeles	6
Swami's SMCA	San Diego	6
Naples SMCA	Santa Barbara	6
Point Conception SMR	Santa Barbara	5
South La Jolla SMCA	San Diego	5
Blue Cavern Offshore SMCA	Los Angeles	5
Farnsworth Onshore SMCA	Los Angeles	5
Anacapa SMCA	Ventura	5
Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA (no-take)	San Diego	5
Point Dume SMR	Los Angeles	5
Tijuana River Mouth SMCA	San Diego	5
Bolsa Bay SMCA	Orange	4
Santa Barbara Island SMR	Santa Barbara	4
Cat Harbor SMCA	Los Angeles	4
Long Point SMR	Los Angeles	4
Scorpion SMR	Santa Barbara	4
Anacapa SMR	Ventura	4

South Coast MPA	County	Average Permitted Projects/Year
Gull Island SMR	Santa Barbara	4
Harris Point SMR	Santa Barbara	4
San Elijo Lagoon SMCA (no-take)	San Diego	4
Kashtayit SMCA	Santa Barbara	4
South Point SMR	Santa Barbara	4
Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	Los Angeles	3
San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA	San Diego	3
Famosa Slough SMCA (no-take)	San Diego	3
Goleta Slough SMCA (no-take)	Santa Barbara	3
Richardson Rock SMR	Santa Barbara	3
Judith Rock SMR	Santa Barbara	2
Carrington Point SMR	Santa Barbara	2
Lover's Cove SMCA	Los Angeles	2
Painted Cave SMCA	Santa Barbara	2
Footprint SMR	Ventura	2
San Miguel Island Special Closure	Santa Barbara	2
Begg Rock SMR	Ventura	2
Casino Point SMCA (no-take)	Los Angeles	2
Skunk Point SMR	Santa Barbara	2
Anacapa Island Special Closure	Ventura	1

[1]One project could be permitted to work in multiple MPAs.
[2]Acronyms: MPA=marine protected area; SMR=state marine reserve; SMCA=state marine conservation area

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