

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Update on Military Use Areas and Pending Military Closures

**Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Science Advisory Team
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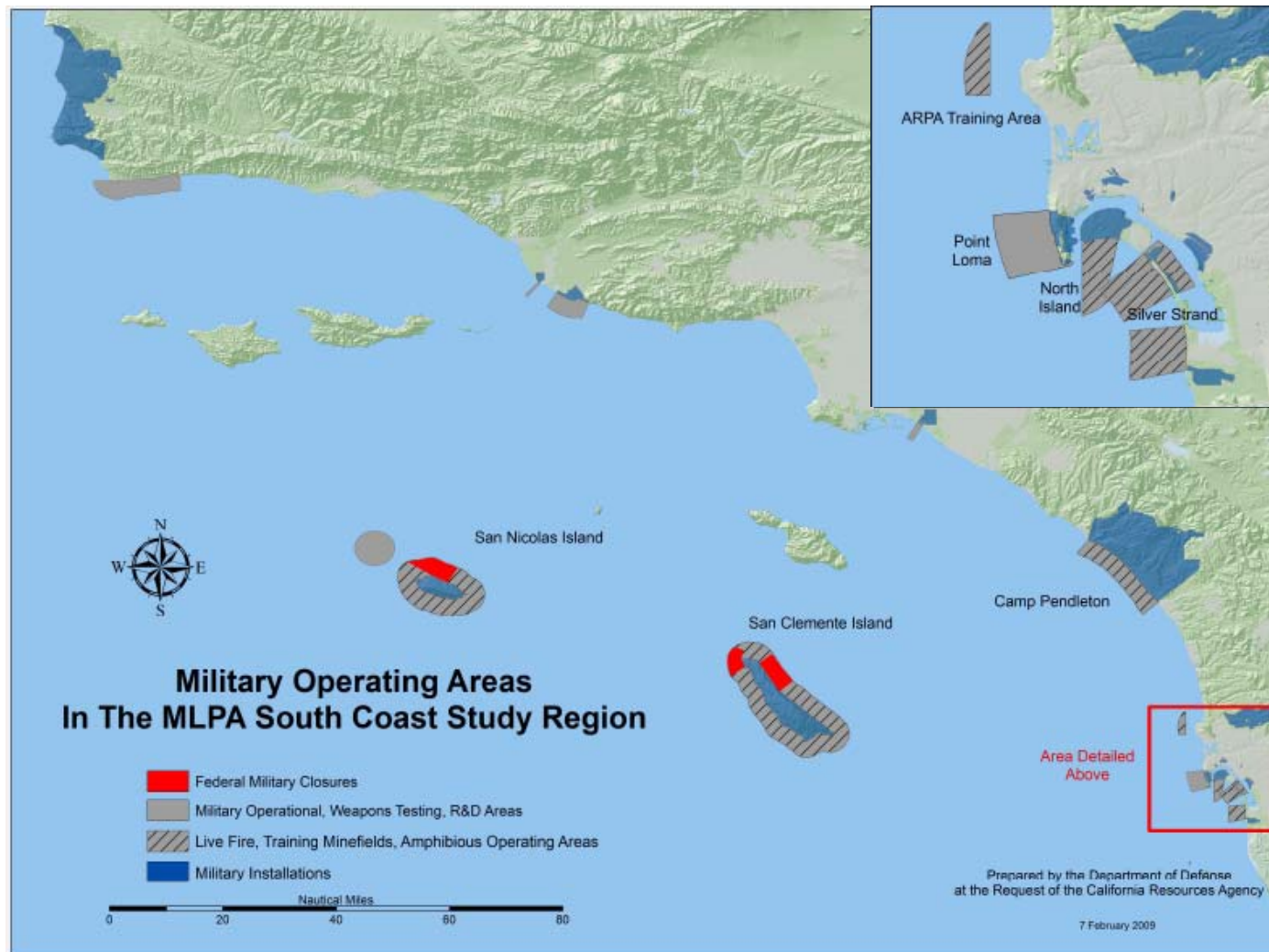


Military Use Areas and Pending Closures

- Military Use Areas
 - Portions of the study region where military activities occur and where the U.S. Department of Defense has requested that no marine protected areas (MPAs) be sited
- Pending Military Closures
 - Three areas (two at San Clemente Island and one at San Nicolas Island) where existing and pending regulations may preclude fishing activities



Military Use Areas and Pending Closures





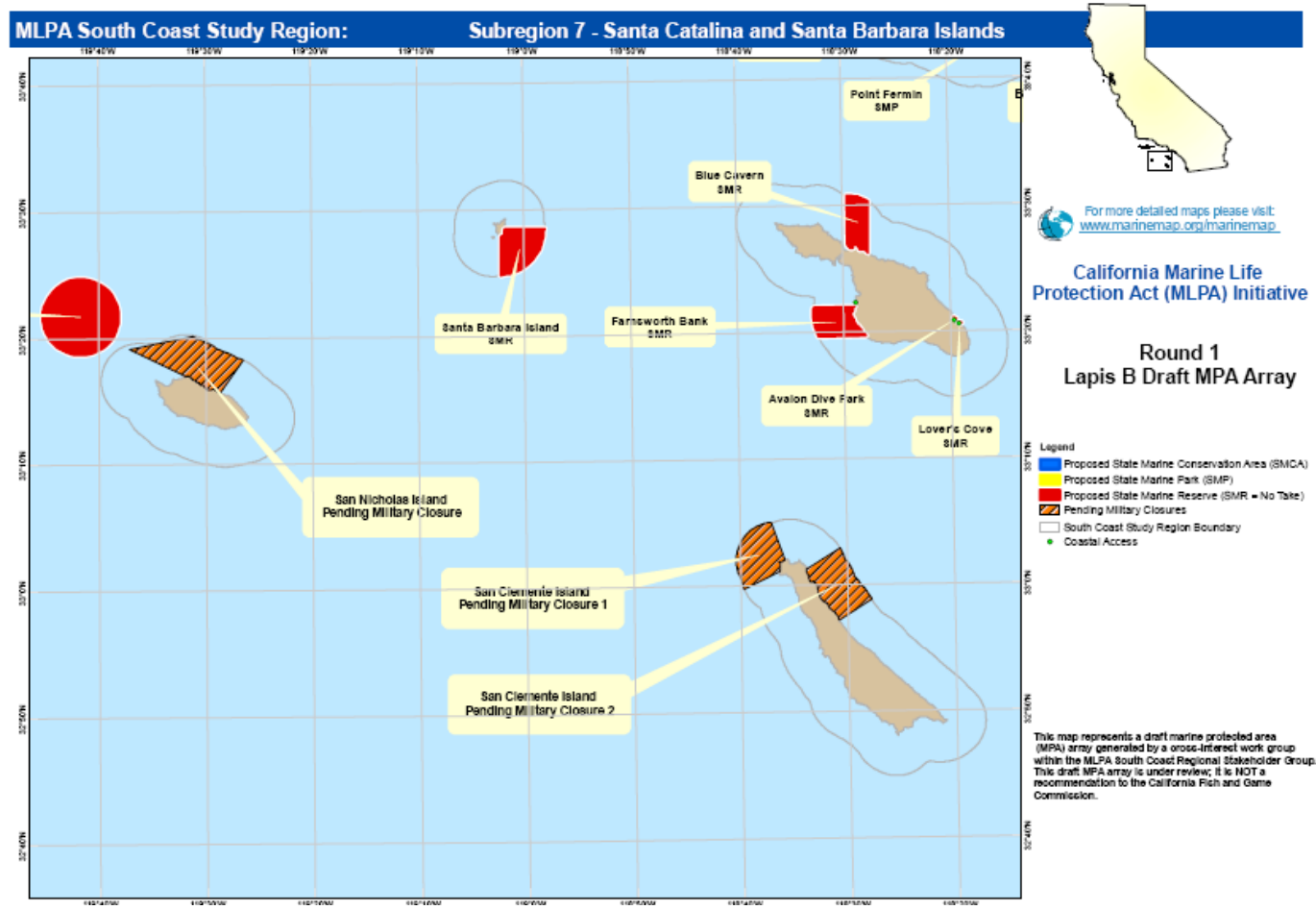
Consideration in Round 1

- In Draft MPA Arrays and Draft External MPA Proposals
 - MPAs proposed in some military use areas on mainland and offshore islands
 - Pending military closures included in some draft arrays and proposals
 - Round 1 is focused on information gathering and evaluation of options; MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) looking for MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) feedback on varied designs



Consideration in Round 1

Example Draft Array from Round 1





BRTF Direction to SAT for Round 1

- Evaluate MPAs proposed within military use areas with a level of protection (LOP) based on proposed allowed uses
- Evaluate pending military closures with a level of protection of “very high” (analogous to a state marine reserve), since no fishing is allowed



Important Caveats

- BRTF interim guidance is specifically for Round 1 evaluations and does not constitute a final decision
- BRTF guidance is consistent with past practice of SAT assigning LOPs based on activities regulated by the California Fish and Game Commission
- BRTF requested additional policy and legal analyses and will continue discussion on April 16, 2009
- BRTF awaiting initial SAT evaluation of draft MPA arrays and proposals (including pending military closures) to better inform policy decisions



Round 1 SAT Evaluations

- Round 1 SAT evaluations have been conducted following guidance from the BRTF regarding assigning levels of protection
- SAT members presenting results of Round 1 evaluations to the BRTF should be prepared to address components of the evaluation that can be attributed to pending military closures



Additional Request from Staff

- Provide information regarding how ecosystem protection goals (MLPA goals 1, 2, 4 and 6) may be affected by military activities occurring in state waters surrounding San Clemente and San Nicolas islands
- Assessment should reference particular areas and categories of military activities
- Feedback should be prepared in time for review by SAT on May 5, 2009



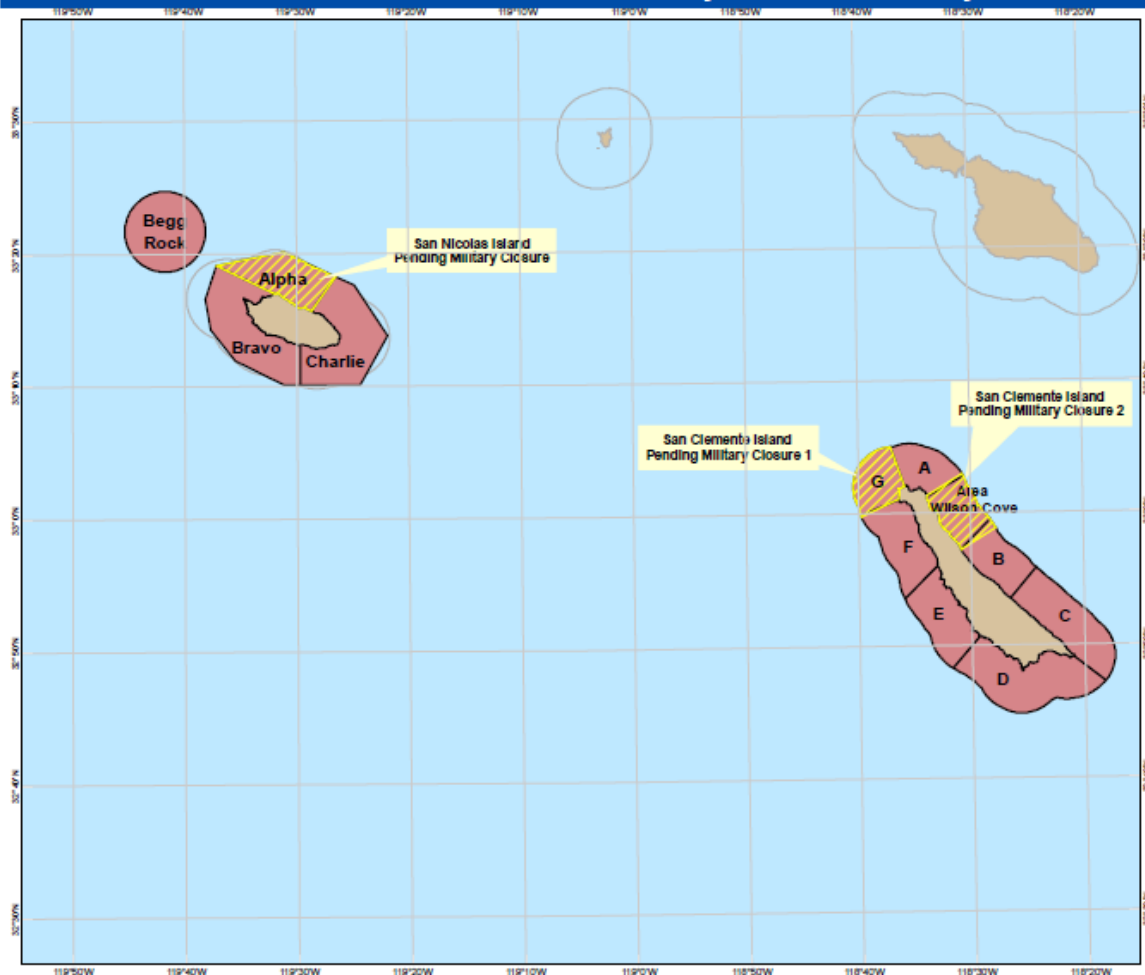
Rationale for Staff Request

- Provides additional information to the BRTF and stakeholders regarding how pending military closures may contribute toward meeting the goals of the MLPA
- Provides feedback to the BRTF and stakeholders regarding the potential effectiveness of any proposed MPAs sited within military use areas
- Addresses military activities in a manner consistent with other activities not regulated by the California Fish and Game Commission



Activities at Military Islands

San Clemente and San Nicolas Islands - Summary of Selected Military Activities



California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative

- Legend**
- Pending Military Closures
 - Military Use Areas
 - South Coast Study Region Boundary

Disclaimer:
 Note that this map represents a summary of some military activities occurring in state waters surrounding San Clemente and San Nicolas Islands. It is not a comprehensive list of all military activities and does not represent all potential future activities. See associated table for additional information.



Next Steps and Timeline

- April 15-16
 - SAT presents Round 1 evaluations to BRTF
 - Includes information on components of the analyses that can be attributed to pending military closures
 - SAT receives guidance from BRTF for conducting evaluations in Round 2
- May 5
 - SAT to review and forward feedback on impact of military activities on meeting goals of the MLPA
- Week of May 11
 - BRTF to consider additional feedback from SAT regarding impact of military activities on meeting the goals of the MLPA