

Socioeconomic monitoring in the Channel Islands: Establishing baseline data on boating and boater activities

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The public debate over marine reserves often focuses on minimizing short-term negative impacts on consumptive users, such as recreational and commercial fisherman. This is, however, only *part* of the picture. Decision-makers need information on all users in order to make decisions that result in greater *net* economic value and social satisfaction.

We studied private boaters in the Channel Island Marine Sanctuary and their activities, such as diving, kayaking, wildlife viewing, and exploring by dinghy. We implemented four types of surveys in 2006-2007: (i) a mailback postcard survey, (ii) a Web survey, (iii) an intercept survey, for which we interviewed boaters at the islands, and (iv) a survey of knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions.

Key Findings:

1. Where do boaters go most often? Smuggler's Cove, Prisoner's Harbor, Yellow Banks, Pelican Bay, and Frenchy's Cove (See Figure 1 for locations visited by boaters on Santa Cruz Island).
2. What are the most common activities of boaters? Just relaxing, exploring using a dinghy, hook and line fishing, kayaking, and diving (Figure 2).
3. How do boaters feel about reserves? The majority of boaters surveyed at overnight anchorages expressed support for existing reserves (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Where do boaters go on Santa Cruz Island?

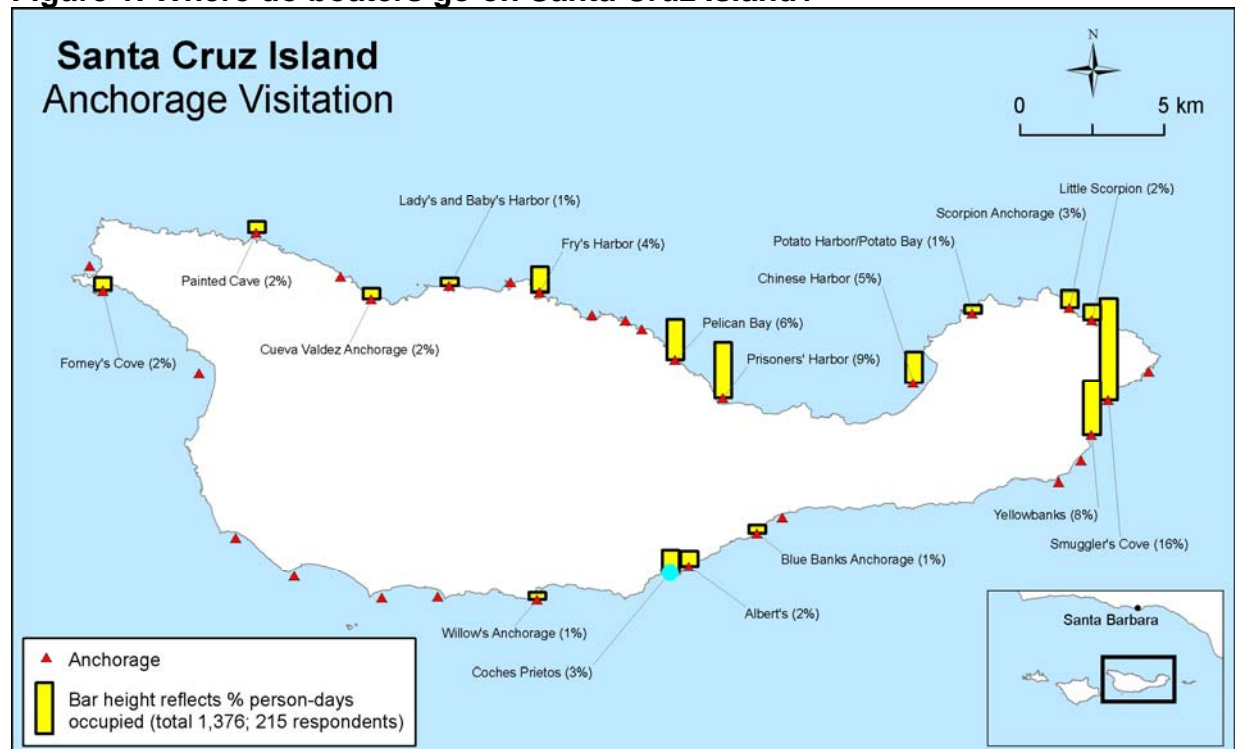


Figure 2. What do boaters do? We distributed a postcard survey asking boaters to identify all activities they do on their boat. Boaters selected the number of activities that applied to them (0-10 activities possible); selections were not mutually exclusive. Thus, the sum of 'percent of respondents' can be less than or greater than 100%.

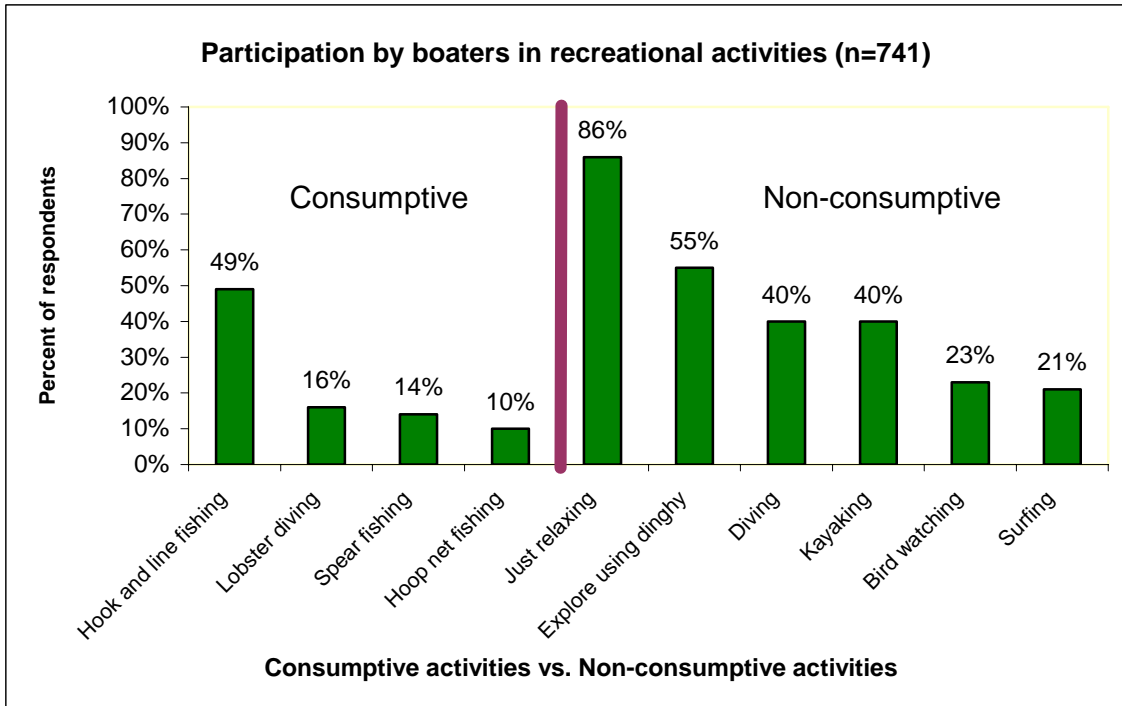


Figure 3. How do boaters feel about reserves? First, respondents were asked if they support or oppose no-take marine reserves generally (black bars). Interviewers noted that fishing is not allowed in no-take reserves. Second, respondents were asked if they support or oppose reserves in the places where they were established, divided into two zones: (i) Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island (red bars) and, (ii) San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Barbara Islands (yellow bars).

