

Petition 34: Strengthen and simplify enforcement

Point Buchon Reserve and SMCA



Point Buchon- a special place on the central coast



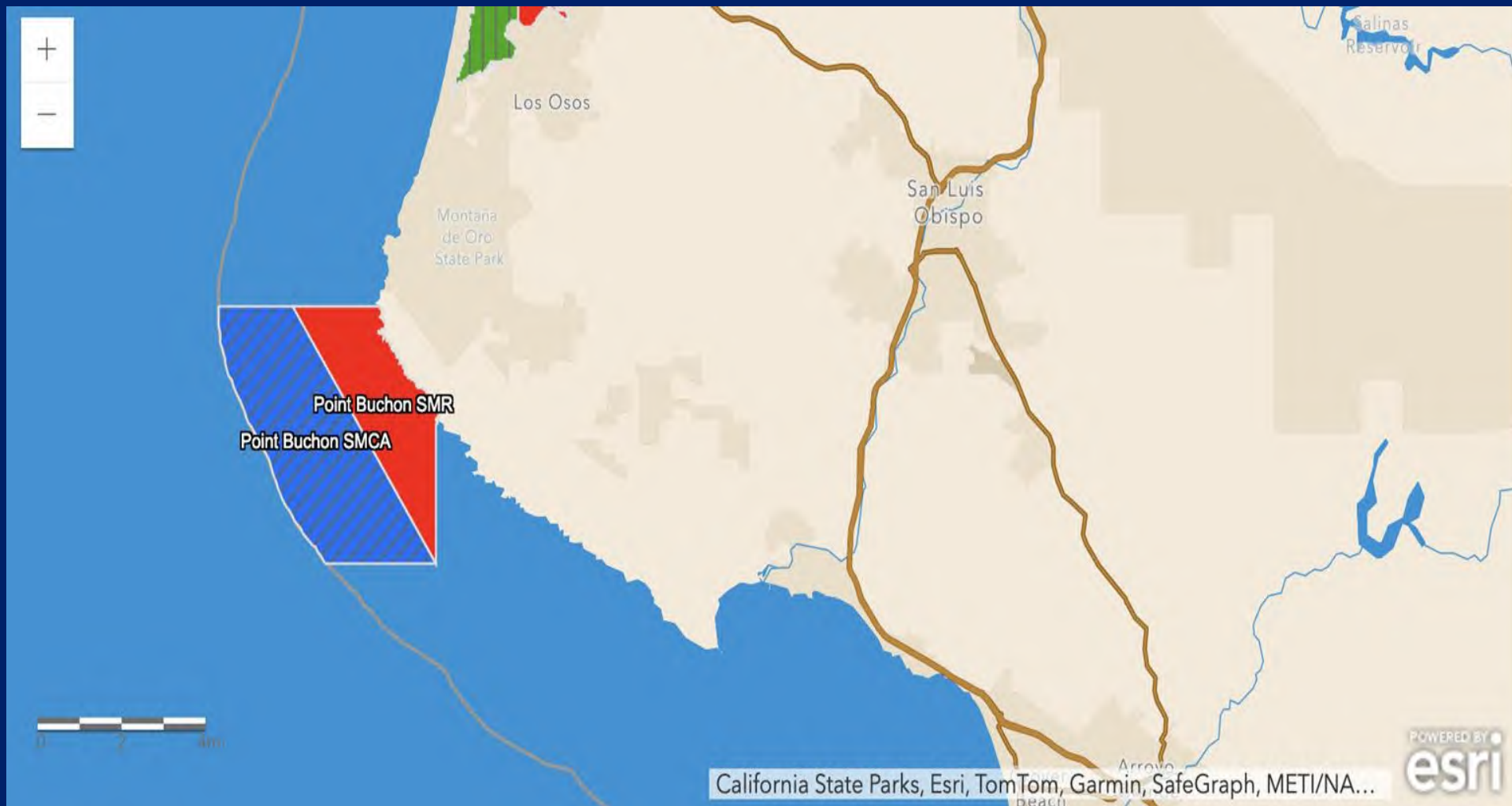
*New research confirms: California Marine reserves provide the best outcomes for fish
These reserves are like bank accounts, building up stronger ecosystems within their borders
that will help ocean life outside of it*

MPA compliance & enforcement is essential to achieve conservation

Photo: Anita Ritenour, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons



Two most important compliance-related questions for MPAs:
where are they, and what do they allow?

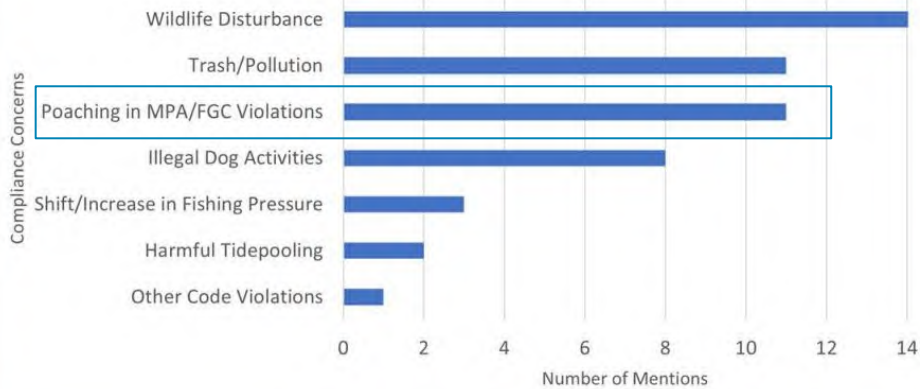


Proposal- upgrade Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) to a no-take State Marine Reserve (SMR) to streamline and enhance enforcement and compliance and increase protection in the face of future stressors

Point Buchon SMCA: Compliance problems

- The Decadal Management Review revealed Point Buchon SMCA had the third highest number of violations for MPAs in Central Coast region over its study period.
- In 2022, it was listed among the top 10 MPAs with the highest MPA violations across the entire state (*FGC Committee Staff Summary for July 20, 2023 MRC meeting*)
- Community concerns voiced during the San Luis Obispo County MPA Community Compliance Forum

Compliance Concerns



- **Poaching in MPA/FGC Violations**

- ◊ One of the most common poaching spots, according to CDFW Law Enforcement, is in the Point Buchon SMR and SMCA, including by squid boats in Point Buchon SMCA. Some boats tuck in close to the coast to fish in the SMR where they feel like they will not be observed and at Disney Point.

Potential Factors Contributing to Noncompliance in Detail

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

- ◊ The angle or placement of the boundary relative to the coastline is confusing at several SLO MPAs, including
 - Piedras Blancas SMR (southern boundary),
 - the border between Cambria SMCA and White Rock SMCA,
 - Point Buchon SMCA and SMR, and
 - between the Morro Bay SMRMA and Morro Bay SMR in the middle of the bay.

San Luis Obispo County MPA Community Compliance Forum Report, November 2020



PPIC

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STATEWIDE SURVEY · JULY 2024

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

55. Do you favor or oppose expanding California Marine Protected Areas—or MPAs—to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat off the California coast?

81% favor

18% oppose

1% don't know

Over 80% of Californians support expanding marine protected areas. Support is even higher in coastal California.

Growing Support:
40+ non profit organizations
30K+ Californians
Central coast small businesses
40+ marine scientists from
institutions include:

